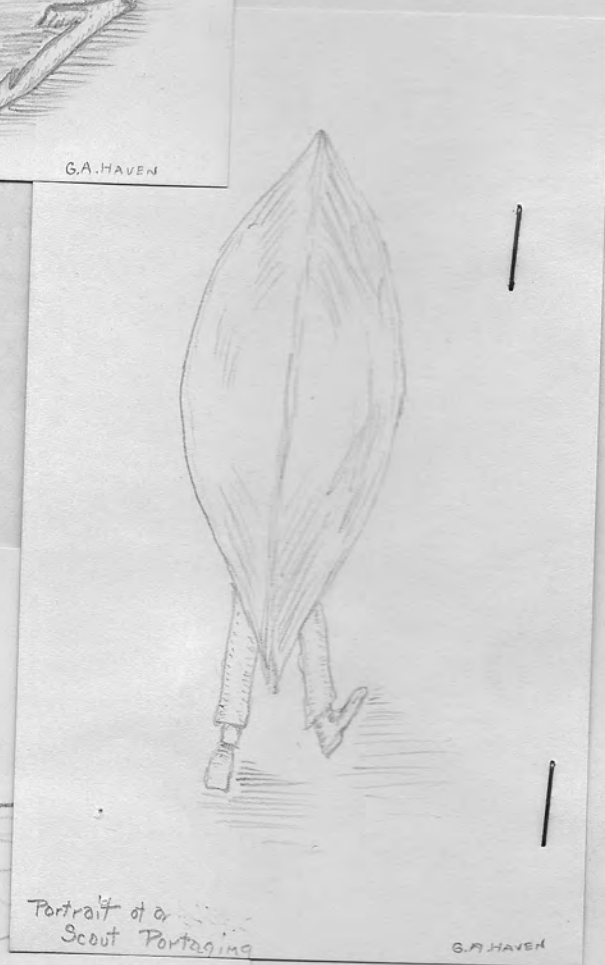
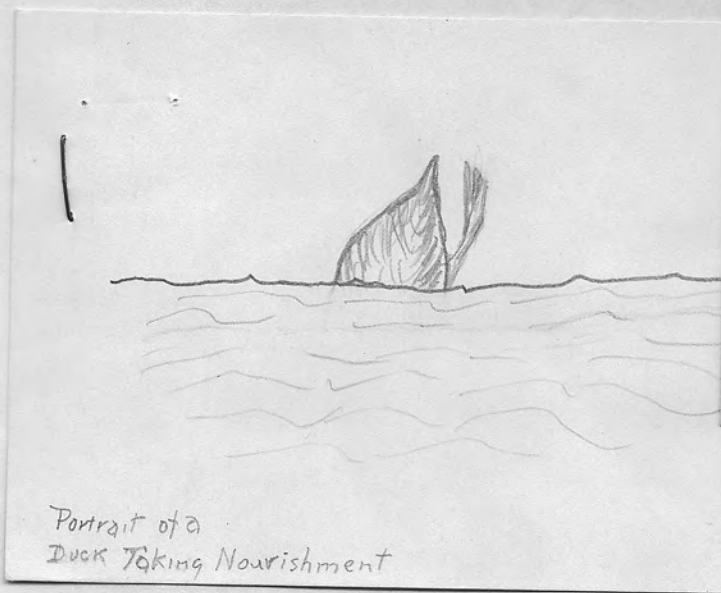
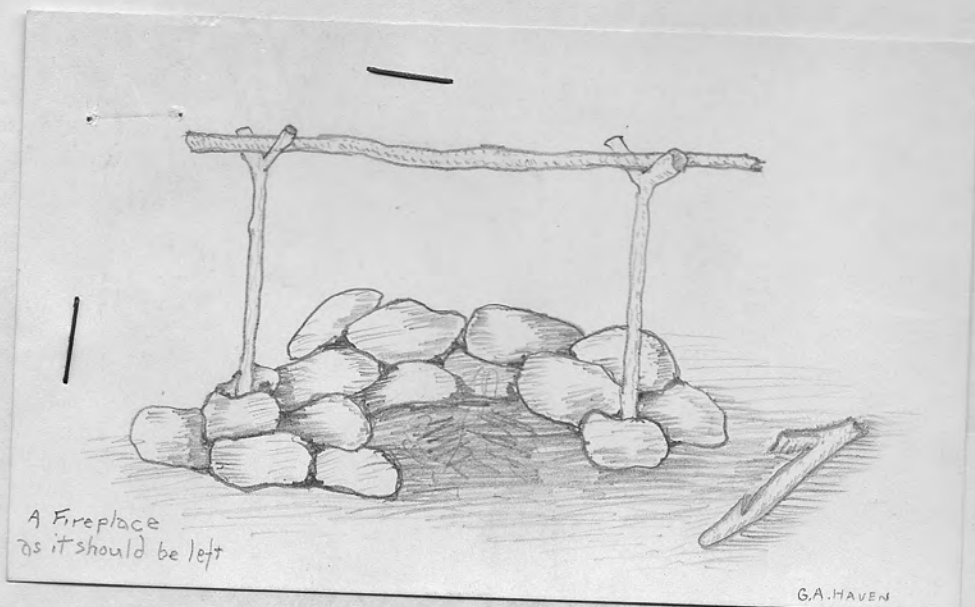


REGION TEN  
WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS  
RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	Haven, George H.
ADDRESS	Chatfield, Minn.
COUNCIL	Daneshoven
DATE OF TRIP	July 22-29-1945
GUIDE	

PADDLE AWARDS: DATE
BRONZE
GOLD
SILVER - Expressed Oct 31, 1945



Submitted by  
George A. Haven,  
Chatfield, Minnesota.

#### CANOE TRIP 1945

"Oh What a Beautiful Morning, Oh What a Beautiful Day" was the refrain that came over the lake from another canoe party encamped on an island opposite us. And on poking our heads out of the tent and observing the sky, it was a beautiful day. That was our second on the canoe trail. Monday had been uneventful. We had gone thru the formalities of getting off from the Base Camp, and left the last vestige of civilization, the Canadian Ranger Camp at the head of Bagley Bay. As we had gone farther into the wilds, the <sup>trap</sup>sharp rock projections had become higher and larger making huge breaks in the otherwise uniform blanket of green forests. How far these rock masses continued down under water we could not tell, ~~but~~ it was evident that the water's edge was but a chance line on rock formations much greater than we could see. But the intrigue of these rocks was not only in their varied colors caused, by centuries of exposure. In the lovely coverings of lichens and mosses, the artistry of the Creator had made them more beautiful than anything human artist could create or copy. Here were rocks that geologically are as old as any in existence, with surfaces so little affected by weather that they have not changed noticeably since Rameses ruled Egypt. Can our minds distinguish between the life time of those rocks and eternity?

The forests that cover the island and the shores are of trees of small or moderate size. Fires evidently, and natural causes have prevented the trees from becoming as large as the isolation of the country might lead one to expect. Predominantly coniferous, there is also a large amount of birch and poplar which

provides the beavers ample material for their operations in the lowlands.

The camp sites are largely the surfaces of the great rocks, where they drop down into the lakes on a considerable slant. Region Ten authorities, in providing tents, have been well aware of this fact, and no stakes are needed. A long rope tied between two trees answers as ridge-pole, and bracing ropes are held in place by large stones which succeeding campers leave in place at the tent sites. Frequently one inherits, too, a bed of moss, pine needles or balsam boughs, and adding to it, makes it softer and smoother. A fire place with forked uprights, across stick and pot-hooks and sometimes a rough table, make up the equipment one may expect at a camp site. And usually previous visitors have been good campers and left the place well picked up.

The first three days of our trip were all of them fair and warm. The third was the day we spent in camp all day - on Silence Lake. The silence was considerably broken by boy-strous shouts during the swimming operation which lasted nearly all day, but as evening drew on and the campers fell to fishing, - quiet pervaded and by dusk the name of the lake began to impress us.

<sup>Niel</sup>  
Niel and I took a canoe and followed the shore of a narrow bay on which our camp was pitched. With no noise but the drip from our paddles we skirted close to shore, observing a moving picture of constantly changing interest. All was still. The wild life had gone far back into the forest to escape from the "wild life" that had been carried on all day by the campers. Once we heard a moose crashing like a frightened horse thru the brush on the long slope.

Only an occasional native bird chirped, or a sea gull "mewed" overhead. It was the most serene picture imaginable. When we reached camp all had been impressed with "Silence." Quietly the tired swimmers and fishers crawled into their moss-beds.

Thursday we paddled all day in a drizzle, but the rain stopped when we made camp, and a warm fire dried out many socks and made us a welcome stew. That night we were lulled to sleep by Louisa Falls, after some of the party had climbed to the "bath-tub" and taken a "shower" or rather a pelting, as a small river pounded their heads.

Friday brought us to our last camp site, only an hour or two paddle from Base Camp. In some ways it was the best camp site we had. It was the long narrow point of an island, tapering to only 8 or 10 feet wide. One side we used for boat landing, pot polishing and ablutions, the other for drinking water. After breakfast when he thought all had had their fill of stewed peaches, the guide threw out what were left, fortunately on the drinking water side of the peninsula. Having been busy for sometime filling 11 bottomless stomachs with flapjacks I had missed the fruit course and eating my last flapjack standing up I noticed to my sorrow an assortment of stewed peaches lying in the clear water on the stony bottom of the lake. Jokingly calling for volunteers to rescue my fruit course Ansel the good-natured - the accommodating - removed his clothes and fulfilled my desire. The guide insisted that each camper eat his fruit every day, and why should he? Nothing ever tasted better than our stewed peaches or apricots, even the collected from the lake bottom.



One reason the last night out was so agreeable was that we had crossed our last portage. Not but that portages are a part of the trip one would not miss, - still, they are not the easy part of the trip. We lost count of the portages, - 20 to 25 times we unloaded and carried, - anywhere from fifty feet of smooth path to three quarters of a mile of swamp, rocks, logs and hill. But the Scouting spirit carried us all across them all, for good Scouts always go back for more until all the canoes and packs are across the portage. Quite fun to cross, however, were two beaver dams, - one up - one down, - and no person can see at close hand such a dam without marveling at the engineering skill of beavers. These dams, built in most workman-like and regular manner were in up-to-the-minute repair, arched upstream, most so where the current was strongest, and the water line was perfectly level. We felt as we shoved our canoes over the dam we were being carefully watched, and no doubt that night, or before, there was a beaver bee to set right any slight misplacement of sticks caused by our passing over. The portages were definitely in their natural state. No Canadian W. P. A. or Ranger had so much as lifted one stone out of the well defined portage paths, and only once did we even find a canoe rest. Unlike portages I had previously seen, none on this trip were provided with patches of luscious blueberries at a half-way resting point.

Saturday noon we were as glad to see the Base Camp as we were glad to leave it Monday. We felt much more fit, more at home in a canoe, and we had satisfaction of accomplishment. We had absorbed sunshine and built up reserve health against next winter, met new friends, and had a very good time.

Will you arrange for a  
junior size canoe paddle with  
Havens brand - He is  
member of our Executive  
Board and we would like to  
present it to him. Wayne

# CHARLES L. SOMMERS' WILDERNESS CANOE TRAILS

## Application for

## ORDER OF THE SILVER PADDLE AWARD

NAME & ADDRESS

*George A. Hawn*

DATE ON TRIP

*July 22-29, 1945*

NO. DAYS OUT ON TRIP

*6*

LENGTH OF PADDLE DESIRED

*5'7"*

SEASONS AT CANOE BASE

SCORE

*10*

1. Has identified with ease forty different trees and plants and knows the commercial value of each and has stated value of each to animal as well as human life.

*10*

2. Has taken part in the clean-up of portage trails and camp sites.

*10*

3. Has cooked satisfactorily or assisted in the cooking of at least one meal on the trail.

*10*

4. Has been an all around good camper. (Attitude in general, helping with camp duties, etc.)

*10*

5. Has passed the "Mystery Test" of a Wilderness Camper.

GUIDE'S APPROVAL

*Bill B. B.*

*10*

6. Has participated in two or more Canoe Trips.

*10*

7. Has been a "good camper" while at the Canoe Base.

CANOE TRAILS DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

*Ben Conger*

8. Has completed at least three of the following Merit Badges: Canoeing, Swimming, Cooking, Lifesaving, Camping, First Aid, Forestry, Conservation, Pioneering.

9. Has submitted at least three clear photos taken by himself on the trip showing something of real interest. Attached photos.  
OR: Submit three drawings made on the Trails.

10. Has submitted a story, diary, or log, of the trip taken. OR has submitted a printed new article of the trip written by himself from some newspaper or magazine. (Attached.)

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE'S APPROVAL

*Wayne Hopkins*

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE'S APPROVAL

FINAL SCORE—(10 points is perfect score for each test.)

REMARKS:

*Paddle expressed Oct 31*

Upon completion of requirements, transmit through your Local Council Scout Office to Region Ten, Boy Scouts of America, 1112 Minnesota Bldg., St. Paul 1, Minnesota.



REGION TEN CANOE TRAILS APPLICATION BLANK  
MAIL TO YOUR LOCAL SCOUT OFFICE

To be forwarded to:

Region Ten

Boy Scouts of America

1112 Minnesota Building

St. Paul 1, Minnesota



I would like more complete information about Canoe Trip No. \_\_\_\_\_

OR I enclose 50c for which please register me for the Canoe Trip No. \_\_\_\_\_

OR I enclose entire Fee herewith ☐

On dates \_\_\_\_\_

I Plan to travel to the Base by Train ☐  
Bus ☐ Arriving Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Auto ☐

My Scout Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_

Scout Camps I have attended \_\_\_\_\_

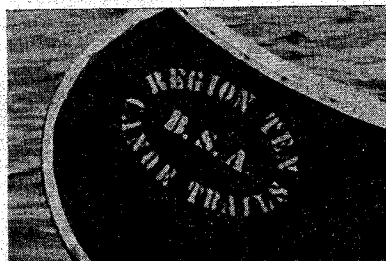
Merit Badges Held: Swimming ☐ Lifesaving ☐ Canoeing ☐ Cooking ☐

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS' APPROVAL FOR SCOUTS**

We, the parents or guardians of the above-named Scout have acquainted ourselves with the Canoe Trails thru the information sent out by your office, and thru our Council Office. We recognize that every precaution will be taken for the safety and protection of those going on trips and therefore we assume responsibility for our son's attendance. To assist further in his proper protection, we agree to assume full responsibility for any necessary medical attention in his behalf other than First Aid.



Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Scoutmaster's Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Council Approval \_\_\_\_\_