

REGION - TEN
WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS
RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	Monteith, George
ADDRESS	508-11th St. So., Virginia, Minnesota.
COUNCIL	Headwaters
DATE OF TRIP	August 3-8, 1936
GUIDE	Hugh Leach

PADDLE AWARDS : DATE	
BRONZE	1936 - Through Chase
GOLD	
SILVER	

The following is a journal of the Scout Wilderness Canoe Trip from August 3-8 inclusive, and quided by Hugh Leach as recorded by George Monteith.

August 2

Arrived at Hibbard's Lodge at 3p.m. Registered and got some equipment. Reino Freeman and I are to go with a group of Cedar Rapids, Iowa scouts. We went swimming and later had supper at the at the scout cabin. Slept in a tent that night.

August 3.

Got up about 6 or 7. Packed packsack, ate breakfast and got underway about 8:30. There was a strong northeasterly wind blowing. Had the wind a little forward of the port beam most of the way. Went up Moose Lake, to Newfound Lake, to Sucker Lake, to Birch Lake, to Carp Lake Portage, with one carry-over on the way. Ate lunch consisting of bread, butter, bologna, cheese and nectar. Covered about 12 or 13 miles. I paddled this far and also after dinner for about a mile to a portage around the falls of Knife River. Sat in center of canoe, the rest of the way over. Two or three more carries around rapids, up Knife Lake about two miles or so where we made our camp on the Canadian shore about 4:30.

Our party numbers 14 in all, and consists of 5 canoes. The total mileage traveled today is about 19 miles.

August 4.

Yesterday Reino caught a northern pike and I cleaned it. Cooked it this morning and ate it along with the oatmeal and coffee. Got underway about 8:00. I paddled all the way. Went up into Little Knife Lake. Portaged across a few yards into Cypress Lake. We stopped at a point for awhile and picked blueberries. Continued on slowly and trolled to our campground about a mile or so up the lake on the American side. Ate lunch, seined for minnows, and went

fishing. I got one. Had fish, macaroni, bread and jam, and tea for supper. I stuffed. The mosquitoes were quite bad at night. It has been hazy from fires in the Quetico and in the Superior forest. The Hunters Island party was turned back from the Quetico. They came by here this afternoon going down into Saganaga Lake. We traveled about 8 miles today. Had a council fire after dark, and Hugh told us about the voyageurs, their history and their life.

August 5

Got up and took my morning dip. Had blueberry pancakes, cream of wheat, and apricots and coffee for breakfast. Loafed awhile and then we crossed to the Quetico and took a hike north through the woods. Ate lunch by a small lake. There are many steep cliffs of granite where we went. The country is wild, heavily wooded and most beautiful. We tried to identify the plants and trees as we went along. Got back to base camp about 4:00. Went swimming and passed part of my Canoeing Merit Badge to Mr. Dill, Scout Executive from Cedar Rapids. He showed me how to do the sweep stroke, J-stroke, stationary turn and handle a canoe alone. Had mulligan stew for supper. Sat around the campfire and talked awhile before retiring.

August 6

The sky was clear today and the smoke was gone. Rose early and took a dip. After breakfast, Reino and I took the canoe up the lake, through the channel into the south arm going toward the portage into Saganaga lake. Turned back and paddled up into the north arm to the Jasper Lake portage. Came back for dinner. After dinner, we went on a short tree-study hike south to a small lake. I have found and identified 20 trees now for my bronze paddle. Had

an early supper--beans and rice. There are quite a few loons in these waters. Am going to sleep in the canoe anchored in the lake tonight.

August 7

Slept in the canoe in 50 feet of water. Had just enough rope to anchor it. Three others slept with me in canoes. Rose about an hour after sunrise. Had cream of wheat, apricots and coffee for breakfast. Started back for Carp Lake portage. Went about 7 miles and stopped on a point for lunch. Had a strong head wind all the way. Stayed at the point and went swimming and studied trees. About 2 miles more to first Knife Lake camp. Had macaroni and rice for supper. Stayed overnight here. It rained a little. Warm night.

August 8

Hugh, Bill, Spencer, Jim, Reino and I went to the Carp Lake portage to meet the boat bringing supplies. Had a strong head wind. Got there about noon. Waited all afternoon for the boat. Killed two porcupines, cooked and ate them. About 8 p.m. Charlie Strachan came with the boat and took us back to Hibbard's. Got there about 11:00, and home to Virginia about 3 a.m.

Total mileage covered, including our excursion to Jasper Lake portage--about 54 miles. This was about the most enjoyable camping trip of any kind I have ever taken.

George Monteith



Portaging the canoe



Entering Cypress L. narrows



Our canoe on White Lake