

REGION TEN

WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS

RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	Wetzel, Fred G.
ADDRESS	Fairmont, Minnesota.
COUNCIL	Headwaters Cedar Valley
DATE OF TRIP	1936
GUIDE	Chas. Strachn

PADDLE AWARDS : DATE	
BRONZE	x - 1936
GOLD	
SILVER	

canoe
emblems
sent

112 No. Orient St.
Fairmont, Minn.,
August 30-36.

Mr. C. S. Chase,
Director of Region #10 Canoe Trips,
Dear Mr. Chase:

I am herewith enclosing snaps taken on
our Canoe Trip. They are to fill one of the requirements
for the Bronze paddle award. There are four photos each
for Fred G. Wetzel, Fred J. Wetzel Jr. and Vincent Keeler.

Also send 3 medalions for the uniform. If there is a charge
let me know and I will see that it is taken care of.

Charley Strachan was our Guide.

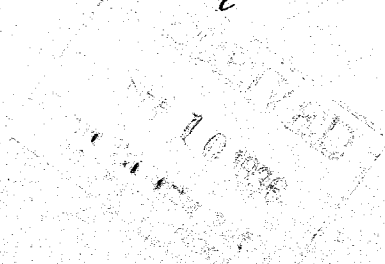
The trip was enjoyed very much by all of us. Northern
Minnesota is a great country for Natural beauty.

Thanks for the service given us while on the trip.

Yours for Scouting,

Fred J. Wetzel
Southern Minnesota Area
District Commissioner.

Dear K
I have written them asking
them to send you the Log's,
R



September 8, 1936

Fred G. Wetzel
112 North Orient St.
Fairmont, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Wetzel:

The medalions have been sent to you. Sorry that I wasn't present upon your return, so that I could have presented them personally. I am glad that you enjoyed the trip, and hope that you will be one of our enthusiastic boosters of the future. The pictures you have sent are very fine, and the boys will be given credit on their emblem test, but I would like to have them and yourself each write an account of the trip (or newspaper article or diary) and submit that to K. G. Bentz, Regional Executive, 1124 Minnesota Bldg., St. Paul.

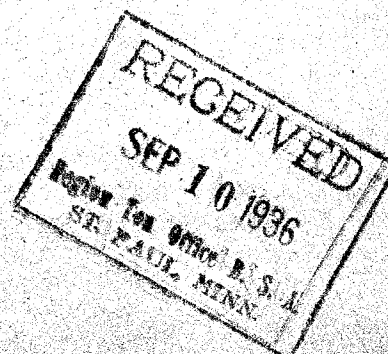
I am very glad to have made your acquaintance, and hope to see you again next year.

Scoutingly.

C. S. Chase
Area Executive

CSO:SU

COPY TO BENTZ



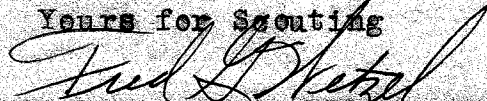
Fairmont, Minn.,
Sept. 15, 36.

Mr. Kenneth Bents,
Regional Executive,
St. Paul, Minn:

Dear Mr. Bents:

Enclosed find accounts of our regional
Canoe Trip, Fred Jr. and myself as requested by Mr. Chase.

Yours for Scouting



Southern Minn Area Dist. Comm.

RECEIVED

SEP 16 1936

Region Ten Office B. S. A.
ST. PAUL, MINN.

Headwaters Area Council
BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA
Hibbing, Minnesota

EDWARD W. LEACH, PRESIDENT

B. B. BEAL, TREASURER



GEO. B. ROBINSON, COMMISSIONER

C. S. CHASE, EXECUTIVE

September 8, 1936

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Fairmont, Minnesota

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Scoutingly,

C. S. Chase
Area Executive

CSC:SU

COPY TO BENTZ

Fred G. Wetzel
Fairmont, Minn.
List of Trees Identified on Wilderness Canoe trip. (reference
Charley Strachan, Guide)

Name	Uses
White Pine-Nearly every use-Millwork, Patterns, tanks, building & structural work.	
Norway Pine-Building, millwork, ladders & furniture.	
White Spruce-Building, millwork, paper pulp.	
Black spruce- " " " (not so valuable as the White because smaller)	
Balsam-Boughs used to make beds, perfume,	
White Cedar-Shingles, posts, telegraph poles, railway ties, boats.	
Juniper-posts, chests, leaves to flavor liquor, lead pencils.	
White Birch-Firewood, birch-bark canoes.	
Yellow Birch-Furniture, interior finishing, veneer, woodenware, novelties.	
Pin Cherry-Fruit,	
June- Berry- Fruit	
Alder Brush-Not much use, has cone like fruit (bird food)	
White Oak-veneer, finishing, interior finishing	
Soft Maple-firewood, shade tree, soft lumber.	
Jack pine-masts, posts, low grade lumber.	
Silver poplar-shade tree (ornamental), kindling wood.	
Diamond Willow-Ornamental walking sticks Etc.	
Striped Willow-Can be bent for lawn chairs and baskets.	
Black Ash, Interior finish and furniture and barrel hoops & baskets.	
Thorn Apple, Fruit for birds	
Bass Wood-Cabinet work, veneer, woodenware, toys and boxes.	
Aspen (large tooth) lumber, when dry makes good camp fire wood.	
Aspen (small tooth) similar to the Large tooth Aspen.	
White Ash-Base ball bats, vehicles, furniture refrigerators, oars and interior finish.	
Choke Cherry- Fruit for birds, wine, Jelly.	
Weeping Willow-Ornamental, wood can be used for work requiring flexibility.	

Fred G. Wetzel
Fairmont, Minn.,
List of plants Identified on Wilderness Trail Canoe Trip
(reference Charley Strachan, Guide)

Name ----	Uses ----
Rein Deer Moss,	Food for deer-beds for campers
Pigeon Wheat Moss- " " " "	-Bed for Campers
Cat Tail-Indians used the down for beds for their papooses.	
Yellow Water Lillies-Moose eat the stems for food, beautiful floors	
White Water Lillies- " " " " " " " "	
Water Rushes-Food for deer & Moose	
Straw Berries-Fruit	
Goose Berries-Fruit	
Rasp berries-Fruit	
Blue Berries-Fruit	
Blue Bells-Flowers	
Clover-Food for Deer and woodland animals	
Hazle Brush-Edible Nuts	
Rose Bushes-Flowers	
Dog wood (red)-can be used for purposes requiring a flexible wood.	
Fire Weed-Covers burnt over areas (conserves moisture)	

Lichens: growing on rocks:

- Crustos
- Follics
- Fructos
- Saraginalla

One New Camping Skill.

~~I have camped considerable but not in the North Woods. One camping~~
stunt that interested me was that Pots and Kittles can be scoured
effectively with dry Pine needles.

Fred G. Wetzel
Fairmont, Minn.

Five Meritt Badge requirements completed while on Trip.
Reference(Charley Strachan, Guide)

1-demonstrate the proper method of of entering and leaving
a canoe.
a-From a pier
b-From and to a beach.

2-With a companion show proper form in paddling both bow
and stern on both sides of the canoe.

3-Carry a canoe 12' or longer 200' ^{yards} without stopping.

4-With a companion load a canoe in good form with a complete outfit for two scouts for four days properly trimmed, lashed and protected from the wet. Paddle a moderate distance, pick camp site and unload and make camp for night. Break camp, repack and return to the start.

5-Demonstrate to the examiner that he has thoro knowledge of the safety rules to be observed which will make him a safe canoeist and that he is competent to observe them.

Note

---- The Guide Estimated that we paddled approximately 110 miles on our trip. One day of this trip was on the Horse river. The water was very low and in some places it was necessary to wade to lighten the load over the rocks.

When we returned our canoes were in good condition which speaks as to how the canoe we used was handled on the trip. And we learned nearly everything that we know about canoeing on the trip. Not having had much previous canoe experience.

An Account of a Region 10, Boy Scouts of America.
Wilderness-Trail Canoe Trip by Fred G. Wetzel, Fairmont, Minn.

Our party consisted of three; Vincent Keeler, Fred Wetzel Jr. and myself all from Fairmont, Minn.

We left Fairmont at 1:00 P.M., July 17th. We went Via. St. Paul and arrived at the Jay Cook State Park, which is about 20 miles from Duluth, at 9:00 P.M. The temperature when we left Fairmont was 100 or warmer and at the Jay Cook park the same night it was 48. This park is located only a few rods from Carlton, Minn. and it is well worth ones time to spend a day enjoying its natural beauty.

We slept in Pup tents the first night and the next morning we went down to the St. Louis River bed and washed and shaved. When I was going down the steep bank I slipped and in catching myself got a bad cut on my finger. We had First aid equipment with us and I soon had the bleeding stopped and a bandage on it.

July 18th we attended the Indian Pageant held at Fon-du-lac here the early history of the district was read and some of the early events of historical importance were dramatized.

After this part of the programme the Indians present some 30 in number from the reservation near Itasca State Park gave an Indian Pow-wow in the Stockade. Some of the dances which they did were The Snake dance, War dance, Two Step, Fool Dance, Dance to Commemorate the Dead. And a Thanksgiving song. We Camped again at night in the Jay Cook State Park.

July 19th.

Last night it was cold, Frost on the tents in the morning. We heat a big bucket of water to wash in and it felt good. We left camp at 6:00 A.M. and had pancakes for breakfast in Duluth. Sunday morning and the streets were very Quiet. Soon after leaving Duluth near the little town of Twig a Doe and two Fawn at her side came out onto the pavement right ahead of our car so close we had to apply the breaks to avoid hitting them.

We arrived in Ely at 10:30 and stayed for dinner. We met Harold Rush, our former Southern Minnesota Area Executive and enjoyed a visit with him. For about a month he had been guiding Scout parties from St. Louis, Mo. where he is now employed in Scout work.

Hibbards Lodge is located about 25 miles north-east of Ely, it is in the Superior National Forest and we soon arrived at the Lodge after an awful shaking up trying to get over the bumps for the last few miles thru the forest. Here we were met by Mr. C.S. Chase who has been responsible for some sixty or seventy Scout Canoe trips without a major accident. We had very fine treatment at the lodge. The meals were excellent and we had a neat little log cabin with two rooms, two beds in a room, to sleep in. The rooms were provided with electric lights and water and good beds. A new building was about completed to take care of Canoe Trip Parties. This also was equipped with comfortable bunks with springs and mattresses.

We met our Guide Hugh Leach, whose father is a mine Superintendant. He bunked in the same room with myself and we enjoyed his company at mealtime at the lodge (after returning home I found out that his mother who used to be Helen Leiden was at one time a teacher in the public School in my old Home Town, Triumph, Minn.)

July 20th.

After a good night sleep and a good breakfast we find that another party consisting of Two Scout Executives and their Wives Cedar Rapids Iowa have annexed our Guide, Hugh Leach and Charley Strahan, whose father is also a Mine Superintendant at Ely, was assigned to our party.

As there were only four in our party we did not take a route usually taken by Scout Parties. By the time we got our pack-sacks packed and Canoes loaded and ready to start it was ten o'clock. Fred Jr. and myself in one canoe and Charley Strahan and Vincent Keeler in the other. In about an hour we overtook the first Party ~~who~~ that started out ahead of us and traveled with them for a ways until our ways parted. We headed Northwest and they North-east.

We passed thru Moose, New Found, and Sucker Lakes, then Inlet and Baily Bays and arrived at Prairie Portage at about noon. We made the Portage, that is, carried our Canoes and Baggage around the rapids, and had lunch. We then took some pictures, observed the variety of trees, birds, Mosses that were in the vicinity. We covered a good distance in the after-noon and passed many flocks of Loons on the lake. We made camp for the night on a small Island in Canadian water.

July 21st

We were up early, did some fishing, observed the birds that inhabited the Island, eat Blue berries and had breakfast consisting of Cream of Wheat, Bacon, Bread and Cocoa.

We were on our way again at 8:00 and passed many islands, still traveling in Bass-wood lake. The next place of interest that we stopped was a Canadian Fur-trading Post. Here was a dock, a little log store, and a cabin. The store was run by Mrs Riley, wife of the Canadian Ranger, she was a class mate of our Guide in the Ely High-school. She got some ice-water for us to drink which tasted pretty good as we had nothing to drink while on the trip but lake-water. This Station was ninety miles from the nearest Canadian town. They bought furs from the Indians and sold Hudson-Bay blankets and Woollen coats, caps and mittens and many other articles all brought in with small boats. We eat dinner at United States Point and paddled all day against a strong wind, made three portages: Horse portage a mile and a quarter; twenty-four Rod Portage and Wheel-borrow Portage, 40 rods. The last hour of the day we run into a wind and rain-storm and arrived at our wet camping spot plenty tired. We had Cheese and Macaroni, Bread & Butter and Tea for supper.

July 22nd.

Our Camp last night was on The Lower Basswood Falls where seven lives have been lost trying to ~~to~~ shoot the rapids in canoes. Just a few feet back of our camp is the grave of a Young Indian whose life was lost in this way and he was buried only a few rods from the falls that caused his death. His grave has recently been marked with willows bent in arches over the length of the grave and a wooden cross at the head.

Today has been the hardest one of the trip we traveled (I should say paddled) up the Horse River. The water is low and some places we had to wade to lighten the canoe so we could get thru the rocky places. Then thru Horse Lake into Sand. We stopped at a nice sandy beach

#3

on Horse Lake, took a swim and ate lunch. This is the only sandy beach we have seen on the trip. Here the portages are not marked and ~~we~~ we are plenty tired having made seven portages, and we haven't been able to find where we go from here. We camped on an old logging track. There is no clearing around here large enough to pitch a Foresters Tent on. We killed a porcupine that was hanging in a tree near where we were getting supper, so he wouldn't gnaw holes in our canoes (now to bed)

July 23rd.

Another morning and we are still lost or as the Indian says Me no lost- Portage lost.

After breakfast We decided that Charley and Fred Jr take the ax and cut a way thru to the stream we wanted to reach and Vince and I went back to carry the Canoes. They started to cut a path but before long cut right into the portage path that we were hunting for. This was a joy to us all as it didn't take long to get to the stream that would take us into Jackfish Bay. The Guide got mixed up and we tried to go up stream instead of down stream and then had to right about face and go back (Fred and Vince maintained that Charley was going in the wrong direction which was a feather in the cap of the tenderfoot Wilderness Trailers)

Today Vincent caught a Northern Pike and we had fish for dinner. We Camped at American Point tonight. Now we have completed a loop and are paddling back again on the same course we started on.

We had fried potatoes, salt pork, onions, bread & butter and Chocolate for supper and a nice place to sleep on a little Island.

July 24-

Homeward bound, Vince and Fred Fished some this morning without results. Then we packed and continued our homeward route. We had lemonade, cheese sandwiches and pickles for dinner. We packed Prairie portage and arrived at Skull Point camp tonight. We all had a good soap bath, made our camp, got supper and reviewed the trees and plants that we had learned to identify on the trip. One of the requirements for the Silver & Bronze paddle is that one learn to identify 25 trees and 15 plants that one sees on the trip

July 25th.

Up again- The sun is rising beautifully across the lake, thru the fog and is streaking thru the pines and cedars to our tents. We had Fried toast, marmalade and chocolate for breakfast. This is the last meal of our trip. Motor boats passed by this point at intervals thru the night, and before we went to bed Loons gave their weird call over the water, but finally left us so we could sleep.

Nearly every night we could hear the wolves howl.

At 9:30 we were back at Hibberds Lodge, and soon had our tanned backs covered with shirts and were on our way home. We stopped at Winton to see the place where the Dog team trips used to start from. Some of this equipment is still there.

And so ends the story of a trip that will always be remembered

In these days when the tendency is toward Marble-floored scout camps it is refreshing to know that there is still the The Region 10 Canoe Trips available to those who like nature in the Rough.

Fred G. Hatfield
Dist. Comm. Southern Minn. Area



FRED G. WETZEL