

REGION TEN

WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS

RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	YERKOVICH, MICHEAL T. (Scoutmaster)
ADDRESS	5532 Archer Ave., Summit Illinois. - Region 7
COUNCIL	West Suburban Council
DATE OF TRIP	August 21-28, 1943.
GUIDE	John Crosby

PADDLE AWARDS : DATE
BRONZE Awarded through West Suburban Council - 12/2/43
GOLD
SILVER

Date Aug 28th 1943

Boy Scouts of America
Region Ten,
1112 Minnesota Building,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Please Print

I hereby apply for the

BRONZE-PADDLE Award

I have completed all requirements for this award (see evidence attached).

My height is 5'-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Scout or Scouter (Scoutmaster) MICHAEL T. YERKOVICH

Address 5532- ARCHER-AVE - SUMMIT-ILL.

Approved by Guide

Approved by Director

Approved by Scout Executive

COUNCIL

Approved by Region Ten Executive

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Came Trip To Northern Minnesota Region 10 B.S.G.A.

Friday Night Aug 20th 1943 - Packed Cars and trailer ready to go first thing Sat Morn.

Sat morning meet at Ray Douglas's house last minute arrangements made final packing touches. Left Argo, Illinois at 6:30 A.M. Sat Morn.

Boys in our Cars with trailer, were Don Hayke and Eudon Carlson. Everybody quite noisy and full of miccracks about trip. Arrived a Crystal Lake Illinois 8:30-A.M. Making good time. Stopped here had "Coffee and" at Jimmie's place.

Arrived at County O Line 9:30 A.M. 99 miles from Argo where "County O" takes us into Camp Delavan, Big Scout Camp, of West Suburban Council. Boys still in strong spirits.

Arrived at Janesville Wis. 10:10-A.M.

Boys quite now, taking a snooze.

Neph Big town passed was Madison 11:05. This is my first night of this town and I might say it was a pleasure. Stopped here to gas & oil up.

Stopped just outside of Baraboo Wis for our noon meal. 12⁰⁰ noon sharp. Sandwiches and milk.

Passed Wis. bluffs at 1.05 P.M. Quite some place intend to stop here on the way back to see Indian Ceremonies.

Stopped at Mauston for rest drink of water. Boys real quite now getting tired.

Next stop was at Augusta for rest period bought groceries for Sunday Breakfast. Noise from Boys began to increase again, cause were near our first stop overnight at One Clair Wis.

Pulled into One Clair at 4.55 stayed at Al Bergs Place parked in his back yard set up camp and waited for Boys and Ray Douglas who were to start later that afternoon. Ray and Boys pulled into Wis at 10:45, meanwhile we visited Al and his wife and daughter who were very cordial to us and did everything to make us feel at home.

Got to Bed about 11.00 P.M. Boys had gone to Bed at 9.45 P.M.
Up at 6.30 - Sun. Morn. Breakfast at

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7:30 A.M. Break Camp. leave also at 8:30 A.M. Say good Bye to all and folks intending to stay on way back.

Next stop Chippewa Falls to gas up and send cards home. Began to see many lakes and streams says going strong at present bringing logs a being merry. Sight Lake Superior in distance at 12:47. Says asleep, but awakes me the sight lake.

Arrive at Duluth 1:35 P.M. Says this really was a sight everything I heard of this place and more, never saw so much big rock solid rock, in my life. I had my first experience of paying a toll bridge fee. ate lunch here at Walgreens drug store, sent cards etc also. Left Duluth at 2:30 P.M.

Rollled into two harbors, where we had our first flat tire. Took too much time to fix flat cause we couldn't find gas station open here.

Finally on home stretch on Route #1

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Saw many beautiful nights in this
God's Country stopped to take pictures a
big fall which was indeed a beautiful
sight to behold.

Finally arrived at Winton and
checked in at U.S. Customs office. After
declaring several items we left for Camp
Base. Had some trouble finding Customs
inspector because it was Sunday.

After what seemed a century we
finally arrived into Camp ^{Base.} much later
than we wished to. Had a good supper
we were plenty hungry you can bet.

While eating it started to rain. Rain and
more rain so we had to go out and set
up a tarp in the rain between cars, some
of us slept under tarp, some slept in cars.

Next morning up bright and early, only
it wasn't bright by all means. Assigned to
our Canoes, by guide whose name was John
Crosby, being for short "small fella".

Canoes packed and all ready set
out for Base Camp. After about 4 hours
paddle we arrived at our planned Base
Camp at Skull point. Set up Base Camp.

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Had supper, and allowed free time to the boys some went canoeing some went fishing. Bing our guide decides to go back to Base Camp and took Ellis senior scout with him.

Tues Mon Aug 24th up early set up camp and have breakfast. Bing can't seem to understand, how our Boys can consume so much food. We've been trying to figure that out for some time ourselves. These Boys are all senior scouts have been with us for some time, we therefore know their habits pretty well. After breakfast camp was worked on some more by details. After satisfaction as to camp's condition free time was allowed for the Boys. Some went fishing others exploring. Fishing wasn't so hot, nobody had any luck.

After lunch which was late same thing fishing and no luck. It started to rain Boys went fishing regardless. Some small perch were the only fish caught.

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So far. After supper discussions were held as to who would take the trip into Canada. After the discussions were made Bay went fishing again. Those that were going to Canada made ready by setting up their packs + duffel.

Wednesday morn. I, Jack Lambert, Jim, & Rick, and the guide Bing, made ready to leave for Canada to North Bay. After Breakfast we left Camp with shouts of good luck good fishing and happy landings Bay! we were in for it, this being my first experience. We left our Base Camp at Skull Point about 7³⁰ or 8⁰⁰ Clock Wed morn. Aug 20th Day was bright and sunny first day of sunshine since arriving into, Conoe Base Camp. We paddled out and new found into Archer up to the Ranger Station where we checked in and bought our Canadian fishing license. Made our ~~personal~~ portage, ^{first one being a short one.} prairie Portage Bay that was a killer for me not being used to this sort of weight the food pack, misc pack and my personal were what a portage for a clerk who's worked indoors most of his life. But it was a grand experience what got me was when I saw our

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guide Bing unpractically with his load which consisted of his personal pack and his canoe. For a young man 15 years old he really had the "stuff". After making this portage we had lunch. Man talk about eat, I never dreamed I had such an appetite, although the boys did seem to make me look like a fisher when it came to eating. Wow! the way they ate you'd think they were on a forty day fast before coming on this trip, they certainly could throw away the food. I didn't complain though, to make the food pack that much lighter for me. We started again over Bayley Bay which really was a large body of water to a greenhorn like me but our guide assured us this was ~~not~~ anything yet! We followed the map route to Sunday Lake where we made camp for the day. Fished this end of Bayley Bay as Sunday Lake was too rough to my judgment had some strikes but no luck.

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This portage camp was a small camp site. I wished now we'd made our base camp here instead of Skull point. But men were green and had much to learn about this new wonderful country about camps + ^{camping}.

After supper we fished some more and after dusk set in, made a camp fire talked and finally went to bed for we had another hard grind for the next day.

Thurs morn came bright and sunny had breakfast and left Sunday lake back to another route up to North Bay. Made another portage not so bad and paddled into in Burke lake. We paddled for what seemed hours and finally arrived at the end of Burke lake where our guide took his bearing and said another portage shore one thank heavens. I carried the canoe this portage and it wasn't half bad once you caught the drift of handling a canoe on your shoulders. Footwork and using your head are the prime factors in this case as I readily found out. After a short distance we

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had to make another short portage & carry over but it was a mean one all large rock and big boulders where foot work counted and balance me the biggest item but we learned the hard way as all beginners do. A short jaunt over a small stream and another portage and finally we arrived at North Bay Lake, our destination at last. A short 20 minute paddle brought us to the camp where our guide said we would camp. and I might add it was about the most beautiful camp site I'd ever seen. I was very much surprised and pleased to find such as this away up here in God's own.

Dinner was set up and after dinner we fished, how! well like I've never fished before, because black in no time at all caught a 24 in pike standing on the rock ledge on shore casting into the water, we all did like wise, I was kept to catch a good sized pike a 27 inch Bay! it was a beauty.

Here at this camping spot I perhaps spent the happiest camping days of my life. I was entirely enchanted with the natural beauty of Gods ~~the~~ creation. The rock formations, the pine trees, growing in the rock simply overwhelmed me into a campers bliss. I sat many a time sitting on the rock which blended right into the lake in a slight downhill slope like as if it was hewn ~~into it~~ by human hands and made just for that purpose. To sit and dream and take in the beauty of such a beautiful setting.

Being a landscape man, you can readily understand my feeling in the matter of the unusual landscape which unravelled before my eyes in its natural splendor. Would that I could write as I saw it; certainly, would be a story. I am only sorry that my time was so limited, in such a spot of spots!

Came supper and we had our first taste of fish on this trip. After supper we fished some more and then enjoyed a very wonderful camp fire. Singing songs and talking about our trip to North Bay from base camp at Skull Point.

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The next morning was somewhat dismal because of overcast clouds, but after breakfast it cleared and a fishing we went. Here came the biggest thrill of my fishing career. Casting for a short and hour I caught a 24 inch piha which I landed and string. Went back to camp and returned again to resume my fishing. After casting for about an hour and a half I got a tremendous strike and started reeling in, excited! Waw! I knew that I really had my first big fish. When I finally got him close enough ^{to see} I almost fainted with excitement, but kept enough clear headness to keep reeling him in. I finally got him into a small opening in the rock where I thought of a certainty he was mine, but he fought Waw! What a scrape, he kept shaking his massive head against the rock and finally cut my line, still

I didn't think he could get away because of having him in the opening on shore, but he finally worked himself around head out to the lake and meanwhile I was screaming for the boys to help me all all the time and they incidently couldn't seem to get to me in time, Having worked himself around to face the lake he gave a great lunge and he was free, as he swam away he turned to give me a last look like as if to say, well "sucker", better luck next time ~~too~~ had you didn't have a net or a gaff handy eh, what? and swam slowly back into deep water. Well so I lost my fish! a whopper, I couldn't even lift him out of water, but it was a grand catch and a grand fight, but the whole trip, itself was worth this thrill of thrills. I would say judging from his size he weighed any where from 30 to 40 lbs and there some, regardless of how I ragged and kidded about this incident, I care not for the pleasure and thrill were all mine.

We not only fished but explored

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here as well and certainly we all enjoyed our trip to this spot of spots.
"A Campers and fishermen's paradise."

Dinner followed and more fishing and exploring was done. Later in the day we packed up and set out for Base Camp. The trip back was uneventful and the lack of game going up and also going back, somewhat puzzled me. We arrived back at Base Camp in time for supper telling stories about our trip to the crew and desiring of others for not going with us.

After supper at base we prepared our packs for home base trip ^{tomorrow} ~~first~~ using the necessities for quick packing in the morning so that we could get an early start.

Sat morning up bright and early with an early breakfast ~~was~~ breaking up camp leaving it in an orderly fashion of good Campers and showing off our home

Some who were working on the Bronze paddle award went with Bing to clean up a dirty Camp right and then hit the paddle for Home Base.

Arriving at Moose Lake Camp we had light lunch and final packing of cars and trailers and then on our way home.

Next stop was at Rangers Hdqts in Hibbing where we took in the sights of the town, the open pit mine of Iron ore, taking in a movie in the evening and back to camp for night's rest.

Next morning church final preparation of packing and on to Eau Claire.

Then to the Wells where we took in the Indian Ceremonies. Next day hit for home. All in all it was some trip we will talk about for some time to come.

Michael F. Gerhardt



Yerkovich, M. T.
S.M.