



# REFLECTIONS



NORTHERNTIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

## Base spring: training, tree planting, logs

*Butch Diesslin, Dave Greenlee*

Members of the Northern Tier advisory committee and the Sommers Alumni Association have been involved as volunteers in the staff training for a number of years, in an effort to give greater continuity and experience base to the training.

Butch participated in this year's training by doing a session on on-land canoe handling a.k.a. portaging techniques. The thrust of the portaging session was that the hardest part of portaging is picking the canoe up and putting it down without doing damage to the canoe or yourself, and that not everyone has the strength, agility or timing to pick up a canoe alone. He stressed the reality that most groups will not have enough members who are able to flip a canoe by themselves, carry it the length of every portage, and be able to return the canoe gently to the water without the bottom of the canoe touching land. The staff members were taught to teach how to pick up – and set down – a canoe using three people, two people and how to do it alone. However, they were taught that canoes should be carried by one person at a time, that the passengers on a canoe are to be taught to stay together on portages, that they should assist one another by “bridging” the canoe and swapping loads if necessary. They were shown how to use trees as canoe rests on portages and how to change canoe carriers without setting the canoe on the ground. They were also taught that balance is more important than weight in ease of carrying, how to carry paddles in the canoe, and to be alert for “danglies” that mess up the balance. (Try carrying an otherwise balanced canoe with a wet sweatshirt tied to the stern seat!)

*(continued on page 3)*



*Front Left to Right Jamie Rench, Jayna Marks-Rench Middle Left to Right Tate Rench, Dianne Rench, Knute Nisswandt, Jim Barott Back Left to Right Quentin Rench, Allen Rench, Shawn Piel, Lance ???*

## Wall is first Sommers Fellow

Dr. Terry J. Wall, J.D., M.D is the first individual to donate \$25,000 to endow a scholarship in perpetuity within the Northern Tier Seasonal Scholarship program. For this donation, Terry has been recognized by the Northern Tier National High Adventure advisory committee and the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association as a Charles L. Sommers Fellow.

Terry is a very active and long-time scouter in Heart of America Council and lives in Shawnee Mission, Kansas. Terry first participated in the Northern Tier program as a scout in 1970 and has been an

advisor at the Northern Tier bases in 1981, 1983, 1985, 1991, 1993 and 1995. His participation has been during the summer canoeing program and during the winter “OKPIK” program. Terry has also participated in the high adventure programs at Philmont Scout Ranch and at the Florida High Adventure Sea base.

Under Terry's leadership, his scouts have experienced many other “high adventure” activities including caving, rock climbing, wilderness hiking and sea kayaking. Their most recent adventure was sea kayaking in the

Pacific Northwest and backpacking in Alaska's Denali National Park.

Terry is a Charter Life member of the Sommers Alumni Association.

The Terry J. Wall Charles Sommers Scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving member of the Northern Tier seasonal staff. Terry's donation will be invested and the interest on his donation will be used to fund the scholarship – forever. We thank Terry for his tremendous donation toward the enhancement of the Northern Tier programs.

# President's Message

By Allen Rensch

I saw eighteen again. It was season opener. The staff had been arriving throughout that cool damp Friday. Evening was quickly approaching. Young men were arriving some clean cut, fresh out of high school, others well seasoned. But all were filled with anticipation for what summer experiences lay ahead. There were rekindled friendships and warm embraces as returning staff caught sight of one another. Before long they would start filing into the Lodge to receive their welcome back. You could tell who the first year staff is, and who had many canoeing miles tucked under their belts. It was a moment that I had not shared since my last summer at the Base. A flood of memories came rushing back. Unconsciously I placed myself in their shoes reliving those feelings of anticipation waiting for the arrival of my very first crew. Prior to the evening campfire in the quiet of the lodge, Dave Hyink and I remarked the we could still hear the voices echoing within these walls of our past directors, offering up their words of encouragement and reminding us why it was we were here and who it was we were to be leading. Now as campfire opened and the introductions were finishing it was my turn to be up in front of the staff. It was my turn to share a little bit of wisdom. After chiding them about being every mother's nightmare I stood there with my five-year-old son at my side and spoke of the

importance being your best at your craft of guiding. And how, at every turn along the trail you are being watched and mimicked by those wet behind the ear Scouts Sandy so affectionately called chipmunks. And those impressionable chipmunks would do anything to be just like you because you were COOL. So it was for us back then, to be idolized by our crewmembers.

I am here to tell you, we as alumni are being watched and I guess to some extent idolized by the current staff. There is a strong desire among them to connect with the past, to keep a link to where they came from. We have sparked their imaginations by our presence and our stories and to some extent our age. We have shown them, the Base is not just a collection of buildings to outfit from, but also a treasure chest of adventures and memories. And, that on each trip they add to the collection.

A living standard has been created by our traditions, skills, and common experiences that enable all generations of Charlie Guides to connect with one another and to provide the best camping and canoeing program in the United States. Before leaving the Base that Sunday to head home, I had to stop and smile. There were signs popping up all over the Base to help cause the staff to think of their important role as "Interpreters." "What would Charlie Do" and "A Charlie Guide is Bigger than Life."

## Dorothy Molter Photo Album

If you traveled through Knife Lake prior to 1986 you probably had the opportunity to meet Dorothy Molter and enjoy a bottle of her home-made root beer. The Dorothy Molter Memorial Museum is assembling a composite photo album of all of Dorothy's visitors over the years. The museum is requesting copies of the photographs that were taken during your visit(s) to Dorothy's "Isle of Pines" on Knife Lake. The Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation is accepting prints and will have prints made from your negatives or slides. They will return the negatives or slides after prints have been made. Prints, slides and negatives can be sent to the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 391, Ely, MN 55731-0391. Additional information is about the photo album project is available by writing to the foundation, by e-mail at [dmolter@spacestar.net](mailto:dmolter@spacestar.net), by calling (218) 365-4451, or by visiting the Dorothy Molter Museum website [[www.canoeconomy.com/Dorothy](http://www.canoeconomy.com/Dorothy)].

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Number in parenthesis is years remaining in current term

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Each Interpreter took different amounts of new knowledge away from this session, but hopefully they all realized that there is more than one right way to handle canoes on portages. There is much satisfaction in giving back to the program. Once a Charlie Guide - always a Charlie Guide.

Most of the training these days is done on the trail. Classroom training only gets you to a certain point, and an Interpreter needs to have practical training before going on the trail. The staff this year looks well prepared, ready to get on the trail, and as feisty as ever. We old Charlie Guides often smile to ourselves as the young ones show their independence and individualism in subtle and sometimes not-so-subtle ways. They are hired to do a job that requires decisive actions, and strong independent thinking. Is it a surprise that working with them as a group is like herding cats?

This year's crop of "greenie" Interpreters has a large contingent of second, third, and fourth year returning guides to lean on, and that is a good thing. Alums can take some pride in the scholarship program that seems to be working well to encourage staff to return for multiple years. Also, they are getting some great training. Bob Cary took a bunch over to Flash Lake and they really got into some walleyes, followed by a filleting session, and, later, cooking sessions. Mike Cichanowski (owner of Winona canoes, and an avid canoe racer and woodsman), came back from a trip in the Quetico to help out with

**See pictures of the tree planting on pages 5 and 6.**

a "train the trainer" session on canoeing technique. Dr. Charles Rose (Chuck is also a Charlie Guide) taught lake ecology in the manner that an Interpreter needs it - we all have our own questions and every crew asks a hundred more. Professional photographer Steve Niedorf (and Charlie Guide) showed some photography tips and a lot more. Steve Piragis took a bunch on a nature "power walk" to explore flora and fauna. The bottom line is that these are top-flight people and the staff is getting top-flight training. It makes me proud to be a part of the program. At a "rendezvous" toward



## Hedrick Award goes to Mike Holdgrafer

*Mike Holdgrafer receiving the Hedrick Award. Butch Diesslin presented it to him during one of Mike's frequent appearances at the base to lend a hand.*

the end of training, I had a chance to read John LeBlanc's article "A Charlie Guide Can Make a Difference" to the staff. I think it tells the story of the job an Interpreter is asked to do. As usual, it choked me up a bit to read it. That story is personal because the Charlie Guide in the story was also my Guide when I was 15 years old. I worship him to this day, and I'm

now 51. Regarding the nature of the job, one of the trail staffers made a comment a couple years ago, and I wish I could remember exactly what she said. It was something like this, "The job of a Charlie Guide is really pretty simple. It can be hard work, but the life is simple, and there is a system that we all learn for navigating, canoeing, cooking, and teaching others to do it without getting in their way. The hardest time is when it rains. Then you have to try to remember all the words to every song you know!" Everybody smiled knowingly as soon as she said it. We all knew that this was the time that a crew looked to a Guide for inspiration. It is the time when we can show a

crew that our attitudes and our feelings can be affected by our actions. If we can sing in the rain, others will follow us, and then we all can discover that we can enjoy the bad times and the good. Pretty soon we really ARE having a good time together, even in the rain, the cold, and the bugs - really. We can enjoy the thrill of a stiff headwind just for the chance to "get it on." We also hopefully learn when to sit it out. And then we can enjoy

the challenge of figuring out how we can make up time by night paddling or taking a short cut or getting up a bit earlier. Sometimes when my work gets me down a bit, I say to myself "This isn't tough - many times I remember quartering a stiff headwind on Bailey Bay - now THAT is tough!" And then I smile and I get through it. God, I love being a Charlie Guide. You can take that as a statement or as a prayer. It can work both ways.

## Were deadfall, are logs

by Chris Clay

Memorial Day weekend was the start of processing blowdown logs for the Alumni building projects. The back parking lot is their new home as we are placing them on log racks, taking the bark off and cleaning them up. Fortunately, two years of sitting around makes the bark come off almost effortlessly and all things considered they don't look too bad. The next step will be to get a good count on usable logs, finalize building design, and start cutting individual pieces. This is a fairly big job so we need help doing it. For lack of a better title I call it the "Adopt-a-Log" program which

asks for one person to do the cutting work on one log which will then visibly carry their name in the final building. The time-frame for doing this is later in the summer along with foundation work, and done by arrangement with me to fit your available time off. This is a chance to learn a little bit about timber framing and take part in a landmark project, and if you've never done something like this it's more fun than it is work. Once all the timbers are cut we can plan the building raising for next spring. We only need about 100 people to pull this off so call me at (218)525-9006 to set up available times.



# A Canoe Base for Girls

By Sheila Clouse

Sommers Alumni since the 60s have known that Ely is also home to another canoeing scout base which serves scouts from around the world, The Northern Lakes Girl Scout Canoe Base on Moose Lake.

certainly intended to go again next summer.

Soon canoeing became Ma's troop's annual summer event, then other scout troops in the council wanted to go. By the late 60s the Northern Lakes Girl Scout Coun-

an outbuilding. Food was bought in bulk, on sale, and from government surplus. At times Ma Harry lined up ten Guides and GITs at the grocery store with shopping carts and they followed her around filling carts until they had all they

needed. Meals were packed in Ma Harry's basement then put together in food packs at Swanson's.

At that time, there were six summer sessions with two to three groups

each. Money was at a minimum; there was no budget. The fees charged to the scout troops were kept low as possible to make the

gone, the program has trouble sustaining itself. In 1977 Ma Harry retired. The program went through administrative struggles and, by 1981, the Council decided to drop it due to lack of interest.

Enter Doris Kolodji! Ma Harry had a positive influence on Doris' girlhood, inspiring her to believe she could do anything she really desired. Doris recalls, "The girls would say, 'I can't do it!' and Ma would say 'Yes you can! I'll show you how.' And she'd show them and the girls would do it." Before Doris went canoeing with her Girl Scout troop she felt there were not many options open to her after high school, and she didn't plan to go on to college. But meeting Ma Harry, a self sufficient, strong woman, changed Doris' life. When she was just 15, she became a GIT, and went on to be a Guide the next year. She now knew she could do whatever she chose.

After many summers of Boundary Waters trips (including working for Sommers 77-79), Doris went into teaching, getting her college degree in 1981 and teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Ashland, WI. When she heard that the Girl Scouts Canoe program was closing, she went to the Council. She hounded them into keeping the program going until they finally relented. "Just give me one more summer," said Doris.

As the new director of the Northern Lakes Council's canoeing program, Doris and her extremely supportive husband, Cory (Sommers alumnus 74-79, 83-89) used her Spring Break to speak to any Girl Scout troop that would listen. With just a Volvo, a slide projector and an extension cord, Doris was able to recruit 24 girls that summer. The outfitting was still done at Swanson's, but was now housed in a construction trailer donated by Minntac.

By 1985 the program was once again strong. The Northern Lakes Council rented a house on Moose Lake Road so they would have closer lake access. They brought the trailer over from the Swanson's property for outfitting food and equipment. The Guides still slept in tents in the yard, but they had a dock. "That made us feel like the big boys," Doris remembered.

A few years later, they began

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The Girl Scout base has six summer sessions, each sending six or seven groups into the Boundary Waters. The base has about fifteen trail staff plus a summer director. This strong Boundary Waters canoeing program, the only one catering specifically to girls' needs, has been around since the sixties, but it's been a long journey to get from one woman's idea to today's successful base camp.

Every program needs someone who believes in its importance so much that they are able to convince others of it's worth. The Girl Scout base had such a person in Dorothy "Ma" Harry. She believed that taking girls canoeing and camping would empower them. As a 6' tall Special Education teacher, Ma Harry was a self-assured, assertive woman, unlike many young girls during this era. They needed experiences to teach them that they could accomplish many things for themselves. But in the mid-60s all girls' parents said, "You can't go without a man!" So Ma talked her husband into coming along for just that first trip. The girls had a wonderful time and came home excited about having started their own fire or carried a canoe all the way over a portage. They were able to convince their parents that they didn't need a man on these trips and they

cil was offering canoe trips to troops all over Minnesota. Soon troops were coming and going all summer long with Ma Harry running the base camp.

Positions for guides were posted through the Girl Scout newsletter and at nearby colleges. Girls applied and were trained by Ma Harry. Guides-In-Training (GITs) were on trips with more experienced guides for a year, then moved up to Guide.

To say that the first base camp was modest is an understatement. Ma Harry parked her pickup truck at the old A & W on Sheridan Street (today's Subway location). From there she passed out packs, paddles, camping food, and equipment to girls heading out, and took in the used gear when they returned. Groups were transported to Moose Lake landing for departure. If the Guides had to spend the night in town, they slept in the back of the pickup.

In the early 70s the Swanson family entered the picture. Ralph and Jean Swanson's daughter, Susie, was an enthusiastic Girl Scout camper who eventually became one of the canoe base Guides. The Swansons offered to house the "base" on their property. Now the Guides and GITs slept in tents in the yard and gear was packed in



trips affordable for all the girls. The fees paid for the food, but little else. Ma Harry was never paid.

Because she was committed to programs for girls, Ma Harry was able to accomplish something that had never been done before—establishing an all-girl canoeing program. But the problem with having one strong person leading a program is that when they are

# Living History Program Takes Flight

by Martin Sawinski

*Editor's note: SAA initially seeded the historic fur trade program with \$1000. During the Alumni meeting Martin Sawinski and his staff came dressed in their wardrobe. Martin then approached us later for additional funding. Dave Hyink made a motion to fund an additional \$1500 and it passed. The base has 3 full time staff just for this program. Alumni are encouraged to participate if they are on base. There are period outfits for those who would like to wear them.*

This summer is a great year for the Living History Program. With the accumulated donations of \$2,500 from the alumni association and the cooperation of the Northern Tier management, this program has been able to finally take flight.

It has been brought to my attention that this program has been a work in progress for nearly 15 years. It is my mission for this summer to make sure that it catches flight and flies into the future. This summer the Living History Program has been staffed with two additional people, Darren Winchester and Adam Walker, who possess the enthusiasm to offer a great opportunity for program development. Included in the first purchase: five Voyageur outfits for the History staff and the Charlie staff, two strap dresses for the ladies, head rags, tuques, sashes, and garters. Because of the recent purchase of costumes for the Living History staff, Charlie staff, and all other interested parties for that matter, we are capable of present-

ing an authentic and historically accurate portrayal of the area history to staff and crews alike. A second proposal has been approved by the directors for additional spending for costuming and outfitting the program, an accumulated total of \$1,500. We are planning to purchase: 2 breechclout and leggings, 1 gentleman outfit, 1 fancy ladies outfit, 2 complete strapdresses, 2 leggings and sleeves for the previously ordered dresses, wool blankets, hatbox, top hat, moccasins, and a few other props and pieces. The program is taking on a whole new look with the costumes as well as the way it is operated. The idea this summer is to incorporate it into nearly all aspects of base activities. There will be a send-off farewell to crews

in the morning at the landing, greeting Off-The-Road Crews outside of the stockade in an encampment setting, greeting Off-The-Water Crews at the Landing, and holding Rendezvous in the lodge. The goal this summer is to offer a unique experience to all who have the opportunity to observe and participate in it. We hope for staff, alumni, and guest involvement this summer, as a way to create a fun and interesting summer for all. Let this be a formal invitation to all who may be interested in participating and seeing first hand what this program is all about. Guests are welcome to stop in and we will do what we can to outfit you and give you a part in the program. Guests/Alumni who volunteer and hang out with us and take part in this program are sure to get a bed and food. One can be assured to will learn a few facts and most important, you will have fun! (We welcome any donations or props you may have sitting around collecting dust in your home that you feel can be put to good use by us and our program.) The current Living History Staff greatly appreciates the generosity of the Alumni Association for their donations and continued support. This program would not be where it is today without your involvement. The Living History program can either fly or crash, but with the continued support and the enthusiasm of those involved it can fly high on the horizon of the future.



## Tree Planting at the Base

*Picture at top left: During tree planting at the base, Knute Nisswandt and his Ho-Dad. He was a mad man of a worker.*

*Above:, Tate Rench, Dianne Rench, Quentin Rench, Allen Rench*

*Picture at left, left to right: Jayna Marks-Rench Jamie Rench*

## Good Stuff Hunting

The historical staff took a training tour of Grand Portage and Old Fort William this year. They say they had a great time and had the opportunity to converse with Eric Simula.

The Living History Program and Staff would appreciate and put to good use any artifacts and props you may have laying around collecting dust. Things such as furs, kegs and barrels, boxes, tools, canvas, packs, canvas tents, canvas flies, leather, hides and scraps, antlers, skulls, pots, pans, clothing, fabrics, and other good stuff (all of which is period-correct or close, of course) would be very much appreciated.



# Tid-Bits on Members of the Sommers Clan

The alumni association now has an online member directory that is updated every few months. Check the online directory at [www.holry.org](http://www.holry.org) for updated information

**Roy Cerny** (64-70) had to give up a trip Russia to enjoy heart bypass surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul instead. Luckily there was no heart damage.

**Nick Amann** (80) is a Paramedic, living in College Park, MD.

**Harvey S. Arnold**, a Charter member of the alumni association, a many time BWCAW traveler, retired school psychologist and active scouter in Fruitland Park FL passed away February 2, 2001. Harvey was an avid canoeist with scouts, but never took a trip through the canoe base. He visited the base and promoted North-

ern Tier in his home council.

**Fiona (Bartel) Tremaine** (83, 84) is glad to have found [www.holry.org](http://www.holry.org). She is living in Ocean Grove, Victoria, Australia. [[fionatremaine@aol.com.au](mailto:fionatremaine@aol.com.au)]

**Erica Bowman** (00) is now living in Pincher Creek, AB. [[canoeguide@ericasmail.com](mailto:canoeguide@ericasmail.com)]

**Roger Clapp** (56-60, 64,89) has a new e-mail address - [rlgclapp@earthlink.net](mailto:rlgclapp@earthlink.net).

**Butch Diesslin** (61-66, 68-79, 82-) is now retired from instructing community college physics. [[butnlucy@cpinternet.com](mailto:butnlucy@cpinternet.com)]

**Dale Hanson** (70) is Regional Paleontologist for the US BLM in Cheyenne, WY. [[Dha1113885@aol.com](mailto:Dha1113885@aol.com)]

**Charlene (Maki) Harkins** (75) is an Instructor in the Health, Physical Education & Recreation

Dept. at UM-Duluth. [[charkins@d.umn.edu](mailto:charkins@d.umn.edu)]

**Bill LaPlante** (82-84) is an Engineer/ Scientist, working at Johns Hopkins University - A.P.L. [[bill.laplante@jhuapl.edu](mailto:bill.laplante@jhuapl.edu)]

**Eric Maassen** (93, 95, 97) is an Attorney working in Milwaukee, WI. [[emaassen@foleylaw.com](mailto:emaassen@foleylaw.com)]

**Rob McClary** (66) is City Administrator of Park Hills, MO. [[mccлары@smols.com](mailto:mccлары@smols.com)]

**Robert E. Morgan** (78,80Adv) is now retired. [[remorgan1@worldnet.att.net](mailto:remorgan1@worldnet.att.net)]

**Kurt Muller** (84) is a Research Scientist at the University of Jyvaskyla. [[muller@psyka.jyu.fi](mailto:muller@psyka.jyu.fi)]

**Mika Nieminen** (00) has moved to Humalistonkatu 13 D 19, 20100 Turku, Finland; and would rather be back working at the base than having to work at home.

[[mileni@utu.fi](mailto:mileni@utu.fi)]

**Garrett "Gar" Mulrooney** (59-64) retired in April, 2001. [[gemjr1@juno.com](mailto:gemjr1@juno.com)]

**Dave Olesen** (77-78) invites former "Charlie Guides" who are in the neighborhood to stop by his homestead at 63° 51" N, 109° 16" W - near the eastern end of Great Slave Lake. [[hfrost@internorth.com](mailto:hfrost@internorth.com)]

**Jim Oliva** (79-82) owns Oliva Overall Construction, LLC in Topeka, KS. [[olivaoverall@kscable.com](mailto:olivaoverall@kscable.com)]

**Ray Tallent** (75-79) joined the Alumni Work Week crew at Sommers Canoe Base. Ray works in the biology greenhouses at the University of Iowa. [[ray-tallent@uiowa.edu](mailto:ray-tallent@uiowa.edu)]

**Mike Tuttle** (59-63) has requested that his occupation be changed from "Self-employed Investor" to "Bum." [[roadrunner325@hotmail.com](mailto:roadrunner325@hotmail.com)]



*Some regrowth taking place. Alumni planted over 3000 trees, White and Red pines, in two days. The following week, Shawn Piel and Knute Nisswandt planted 2000 more trees. An additional 700 trees were delivered in late June to be planted. All of the trees were donated by the Arbor Day society and Potlatch Nursery of Cloquet.*

## Fire Supression

*John LeBlanc*

The BWCAW has been subject to various fire use restrictions this summer. If you plan to travel, it's a good idea to check in advance. Here are some excerpts from U.S. Forest Service announcements this summer.

"As of midnight, Wednesday, May 9, 2001, the Superior National Forest is restricting the use of campfires, charcoal, and wood burning camp stoves to the hours between 7 p.m. and midnight in the blowdown area on the Forest. Propane and gas camp stoves will be allowed at any time of the day in the restricted zone.

A written description, lake lists, and maps for the restricted area is posted on the Superior National Forest website [www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior) or available through any Superior National Forest office or BWCAW permitting office.

Campfires in firegrates, charcoal, and wood burning campstoves will be allowed at any time of the day in four developed campgrounds (Trails End, Iron Lake, East Bearskin and Flour Lake) within the restricted area on the Forest.

These restrictions are part of an overall strategy to reduce the potential risk for visitors and surrounding communities while still allowing for safe use of campfires. The need for these restrictions is due to the effects of a severe windstorm that blew down

trees across a large area of the Forest on July 4, 1999. As a result of this large amount of fuel, the risk is significantly increased for a large wildfire that would start easier, spread faster and be difficult to control. The Forest Service will continue to monitor conditions and as fire danger levels increase, restrictions will also be increased.

Visitors are urged to take care in the use of campfires. Approximately 50% of the wildfires in the BWCAW start as a result of human activities. Most of these wildfires are from campfires that are not managed carefully. Please be sure your campfire is 'dead out' before leaving it unattended.

All visitors are encouraged to bring camp stoves so they can respond to changes in campfire restrictions. Visitors can find out about current restrictions by checking our website or contacting any Forest office or BWCAW permitting office."

As of 12:01 a.m. on July 21, open fires were allowed again in the BWCAW. However, in the blowdown area fires are still restricted to the hours between 7:00 p.m. and midnight. The area received about five inches of rain in the week prior to the 21st from three thunder storms.

# Miniature Paddle Brands

Remember gazing at the Paddle display case and seeing all of those paddle designs of those by gone days and imagining the faces that went with them. Well here is your chance to leave your mark once again at the Canoe Base and have someone ponder your logo. With the addition of a second paddle display cabinet in the Lodge there is plenty of room to add **your brand to the growing collection.** For \$25 you can have **your very own paddle brand placed** on a miniature paddle and put on display. A full size sample is provided below as a template to place your artwork. Sketch your logo on the sample or send in a picture of your artwork and let us do the rest. When completed your design name and years you served at the base will appear on the paddle to share with a whole new generation of Scouts and Guides. If you didn't have paddle brand but had a special canoe name or logo put it on the paddle too. OKPIK staff we have room for miniature skis or snow shoe too. Additional instructions please staple to the order form.

## Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Ely, Mn 55731



*(continued from page 4)*  
looking for property of their own on Moose Lake. It took two years of hard work plus an army of Northern Lakes Girl Scout supporters to acquire a lease from the Forest Service. Many negative voices said, "You shouldn't" or

"You couldn't" or "You won't be able to. . .," but all the positive people pulled them through. Frank Salerno, Ely's Mayor and their Real Estate helper told them, "if you believe in this program, then keep at it." And they did. When they finally acquired their lease on Moose Lake their new neighbors on the CBO road welcomed them with a picnic.

Doris claims that the success was all due to the volunteers, but others have said that Doris was the heart of the program and still is today. She and others also acknowledge the large amount of help the Boy Scout base has given them over the years.

When the Northern Lakes Girl Scout Council dissolved in 1998, there was a rocky transition merging with Girl Scouts Land of Lakes. Just as Doris felt driven to keep the program alive in 1981, she was again deter-



seven-day trip the girls receive one day training, then head out. Except for one layover day, they paddle every day. Safety is always the number one concern, but teamwork and fun are the main focus. The hope is that the girls will learn something about themselves in the wilderness. Many girls will say, "My dad will never believe I started a

fire all by myself," or "Take my picture so my brother can see me carrying a canoe." Most girls surprise themselves when they find out what they can do.

Girl Scouts are committed to making girls stronger physically, emotionally, and mentally. The Girl Scouts USA motto is "Where girls grow stronger." The Northern Lakes Girl Scout Canoe Base motto is "Where girls grow stronger and stronger and stronger. . ." *Sheila Clouse is an Ely-based free lance writer and is married to Sommers Alumnus Steve Clouse (86-90). This article is reprinted by permission of The Ely Summer Times (Raven Productions).*

mined not to lose the program because of a council change. She was there helping and encouraging the volunteers as they struggled to keep the program going. Many local Elyites and other Girl Scout supporters held tight to make it through the transition and, now that it's over, the program is in better hands than ever. Doris believes that keeping the canoeing program alive for girls everywhere has been, except for her marriage and children, the most important thing in her life. Although she no longer spends her summers at the Ely base, Doris is still the head of the program.

The Northern Lakes Girl Scout Canoe Base is not a resident camp; it is a tripping camp. On a typical



# SAA Greeting Card Sale

Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association is taking orders for Greeting Cards. Some cards come with holiday messages, others are blank inside. They can be used year 'round to send greetings as well as a message of commitment

to Northern Tier programs.

The 2000 card features Bob Cary's drawing, "Company Coming," a pair of moose at a winter camp. All cards are printed using highest quality thermography on premium cards of recycled paper.

The backs of the cards carry a message saying you are a supporter of Northern Tier High Adventure. This is a distinctive and very handsome greeting card. The cards come 25 per package, including envelopes. A limited number of

1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999 cards: "Sled Dogs," "Commissary," "Lodge," "Hanson House," "Canoe Yard," and "Gateway" are available at discounted prices. All orders are subject to availability.

Quantity	Holiday Greeting/Blank inside	
___ 2000 Cards - "Company Coming" moose approaching campsite	___/___	x \$25.00= _____
___ 1999 Cards - Sled dogs pulling Christmas Tree	___/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1998 Cards - Commissary	NA/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1997 Cards - Portage at Basswood Falls	___/NA	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1996 Cards - Fort Gateway	___/NA	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1995 Cards - Canoe Yard	___/NA	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1994 Cards - Hanson House	___/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1993 Cards - Winter Lodge	NA/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1993 Cards - Summer Lodge	NA/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ Holiday Sampler - 25 assorted cards		x \$20.00 _____
___ <b>Special</b> , save 40%, off original issue price. 1999-1993 (five boxes, 125 cards) Our choice. Will try to honor requests.		x \$75.00= _____
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