

REGION TEN
WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS
RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	Lawson, Ken
ADDRESS	204 3rd Ave. North, Albert Lea, Minnesota.
COUNCIL	Cedar Valley Area
DATE OF TRIP	1940
GUIDE	Ed Woolverton

PADDLE AWARDS : DATE	
BRONZE	Through Chase 2/20/42
GOLD	
SILVER	

February 20th
1 9 4 2

Mr. Kenneth Lawson
Albert Lea, Minn.

Dear Kenneth:-

We're pleased to enclose the Bronze Paddle Award in recognition of work in recording your Canoe Trip Adventure and completing the requirements. While the test calling for at least three photos was not completed, we recognize that your very bad luck in losing the pictures and the camera should have some compensations.

We cannot approve the Gold Paddle Award. The requirements for it call for a second Canoe Trip experience and I judge that this was your first trip.

Next summer the new Region Ten Canoe Base will be ready. Hope you can make another trip then and do further explorations.

Cordially,
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Kenneth G. Bentz
Regional Executive

Trees

1. Poplar
2. White Birch
3. Yellow Birch
4. Jack Pine
5. Soft Maple
6. Norway Pine
7. Juniper
8. White Pine
9. Elm
10. Red Maple
11. Mountain Ash
12. Pincherry
13. Pin Oak
14. Willow
15. Aspen
16. Tamarack
17. Balsam
18. Spruce (black)
19. ~~fir~~ ~~hemlock~~
20. Spruce (white)
21. Red Oak
22. Burr Oak
23. Red Cedar
24. White Cedar
25. Basswood
26. Hard Maple

Uses

- boxes
- baskets
- used for canoes, arrows
- pulp wood
- firewood
- fence posts, railroad ties
- flax paper
- building lumber
- barrels, ship building
- shards, woodware
- no commercial value
- no commercial value
- rough construction, interior dec.
- no commercial value
- planking
- railroad ties, telegraph poles
- often Canadian balsam
- paper, pilings, posts
- no commercial value
- paper
- ship building, heavy construction
- ship building, furniture
- shingles
- building construction
- furniture
- group firewood

Plants

1. Wild strawberry
2. Dwarfed dogwood
3. rose
4. blue bell
5. wide leaf aster
6. blackberry
7. sarcocolla
8. Poison ivy
9. kinnekinnac
10. white water lily
11. Wintergreen
12. Wild Rice
13. B. blueberry
14. Cat tail
15. goldenrod
16. ~~Canada thistle~~ ~~Canada thistle~~
17. pig peanut
18. blueberry

Uses

- food for animals, man
- food for grouse
- food for birds
- beauty
- camper's friend
- food for birds, men, deer
- food
- injurious
- Indians use it for another
- beauty
- soap
- Indians use it (birds eat it)
- Indians eat roots
- roots used for food
- beauty
- injurious
- used as food
- food for birds, people

1941 Wilderness Canoe Trip

We left Hibbard's Lodge, our base camp, on Moose Lake at 8:00 o'clock. We stopped just before dinner at the ranger station on Bagley Bay to obtain our camping permits for the Quetico Provincial Park. We camped that night at the lower end of Louisa Falls. We went swimming in a natural bathtub in the middle of the Falls.

The next morning while portaging the falls we met some Canadian Rangers, who inquired about our fishing licenses. George and Bill climbed up some of the bluffs on the islands in the lake that afternoon. That night we saw the northern lights and heard two lynxes and several beavers. We caught a lot of bass on Rod Lake, where we camped the next night. The next day it rained all day, so we camped all the next day at McEwen Lake to let our clothes dry out. At our campsite there we found a tin can containing notes from campers dating back to 1937. In a Norway pine by the fireplace we found a date on a tree of 1827.

The next day we portaged around several falls and at the last falls, Canyon, we went swimming in the current, after the 30 foot drop. That night we camped at Kawa Bay in good Moose country. The next day was Sunday so we stayed at Kawa Bay all day. That afternoon George and Kenny tried to get some honey out of a bee hive until Ed told them it was a yellowjacket nest. That morning we went over to a nearby island to get blueberries. After we had got five quarts of blueberries we started for home only to find that the canoe had drifted away. After Bill and George rescued the canoe we went back. We had a swell dinner Sunday, ham, corn, raisin sauce, brown sugar biscuits and blueberry pie.

The next day we battled four foot waves. We caught twelve walleyes that day. The next day we paddled the longest distance of any day. On one of the portages we saw some moose tracks. That day we had a mile and a half portage and a half mile one right close together. We tried to catch some partridges that afternoon with no success. The next day we walked across the "pretty portage" just to look at the wild life. We saw some beaver runs and some trees that beavers had started to cut. That night we dug up about 60 clams and opened them for pearls. George found two and Bill and Kenny each found one.

The morning of the next day we paddled under the painted rocks and about two hours later Kenny and Bill tipped over trying to canoe up dangerous Wheelbarrow Falls. They battled furiously up about twenty yards of seething rapids and then overturned about two feet from their goal. They were swept swiftly back down the rapids and reached shore with all the packs just before they would have been drifted out in the center of the lake beyond all help. About a mile farther we came to "Horse Portage" where we portaged for a mile and a quarter. In the afternoon we cut some poles and tied our panchos on for sales. We sailed from the mouth of the Basswood River to the Trading Post on O'Hawa Island, a distance of about 15 miles.

The next day we ate all the rest of the food we could and after some slight paddling and two long portages we got back to Moose Lake. We arrived back at Hibbard's Lodge about 2:15, thirteen days later.

Note: We all wrote this together from notes taken from individual logbooks used during the trip.

George Ehrhardt
Ken Lawson
Bice Shultz

Early Historical Uses of The water-ways over which we traveled.

The lakes and streams over which we traveled have not had a great commercial use in the past, except for fur traders. These were mostly hardy Frenchmen travelling in pairs or singly, who came up into the North woods in the fall and trap and hunt all winter and then come down with the spring freshets. In the nineteenth century some men canoed over the border lakes and streams looking for gold or other metals, but found very little, which they could not find the source of. During these winters this country was partially explored by hunting parties, usually composed of an Indian guide, and two white men, who came on dog sled from the Wabinoch House on Lake Wipigon.

The country was explored and became a fishing resort for the more hardy tourists, and since then has been improved to the extent of portage trails and signs, camp sites, and

canoe rests, and is now one of
the favorite spots of pleasure
connoisseurs.

Bill Sturtz
(Gold Paddle)