Dorothy's Island Revisited

By Mark Nordstrom

Knife Lake is a pretty good paddle from Moose Lake. If you make it to Knife from Moose on the first day, with a new crew, you’ve done pretty well. Until 1986, if you went to Knife Lake, you probably stopped at Dorothy’s and bought root beer. Often, if a guide took a crew there, the crew was told to bring a little money, but wasn’t given much of an idea what it was all about. They were always surprised to find themselves buying root beer after a lot of hard paddling through miles of wilderness.

In September 2002, it had been 16 years since Dorothy’s death. The “Isle of the Pines” where she operated her resort had been deserted for that time. The “Blowdown” had come along during that time.

Dorothy had lived for decades on the group of Knife Lake islands where she rented cabins and sold root beer. When the Boundary Waters Canoe Area was created, she stayed on those islands, not out of profit motive, but out of something else that bound her to that spot. She rented her cabins and sold her root beer until she had a stroke and died.

Her cabins and other structures (such as a bridge that connected two of the islands) were taken down and some were reconstructed in Ely. The island that was probably familiar to most people, where they bought root beer and sat and chatted with Dorothy, is now covered in 15-foot-tall Wite Pine saplings. The clearing is gone and the only sign that remains of her presence is the tree trunk with some remnants of the signs she had posted on it. There is no Forest Service sign there to identify the spot, like you’ll find if you go to where her cabins were.

(continued on page 4)

Rendezvous 2002 Enjoyed By All

By Chuck Rose

Did anyone else enjoy the reunion as much as I did?
People started arriving Friday afternoon; after settling into their cabins, were treated to a rousing sing-along around the campfire, led by Barbara Cary Hall, with help from Doris Kolodji, Roger Clapp, Cory Kolodji, and others. Blacksmiths Dave and Gerri Hanson from Duluth also set up their wares, demonstrating their skills and allowing hands-on activity for participants. Saturday morning after breakfast, current staff gave tours of the Base, while Cory, Eric Simula, Bill Erickson and other voyageurs entertained the crowds. Eric also showed off his birch bark canoe building skills. Dianne Rench and Doris Kolodji provided programs for the numerous children of Alumni, including making root beer and paddling the Voyageur and Doris Kolodji had art projects for the kids. Buzzing around was “official reunion” photographer Joel Sheagren, documenting all the events.

After lunch, it was Allen Rench’s turn. He ran the annual Sommers Alumni Association business meeting which was followed by pictures of attendees as well as cake and root beer to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Lodge.

The Saturday night rendezvous banquet was memorable for several reasons. Joe Seliga and photographer Deborah Sussex earned their dinners by signing copies of their newly published book, The Art of the Canoe with Joe Seliga (see related story, on page 3). Cory made the most of his French accent and

(continued on page 7)

Work Week 2002 Devoted to Staff Lounge

by Patrick Cox

Red Renner Memorial Work Week for 2002 got off to a surprising start. We arrived expecting to do some work on the log peeling project and maybe head to Atikokan to work on the porch. As is SOP (standard operating procedure) at Charlie’s Place, nothing was to go according to plan – not that there was a grand plan to start, but it very quickly became moot as the plans changed to suit the circumstances. Like all good Charlie Guides, we rolled with the project changes and enjoyed it. Since we came prepared to do one thing and wound up doing another, we were fondly reminded of the old adage from our guiding days that “if you have the right tools for the job, you must be doing the wrong job.”

We did, however, enjoy the added bonus of working with and meeting some of the trail staff from this past summer. We all observed how few of them seemed to have mastered the art of gold bricking while on Base. Unlike a few of the Alumni (and especially this author) in their trail days, they actually worked – and worked hard. But, much to our pleasure, we did have plenty of time to do a little story swapping with them about trail adventures, great campsites or lakes, and allowing hands-on activity for participants. Saturday morning after breakfast, current staff gave tours of the Base, while Cory, Eric Simula, Bill Erickson and other voyageurs entertained the crowds. Eric also showed off his birch bark canoe building skills. Dianne Rench and Doris Kolodji provided programs for the numerous children of Alumni, including making root beer and paddling the Voyageur North Canoe. During the afternoon, Laurel Theis and Kellie Hendrickson had art projects for the kids. Buzzing around was “official reunion” photographer Joel Sheagren, documenting all the events.

After lunch, it was Allen Rench’s turn. He ran the annual Sommers Alumni Association business meeting which was followed by pictures of attendees as well as cake and root beer to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Lodge.

The Saturday night rendezvous banquet was memorable for several reasons. Joe Seliga and photographer Deborah Sussex earned their dinners by signing copies of their newly published book, The Art of the Canoe with Joe Seliga (see related story, on page 3). Cory made the most of his French accent and

(continued on page 8)
President's Message
by Allen Rench

Wow its that time again? It's early October, the leaves have started their change. My short sleeves are being exchanged for longer ones. There is a cool crispness in the air that reminds one that winter is quickly approaching You would think that fall would inspire a slower life's pace. Not!!! Not when you have children coupled with a passion for outdoors in the fall. School is in full swing sporting events are filling up the week and weekend time slots with football, volleyball, swimming/diving. Just yesterday it was Memorial Day and I was dusting off my camping equipment preparing for a Quetico trek. Then I blinked and summer went by.

Not so for the reunion. It was a terrific time to disconnect from normal life, make the trek North and to reconnect with our friends old and new. It was a special time to pay tribute to Joe Seliga, enjoy stories from Bob Cary and to spend a terrific time to disconnect from the whizzing by.

I want to take this time to express my sincerest appreciation for all who volunteered their time and talent to orchestrate such a successful reunion. To Chuck Rose with his undaunting spirit, guaranteed that for all who came to the Base, their weekend was much more than memorable. My hat is off to you...

Allen Rench

Alumni Association
Directors and Officers

Director/President (1)** Allen Rench (507) 536-0736
Secretary** Butch Dieslssl (218) 365-6904
Treasurer** Nigel Cooper (651) 738-1242
Director (3)** Patrick Cox (847) 223-6074
Director (3) Dave Greenlee (605) 594-6287
Director (3) Chuck Rose (320) 252-2768
Director (3)** Michael McMahon (651) 483-5759
Director (2) Roy Conradi (770) 972-8115
Director (2)** Dave Hyink (253) 863-6406
Director (2) Mike Holdgrafer (918) 743-5565
Director (2) LeRoy Heikes (507) 533-8822
Director (1) Lynn Reeve (507) 235-5107
Director (1) Linnea Renner (218) 365-3655
Director (1) Brian Vollmer-Buhl (541) 513-4124

Number in parenthesis is years remaining in current term
**Executive Committee Member

Program Liaisons

Mr. Keith Gallaway
National Director of High Adventure
Philmont Scout Ranch, BSA
Cimarron, NM 88714
(505) 376-2281

Mr. Doug Hirdler
Director and General Manager,
Northern Tier National
High Adventure Program
P.O. Box 509
Ely, MN 55731
(218) 365-4811

Mr. Terrance P. Dunn
Dunn Construction
929 Holmes
Kansas City, MO 64106
(816) 391-2530
Fax: (816) 460-2786

Mr. John L. Parish, Sr.
Chairman, Northern Tier National
High Adventure Committee
P.O. Box 550
Tullahoma, TN 37388

Volume 12, Number 2. Reflections is the official publication of the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 428, 5891 Moose Lake Road, Ely, Minnesota 55731-0429. Reflections is published three times a year (Mar., July, and Oct.). The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. is a nonprofit Minnesota corporation. The IRS has determined that the alumni association is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to the alumni association are tax deductible. Membership to the Sommers Alumni Association is open to all persons 18 years and older. Association dues are $10 for Annual membership, $25 or more annually for Sustaining membership or $150 (one time) for Life Membership. The association’s year begins January 1. Moving... please notify the alumni association of your new address, phone number, etc. We will include your e-mail addresses in the member directory. Send your address changes or additions to P.O. Box 428, Ely, MN 55731-0428 or to Butch Dieslssl via e-mail at: butnlucy@epinternet.com

Have You Seen This Guide?

There are many of our fellow former Northern Tier summer staff with whom we’ve lost contact. We’re always looking for them, so if you know where they are or how to contact them, please ask them to get "in touch."

Aasen, Doug 1968-69
Adams, Micah 1995
Adams, Sam 1989-93
Addy, Ervin 1966
Ahasy, Sean 1986
Akins, Don 1968-69
Aldridge, Steven 2001
Allen, Bob 1961
Allen, Jennifer 1990
Allinson, Charles 1988
Altiere, Anthony 1986-88
Altiere, Nicholas 1990
Anderson, Bruce 1991
Anderson, Darren 1978
Anderson, Sandra 1979
Anderson, Scott 1975
Applegath, Matthew 1995
Armin, Dave 1956,63
Babcock, John 1966
Bachman, Jim 1963
Bailey, Bruce 1970
Baker, Gregory 1956
Baker, Robert 1986
Balot, William 1992-93
Bardon, Larry 1961-62
Barr, John 1961
Barton, Rob 1966
Bauen, Lyle 1956

Continued on page 5
Seasonal Staff Scholarships Awarded

Michael McMahon

The Northern Tier High Adventure Committee and the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc., have awarded 30 Seasonal Staff Scholarships to Northern Tier staff in 2002. Scholarships are awarded to staff members who have been on staff at least two years and have served at least 10 weeks on staff in the last 12 months, are in good standing on staff in 2002. Scholarships are awarded to staff members who have been on staff for three years, and $1,500 to recipients who have been on staff for two years, and $1,000 to recipients who have served at least 10 years and have served at least 10 weeks on staff in the last 12 months, are in good standing on staff, are enrolled in college or university programs and are students in good standing at their institutions.

The scholarship program has two endowed scholarships. This year, the Christopher Brenn Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jacob Jeswiet. Jacob received a $1,000 scholarship to be used at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The Terry Wall Scholarship was awarded to Ben K. Tomlinson. Ben received a $1,000 scholarship to be used at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

The scholarship program awards $500 to recipients who have been on staff for two years, $1,000 to recipients who have been on staff for three years, and $1,500 to recipients who have been on staff for three or more years. An individual recipient may receive a total of $3,000 in scholarships under this program.

Staff members who received $500 scholarships this year are: Kent P. Bratton, University of Alberta, Edmonton; Frank O. Clouser, University of Florida, Gainesville; Brad J. Dewys, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay; Jason W. Harris, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Andrew D. Holloway, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin; Erica R. McKenzie, Colorado State University, Fort Collins; Derek R. Monthei, Virginia Common-wealth University, Richmond; Andrew M. Neil, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau; Chris R. Roberts, University of Central Arizona, Conway; Joseph W. Sheffield, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville; Danielle K. Stiles, Confederation College, Thunder Bay; Timothy D. Tipple, Iowa State University, Ames; Candace R. Vinke, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta; and David E. Wolf, Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Recipients of $1,000 scholarships are: David I Burtt, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario; Ryan B. Campbell, Peace River Bible Institute, Sexsmith, Alberta; Thomas M. Copeland, University of Missouri, Columbia; Andrew R. Creighton, Seneca College, North York, Ontario; Michael P. Goodwin, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta; F. Geoffrey Kooy, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario; John D. Lundy, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario; and Jason McGowan, Confederation College, Thunder Bay.

Staff who received $1,500 scholarships are: Alexander Ferrier, Carleton University, Ottawa; Shani L. Morgan, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay; Alexander D. Nepple, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater; Kimberley L. Reid, Lambton College, Sarnia, Ontario; Melissa A. Stoops, University of Missouri, Columbia; and Jay M. Timmerman, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls.

Seliga Book is Big Hit at Rendezvous


The new book The Art of the Canoe with Joe Seliga got rave reviews at the Sommers Alumni Association (SAA) reunion. The 10” x 10” coffee-table format book has text by Jerry Stelmok and about 200 photographs by Deborah Sussex. Scattered within the book are nine Charlie Guide stories and 20 SAA members are mentioned in the text. Sommers Canoe Base bought 122 Seliga canoes from 1950 to 1972; the Scouts were Joe’s biggest customer.

The SAA was lucky to have received the book in time for our gathering. The first 50 books ordered were air-shipped from the printer in Hong Kong. As the reunion approached, it was obvious that more copies would be needed. Fortunately, the slow boat from China arrived a week before the Rendezvous. Orders from alums unable to attend the Rendezvous have pushed sales to over 100 copies. While books can now be ordered on-line and at many bookstores, purchasing them through the Northern Tier trading post allows any profits to go to the SAA.

Sales of the book around the region have gone well. A feature story on Joe appeared in the Minneapolis StarTribune in September. He has done book signings in Ely, Duluth, and St. Paul, MN. One bookstore had 60 chairs set up for his appearance, but the crowd filled the aisles; the store sold its 126 books and gave out rain checks for another 150. Autographing took over three hours. Joe was also filmed for TV segments by WCCO (CBS affiliate in Minneapolis), and Venture North (out of Duluth). The staff at Motorbooks Publishing expect that they will sell all 5,000 books in the first printing. The editor, publicity, and sales people also say that this was one of their favorite books to work on. While most likely to be found on shelves next to other canoe books, editor Dennis Pernu suggests that this book could be in the outdoor adventure, woodworking, or even philosophy section. But don’t overlook the love story of Nora and Joe who were married for 68 years. Even people who have never heard of a Seliga canoe are being impressed by the photography and charmed by the story.

Joe has been so busy that he has not had a chance to read the book himself. Someone told him he needed to check because there may be errors in the book.

“Well then,” Joe replied, “they’ll have to do a sequel.”

So, Pernu says that Joe Seliga, the Second 91 Years is being scheduled for publication in 2003. I hope it has a bunch of Charlie Guide stories in it.
Dorothy's Island Revisited, continued...

The cabin locations are also obscured now by overgrowth and as a result of the trees blown down during the series of downbursts that devastated the area. The tree to which the sign is attached near where her cabin stood was among the trees that was blown down. It broke just above the sign and split to the roots.

The locations of her docks and other structures still have some small remnants visible, but unless you know she was there, it’s harder to find the remnants of her presence than it is to find the old log flumes on the portages between Moose and Knife.

The rocks of Knife Lake and the surrounding area are high quality flint and are covered with tiny knaps of flint from the many hours stone age people spent there making cutting tools. Those knaps will probably lay there for centuries undisturbed as a marker of the people who lived there.

Dorothy operated a commercial resort and rented cabins and sold root beer for profit. However, she did it (and this is just a personal opinion) out of pride for her own work and love for the Knife Lake surroundings she called home rather than out of a commercial drive for the glory and luxury that result from capitalistic success. When you hear the comments of some of the “responsible businessmen” of Ely, it’s easy to imagine Dorothy’s Little “Isle of the Pines” being quickly overrun by projects that would have happened if the BWCAW had not been created.

As it was, her defiant life in the Boundary Waters and the solitude that the BWCAW preserved for her combined to create a Wilderness Spirit that has spread from the Isle of the Pines to where ever people who met her have gone.

There’s barely a trace of Dorothy and her cabins today. Of course, they were taken down and moved soon after she died and the white pines growing where she used to sell root beer look suspiciously like they were planted there. It seems to have taken some effort to erase her mark so quickly, but maybe that’s appropriate. In a sense it seems to indicate that she was barely tolerated there and an effort to erase her from it seems crass. But, when we break camp we do our best to “leave no trace”; six years after Dorothy “broke camp” there’s very little trace.

The rocks of Knife Lake and the surrounding area are high quality flint and on the south shore of the lake, within sight of where Dorothy used to live, are covered with tiny knaps of flint from the many hours stone age people spent there making cutting tools. Those knaps will probably lay there for centuries undisturbed as a marker of the people who lived there.

As it was, her defiant life in the Boundary Waters and the solitude that the BWCAW preserved for her combined to create a Wilderness Spirit that has spread from the Isle of the Pines to where ever people who met her have gone.

There’s barely a trace of Dorothy and her cabins today. Of course, they were taken down and moved soon after she died and the white pines growing where she used to sell root beer look suspiciously like they were planted there. It seems to have taken some effort to erase her mark so quickly, but maybe that’s appropriate. In a sense it seems to indicate that she was barely tolerated there and an effort to erase her from it seems crass. But, when we break camp we do our best to “leave no trace”; six years after Dorothy “broke camp” there’s very little trace.
Reunion 2002 – Kids say the Darnedest Things

by Dianne Rench

The kids program was very exciting this year, with about 20 chipmunks ranging in ages 3 to 16 (not counting the babies who are upcoming to participate!) Thanks to Doris Kolodji for facilitating a teen program. The kids had a great time paddling and experiencing “pre-Charlie” training. Thank you Laurel Rosene Theis and her friend Kellie for the leaf print activity that all the kids enjoyed.

The kids also made Dorothy’s traditional root beer and bottled it and made some exquisite necklaces out of beads and Lake Superior driftwood. All the kids later loaded up in the North Canoe for a short voyager experience. Thanks Doris and Kim Sheagren for that wonderful experience!

I had quite some experiences with the younger children and learned that most of the Charlie Guide parents have taught their children a deep appreciation for the WILD. On our scavenger hunt, some of the highlights were the “wild Velcro” found growing on the trail, the pelts in the library and the “wild interpreters”.

Charlie Guides, your children DO have a perspective about your role as a guide and I think it’s important to share this with all of you out there!

What is a Charlie Guide and was your Mom or Dad one of them?
· It’s a girl guide – my mom was one.
· It’s a boy guy who swims in the Boundary Waters. My mom was one but not my dad. (so what were you doing Mr. Kolodji?)
· Plays games (some would agree Mr. Rench!)

What did your mom/dad/grandpa do when they were here at the base?
· Told stories
· He wore a canoe on his head
· Just walked in and said “yep, yep, let’s go to bed”

What did they do for fun?
· Nothing – they didn’t have fun
· Lived in a tent

What does a Charlie Guide look like?
· He looks like a dad
· Freaks!
· A Power Ranger – they are not fake, they are real

This weekend, we are celebrating a 60th birthday – what are we celebrating?
· I can’t think of her name
· Joe Seliga

Who is Doug Hirdler?
· Is he old?
· The guy who started the base

If you were a Charlie Guide, what would you do if…..
· You had paddled a full day and realized you forgot the food pack?
· Go buy some
· Catch fish, I guess
· Your paddle broke?
· Guess I’d paddle by hand
· Use the other paddle, if I had another paddle
· Go buy a new one
· Use your pack for a cushion
· Bring my life jacket and put it on
· Go buy a new one
· Plays games (some would agree Mr. Rench!)

Have You Seen This Guide? Continued...

Brown, Steve 1968
Burrowes, Mark R. 1997
Buska, Bill 1968–69
Butsick, Joe 1883
Byrnes, Dan 1988
Cameron, Rodger 1985
Carlson, L. Monty 1955–56
Carlson, Melinda 1989
Carroll, Barry 1986
Cegielski, Catherine 1998
Clack, Tom 1961–66
Clancy, Steve 1984
Clark, Roy 1961–63
Clark, W. Chad 1989–90
Close, Carl 1968
Clute, Dave 1999–00
Colburn, Andy 2000

Collins, Hugh 1970
Collins, Jed 1966
Collins, Lee 1968
Conaway, Bill 1980, 81
Cook, Craig 1991
Coome, Charles 1986–87
Cooper, Jeff 1990
Cote, Bill 1975
Courteau, Tim 1970
Courtemanche, Sylvain 1985
Crawford, John 1966
Crombie, Cameron 1978
Cross, Jamie 2001
Culver, Tyler C.
Cummins, Michael 1975

Curry, Buzz 1966
Davis, W. Todd & Kathy 1987–88
Dawson, Doug 1963
Delforge, Andrew 1989–91
DeRhodes, Douglas 1993, 96
Deuchene, Dennis 1963
Deutsche, Craig 1956
Dewys, Brad 2001
Diamont, Joel 1996
Dietz, John 1968
Dinda, Patricia 1990
Dodd, J. Douglas 1969
Domimicak, Curt 1980
Donahue, John 1990
Dorazio, Angelique 1996–97

- You were carrying your canoe and a pack and a bear came walking down the trail towards you?
· Hit it with the canoe
· Run Away
· Push it and kick it

- You got lost?
· Go the other way
· I don’t know – I know what my uncle would do but I can’t tell you – it’s too gross!

- Your canoe went over a waterfall?
· Swim – get out of the canoe first, hold on to something and let the canoe crack!
· Use your pack for a cushion
· Bring my life jacket and put it on

- It rained for days and days on your canoe trip?
· Go back home
· Find a good sheltered campsite

- If your crew didn’t like the camp food?
· Run to a neighbor camp and take their food
· Make more and make them eat it

- It’s evening and your canoe swamps, now your sleeping bag is wet?
· Get into my other sleeping bag that never gets wet
· Build something out of sticks and leaves to keep me dry
· Swim away

Dotson, Dennis 1963
Dovre, Erik 1982
Dowdell, Melina 1999–00
Dunnigan, Dennis 1963
Durkee, Phil 1960–92
Dyson, Rodney 1992
Earl, Dennis 1980
Earle, Peter 1963
Edwards, Jeff 1962
Elfelt, Stephen 1985
Elias, Charles 1986–87
Ellingson, Ken 1960–66
Elrod, Scott 1990
Else, Kathy 1975
Eng, Patrick 1991

Continued on page 6
Have You Seen This Guide? Continued...

Holm, Dick 1966
Holzthauer, Adam 2000
Howe, Jim 1975
Hoyt, David 1990
Hughes, Chris 1975-76
Hullar, Timothy 1987
Hulstrand, Mark 1985
Hutchinson, John 1975
Isaacson, Ben 1997
Isackson, Ron 1966
James, Steve 1978
Janssen, Willis 1970-72
Johnny, Bob 1986
Johnson, Bruce 1966-68
Johnson, Jeff 1974
Johnson, Jon 1970
Johnson, Lee 1996-7
Johnson, Mark 1970
Johnson, Michael 1987
Johnson, Paul 1955-56
Jones, Anthony 1974
Jones, P. Wayne 1956
Jones, Reed 1979
Jones, Todd 1990
Jones, Will
Jonsson, Sig
Keating, Kelly 1975
Keene, Joe 1998-99
Keeton, David 1978
Keller, John 1990-91
Kelley, Warren 1984
Kilmer, David 1969
Kimball, Bud 1961
Kindred, Ann 1977
Kizer, Robert 1953
Kleager, James 1991-92,96
Kline, Jim 1970
Klausman, Jim 1966
Knouse, Chuck 1970
Knudsen, Jerry 1953
Knuson, Arlen 1956
Koellker, Timothy 1985
Koenig, Eddie 1955
Koester, Karl 1984
Kolodji, Paul 1984,86
Koons, Dave 1974
Korteme, Kevin 1994
Kortz, Jim 1970
Kotovsky, Jack 1986
Krueger, Leonard 1956
Kuolm, Jay 1983-84
Kunzman, Dan 1993
Laduke, Gerry 1966
Landon, John 1966
Langley, Anthony 1991
Larsen, Steven 1988
Lavigne, Anthony 2000-01
Lavoie, Casey 1999
Lawrence, Alan 1974
Lawver, George 1990
Lawver, Jeannine 1990
Leggate, Warren 1963
Likely, James 1984-85
Likely, Scott 1986-87
Lindberg, Mikaela 1986
Linden, Hank 1972-72
Little, Chris 1969
Llewellyn, Martha 1978,80
Lommom, Gordy 1959-65,68
Loomis, Bill 1961
Lund, Don 1966
Lundy, John 1999-00
Magnuson, Jill 1977
Mahoney, Sean 1987-88
Malaker, Mark 1999
Malmkog, Judy 1989
Maloney, James 1955-56
Mantell, Bob 1980
Martin, Craig 1994
Martin, Dave -1975
Martin, Geoffrey 1994
Matheson, Jeff 1970
Matson, James
McCain, Cris 1961
McCloskey IV, Charles 1987
McCommons, Scott 1971-73
McCormick, Cameron 1986
McCoy, Richard 1972-73
McCulloch, Jim 1963-66
McCury, Paul 1969
McEwen, Peter 1966-70
McGauley, Erin 1997
McGuire, Glen 1989
McHardy, George 1985-86
McKee, Brad 1979
McKee, Phillip 1986-87
McLaren, Bruce 1961-62
McNeil, Robert 1955
McNichol, Brian 1960
McRoberts, David 1990
Micklaviack, Shawn 1987
Miilunpalo, Paivi 1984
Millard, Steve 1964
Miller, Anthony
Miller, Bob 1968-70
Miller, Dea 1999
Miller, Lewis 1956
Minaker, Sarah 2000
Money, Jason 1998
Monson, Lynn 1975-77
Moore, Greg 1967-69
Morales, Timon 1996
Moreno, Claudia 1983
Munson, Gary 1968
Myers, John 1970
Nave, Michael 1999
Neal, Brian 1990
Neisse, Bruce 1966
Neisse, Darryl 1966
Nelson, Steve 1956
Neville, Paul 1981
Newton, Bob 1975
Nicksals, Dale 1961
Nielsen, Henrik 1979
Nipp, Amy
Nold, Stephen 1985-87
Novak, James 1984-85
Nuchols, John 1956
Nute, Doug
Nyberg, Jonas 1985
Ogren, Dave 1970
Oikkonen, Soile 1987W
Olsen, Christian 1986
Olsen, Jeferen 1978-79
Olson, Dave 1966-68
Olson, Erik 1998
Olson, Joe 1998
O'Mara, Mike 1970
O’Rinn, Susan 1999
Ould, Lee 1964-66
Pancake, Keith 1985
Parks, Dr. James
Parrott, David 1992-93
Partner, Dan
Paul, Ethan 1975-76
Payne, Brian 1975
Peeke, Dick 1964
Pehler, Mike 1967-69
Perez, Andrew 1996
Perkins, Paul 1980
Person, Alan 1963
Perugini, Al
Peterson, Harriette 1978-80
Peterson, Mike 1978-80
Peterson, Robert 1969
Pfeiffer, Paul 1998
Picken, Joel 1966
Piepras, Colin 1989
Pio, John 1982-84
Ploke, Ingrid 1987
Port, Robert 1953
Potts, Ronald 1956
Price, Blake 1978
Pummell, William 1986,92
Purcell, John 1961-62
Putnam, John 1956-61
Quinn, Tom 1979-80
Rabenold, Mark 1980
Rablee, Chris 1987,88,92
Rachey, Paul 1970
Rahm, Bruce 1956
Rainey, Justin 1993
Randall, Dan
Ranta, Toivo 1941
Rasmussen, Richard 1952
Rauscher, Leo 2001
Rawson, Helen 1988
Read, James 1978-79
Read, Sue 1979
Reese, Steve 1971-72
Rehling, Terry 1962
Rein, Roland 1976
Renn, Tim 1986-87
Renner, Jim 1956
Resman, Bruce
Rhynor, Kristine 1986
Richards, Edward 1991
Richards, Greg 1994
Riddell, Laird 2000
Ringer, Robert 1978-79
Rinne, Sari 1980
Robinson, Noel
Roehrer, Hank
Roeschlein, Doug 1969
Roth, Jerry 1958-61
Rue, Dave 1963-66
Ruge, Kenneth 1968-69
Ruiz, John 1991,94
Rulifson, Dennis 1956
Runge, Chris 1998
Salzer, Jeffrey 1992
Sargeant, Jim 1974
To be continued in the Spring edition of Reflections...
On Sunday, the pace slowed down a bit, but there were still plenty of activities. Barb Hall led the Hymn Sing in the morning with others contributing to the service. The afternoon was a time for shopping and visiting old haunts in Ely or taking tours of the Dorothy Molter Museum or International Wolf Center. As usual, tours of Sig Olson’s Listening Point enchanted visitors. Thanks to Larry Hanson and Don Richard for leading the tours and providing their insights into Sig’s philosophy and its lasting impact upon people. Paul Holte quick wit as our master of ceremonies. Thanks again Cory. Following the dinner, the canoe raffle, auctions, and awards kept us entertained. The Wenonah Sundowner canoe was won by Mike Ziegahn who dedicated it to his father, a longtime professional scouter. As in 1997, Joe Seliga drew the winning raffle ticket. The raffle raised $1760 for the Sommers Alumni Association’s staff scholarship fund. Lucy Diesslin outbid Linnea Renner for the original Réal Bérard painting entitled North Wind on Hegman Lake, raising another $550. Additional silent auction items including a Kondos guide pack (purchased by Greg Ferguson), an original Bob Cary print (Pat Cox), and a large scale Bérard map (Chris Clay) helped us raise over $400. Butch Diesslin honored past-president Dave Hyink by giving him a portrait of himself done by Bob Cary. Next was the presentation of the George Hedrick service award. This “sweat equity award” is presented only to special candidates. This year, the award went to Butch Diesslin. Doug Hirdler presented two special endowed staff scholarships. Jacob “Sven” Jeswiet from Kingston, Ontario was awarded the Chris Breen Memorial Scholarship and Ben Tomlinson from Pickerington, Ohio was presented the Terry Wall Scholarship. Congratulations to all. Next, Mike Holdgrafer introduced author Bob Cary who entertained us with stories about local bush pilots, the topic of his next book. The evening was capped off with Cory leading us in singing The Far Northland.

It is not an annual award and is presented only to special candidates. This year, the award went to Butch Diesslin. Doug Hirdler presented two special endowed staff scholarships. Jacob “Sven” Jeswiet from Kingston, Ontario was awarded the Chris Breen Memorial Scholarship and Ben Tomlinson from Pickerington, Ohio was presented the Terry Wall Scholarship. Congratulations to all. Next, Mike Holdgrafer introduced author Bob Cary who entertained us with stories about local bush pilots, the topic of his next book. The evening was capped off with Cory leading us in singing The Far Northland.

The usual garb...

Hyink presents George Hedrick Service award to Butch Diesslin

On Sunday, the pace slowed down a bit, but there were still plenty of activities. Barb Hall led the Hymn Sing in the morning with others contributing to the service. The afternoon was a time for shopping and visiting old haunts in Ely or taking tours of the Dorothy Molter Museum or International Wolf Center. As usual, tours of Sig Olson’s Listening Point enchanted visitors. Thanks to Larry Hanson and Don Richard for leading the tours and providing their insights into Sig’s philosophy and its lasting impact upon people. Paul Holte

It's a banquet!

Rendezvous alumni gather for a photo

Kiss, kiss (He’ll be back!)
Work Week 2002, continued...

It was, as always, a pleasant surprise to see people you haven’t seen in a while.

Our original project was to be primarily log peeling. It expanded to become a gutting job on the old Administration Building that is currently used as the staff lounge. It is being remodeled to be a much improved version of a staff lounge. The remaining summer staff and the 2 old codgers, as Roger likes to say, pulled the interior walls and stripped the inside of the exterior wall all the way to the studs on Saturday and Sunday. During the rest of the week, we added some 2x2’s to the wall (ripped down from 2x4’s since we would not want to have the right tools for the job), some insulation, and some new wallboard to create the interior frame of the new staff lounge area. When completed, there will be a library, a computer area, a game and pool table area, a wet bar (a.k.a. bathroom sink), and a few phones so the staff can call their significant others and let the whole staff listen in as they whisper sweet nothings.

Next year, we shoot for that porch in Atikokan – and maybe finish up some stuff in the lounge.

Plan to attend the 2003 Red Renner Memorial Work Week. Tentative date is last week of May or first week of June in 2003 to coincide with staff training for 2003.

Tid Bits

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 for updated information.

Chris Harwell (‘93) [crharwell@yahoo.com] has moved to Clifton, NJ.
J. J. Heid (1999-00) jjeaneguide@hotmail.com is living in Dunwoody, GA and is a Project Engineer for Eberly & Assoc. in Atlanta, GA.
Wayne Lamon (‘78-80) [wayne.lamon@sendit.nodak.edu] is living in Minot, ND.
Juha “Leha” Lehtinen (1985) [juha.lehtinen@navy.mil.fi] is an officer in Finland’s Navy. He will be at the quartermaster for the Finnish Scout contingent to the World Jamboree in Thailand. Juha is also captain of the Finnish Olympic Solo class Yachting team.
Heli (Koljonen) Mikkola (‘86) [heli.mikkola@finnet.fi] lives in Helsinki, FI with her husband, daughter (6) and son (3). Heli is a Journalist with the Finnish Medical Journal.
Congratulations to Doug Ramsey (‘95-02 present) and Sarah Swain (‘98-02) who were married in Ely on June 23, 2002.
Laura Piotrowicz (2000) [lmpiotrowicz@hotmail.com] is now living in Winnipeg, MB where she is a Youth Ministry Developer for the Anglican Church of Canada.
Paul Reitemeier (’70-73) [pauljr@valley.net] is now living in White River Junction, VT.

Our condolences to the family of SAA Life member Malcolm Varner (Advisor ’66-67) who passed away. Family members include Mike Varner (‘67-72).

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 above 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 shoes too. Additional instructions, please staple them to the order form.

Name____________________________________________
Address____________________________________________
City, State, Zip _______________________________________
Phone ______________________________________________

Red Tip: Yes No Region 10x: Yes No

Years Guided _____ to _____

Checks payable to Sommers Alumni Association
Mail to: The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association
PO Box 428
Ely, Mn 55731
Butch Diesslin is Hedrick Award Recipient

The George D. Hedrick Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals whose service and dedication to the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program is noteworthy in terms of both its impact and/or duration. Created in 1995 and awarded by the SAA Directors, the award honors the former Region Ten Executive and ardent Canoe Base supporter. The 2002 recipient is Butch Diesslin. Butch has a long and distinguished association with the Northern Tier Program dating back to the Region X era. Following his participation as a scout, he was a member of the seasonal staff from 1961-1980 and the Canoe Base/Northern Tier Committee, 1982-present. He was a founding director of the Sommers Alumni Association and served three terms, 1992-2001. He was, and continues to be, the Association’s secretary, and serves on the Association’s Executive Committee. He is also an active member of the Seasonal Staff Scholarship Development Committee. He joins former recipients Robert “Red” Renner, Allan Batterman, Craig Pendergraf, the late Ed Chapin, Gene Felton, the late Henry Bradlich, Cherie Bridges-Sawinski, Dr. Dick Shank, and Mike Holdgrafer.

A Few Thoughts About Butch Diesslin

Anonymous – sent as a letter to the editor

This summer I had the chance to take a Boundary Waters trip with an old scout buddy that I met on a grub trip in 1969. He had bought a new wood canoe canoe and just had to try it out in the real north woods. We had a great trip – but the real reason for writing this note is that on the way home, when we were gassing-up in the Holiday station in Ely, and I was inside waiting to pay, I noticed a gentleman out at the pumps talking to my brother (another member of our crew) and I thought – that sure looks like Butch!

I hadn’t seen Butch since my last year of guiding back in ’74 so I wasn’t sure at first, but I certainly was going to find out. Next thing I knew, he was standing right behind me (Butch could always find somebody hiding from work and surprised me several times back in the old days and asked if I would like to rake the road or do some other task). Anyway, I digress, it was Butch – he not only remembered me but also recalled that I guided for several years in the early ‘70’s.

We had a nice conversation for a bit and he tried to cajole me into attending the reunion, but he was on the way out to the lake with his wife to try and catch some dinner so we parted ways. I thought about butch on the long 500-mile drive back home and recalled the time he taught me two valued lessons that have served me well all these 29 years since.

It was a crisp late June morning out behind the dining hall after breakfast. Butch had called for volunteers to help assemble a wooden tank of some sort for a purpose I no longer remember (fire control maybe?). I was an Industrial Technologies major in college and thought I was up to the task. Butch had unpacked some of the parts and pieces and the instructions and when the 4 or 5 recruits were lined up he asked if any of us know how to use tools. Well – I pulled a pair of pliers out of my back pocket and quipped “Sure. And I ever brought my own tools – a brand new Polish socket set.” Butch looked at me with sad eyes, and put his hand on my shoulder and said “Tim (or Tom – substitute any name you want) why don’t you fill the potholes in the road and parking lot today.” I was young and not nearly as self-confident as my remark sounded and left to rake and shovel the day away – cowed – but thinking.

No income tax paid by you on the gain in the transaction for a donated asset.

If you or someone you know plan to make a donation of this type, we can help by working with your financial and legal advisors. Please contact SAA Vice President Patrick Cox by phone @ 281-497-4226, email Patrick.cox@coxcpa.net, or any SAA Director or Officer. All gifts can be made and received confidentially. Gifts can even be restricted to certain projects or for certain uses. However, please note that all gifts carrying a restriction on the use of the gift proceeds must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to acceptance by the SAA.
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 featured 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. These are distinctive and very handsome greeting cards. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Holiday Greeting/Blank inside</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>2000 Cards - “Company Coming” moose approaching campsite</td>
<td>/ /</td>
<td>x $25.00=________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>1999 Cards - Sled dogs pulling Christmas Tree</td>
<td>/ /</td>
<td>x $20.00=________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>1998 Cards - Commissary</td>
<td>NA/NA</td>
<td>x $20.00=________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>1997 Cards - Portage at Basswood Falls</td>
<td>/NA</td>
<td>x $20.00=________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>1996 Cards - Fort Gateway</td>
<td>/NA</td>
<td>x $20.00=________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>1995 Cards - Canoe Yard</td>
<td>NA/NA</td>
<td>x $20.00=________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>1994 Cards - Hanson House</td>
<td>/NA</td>
<td>x $20.00=________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>1993 Cards - Winter Lodge</td>
<td>NA/NA</td>
<td>x $20.00=________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>1993 Cards - Summer Lodge</td>
<td>NA/NA</td>
<td>x $20.00=________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>Holiday Sampler - 25 assorted cards</td>
<td>Special, save 40%, off original issue price. 1999-1993</td>
<td>x $75.00=________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(five boxes, 125 cards) Our choice. Will try to honor requests.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>Tax Deductible Gift to the Alumni Association for 2002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship to:</td>
<td>SAA Holiday Card Sale</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$3.00 SHIPPING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 428</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ely, MN 55731-0428</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>