

REGION TEN  
WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS  
RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	Brockman, Gene
ADDRESS	311 E. Clinton, Indianola, Iowa
COUNCIL	Tall Corn
DATE OF TRIP	August 11-16, 1942
GUIDE	P. B. Tuttle

PADDLE AWARDS : DATE
BRONZE 8/16/42 - Through N. Harold West
GOLD
SILVER

## WILDERNESS CANOE TRAILS

Camp Mitigwa Staff  
Tall Corn Council  
Des Moines, Iowa  
August 11-16, 1942

When we heard that we were going to Minnesota on a canoe trip we forgot everything but that, including camp. All of us were from the heart of Iowa and only one or two had ever been in Minnesota. We had made up the council camp staff and had been together during the summer.

On the last day of camp, August 9, we started from Mitigwa about 4o'clock. There were seventeen of us including Harold West, our executive. We drove all night and all the next day until about six when we arrived at the canoe base. That evening after stowing away a wonderful meal we got a few suggestions from Mr. Tuttle, our guide, and met our "swamper". After this we went to bed, our first time in thirty-six hours. The next morning we got up raring to go. We had a good breakfast, loaded the canoes and started for Fernberg's Landing, the starting point of our trip by water. We found that one of the canoes was leaking so the guide and the swamper stayed behind to get a good one while the rest of us went on. Mr. West had been on the route before so he acted as guide. About mid-morning we stopped to wait for the other canoe to catch up. While we were stopped we did our first fishing. One small perch was caught. In about an hour the other boat caught up and we proceeded.

The first half of our trip was over a series of lakes made by the Kiwishiwi River. During the first morning we went through Lakes One and Two. Between Lake Two and Lake Three we came to our first portage where we ate dinner. During the afternoon we came to several more portages and passed through several more lakes. We spent our first night on the narrows before entering Lake Hudson. After supper some

of us fished and some of us learned how to handle our canoes better. There wasn't a single person who didn't sleep well that night for we were all tired.

The next morning we got up about seven thirty, and had our first meal of fish, shoving off about nine. It was pretty cool paddling but we soon warmed up with a little exercise. During the morning we got lost several times but we retraced our route and got back on the trail again. This morning we saw two of the few people that we saw on our trip. We ate dinner at a portage at the exit of Lake Insula. As soon as possible we got started again and about two o'clock we came to the entrance to Lake Alice. We found a sandy beach which was to be our camp until Saturday. We made camp and did our first swimming.

The following two days we spent fishing, swimming, exploring and sailing with a sail made from a poncho. The wind had come up and the water was pretty rough during our stay there.

Early Saturday morning we broke camp and started our journey home. The guide had to be at the base by Sunday noon so we had to make almost the whole distance on Saturday. Our route was toward the west and all day we headed into a stiff wind and rough water and it was tough going. Some of the canoes got water in them from the roughness. About the middle of the afternoon it began to get a little colder and started to mist, which added to our misery. We had planned to go the extra five miles and sleep that night in Canada, but we were all so tired that we thought it not worth while so about five-thirty we made the last camp of the trip. That night we were all ready to "turn in" when the time came.

We slept late the next morning and had a big breakfast of pancakes which surely tasted good. About ten-thirty we started on the last few miles of our trip. We got back to the base in about an hour.

Here we washed the canoes and had dinner. Following dinner we received our emblems, packed and started back to Iowa. We took our time coming home and got into Des Moines on Tuesday noon after spending a grand week and a half.

The planners and directors of the Wilderness Canoe Trails should be congratulated on their fine program to keep Scouts fit to do their job.



CAMPSITE ON LAKE ALICE



OUR FIRST VIEW OF THE LODGE AT THE CANOE BASE.





