

REGION TEN

WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS

RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	Holmes, Jim	
ADDRESS	369 Forest Drive, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.	
COUNCIL	Cedar Rapids Area	
DATE OF TRIP	August 12-17, 1940	<i>July 17-29, 1939</i>
GUIDE	Jack Layton	

PADDLE AWARDS: DATE	
BRONZE	8/22/39 - Through West
GOLD	8/17/40 Through Council Office.
SILVER	

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1. Twenty-five trees

uses

1. white pine	lumber, pulp, furniture
2. Norway pine	spars, piling, sills
3. Jack pine	piling
4. tamarack	ties, poles, posts
5. white spruce	lumber, pulp
6. balsam fir	pulp
7. white cedar	poles, fencing, posts, shingles
8. red cedar	chests, pencils, posts
9. quaking aspen	pulp, excelsior
10. large tooth aspen	" "
11. paper birch	spools, pulp, fuel
12. silver willow	no value
13. sand bar willow	no value
14. mountain ash	no value
15. staghorn sumach	cabinet work
16. mountain maple	little value
17. red maple	woodenware
18. basswood	woodenware, pulp
19. dogwood	mallets, pulleys
20. tag alter	no value
21. speckled alter	no value
22. cherry	woodenware
23. pin cherry	no value
24. dwarf juniper	no value
25. June berry	no value

2. Fifteen plants

value

1. wild iris	no value
2. broad leaf asper	food for animals
3. wild strawberry	" " " & humans
4. wild loganberry	" " " " "
5. wild raspberry	" " " " "
6. purple osur	no value
7. rock tripe	food for humans
8. reindeer moss	" " reindeer
9. snapdragon	no value
10. snake berry	to animals if any

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plants	value
11. blue berry	food for animals & humans
12. water lily	no value
13. flat grass	food for animals
14. wild rose	no value
15. shell fungi	no value
16. ground pine	no value

THE LOG

Monday, July 17, 1939.

It's Monday morning and we're off to lake one, which is the starting point. The trailer which carried the canoes could only hold four so they had to go back and get two more for our crowd.

After manoeuvring around some bays we came to a very swift rapids where two boys broke their paddles, but we were lucky and had a couple extra. We passed the first rapids, which was on the way to the portage, and tried to get over another one but the water was too shallow so we had to retrace our steps and portage in a round about way.

To prove that nature really abounds on lake two, we saw a deer, a flock of ducks, and a few crows all in about five minutes. The wind would blow a little while with us and then would change and meet us head on. I sat in the middle of the canoe about eleven o'clock and looking around at the shore I noticed that the lake was dark blue, the pines were jagged along the shore, the sky was about half full of clouds, and the stern man would occasionally drip water on my knees and pants while I wrote my log.

About twelve o'clock we stopped on a rock point where we got ready for lunch. Just before lunch a few of us boys went swimming and then we had a lunch of peanut butter and cheese sandwiches with belly wash.

After about a mile's travel with the wind in our faces we came to two successive portages, and not until late in the afternoon did we come to a portage

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where we made camp. Nearly everyone caught a wall eye or at least a snake and we had fish for breakfast. Did I ever have a terrible sleep; the mosquitoes ate me up and was I ever glad to see the sun come up.

Tuesday, July 18, 1939.

We started out about eight thirty and after portaging over a lift we came to another short portage which put us on Hudson lake. I luckily caught a six pound pike in Hudson and boy did it fight. We then came to a portage about a quarter of a mile long, which was our first long portage.

The sky was hazy and birds occasionally chirped in the pines along the shore. Some fished and their luck was good.

We had some good sandwiches and reached the portage to Lake Alice about 2:15. We paddled across Alice and seeing that somebody had the best camping spot we went and made another one. Pitched tents, ate dinner, went fishing and got to bed.

Wednesday, July 19, 1939.

Everyone had a swell sleep and a hot breakfast. The two Rosses, John Ely, George Monteith and I set at exploring for a portage but did not find it. We hunted all around and had a lot of fun. Another fish dinner, oh; and got to bed.

Thursday, July 20, 1939.

Another good sleep and a swell breakfast of pancakes. We moved our camp to a different part of the lake which was a lot better except for the rocks in the swimming hole. We spent the morning in putting up the tents and getting the camp set. In the afternoon I passed some canoeing test. We had some darn goods with our supper and they were really good.

Jack Hall and I went fishing after supper and caught about five or six.

Friday, July 21, 1939.

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Had a swell sleep and a good breakfast, Ely, Haegg the two Rosses and I went up the Kawishwi river exploring and fishing.

We portaged 17 rods and then about two blocks farther we portaged a 120 rod one. The river got wider, the sky was cloudy, and a slight wind was whipping me in the face while I was writing my log and trying to fish. We portaged 19 rods near a beautiful little water falls and about two miles farther we ate lunch in our canoe. We portaged through underbrush to a small lake and after we paddled through it we hunted for Bowl lake and finally found it. Henry and I were told to stay at Bowl Lake and yell at them if they got lost. At last they came over with the canoe and we started across Bowl Lake which is an average sized lake

We reached the other side and Henry stayed with the canoe while the rest of us hiked for about a mile or more to Alice Lake. We went through swamp, hills, underbrush, and we had to blaze a double trail. Finally we reached the lake where I was stationed while they went back to Henry to bring the canoe over. They finally came through in about 45 minutes and we started for camp. The waves were very high and it took us a long time to get to camp. They would occasionally come over the gunnels. We had a swell dinner, scrubbed the pots and went to bed.

Saturday, July 22, 1939.

Very windy so everyone stayed in camp all morning. In the afternoon Ely, Geo., Eugene, and I hiked over through swamp and underbrush to the right arm of Lake Alice. We went swimming and played around until about five o'clock. On the way back we had a terrible time because we got off the trail and wound around some bays. When we got back I passed a canoeing test and later had a good dinner.

Sunday, July 23, 1939.

Had a good sleep and breakfast. John Ely spoke in church and it was really pretty good. After church we went down to our old camping spot and played a lot of canoeing games which were a lot of fun.

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After dinner I whittled a bow, swam, and went on a hike with George Monteith.

About an hour later we had dinner and soon after that I went to bed.

Monday, July 24, 1939.

Good sleep and a O.K. breakfast. I did not go exploring with the boys but stayed in camp and passed some test for the bronze paddle. George Monteith and I also went on a hike. During the afternoon I went sailing hiking and swimming. We all had an awful big supper and suddenly a stiff wind sprang up and nearly blew the tents away. We went to bed and about three o'clock it started to pour.

Tuesday, July 25, 1939.

Got up at 6:30 and went fishing with Jack Hall around some islands in front of our camping spot. We returned for breakfast and on the way Jack caught a big snake. After breakfast Ely, the two Rosses and I went exploring to Thomas Lake. We went down the right arm of Alice and portaged 17 rods where the mosquitoes were terrible. We went through that lake and portaged to Thomas which is 219 rods. We paddled about two blocks and ate lunch on a rocky cliff. It looked like rain so we started toward the portage. Near the portage is a swell camp. We hurried across the small lakes and reached Alice as it was blowing. Took us a long time to get to camp but when we did I passed a canoeing test. Went to bed.

Wednesday, July 26, 1939.

By 9 o'clock after everyone had had a good breakfast and the Rosses and I were done with k. p. we were off to Lake Ima which was on our way home. We traveled the same as we did the day before (through the north arm of Alice, Cacabic and Thomas). After a few lifteovers we were on a little beaver stream which was full of rocks. We portaged again upon the same stream and then we pushed our canoes over a beaver dam. A portage of 40 rods brought us on Ima, where we camped. About three in the afternoon, Geo,

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Ross and I went all the way back to Thomas to get a dwarf juniper. We got one and we also got a Mt. ash. Ate, swam, slept.

Thursday, July 27, 1939.

After taking a dip we all had a big breakfast of pancakes and cereal. The two Rosses, Ely, Sid Nelson, Haegg, Mr. Masen and I took two canoes and headed for Mr. Disappointment. On the way we went through a mill spill way, which was very interesting. We continued along the Jordon river until we came to the end which was the base of the mountain, and there we saw a buck deer.

The Mt. which was densely covered with underbrush abounds especially in bird life. We reached the top or what we thought was the top about 12:30 (the underbrush was the cause of us not knowing which was the topmost peak. We climbed trees frequently to see where we were. On the way down we saw several partridges and Don Ross caught a marsh hawk which he later set free. After reaching our canoes we paddled to a beautiful point where we ate lunch. We reached camp about 4:30 and after resting G. Ross talked to the leader of the one-week party who camped next to us. He told Geo. that there was an old logging chain on one of the portages back towards Thomas so just for fun we started out to find it. We had picked up some old hand forged nails and another chain on the aged spill-way. We came back just in time for supper and after it Don went back with us to see if he could find it. We really traveled on account of the sun being low. The boy that sat in the middle ran the canoe over the portages and after all that we didn't find the chain. Went to bed and had a good night's rest.

Friday, July 28, 1939.

We got up early and took a dip before breakfast, for today we would travel. We paddled to the spill-way & portaged to the Jordon river. On one of the portages to Ensign we found the old logging chain that the leader probably referred to. On Lake Ensign which is

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very long and narrow we stopped at an old logging camp. A little later we portaged through a swift rapids where some boys saw a bear. About two miles farther we camped on Skull Point which is on New-found Lake.

In the afternoon most of us boys went into Canada either to fish or to go to the trading post. I got my 25th tree up in Canada which I was very thankful for. Took a dip, ate dinner and went to bed.

Saturday, July 29th, 1939.

We got up about 4:30, had breakfast, and got everyone all packed. Shoved off and reached Hibbards at 8:30. Finished up all the requirements for canoeing and zoomed home with a lot of swell memories.

Say hello to Geo. and Bob for me, please.

LAW OFFICES
G. STEWART HOLMES
CEDAR RAPIDS SAVINGS BANK BLDG.
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

My Log
Wilderness Canoe Trip
August 12-17
1940

Monday, August 12.

Our party of eleven from Cedar Rapids and Jack Layton, our guide, started out from Hibbard's Dock about 8 o'clock. The sun was shining beautifully on Moose Lake, causing the water to reflect the image of the bowman of our canoe, and he looked much like an old Voyager.

After paddling for an hour, I saw the camping spot on Newfound where we saw a bear last year. From Newfound we paddled through some stumps, where a cabin stood on the left side of Sucker Lake. From Sucker we portaged to Birch, and soon we portaged to Carp Lake. In the water, at the beginning of Carp, I picked up an iron hook probably used in logging long ago. From Carp, we portaged to Knife River and then over the longest portage of the day to Knife Lake. Knife is twenty-two miles long, and most of it is narrow, branching many times.

While we paddled through the day, we viewed virgin timber, sometimes with a towering eagle or hawk gliding smoothly over the great White, Norway, and Jack Pines. On the water we would hear and see, sometimes fifty feet away, Loons, which would scream and make a big splash and swim underwater when they were disturbed. Other birds that we saw during the day were a Great Blue Heron, Crow, and a Canadian Jay.

We camped on a good point on Knife, swam and finished the day with a little fishing.

Tuesday, August 13.

Got up and helped Jack with breakfast. After breakfast, we got everything packed and continued our journey on Knife. We paddled all morning, gazing sometimes at the beautiful reflections of the clouds and White Pines in the water. At noon we pitched our camp near the portage trail between Knife and Eddy Lakes. After all had had lunch of peanut butter and jam sandwiches and lemonade, everyone went fishing until supper.

At about four o'clock, I returned to the camp and cleaned up the camp for the part of the Gold Paddle Award.

We had a supper of bean soup with bacon, spaghetti with cheese, cold slaw, and tea. After supper we again all turned out to fish. Rus Boyer and Joe Casey came in with nine large bass caught on fly rods. Turned in early and slept swell.

Wednes day, August 14.

Wednesday was the toughest day we had so far. Altogether we had sixteen portages and covered about 25 miles.

We started from our camp on the portage trail between Knife and Eddy at about 10 o'clock, after a swell breakfast of bass. We reached Lake Kekekabic at noon, after portaging through several "potholes." Lake Kekekabic is a long narrow lake, ice cold, and full of Lake Trout. After a lunch of lemonade and meat sandwiches, which were about an inch thick, we portaged from Kekekabic to Strup, from Strup to Wisini, and from Wisini to Fraser, where we were refreshed by chocolate. From Fraser, we had a long paddle through Thomas, often slowed down by the waves. From Thomas, we paddled through a beautiful beaver stream where there were many white and yellow lilies. From the beaver stream, we hopped over to Lake Ima, where we camped on an island. We hustled around the camp for about two hours getting things in fairly good shape. Soon followed a supper of stew and tea.

In most of the canoes the portaging was done in the following manner. In the canoes with two in it, one boy would take the canoe and a personal pack and the other boy the food and the other personal.

Thursday, August 15.

Thursday was a lazy, recuperating day. We slept late and did not have breakfast until ten-thirty. Between ten-thirty and two, I worked on the Gold Paddle Award. After lunch, I went fishing in Ima and the beaver stream until supper, when we returned with several walleyes caught on red headed plugs. At supper we had lots of fun making out figures from clouds.

Friday, August 16.

Friday was not only a fish eating day, but also a fish catching day. Everybody went fishing all day. In the morning I got up early and had the luck of getting a large Lake Trout next to the boat-----but it got away! After breakfast, I landed a fifteen

pound Northern Pike. In the afternoon, Lake Ima became very rough. Nevertheless the whole gang of us went fishing and returned with a nice bunch. After supper, we sang a little while and then turned in, because we were going to get up at 3 A.M.

Saturday, August 17.

We all got up at three o'clock, and after breakfast, at six, we shoved off expecting to reach Hibbard's at three in the afternoon, but very much to my surprise, we broke a record and made the camp by eleven o'clock. We checked in, packed, ate lunch, and thus ended a very enjoyable trip.

-Jim Holmes.

Early historical uses of the waterways over which I traveled.

The first people to use the waterways, over which we traveled, and to tread the portage trails were, according to topographical and archaeological evidence, the Mound Builders.

Indians have used and occupied these waterways probably many centuries before Columbus came. The explorers, traders and missionaries, who came during the 17th century found the Sioux tribe in the Arrowhead country. Another tribe of Indians living north of the Sioux, whom the Sioux were continually fighting, were the Cree. In the following years the Chippewa tribe of Indians came from the east along the shore of Lake Superior and gradually drove the Sioux to the west and south and made the former Sioux habitat their own. According to an old Chippewa squaw by the name of Beengwa the Chippewas fought the Sioux at Kaposia in 1842 where the Sioux tribe were taken by surprise in their sleep and fought naked except for their powder horns.

The first white men to enter the country over which we traveled were the French. Radisson and Grosseilliers, early explorers and historians, came about 1660 and wrote some stories about the country which seemed unbelievable to the people at that time.

Other Frenchmen followed Radisson and Grosseilliers and they were called Voyagers. They were short, stout traders. They often carried three ninety pound packs of fur.

Between 1679 and 1689, DuLhut traveled along the north shore of Lake Superior and he was made famous by naming the metropolis after him.

The country over which we traveled was first under the power of Great Britain, then under the Virginia Colony and the government of the U.S. and afterwards became parts of different states until it finally was part of Minnesota and has remained so.

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Report on good deed to the State of Minnesota while on the canoe trip.

On the portage between Knife and Eddy some ignorant people left a pile of dead fish to rot causing a terrific odor. I got rid of the fish and cleaned up the place where the fish were.

The camping spot on Knife where we stayed was in a terrible mess as beer and liquor bottles and cans were strun all over. I picked up the debris and helped move several birch trees , which were cut down in and near our camp sight.



JAMES HOLMES