C H A R L E S L. S O M M E R S

W I L D E R N E S S C A N O E B A S E

REGION TEN

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Thesis compiled by
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T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

By its nature, most of the material for this thesis was gathered on the ground at Sommers Canoe Base in six seasons serving as director. Members of the staff have been helpful through their experiences and sharing the wealth of knowledge they have of the canoe country and our operation. The pattern of operation has evolved through the many years as a result of their experience and suggestions.

I am particularly indebted to Parley B. Tuttle, instructor in the Junior College at Eveleth, Minnesota, who has served as assistant director, and who has been connected with the trails since 1928. Henry Bradlich, also an instructor in the Eveleth schools, is the guide chief, on the staff for seven years and has been invaluable. A large number of guides - more than 70 of them in six years - have contributed to the information herein.

Former directors of the Base - Hod Ludlow, Ben Conger, Bob Marquardt, Forest Witcraft - have aided me, both in person and in written reports filed in the Region Ten office.

I have discussed the Base and its operation, as opportunity afforded, with three former Region Ten Regional Executives - Hal Pote, Paul Love and Hap Clark - and they have supplied some historical data.

My associates on the Region Ten staff, Henry W. Schreiber, George D. Hedrick and Maynard E. Hanson, have shared in many phases of the Base operation and I have discussed with them many of the items in this manuscript. Miss Kathryn Marquardt, Miss Virginia Jahnke and Miss Rose Marie Brown, Region Ten secretaries, have been of invaluable assistance in supplying historical material and records and in preparation of the completed manuscript.

A host of trail crew advisors, whose constructive criticism of the operation and guides has been solicited, have been of material help. Some of their comments, as well as of crew leaders and Scout Executives, are included.

I do not expect ever to be associated with a finer group of men than the Base staff or to work with better men than trail crew advisors, almost to a man, have been. They share with us the desire to mould better men out of the raw materials of eager boyhood that have come to us in ever larger numbers. For such men and boys, no sacrifice can be too much.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the whole-hearted cooperation and interest of my thesis advisor, Ernie Schmidt. From the start, four years ago, he had a keen grasp of everything involved in my study. An inveterate canoeman himself, with a wealth of experience, he has a contagious enthusiasm that never wanes. We have shared plans and procedures, and he has given this material the final check. My sincerest thanks to Ernie Schmidt.

FOREWORD

This is a thesis with a different slant. It does not depend on questionnaires - it does not purport to study what others may be doing - it does not lend itself to statistical data and charting.

Rather it is a study of an operation with which the writer has been deeply involved for the last six years. It attemps to analyze conditions present - the program carried on - the value of the program - and looks ahead to its possible future.

The writer has been directing the Base for a period in which tremendous pressure of council groups seeking space on the trails has developed. Much of his energies as director has been directed to expanding facilities and staff to permit a tripling of attendance. The easy way would have been to maintain the "status quo," denying hundreds of Explorers this highlight experience.

Passing through this crucible of pressure may have colored the writer's thinking and made him more keenly aware of the vital role of high adventure opportunities for Explorers and caused him to feel that more attention should be given to meeting this need. The conclusion drawn stems from this conviction.

It is the writer's sincere hope this manuscript may receive wider circulation than the usual thesis - that it may come to the attention of men of national influence in camping and may be considered worthy of study by the Division of Program and administrative officials of the Boy Scouts of America. To that end, it is reproduced in dittoed form so that more copies are available.

——— Oren R. Felton
Deputy Regional Executive

CHAPTER I - SOMMERS CANOE BASE

Region Ten's Wilderness Canoe Trails began as an idea in the minds of two men. The first man was Carl Chase, who was trained as an engineer, and in his early working years, traveled by canoe in what is now the Superior National Forest (established 1909) in search of iron ore. Ely, Minnesota is the outpost mine in the richest part of the Mesabi iron range. Within a few miles east and north of Ely, the roadless wilderness begins.

Here young Chase, usually with one companion, sought out the waterways and portages used for centuries by Indians and later by the explorers, French voyageurs and the fur traders. They were little used in the pre-World War I days, and it was in the 20's that the area began to attract the wilderness lovers, who were to find here the last remaining wilderness area which could be traversed by canoe.

Perhaps influenced by his love of the outdoors, either in 1922 or 1923, Chase entered the employ of the Boy Scout council headquartering at Hibbing, Minnesota, now the Headwaters Council, so-called because the Mississippi River has its origin there. In the summer of 1923, he took a small group of Scouts on a canoe trip, possibly the first such venture under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America.

That was the humble beginning. It attracted little attention, council-wise, region-wise or otherwise. Just another bunch of Scouts on one of their camping trips. But it stuck. It became an annual affair. Subsequently, Chase became Scout Executive at Albert Lea, Minnesota, and a member of the St. Paul (now Indianhead) Council staff.

No one considered the annual trip of sufficient importance to chart its progress. C. N. Meserve, first Regional Executive of the first region to be organized in 1921, was probably unaware of what was transpiring in the region. Hal Pote, who succeeded Meserve, first learned of the trip in 1925.

Because of the lack of records, no dates can be definitely ascertained, but first a few Scouts from neighboring councils asked if they could join the Headwaters gang. They could and did. The growth forced the organization of parties and the use of guides.

By the early 30's, under Paul Love, now Regional Executive of Region VII, the region assumed general supervision of the trips. Just when it occurred is not known, but a group of Scouts from a council outside the region requested permission to join the trip and was permitted to do so.

OPERATION DIFFICULT

Operating canoe trips without a base of operations was difficult. Parley Tuttle (present Assistant Director), who began guiding "for the Scouts," as he puts it, in 1928, describes the operation

Canoes were borrowed or rented in these early days. Just when the region acquired canoes, tents and other equipment is also not known for certain. Trips started near the south end of Moose Lake (Fall Lake nearer Winton had been used at first, perhaps even Lake Vermillion) using the site of the present Hibbard's Lodge. A group would report to the site, eat a meal at Hibbard's, sleep - most often in the open, and shove off the next morning.

Tents were nondescript and permitted free access to insects and this before the advent of DDT and "bug bombs." Sleeping bags were for dudes - blankets and quilts went in each pack and no less than four blankets are needed even in mid-summer.

Dehydrated foods, other than dried fruits, were still in the experimental stage and the food packs were loaded with tin cans.

Trips were a week in length, the entire staff going out on the trails and returning to start the next trip a week later.

SECOND MAN WITH AN IDEA

At what point the second man got his idea even he could not say. He was Chairman of Region Ten from the day of its organization in 1921 and for the next 26 years. He is the "grand old man" of Scouting in Region Ten, Charles L. Sommers.

The idea was simple - a base of operations to outfit from and to store equipment. There were no resources on which to draw for the project. First it was necessary to convince others of its desirability, then secure the needed finances, select and secure the site and construct a base.

In 1941 Dr. E. H. Rynearson of Rochester became chairman of a fund-raising committee. Through individual solicitation and through the councils of the region, $8,789.69 was raised by September, 1942. Meantime, Dr. Rynearson; H. Dudley Fitz of Fairmont, Minnesota; Horace "Hod" Ludlow of Cook, Minnesota; Ben Conger, then a Region Ten deputy; and W. H. "Bill" Trygg, district forester at Ely, spent many hours looking for a suitable location before selecting the present site.

They settled on a point on the east side and half-way up Moose Lake. It was possible to reach the site only by constructing another mile of road terminating at the base, which abutts the portion of the Superior National Forest set aside as the roadless area. The forest management granted permission, renewable annually by payment of a fee of $25, to use a two-acre tract. Later in 1946, the two acres was increased to three and one-half acres and the use of a larger area was allowed for non-permanent tents.

Negotiations with Lake County officials resulted in the region acquiring by tax title a 40-acre tract of forest immediately to the east of the 40 acres on which the base site is located. The plan was to trade the 40 acres for the land on which the base is situated, but this did not meet with Forest Service approval and has never been done.

LODGE CONSTRUCTED

In the winter of 1941-42, a small crew of Finn axemen, under the direction of Hod Ludlow, constructed the log lodge and a combination latrine-storage building. Several years before a windstorm had blown down a fine stand of virgin Norway

pines on the Echo trail about 20 miles from the base. The Forest Service had the logs for sale and all logs needed for the two buildings were purchased for $287.18. The lodge is 36' x 56' and the latrine building was 20' x 12'.

After a concrete slab floor was laid, with the use of hand tools only, the Finn axemen skillfully notched, sawed and hewed the logs for the structure. While oakum was used between logs, the workmanship was so good that today almost no trace of oakum can be seen and the logs fit so snugly a knife blade will not go between them.

Despite the rigors of winter, work progressed well so that the dedication could be held May 17, 1942. The National Council Meeting was held in St. Paul, May 15 and 16, which enabled Chief Scout Executive James E. West, to participate. Dr. Rynearson was the master of ceremonies for a fast-moving dedication following a dinner in the lodge dining room. The name, "Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base," was made official.

Thus the idea, born in the minds of two men, became a reality. Today, conspicuously hung on either side of the large lodge fireplace are two canoe paddles. One carries the paddle brand of Chief Tamarack, Carl L. Chase, who little knew what he was starting back in 1923. The other carries the Rock Bass brand of Charlie Sommers, who at 85 years of age, was still spry enough to visit his beloved base in 1954. Thousands of Explorers and leaders are indebted to these two men for the opportunity for an adventure second to none.

That Rock Bass brand has a story of its own which illustrates the fun-loving nature of dignified Charlie Sommers. With his inseparable Scouting companion, Frank Bean (whose death in 1955 took one of the best friends of the base), and several other men, Sommers was on a canoeing-fishing trip where, as usual, they were vying for the heaviest fish. Charlie was able to catch only a small rock bass, but not to be outdone, he loaded it with sinkers and won the contest. His paddle brand depicts the rock bass, with a sinker-weighted sac on its under side.

FACILITIES INCREASED

The 1942 season, operated from the new quarters, was a vast improvement over the "no-base" period. The lodge provided a kitchen, dining room, staff sleeping quarters upstairs, office, storage and outfitting space. The dining room was used for winter storage of the fleet of 33 canoes the region now owned.

The system remained much as before. The staff must now double as cooks, but for the next few years, the base was locked up while everyone left on the trails. By 1945, one man, the director, remained at the base alone while everyone else was gone.

Thus it was that Ben Conger, Region Ten deputy, was upstairs alone asleep when he heard a knock on the back door. Thinking someone had come to the base needing help, he hurried down to open the door, only to discover a hungry bear clawing at the screen. Ben slammed the door shut, quickly ran back upstairs to get a rifle owned by Parley Tuttle, opened the door and shot through the screen to hit the bear at close range. The next day, he was compelled to haul the carcass away, but, like Dan'l Boone, Ben had killed his "B'ar." He also had to replace the screen in the door.

Starting in 1945 (Ben Conger was not idle while he was alone at the base), a water system was installed and it was ready for the 1946 season. It included a gasoline motor pump, a chlorinator, two filters, pipes and a wooden water storage tank. The same system, with some additions, is in use today. The same year, a gasoline motor generator was secured from Region Seven's Canoe Landing, the lodge was wired and an electric refrigerator was secured.

MORE BUILDINGS NEEDED

By 1946, the attendance had increased beyond the outfitting capacity afforded by the lodge. The need of another building was apparent and a 28' x 50' two-story frame building called the Bay Post was erected, which also contained the guide quarters. At the same time, the log cabin used for latrine and storage was moved to the front gate of the site and converted into a director's cabin by the addition of two small rooms for kitchen and bedroom. It was replaced by a building which houses the latrine, sauna (Finnish bath) and generator and adjacent to the latrine is the hand-washing rack.

A permanent tent city was erected for overnight housing of incoming and outgoing crews. A parking area was bull-dozed out next to the base site for cars, busses and trailers. By now, the base operated on a rotating schedule, crews coming in, using base facilities and going out on the trail before the previous crews returned from the trail. They were staggered so that the base was in use constantly instead of intermittently as formerly. This single change permitted annual attendance to more than double. The fleet of canoes increased to 60 and in 1951, reached a total of 80 canoes as attendance increased.

In the last four seasons, it has been found necessary to replace the old tent city with new tents having permanent floors and frameworks. A total of 108 can be housed at one time now. Canoes increased to 95, then to 115 in 1954, and 128 in 1956. The staff moved out of the guide quarters in the Bay Post and into two-man tents in 1954, permitting use of the entire Bay Post for outfitting and storage.

In 1955, the last building was erected, a two-story 20' x 36' structure providing a reading and recreation room, locker storage, food storage, shower and toilet facilities. The lower floor houses canoes in the winter as well.

REA reached the base late in 1955 and electricity provided lights, pumped water and operated the refrigerators in 1956.

ATTENDANCE INCREASES

From that first half-dozen Scouts (how old they were is not known, and they weren't registered as Explorers or Senior Scouts in any case) who voyaged with Carl Chase, the number has increased to a high of 1725 in 1956.

No one kept records in the early years, but the best estimate is that about 500 made the trip in the first ten years. The total making trips increased to 1750, prior to the building of the base. In the next nine years (including 1950), 3250 more used the base, and in the last five years, more than 7,000 Explorers and leaders have outfitted for the trails. Thus, more than 12,000 have benefited by using the base.

No accurate records are available but it is estimated that annually as many Explorer groups use the wilderness on their own - with their own equipment or supplied by commercial outfitters. The base operation for the last ten years or more has been intentionally designed to train crews to go on their own the next year, teaching menu-planning, navigation, itineraries, trail routine - the things a crew needs to know for a successful trip without a guide.

OWNERSHIP OF BASE

In the beginning, the canoe trips were operated with no investment, and prior to the building of the base, capital needs were small. When the lodge was built on the two-acre site under permit from the Forest Service, the Boy Scouts of America became the owners. The capital for the buildings, canoes, tentage, packs and paddles came from Region Ten and it became a regional project. As additional needs developed, funds for it came from Region Ten men. When the operation grew in 1946 to the point a professional director was necessary, a special deputy was added to the regional staff, paid for by Region Ten special funds. This continued until 1952, when the National Council assumed the salary of a deputy who devotes approximately half of his time to base direction and promotion.

In the earliest days of canoe trips, attendance was 100% from Region Ten. A few began coming from other regions, particularly neighboring Seven and Eight, until in the late 30's when a majority was coming from outside the region. This continued until 1950 but since that time, attendance from Region Ten councils and councils from other regions has been approximately equal.

Thus, while ownership is in the name of the Boy Scouts of America, Region Ten has borne capital costs and supplied facilities used as much by the rest of the United States as by Region Ten itself. The region has expanded the project to a point beyond which its resources will not permit it to go. Men in Region Ten seriously question the obligation to maintain the base at the region's expense when it is so widely used by Explorers from other regions. They have raised the issue as to whether the base should be a National Council responsibility similar to Philmont.

This thesis is directed to an analysis of this issue - the nature of the present program, the nature of the country, the present facilities, the value to be derived from the Canoe Trails and advantages and disadvantages to an expansion of the program under National Council sponsorship.

CHAPTER II - CANOE COUNTRY

NATURE OF COUNTRY

The nature of the Canoe Country is a key factor to an understanding of the canoe base operation and the problems involved in reaching a decision on any future program.

To a casual observer, it is a hodge-podge of rocks, water and forests, dotted with islands and swampy areas, and interspersed with portages. Here are found pre-Cambrian rocks, oldest on the North American continent. It is traversed by two great watersheds - the Pigeon and Rainy rivers. The rivers and chains of lakes were formed by the melting glaciers in the last of the Ice Ages.

Here roamed the Sioux Indians about the dawn of history. Despite their war-like reputation, the Sioux were driven from the forests to the plains of the Dakotas by the Ojibways (now called Chippewas), whose fame is recorded by Longfellow in the legend of Hiawatha. Up and down the waterways, the Indians paddled their birchbark canoes, at first in search of food and later for furs to trade to the white man.

White trappers and voyageurs (literally translated "canoeman") traveled into the area in the wake of some explores like de La Salle, Joliet and Marquette and the Verendryes. While most of the United States was an unknown interior, the waterways were well-known and the same portages used today were familiar thoroughfares. Rivers, lakes and portages were given names when such cities as Minneapolis, Chicago, Philadelphia and most other United States cities were as yet unfounded.

The area is called "Quetico-Superior" country, because it embraces a great 1,560 square-mile Canadian tract, the Quetico provincial park, and an area roughly four times that size, the Superior National Forest, in the United States. The boundary is largely a matter of accident rather than design. When Canada and the United States sought to establish the boundary line, the 1842 treaty specified it should be "the most used waterway." However, three waterways were in use, perhaps nearly equally. From Lake Superior, the northernmost followed the Pigeon River, Kawnipi and Maligne Rivers to Crooked Lake and continued westward. The southernmost route turned south from Knife Lake to the Vermillion Lake and thence northward to the present boundary. The central route followed the Knife River to Basswood Lake, thence to Lac la Croix and Crooked Lake. It was natural that Canada should feel the Vermillion route was the proper choice, the United States was sure the Kawnipi route was most used; the result was the compromise and the route selection was probably correct.

IDEAL FOR CANOE TRAVEL

The area is ideally suited for canoe travel and most of it can be traversed in no other way except by seaplane. The lake waters are clear and deep. The water is so abundant and the sources of contamination are so insignificant that for all practical purposes, it can be considered pure. For sheer enjoyment, there can be few experiences exceeding that of learning to control a canoe by paddle, skimming over the clear blue lakes, bordered by lofty green pines, spruce, firs, aspens, ashes, birches and maples, with a never-ending variety of cliffs, rocks, valleys and hills for a shore-line. Lakes come in all sizes, shapes, lengths and widths. Countless islands, bays, false waterways and jutting peninsulas make navigation a real challenge, often an adventuresome experience. Choosing the wrong route can be time-consuming at least, if it has no other undesirable outcome.

Hard as it is, portaging can be a welcome relief from too much paddling. Occasionally, a lake opens into another with no need for portage. Often a slight difference in elevation exists, and at the point of discharge, the water is too rapid and jumbles of rocks and logs make paddling impossible. Sometimes there is no connection between two nearby lakes, but portaging bridges the land area and gives access to the other lake.

Some portages are well-marked, by signs or blazes, or through such long and heavy usage that unmistakable scars from the scuffing of many feet make them easy to distinguish. Others are obscure and occasionally one long unused will be found only a dim trail nearly or entirely overgrown and blocked by fallen logs. Some bear names more than 300 years old -- "Horse" -- "Bottle" -- "Prairie" -- "Meadows" -- either of Indian or French derivation.

PORTAGES ARE RUGGED

Some are remembered by generations of canoeists for their rugged nature. Such a one is Meadows portage, which many base crews reach the first or second day out. Sunday lake ends in a jumble of rocks where the canoes are beached and unloaded. One member of the crew will be needed to carry each of the canoes. Other crew members help them get the canoes on their shoulders. Use of a well-padded yoke, mounted in place of the center thwart, is a virtual necessity because of the number and length of portages. The first portion is a fairly steep ascent to the top of a hog-back, then up and down, around a swamp, through some areas always full of mud and slime unless an infrequent long dry spell has ensued. At rare intervals, a tree branch offers a canoe rest. Occasionally a tree crotch will suffice, and once on the stretch (oftener on some other portages), a man-made rest is found. The epitome of endurance is to carry a canoe the full three-quarters mile without resting. After a trip or two, base guides make it but not grubbies. There are not rests enough and occasionally one will fall under his canoe from sheer exhaustion.

The first portion of the portage ends at Meadows Lake, a relatively small lake one-half--mile in diameter, dotted with lily pads and abounding in small-mouthed bass. When the rest of the gear is portaged - some or all of the crew must back-track to bring over a second load - all is reloaded, paddling is resumed only to come around a bend a hundred yards away to find the continuation of the portage. This second portion, half-a-mile long, is studded with rocks, logs and a larger number of mud-holes than the first part, but is less up and down hill. At its end, a rock shelf opens on Lake Agnes, more than 15 miles of water without a portage if the crew's route goes that way.

Other portages are steep, rocky climbs up and down again. Others are strewn with boulders and you step from one to another. On the Anubis portage, a log three feet in diameter lies across the path - you must slither over it. On the portage to Plough Lake, a ledge ends and the trail continues on a ledge a vertical three feet above. You get there only by a leap, balancing your canoe or pack in the process. Some portages lead across beaver dams, through sloughs, water and just plain mud. Often bare rock extrudes and when wet, it is slippery and treacherous. Some portages are so narrow it is only with extreme difficulty groups meeting can pass.

All portages are not so difficult, Occasionally one is so flat and wide, it seems like a highway. Again, one is so short, it is dubbed a "lift-over." It changes nothing but it is not necessary to organize the transporting of equipment for so short a carry. In a few places, a "water portage" is possible. A narrow, shallow, rocky waterway will not permit paddling but the occupants can step out and walk or wade and float the canoe through.

Another favorite "portage" is to slide the canoe over a beaver dam. Rather than portage around, the bowman steps out on the dam, steadies the canoe while the stern paddler steps out on the dam, then standing on either side, they gently hoist the canoe, sled-like, over the dam and into the water on the other side. This feat can be accomplished either up or down the faces of the dams, which are never over four feet high.

WIND PERILS CANOEISTS

Would-be voyageurs must learn to cope with the elements also. Not infrequently, wind strikes and lakes become choppy and rough. Most of them are small enough that the hills, forest and shore-line break the force of the wind, and at the worst, by hugging the lee shore, progress can be made in safety and without too much wasted effort.

On a few larger lakes, the wind from certain directions can get a clean sweep and waves reach white-cap proportions. Larger lakes also have a peculiar quality of deflecting the force of the wind so that the waves travel the long way of the lake, up to almost 90 degrees from the direction of the wind. Blowing on the canoe, it accelerates the pace and paddles seem to come alive. Often, ingenious crews will rig makeshift sails and skim along even faster then they could paddle on a still day.

Sometimes the crew must buck a headwind. The most strenous paddling will gain only a few feet of shoreline. When the going is too rough, it is not only tiring but dangerous. At such time, the woods-wise guide pulls into shore and the crew is wind-bound, occasionally for a full day or more. Such winds have a tendency to calm down at night, becoming stronger during the day. When a large body of water must be traversed during a windy spell, sometimes the crew will break camp at 3 a.m. and paddle across in the quiet of the dawn. Again, they may cross at night, perhaps once during a trip. Such an experience on a moonlight night is one to long remember. The lake quiets down to a sheet of silver and the canoe glides along in shimmering unreality.

Wind and the consequent rough water are perhaps the most serious hazard of the trails. Canoes not skillfully handled - most often in early stages of the trip - may broach sidewise to the waves, fill with water and capsize. The waves unbalance the canoe and inept canoeists may cause it to overturn. All are trained to hang onto the canoe in such cases, retrieve what they can, and to maneuver the canoe toward shore. The wind and waves make this all the more difficult -- the canoe pitches and rolls -- it will be carried in the direction of the wind, and on windy days, the temperature of water is colder than normal and the northern waters are cold at all times.

TRAINED IN SWAMPING CANOES

Because such accidents will occur, part of the base training is devoted to reducing the danger. All Explorers and leaders are required to paddle a canoe out into deep water, deliberately capsize it, hold to the canoe, retrieve paddles and packs, and swim the canoe into shore. It has been discovered that a number cannot swim well enough or become too excited, and these are required to wear life jackets at all times they are in the canoe. Life jackets are standard equipment for everyone, and are carried lashed to the canoes. In wind and rough water, the guide orders them worn as a safety measure.

Passage of water from lake to lake or along a river is not always smooth. Lakes lie at different levels and waterfalls result. Some of these fall vertically as much as 15 feet in a short distance. In other places, rock walls compress the water, the fall becomes steeper and rapids ("white water") result. These rapids are invariably strewn with rocks and boulders of varying size.

Except for the mildest of rapids, portages are made around falls and rapids. This, however, has an element of danger. In the natural desire to portage no further than necessary, the original Indian trail-blazers approached to a point directly above a falls before landing. The current becomes stronger approaching a falls and the canoe moves more swiftly. A rule of force comes into play -- if the canoe is moving at the same speed as the water, it cannot respond to steering but is directed instead by the current. A paddle can only "bite" in the water if the canoe goes faster than the water, effected by rapid strokes, or slower than the water, effected by back-paddling.

Unless the area is familiar to the canoeists, or they have studied the map thoroughly, it is impossible to determine far ahead which side of the shore the portage is on. If they choose the wrong side and are carried too far down, they will not have time to paddle across the mouth of the falls. Nor can they turn around -- such a maneuver would carry them over the falls. It is necessary that they back-paddle, keeping the canoe parallel to the direction of the current. A very real danger is that of swinging across the current and having the canoe carried onto a rock, which is sure to flip the canoe. A base canoe went over the falls in this manner and others are known to have done so.

The same principles apply to rapids as to falls. It is equally dangerous coming upstream. Upsets frequently occur below falls and rapids and it is hazardous to put in above a falls or rapids. Always dangerous, in high water, usually early in the summer, the falls area is so dangerous that is banned for Explorers until later in the season.

BEST FISHING OF LIVES

Except in late August, Explorers find the best fishing of their lives. Only four kinds of fish are found -- Northern pike, wall-eyed pike, lake trout and bass -- and they are not relatively abundant. Feed is not plentiful as it is in more civilized areas and the waters will not support large numbers of fish. However, they are hungry and the lakes are fished by comparatively few anglers.

Many Explorers have done little or no fishing, but with a minimum of instruction, they make good catches. There is a particular thrill in catching a fish, cleaning it, cooking and eating it all in a short space of time. Nothing could taste better.

The cold water gives the fish more fight. There are those who say a Canadian Northern hooked in the clear, cold water will outfight anything its size. Some of them have size, too. An Explorer will return with a mark on his paddle to show the length of the one he caught -- it may be as much as 47 inches. Weight usually can be guessed at, unless the guide carries a "De-Liar" fish scale, but such a fish should weigh in at from 15 to 25 pounds. More often, when such a giant is hooked, the unskilled angler fails to play it properly and loses lure and fish, never seeing what was hooked. The big ones will snap the line and the angler thinks he caught another snag, which also frequently happens.

CAMPING IS VARIED

Camping in such a country is in itself an art. There is a different campsite every night, unless the crew elects to have a "lay-over" on a choice site. Every campsite is different. Few of them would qualify under the standards of the Boy Scouts of America as a choice site. It is virtually impossible to find a level or "gradual slope" open area. However, this is rugged wilderness. So long as there is room to beach and overturn the canoes, large enough opening for a rock fireplace, another spot for a log table and room enough to pitch two or three tents, a site is more than adequate. The Camping Service of the Boy Scouts of America would also withhold approval of the tenting arrangement. The standard calls for 30 square feet per boy -- how they would shudder to find four, five or even six in a 7' x 9' tent! The alternative is carrying six or seven tents, or much larger tents, adding greatly to the weight to be portaged, and resulting in a fruitless search for room to pitch the tents. In August, when insect pests ease up, an occasional crew "roughs it" with no tents at all.

Few of the Explorers have ever camped under such conditions. They soon learn to hang the tents out of trees, using the ridge rope. If poles are required, shear legs are erected at either end. It is a genuine shock to find that stakes cannot be driven in most places, but they learn to "rock down" the corners and to tie side ropes to logs or rocks. There are new experiences, too, in camp food and camp meals. The use of reflector ovens to turn out pies, cakes, corn bread, muffins, biscuits, "darn goods" and "swanovers" (apple turn-overs) and other delicacies on the trails menu appeals to the true camper.

Added to the rugged terrain, portages, falls and wind are frequent rains. Two members of the Canoe Base Committee of the region, Dudley Fitz and Mace Harris, went out the first day and camped overnight with a crew. The next morning, in a downpour of rain, the crew cooked breakfast and broke camp. The two men, both in their sixties, reported how foolish the guide, leader and crew were to get wet merely to make a canoe trip.

The plain truth is that if a crew chose to sit out every rain, they might not get more than five miles from the base. Youthful Explorers do not cross the United States and pay their money to "sack out" in a tent. Conquering the rain is part of the adventure. Rigging a kitchen fly to permit the preparation of a meal, keeping food and bedding dry at sacrifice of all else, and drying out when the rain is over gives a satisfying sense of achievement. You can't keep completely dry, but you don't let the rain lick you.

It is quite a country. It is like nowhere else in the world and a canoe trip through it is like nothing else one will ever do. It is little wonder the base is overwhelmed with applications for the trails and that Explorers return again and again to the Canoe Country.

CHAPTER III - PLANT, EQUIPMENT, STAFF

A canoe base is not an elaborate affair. It is designed for utility rather than beauty. The essential ingredients are a kitchen, mess hall, outfitting and storage space, housing for Explorers and staff, and necessary latrines and showers.

As described in the opening chapter, the Sommers Canoe Base has the kitchen and mess hall combined in one building, called the Lodge. It was built at an original cost of little more than $10,000. It is 36' x 56' and will accommodate about 100 for meals. It is presently adequate in every respect except for the need to add more refrigeration and there is room for that. Its present value is $40,000 and replacement cost would exceed this amount by considerable.

The outfitting and storage building is the two-story Bay Post, 28' x 50'. The lower floor has a workshop and tool room and storage space for 60 tents and 58 canoes, as well as providing working space during the summer. The upper floor has storage space for packs, paddles, life jackets, food, mattresses, merchandise for sale, storage lockers for gear that crews do not take on the trails, and the base Trading Post. It was built at a cost of $6,000 and today is valued at $12,000 and replacement cost would be about that amount.

Overnight housing for crews checking in to start their trip and again at the end of the trip are four-man tents on wooden platforms and frameworks, 10' x 14'. Tents are built with a screened window and a zippered netting front closure. Four cots with mattresses are the only furnishings. There are 27 tents sufficient to house 108 at one time. Platforms and tents cost approximately $100 each and could be replaced for that amount.

Staff housing takes the form of two-man tents, similar to the crew tents. There are 14 such tents, 9' x 9', costing $85 each and with like replacement value.

A two-story staff building, called the Tepee, was constructed in 1955, to provide a recreation room, locker storage, shower, toilet and storage space. It is 20' x 36' and its cost was $6,500.

The Sauna (Finnish name for steam bath) houses not only bath and showers but also the main latrine and wash-house. Traditional with Finn families (the population of Ely is about 50% Finnish extraction), a sauna is essentially a stove surrounded with rocks which become red-hot when the stove is fired. Water dashed on the rocks fills the room with steam. Most campers have the first steam bath of their lives at the base and loud is their praise. One crew at a time can be accomodated and on the day of a return trip, the sauna is busy most of the afternoon. It is the only genuine bath of the trip, because out on the trails, the cold water discourages leisurely loitering and in fact effectively prevents thorough cleansing.

In the steam room, three tiers of benches are provided. The steam rises, carrying the heat to the ceiling first and thence to the top bench level. At first, it seems intensely hot and makes breathing difficult. Profuse sweating starts immediately and it becomes more bearable. Ten minutes is about the

limit for most first-timers -- it is said the Finns become inured to the heat and can stand an hour or more. The showers are adjacent and one may interrupt the bath for a shower and return to the heat chamber for another session.

There are two smaller latrines - outdoor privies of the WPA type - on the property.

The only other structures are a 24' x 20' log Director's cabin, a smaller wooden building housing the water pump, and one large enough to hold two barrels of gasoline.

TRAIL EQUIPMENT

Equipment for use on the trails is of major importance to the operation. An average crew needs five canoes, 12 paddles, 12 packs, two or three tents, a kettle pack, a kitchen fly, 12 life jackets and covers, and ground cloths. A total of 28 crews may be on the trails at one time and a reserve of each item is necessary in case of damage to equipment and for oversize crews.

Three types of canoes are used. Canvas-covered canoes are traditional - they were used long after commercial outfitters converted to aluminum canoes. The base owns both 16-foot and 17-foot canvas canoes. They are more easily handled in wind and rough water. Canvas canoes will out-travel aluminum canoes in the water, largely because of easier steering. They are more susceptible to damage on rocks and reconditioning each season is a laborious process.

Aluminum canoes are somewhat more stable and blows by rocks only scratch or dent them. Grumman is the only quantity builder of aluminum canoes and the pattern used rides high in the water, presenting a relatively flat bottom with only a token keel. Even without wind, each paddle stroke deflects the canoe from its course, so the stern man needs to devote almost all of his energy to steering. In wind and waves, the canoe bobs like a cork, and becomes almost unmanageable in heavy going.

The base has 35 aluminum jobs. The guides, used to the quiet canvas canoes, protest the noise made by the aluminum canoes, both in paddling and portaging. One guide said, that with the aluminums, there was no problem of knowing exactly where his crew was at all times - he could hear the boom-boom of the canoes a mile or more away.

The aluminum canoe possesses another advantage. A dry canoe weighs in at a given amount. A 17-foot canvas canoe will range from 77 to 90 pounds. (The older it is, with paint and varnish building up on it, despite best sanding, the more a canoe weighs.) When it is wet, soaked by water outside and rain inside, it will pick up ten to 15 pounds. An aluminum canoe will weigh less than a canvas canoe of the same size, will not increase with age, and when wet, will gain no more than a pound or so. Relatively unimportant in most uses of a canoe, these factors loom large where portages are so long and so frequent, combined with the age and maturity of the Explorers who must portage the canoes.

The third type is the "fiberglas" canoe. There are numerous variations of the process. In Ely, a firm has built canvas canoes to our specifications for years. There are now building identical canoes up to the point of covering. Instead of canvas filler and paint, the frame is covered with glass cloth impregnated with a plastic resin that hardens to a rock-like finish which resists blows from a hammer. About six coats of the resin, to which the desired color has been added, are used.

The base staff judge the fiberglas canoes to be the best of the fleet. They handle like canvas canoes, pick up less weight from water, and can take the punishment almost as well as the aluminum canoes. They have been in use only three seasons, and their lasting qualities have not been demonstrated. Reconditioning so far has consisted only of cleaning and revarnishing the interior. The exterior shows scratches and scraped spots which will need another coat of resin-paint to restore the original condition. We have found a tendency to crack, requiring extensive patching.

An all-fiberglas canoe has been developed. The samples seen were heavy and probably not well-adapted to portaging. Testing has not been done and judgment is reserved for the present.

At five canoes per crew, 125 canoes are needed. In actual practice, some crews only use four canoes and the 125 canoes provide a margin of safety. However, some canoes must be held over for repairs and some over-large crews make the trip. Thus, 128 canoes are the present base fleet.

"WITH PACK AND PADDLES"

Ash paddles, although slightly heavier than spruce, are used because of the punishment they absorb on the trails. Few ash paddles are broken, but the life of a spruce paddle is short. Only about 290 are in use at one time, but in order to provide proper sizes, a larger stock must be maintained. Also, it is the base practice to permit an Explorer to purchase the paddle he has used, if he so desires. Thus, the base purchases 800 paddles a season in a variety of sizes. It has been found desirable to fit each person with a paddle whose length falls between his chin and his nose. Consequently, although they are not commercially offered in such lengths, a purchase is made of 4'6", 4'9", 5', 5'3", 5'6", 5'9" and 6'. Few can handle the last two lengths.

Three types of Duluth packs are supplied. Two are standard, called #2 and #3. The #2's are suitable for the kettle pack and one person packing alone. The #3's will handle tents and personal gear for two or even three campers. For the food packs, a pack with a rectangular, reinforced bottom, similar in size to #3, was designed. A cardboard box is fitted inside it to afford rigidity. A considerable number of packs will require repairs in a season, so the inventory includes a reserve supply. There are 144 food packs, 91 #2's and 290 #3's.

Two types of tents are used, both 7' x 9'. They are wall tents and wedge or "A" tents. The A-tent has no side-walls - ropes attach midway between ridge and base to "belly out" the sides. Both have bobinette mosquito netting sewed across the opening, complete with zipper, and ridge ropes are standard equipment. Most usually, the tents are hung out of trees, supported by shear legs and with corners rocked down or tied to logs and trees. Because of weight limitations and campsite room for tents, each crew uses only two or three tents and 65 tents are adequate.

The kettle pack contains all the utensils and tools. Nesting kettles, frying pans with collapsible handles, a reflector oven, several cake and pie tins, a cloth case with forks, spoons, can opener and a spatula; a shovel, axe, and a saw complete the pack. The army 20-man cooking kit and the 2-man mountain kit are satisfactory. After trying innumerable designs of ovens, the base evolved its own design, durably built of stainless steel. Aluminum ones soon became bent and broken; other metal rusted and burned out; and although somewhat heavier, the stainless steel ones, weighing in at about four pounds, are proving their value.

A small folding bushman-type saw was tried the last three seasons and has almost replaced the axe with considerable more safety. In wet, rocky country, an axe is more dangerous than otherwise, and the saw will do about everything the axe will do in less time and with less effort.

LIFE JACKETS REQUIRED

In its 33 years of operation, the base has had only one fatal accident. It was the drowning of a 44-year old assistant advisor who had not been swimming in 20 years. He became panicky when his canoe capsized in rough water, and in fact, may have suffered a heart attack. He was incapable even of holding onto a canoe. Lifted out of water into another canoe, he caused that canoe to overturn also and he was lost. Because of this, for four years now, everyone has been outfitted with life jackets. Poor swimmers are required to wear them at all times on the water and all others in rough water and near waterfalls. The type used is a kapok-filled, adjustable jacket with a front zipper closure. While not being worn, they are encased in a water-repellent cover and tied under the seats, ready for use when needed. Accepted with reluctance by the base staff at first, they have repeatedly proved their value and are now admitted to be essential.

A 10' x 10' tarp which can be rigged as a kitchen fly is supplied each crew. Nothing will take its place for cooking in a downpour of rain. The center is hung out of a tree and poles support the corners. It must be high so it can include the fireplace area. The design now used has a quarter-inch rope sewed all the way around the edge, with rope corner loops.

Individual ground cloths have been replaced by a tarp large enough to cover the floor of the tent. It can be tied to the corners. Sewn-in floors are objectionable because of the mud and trash that is tracked inside in wet weather and the difficulty of cleaning the floor. The ideal, although expensive, would be a floor fitted with a zipper all around, so it could be removed for cleaning.

STAFF REQUIREMENTS

The need of more staff members has increased as base attendance has grown. To handle a 1500 season, the necessary staff has been found to be:

A Director, who has been one of the Region Ten Deputies, in a position to devote year-round attention to promotion, organization, purchasing, staff procurement and other problems, although also carrying additional regional assignments.

An office secretary to devote a major portion of her time to correspondence, bulletins, mailings, film bookings, bookkeeping and other clerical work. One of the regional secretaries has been assigned these duties. Neither the Director or secretary are charged to the base budget - all other personnel are on duty only for the season and are so charged.

A minimum of three adults (more are usually employed) are required -- an Assistant Director whose chief responsibility is base facilities and all equipment; a Guide Chief who supervises the trail staff; and a head cook, in charge of the kitchen and dining room.

Additional staff and duties are:

Assistant Guide Chief who is also charged with responsibility for the water-front program.

Ranger in charge of pumps, motors, maintenance and tent housekeeping.

Storekeeper in charge of Trading Post and issuing supplies.

25 trail guides.

A driver to transport supplies, food and personnel.

A second cook.

Two "bull" (assistant) cooks.

In addition, twenty "swampers" who are 17-year old Explorer candidates for staff positions, spend three weeks working at the base and assisting guide on the trails. Swampers are unsalaried and pay no fee.

Primary source of adult members has been school men who are free for the summer. Other staff members are college students, a considerable number of pre-medical, medical or ministerial students. Only the "bull" cooks, ranger, storekeeper and driver are under 18 years of age - about half the guides are over 21. An attempt is made to keep staff members two or more years, which has been highly successful.

Salaries, for guides and comparable staff men, are $35 to $45 per week and the season is about 11 weeks. Those under 18 are paid $20 to $30 per week. Top adults are paid up to $70 per week. Total salaries were $17,600 in 1956.

LIMITATIONS ON SEASON

The season of 11 weeks allows one week for staff training and ten weeks for operation. This cannot be extended more than a few days. College students are not available earlier and the starting of school in the fall puts an end to the flow of customers.

This limitation of length of season and the maximum capacity of dining room, tent area, outfitting and storing space puts a practical limit of 160 crews a season, or from 1700 to 1880 total attendance. No changes, not already made, will permit more expansion without adding more of everything, including basic buildings. The 3½ acre site is congested now - the only feasible means of increasing capacity is the establishment of one or more similar bases elsewhere.

CHAPTER IV - DEMAND FOR CANOE TRIPS

Orginally attendance was entirely on an individual basis. Applications were made by individuals so promotion was individually done also. There was a direct connection between the difficulty of promoting on this basis and the attendance. Likewise, there were less Scouts of Explorers age, and quite early the minimum age limit was set at 15 years of age. This was lowered to 14 years of age in 1949 when Explorer age was lowered.

In 1947, the plan of operation was changed to handle reservations on a council basis. Councils, in accepting a reservation, agreed to provide leadership and supervise transportation. Promotion then shifted so that councils dealt with individuals - the region dealt only with councils.

By 1951, popularity of the trails had increased to the point where demand for space outstripped the capacity at the base. Since that time, the region has done little more in the way of promotion than to announce schedules.

As a consequence, the regional efforts on promotion have been diverted to aid the promotional efforts of councils. Brochures are supplied for council use; films and slides are provided, both rent-free, and the region pays shipping and insurance charges one way. Tips on promotion and a constant stream of information are supplied to councils.

EXTENT OF USE

In the beginning, only Region Ten Scouts made canoe trips. When councils from other regions began taking advantage of the opportunity, they soon outnumbered those from Region Ten. This continued until 1952; since that time, attendance has been about equally divided between Region Ten and outside-region councils.

In 1956, 59 councils had delegations on the trail; the largest number from a Region Ten council were from Viking Council of Minneapolis, Minnesota, with 14 crews; the largest outside the region came from Coronado Council of Salina, Kansas; Last Frontier Council of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; East Texas Council of Tyler, Texas and Kaw Council of Kansas City, Kansas; each with five crews. All of the 12 regions and 39 of the 48 states have been represented on the trails.

GROWTH OF EXPLORING

Growth of Exploring has come and will continue only to the extent activities are attractive to boys of Explorer age. District and council activities are imperative but in addition, opportunities like Philmont and the canoe trails are vital.

The Exploring program has not hit its stride membership-wise, but there are indications this will happen within the next span of years.

At the December, 1954, National Staff Meeting, the statement was made that in a few years, Philmont would be turning Explorers away. This has already been happening at the Canoe Base. Any degree of Exploring growth will flood all present facilities far beyond capacity.

CHAPTER V - WHY CANOE TRIPS?

Councils operate camps to help troops and posts do what they cannot do for themselves. This is accepted as standard operating procedure.

By the same token, the National Council operates Philmont, Regions Seven and Ten operate Canoe Bases because it is not practical for councils to do so for themselves. Some few might do so, but all except the largest would be denied the opportunity.

INDIVIDUALS BENEFIT

There is a long catalog of benefits derived by individual Explorers, attested to by the experience of many, as well as by observation of staff members.

The Explorer on a canoe trip realizes the value of teamwork. Such a trip is not possible without it. Its value is apparent at every point of the way. The effect of the lack of teamwork on the part of one or more members of the crew also teaches a valuable lesson.

The necessity of long-range, thorough planning and organization is also strongly apparent to Explorers. A trip may begin with a reservation as much as twenty months ahead of the starting date. It continues from there through the payment of fees, equipment, transportation and other details. At the base itself, from start to finish, planning and organization are apparent at every step.

The experience of travel is in itself beneficial. Except for those few nearby councils, it will be one of the longest, if not the longest trip, Explorers have made without their parents. They will see and do many things of an educational nature and benefit by the travel.

A canoe trip develops self-reliance. Responsibilities are assigned to each member as he grows in abilities as well as confidence in his abilities. In learning to take care of himself in the wilderness and to carry his share of the load, he is learning to face situations and conditions back home with confidence. It has truly been said, "He enters the wilderness a boy and comes out a man."

The Boy Scouts of America professes to be a leader in camping, but it is not to be assumed that every Scout who has attained to the age of 14 is a proficient camper. The good campers stand out as isolated individuals, according to the guides - a considerable have some elementary knowledge of camping skills but unfortunately, many have the barest minimum of skills and ability.

It is the writer's considered view that the type of camping experience gained on the canoe trails is the finest possible. Good as Philmont is, it is surpassed here. The planning must be more thorough, because, for instance, there is no opportunity to make replacements for errors in food planning; all the cooking gear needed must be carried with you; tents must be pitched and properly so; fires, cooking shelters, orientation and navigation become important and worth knowing. One finds himself in a situation where good camping becomes a must, and where he - no one else - must do it.

BECOME BETTER CAMPERS

That almost everyone taking a trip - there are exceptions - becomes a much better camper, no matter how good he was before - is reported by guide after guide. The guides are the best campers that can be found, in addition to their other qualities of leadership, good moral character, morale-building and safety knowledge. The base has been fortunate to have such a high caliber of personnel over many years. Their influence toward better camping is tremendous; they are the objects of "hero worship" to the impressionable Explorers who are readily led to adopt the best practices.

The appreciation of nature is sharpened in the wilderness. For the first time in the lives of most boys - and men, too - they are completely surrounded by nature, by day and night. There is no evidence of artificiality - only water, trees, rocks, sky, the roughest kind of trails, and occasionally, a wild creature or bird. Wildlife is not abundant in the wilderness. Even birds are not plentiful, nor are there numerous varieties. One has to earn the right to come upon a deer, a moose, beaver, ducks, loons or other creatures. Even bears shun man unless pressed by hunger to seek to share his food supplies. The silence, the majesty of the forest and endless water come to surround you and you feel a part of the wilderness.

When a rare contact with wildlife occurs, it becomes a highlight. It receives much more attention than the same thing would back home. An Explorer appreciates everything the wilderness has the rest of his life.

Making a man of a boy is more than a figure of speech. Explorers on an eight-day trip will develop physical stamina to a remarkable degree. When they first shoulder a canoe, they stagger and soon set it down. By the end of the trip, they boast of being able to carry it over a portage without resting. They begin by carrying one pack with difficulty and end by double-packing as a matter of course. They can paddle for only a few minutes at a time at the start and they return swinging a paddle with the untiring ease of an old voyageur.

One Explorer post from Bismarck, North Dakota, made the canoe trip just before football practice started. The entire membership of the crew were on the team and when they returned, the coach said they had never been in such good physical condition. The team won the state football championship that year, too.

NO TRIP FOR SISSIES

There is nothing sissy about a canoe trip. It calls for the utmost in physical strength and stamina. When you reach the end of the day's tenth portage, after having paddled another fifteen or twenty miles, your pack feels so heavy that you are sure you're leaving tracks an inch deep in the rock behind you. At night, you are so tired, even the "bed rock" feels soft.

Public property and rented property is universally abused and misused by most people. The attempt is to teach Cubs, Boy Scouts and Explorers the importance of respect and care for other's property. On a canoe trip, Explorers are supplied with equipment. Some of it is relatively fragile - canoes and paddles - and must be handled properly. While packs are more durable, straps will tear off if mishandled. All the equipment is of vital importance, since nothing is carried on a canoe trip that is not needed. Care must be taken that it is not damaged or broken, because it is so important to the trip.

Further, crews are required to recondition equipment to be ready for the next crew. Leather straps are oiled, canoes sanded and paint-spotted, kettles are cleaned to original soot-free shine and everything else restored. In addition, the crew posts a deposit on the equipment and loss or excessive wear is charged. Every emphasis is placed on care of equipment and property - for selfish reasons and for the benefit of others who are to use the equipment and property after them. Campsites, no matter what the condition found, must be left scrupulously clean, with a supply of firewood, tent poles stacked, fireplace clean.

The lesson is well-taught and well-learned. It cannot miss having carry-over value as the crew members return home.

LEADERS IMPORTANT

Explorer crews, back home in the troop or post, elect crew leaders but the choice is not too important or the consequence of a wrong choice too drastic. The crew leader of a canoe trails crew has a position of real leadership and responsibility. The navigator, quartermaster and cook also become leaders with responsibility. Every member of the crew is entrusted with tasks for which he is held accountable and the carrying out of which are important to the success of the trip. This training is invaluable to the individual and the experience contributes to his proper growth.

Certain benefits accrue to those crews composed of the members of a troop or post back home. The experience of a canoe trip provides program material long before the trip and afterwards.

The leadership ability of individuals is strengthened and if their own advisor makes the trip, his leadership is tremendously enhanced. The practice of leadership carried out on the trails carries over into other projects.

A crew returning home from the trails is a working unit such as few Explorer crews ever become. Their shared experiences, the successes, the vicissitudes weld them into a cohesive unit. They will work better together ever after. The experience of many crews attest to this.

An added benefit, the effect of which is evidenced in the effects above, is the mutual respect and admiration engendered. A good leader, navigator, cook or quartermaster, in carrying out his assignments capably, will earn the respect of his associates. Even the least member of the crew who shoulders his share of the load and slogs through mud and rain uncomplainingly, raises his stature in the eyes of his fellows -- and in his own.

The same benefits could be afforded more Explorers but only by expansion of canoe base facilities. The length of season has reached practical limits. There is barely enough time now to prepare the base and train the staff before the last week in June. The addition of a permanent maintenance staff could move this back not earlier than June 15, permitting another 150 for the season. At the end of the summer, the staff is available but Explorers must return to school and there would be no customers.

CAMPERS EVALUATE TRIP

While some Explorers take a matter-of-course attitude about the experience on the trails, almost all of them value the experience highly. Some of them are

articulate at the time — others appreciate it more later. Many of them say they would like to return but in fact only an estimated 10% can. The advisors probably evaluate the experience better than Explorers are able to do, and almost to a man, they praise it highly.

Occasionally a misfit Explorer (and less often an advisor) makes the trip. If one is not fitted to outdoor living and cannot adapt to it, the trails can be an unhappy experience. This could be diagnosed at home and such boys and advisors can be discouraged from coming.

Both advisors and crew leaders are invited to appraise the guide and to offer criticisms of the base and program at the end of their trip. Most of their comments are directed at the guide, indicating how important he is in the trip.

Some of the comments, put into writing, by both boys and men follow

"The canoe trails are well organized and operated. The personnel is high type and I enjoyed it very much. It certainly is good for the boys. I would recommend that all Explorers take the trip if they have the opportunity."
— Advisor Lee A. Marshall, Coronado Council, Kansas

"Our trip was the most wonderful and colorful experience that we could ever hope to have. One thing will always stand out in my mind more than anything else. This is the wonderful personality of the guide and staff at the Base. They are the cream of the crop. I never ever hope to meet better people than these."
— Advisor Melvin LaRue, Coronado Council, Kansas

"We had a great trip and think the whole operation a top Scouting experience for our boys. Having eaten like kings and ended the trip with no food surplus at all, is, in my opinion, too remarkable a piece of planning to let pass without comment."
— Advisor Art Webb, Pheasant Council, South Dakota

"I personally enjoyed the trip very much. I think it is a wonderful thing that so many of our Explorers can take advantage of such an opportunity and surely want to congratulate the base staff for the great job they are doing for our boys."
— Advisor Clifford Olson, Great Plains Council, N. D.

"The guide always did what he felt the crew wanted and needed."
— Advisor Robert Hansen, Pheasant Council, S. D.

"Not having had too much experience in this phase of Scouting and operation, it's new to me, but I certainly congratulate you on your choice of guides and personnel, your clock-like operating and the wonderful enthusiasm shown all through the camp."
— Advisor Bill Dornack

"This was the most outstanding, exciting trip I have ever taken. It is well conducted and operated by well-trained guides."
— Crew Leader Ralph Armstrong

"This was the outstanding experience our council has participated in during my association with it. The caliber of the guide was far above any expectations we had. Experiences like this really give boys and leaders an insight to real Scouting. Our council certainly appreciates the opportunity to operate as one of your crews and the fine manner in which the base is operated."
— Advisor Tom Ford, Yocona Council, Mississippi

"The results of this trip are even more outstanding in quality in every respect than my most optimistic and enthusiastic expectations would have predicted. May all crews have the blessing of either having our guide or the guidance of one of similar sterling qualities."

— Reverend John R. Washington, Pennsylvania
Chaplain for Winnebago Council, Iowa

"Very good experience and fun. Everyone had a good time - keep up the good work. I hope we can come back and get the same guide. He is very good and showed us a good time."

— Crew Leader Dale Falsom

"I'm sure each of our crew will have something to talk about for years to come. Our experience was one of the "High Type Adventures" Scout leaders dream about."

— Advisor Harold O. Evans, Tecumseh Council, Ohio

"All of us want to thank all of you there at the base for such a wonderful time. Though everyone admits he never worked so hard in his life, or was so wet, he wouldn't trade it for anything. Talk and pictures will keep memories sharp. We appreciate the friendliness and helpfulness of everyone at the base."

— Advisor Charlie Breish, Miami Valley Council, O.

"Our two crews returned from the canoe base with enthusiasm galore. Without a doubt, this group was more enthusiastic over the experience than any Scouting activity they have participated in."

— Scout Executive Earl McKeehan, Cherokee Area Council, Okla.

"Jerry is one of the finest young men I know. He has a wonderful personality, sense of humor and a gentleman in the first degree."

— Advisor R. L. Palmer

"I cannot express my opinion of our guide high enough. Due to his efforts and guidance and friendship, I feel the boys in my crew have had their lives enriched."

— Advisor Jerry DeHoff

"I attempted to be a good advisor and maintain certain standards in our group but I'm sure Ray would have gotten along with a wooden Indian for an advisor. His patience, friendliness, sense of humor and complete willingness to do anything necessary to make our trip a success, plus his continued insistence on helping the boys to do things for themselves made the trip more wonderful because of what the boys were able to learn in skill and especially in group living and espirit de corps. Your base and program are to be highly commended. It was an experience that none of us shall soon forget."

— Advisor Dr. John E. Tyrell, Iowa

"It would be hard to find a finer type of man for guide. John is a physical power-house, quiet, speaks in a firm, even voice, gets things done, knows how they should be done, and above all is clean in talk and action, a Christian gentleman and a fine Scout."

— Advisor D. F. Foote, Longs Peak Council, Colo.

"I have been on several trips and have never had a more competent guide. I have been to two YMCA bases and neither can compare to Sommers. Next year there will be more boys from Sioux Council than this year."

— Advisor Roger Sherman, Sioux Council, S. D.

"I have never met a young man of such skill and especially wholesome spirit that literally "carried" our crew. I avoid being too enthusiastic on references, but Hunter rates this. Many times during the trip the boys volunteered the same appreciation."

— Reverend Amel Whitwer, Great Plains Council, N.D.

"Our guide was truly outstanding in every respect. I could not, even if I tried, honestly criticize his conduct, deportment, work or any other facet of his personal characteristics in any way. The best wish I could make for any crew is that they have Bob - or someone exactly like him - to guide them."

— Advisor Randall S. Pemberton, Gamehaven Council, Minnesota

"Bill is one of the most outstanding guides I have seen. He has more energy and enthusiasm than anyone in camp. He was very unselfish and did more than he was supposed to. His leadership and ability to get along with people made possible better teamwork than I thought possible between me and my crew."

— Crew Leader Mike Turner

"Having been with guides at other regional events and at Philmont, I want to give additional comments on our guide. The assistance he gave us upon arrival at our various campsites was far beyond his regular duties. The boys and myself learned a great deal from him in all phases of Scouting. On Sunday, his assistance in conducting the religious services was outstanding. It is seldom you find a young man with the ability Paul has. We enjoyed our trip very much."

— Advisor A. H. Brentling, Jr., Colorado

"In my opinion, we had a very good guide. He knows when to talk and when not to. On the whole trip, he did not tell us what to do but only made suggestions. He is very good at teaching a crew camping skills. His water safety program is tops. He let us set our own pace when traveling. When we met other people on the trails, he was always polite and always willing to help them."

— Crew Leader Richard Hursh

"The guides at Sommers Canoe Base are "tops". Each of our crews gave glowing accounts of their respective guides. Our guide Danny exemplified to me what a good guide should be. While the country is wonderful, the experiences that the boys had would be far from valuable as they are if it were not for the intelligence and fine work of the guides at the base.

— Scout Executive J. Hurley Hagood, Longs Peak Council, Colo.

CANOE TRAILS VS. PHILMONT

Base staff are constantly asked, and also Explorers and men who have been both to Philmont and on the trails are asked, "How do the Canoe Trails compare with Philmont?" The writer has been to Philmont only for a Fellowship at a time when the camping department was not in operation. Therefore, his knowledge cannot be based on complete knowledge, but is largely secondhand.

Explorers frequently answer, "They're hard to compare - they're so different." They are no doubt thinking of the difference in a land and water experience. Actually, they are not so different in fundamentals. Sometimes, they point out minor things; if they make comparisons detrimental to Philmont, most of them have their origin in staff or problems arising from the much larger number of participants at Philmont.

Several of the Base staff have been to Philmont. One guide had worked for a number of seasons at Philmont before coming to the Base. However, most opinions are prejudiced by loyalty and enthusiasm for the Base.

The best composite judgment possible is here attempted.

Philmont possesses the advantage of facilities for a variety of experiences in Scouting. Financially, it has been able to enrich its program and it has used the best brains of Scouting in planning and carrying out its development. It affords a rich and satisfying experience for upwards of 9,000 Explorers annually.

By comparison, the Canoe Trails has only one type of experience to offer. Only minor variations have been attempted. Prior to the 1955 season, the guides at the Base were superior in experience and training to those at Philmont. That season, Philmont began employing more mature guides, which is a forward step. The Base pattern, which needs a guide for every crew, enables the guide to become more intimately associated with his charges and to exert a great influence on their impressionable minds.

The wilderness is responsible for the principal differences in operation. The necessity to provide for all trail needs has an appeal of its own. The quality of camping required is greater - tents must be pitched by the crew - meals prepared almost entirely from raw ingredients - latrines must be established at each campsite. It is neither necessary nor possible to regiment choice of campsites for a crew, nor to closely time the daily travel schedule. The changes adopted for Philmont's operation in 1956 parallel the best in canoe trail methods.

Philmont and the the Canoe Trails are in no true sense competitiors. In a single season, Philmont may come to serve 10,000 and the Base 1600 Explorers. There are about 430,000 Explorers. In a given year, less than 3% attend both of them together. There are plenty of customers available. As Explorer membership increases, more and more will be knocking on the doors of both camps.

VI - EXPANSION OF BASE

What would expansion mean, in terms of advantages to Exploring? The primary purpose of expansion and the immediate benefit would be that of serving greater numbers. The secondary purpose would be an enrichment of program.

No study has ever been made of the possibilities of broadening the program at the Base. A cursory review indicates the following would be possible:

The addition of Junior Leader and Senior Crew Leader training. While not strictly matching the traditional Base pattern, both can be done.

Combination canoe and boat trips. A shuttle boat service on large lakes like Lac la Croix and Basswood, now avoided by canoes, would open up new possibilities and experiences.

Mineralogical expeditions, particularly in Minnesota, where commercial investigators have revealed a wealth of minerals.

Exploring expeditions, for a variety of purposes, are possible. One might retrace the Dawson Trail, or the history-laden trip from Grand Marias on Lake Superior over the nine-mile Grand Portage and through Quetico Park to Fort Francis, Ontario.

Animal trapping might be more difficult because of game regulations in the canoe country. It might be investigated.

Combination canoe and back-packing expeditions might be tried, making more accessible some areas now difficult to reach and affording a varied type of experience.

Field sports — rifle, archery, moskeet — could be offered. Again Forest Service and Quetico Park cooperation would be needed.

Forestry, perhaps in cooperation with the Forest Service, could be studied in an outpost camp as a part of certain scheduled experiences.

Expansion of facilities at the present Base site is not the best solution. To do so would require (a) more acreage; (b) more parking space; (c) more outfitting space (d) more storage space; (e) more dining room space; (f) in addition, the waterfront space would be overtaxed and campsites within a ten-mile range of the Base would be over used and overrun. While all of these could be surmounted, it would not be economical to do so.

MULTIPLE BASES

A preferred solution would be multiple outfitting points. The pattern would be similar to Philmont's, with a crew starting one place and ending at another. One might be on Crane Lake, or at some point on the Ely-Buyck road to the west of the present Base; a second on the Gunflint trail. All are presently in use by others, sites are believed available, they can be reached by road and afford access to the canoe country. An intriguing possibility opened up in 1955 when the Canadian Highway to Atikokan was completed, making possible shuttle trips through the park, either originating or ending in Canada.

The use of multiple outfitting points possesses inherent advantages. Capacity is increased. Trips may be made without retracing parts of the route. More canoe country area is made available for trips. Cost would not be multiples of the present costs, it is estimated.

Multiple outfitting points also present certain disadvantages. The lack of ready communication between the sub-bases would be a handicap. Expansion in itself makes communication — or the lack of it — a serious problem with more on the trails. Crossing and recrossing the Canadian border presents complications of relationships with our neighbor to the north, becoming greater with increased participation. These are not insuperable obstacles.

CONCLUSIONS

The expansion of Canoe Base facilities will be achieved only if certain conditions are met, in the writer's opinion. There are certain conclusions that may be drawn from this study.

1. Demand by Explorers may compel serious consideration of all possible expansion in the near future. If Philmont comes into its own and regularly is filled with 10,000 Explorers and "turns them away" as Jack Rhea has prophesied; if it is recognized as the function of the National Council to provide such opportunities (it is now too far committed to reach any other conclusion); if Exploring "catches fire" and grows as it should and will, such opportunities as Region Seven's and Region Ten's Canoe Base are front-line candidates for consideration. Both are now operating at near-capacity. Region Seven's Base, and the country in which it operates, probably precludes any material expansion.

2. Expansion by establishment of multiple bases and broadening the program is a workable method. It is beyond the resources of Region Ten to erect such additional base or bases.

3. Any considerable expansion must await National Council action. As of now, Region Ten has been advised to "hold the line" where it is. Region Ten has not the finances available for expansion. The National Council is reluctant to assume direct responsibility although it now has "quasi-responsibility" for the Canoe Base. When Philmont reaches capacity and problems there have been resolved favorably, a different outlook may result. The writer will not presume to estimate the cost of such expansion. That would be a matter of determination when expansion came under serious consideration.

4. Before a decision to undertake a program is made, a number of factors not heretofore stated must be weighed.

   A. The land on which the present Base is located is not owned by the Boy Scouts of America. The 3½ acre site is on an annual permit basis from the Forest Service. A forty-acre tract three hundred yards inland (and uphill) from Moose Lake is owned by the Boy Scouts of America, but an attempt to trade did not materialize. Our relationships have been of the best and there is no present reason to foresee any problem in the future. Nevertheless, it might be wiser to construct any future sub-base on land to which title could be secured.

   B. The area utilized for canoe trips is of two categories - the Superior National Forest owned by the United States and the Quetico Provincial Park, owned by Canada.

The Superior National Forest is established, in part, as a recreational area and there is no reason to anticipate it will not so remain. The lumber and power barons have been resisted in the past. The airplane ban battle, to prevent private or commercial interests from exploiting the area, has been virtually won. Two battles still remain. One is with private resorts seeking to commercialize fishing and recreational attractions. They can go no further if the airplane ban is maintained and the "roadless area" is preserved. Without access by air or land, problems of supply by water limit them to a point where they do not threaten the wilderness. The second will be over an exploitation of minerals in the areas. If the minerals should be essential to our economy, they will be developed. However, President Eisenhower has established what can be expected to be the official line. Development will not be permitted to intrude on recreational areas. For the foreseeable future, the use of the Minnesota side by the Boy Scouts of America seems assured.

The use of the Quetico Park on Canada's side has other aspects. It is under the control of the government of a foreign country, however friendly. While our interests would be taken into account in our own country, Canada could not be expected to do so. Over the years, we have built a friendly relationship and have merited the confidence and respect of the park rangers and supervisors and customs officials. We have meticulously obeyed every regulation, irritating as they may have been at times, and today enjoy a favored position with respect to the use of the park.

Evidence of this comes from both official and some unofficial sources. In two recent years, when the forest became dry and forest fires prevalent, we were told the rangers were considering closing the park to all except Boy Scouts. An organization-use fishing license of $2 per boy for all under 21 years of age, available to all Canadians, has been denied to all other American organizations but granted to the Boy Scouts of America.

At our request, the Canadian government, for a number of years, stationed a customs officer at the Base to clear crews through customs. In 1953, at our suggestion, they located a customs officer at our point of entry into Canada and in 1954, established a permanent office on Prairie Portage. In 1954, at our request, the Park supervisor had a ranger meet our crews at Prairie Portage to sell fishing licenses and issue travel permits and in 1955, established a permanent ranger station there. The Canadians have also licensed watercraft used by parties at the rate of $5 per canoe per season, but the Boy Scouts of America were excepted, since we are a non-commercial venture.

A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

An analysis of the future in our relationships with Canada requires an understanding of their position. Canada, since the Quetico Park was established in 1909, has borne all the expense and the park has been used almost exclusively by Americans. They have been in the position of maintaining a park for our benefit. Sale of fishing licenses has been an entirely inadequate source of revenue. A $5 annual guide permit had been assessed in the past but in the 1955 season, the non-resident guide permit was raised to $25. The park rangers advised us to list our guides as "party chiefs" since they were not paid the same rate commerial guides are. While this was evidence of friendliness and desire to be helpful, the Department of Lands and Forests ruled the $25 permit applied to us as well.

In 1954, a new aspect came about. The Canadians completed a road to Atikokan on the northeast boundary of the park, giving access to the park from the Canadian park. Canadians used the park for the first time in 1955. Also, in 1954, the Canadian government decreed the Quetico Park would be a permanent recreational area. For 43 years, it was on a year-to-year basis, requiring that the status be continued each year for another year.

The future of the park seems more stable, and while we cannot speak for the Canadian government, it appears to presage a favorable future for the Boy Scouts of America.

A long-cherished dream of men on both sides of the border has been a Memorial Peace Forest embracing the Quetico-Superior area. Adoption of this would cement the across - the -border areas more tightly together and present a united front against any commercial encroachment on the wilderness.

It is not in the realm of possibility that any large tract of land, similar to Philmont, will be made available for the exclusive use of the Boy Scouts of America in the canoe country. Neither is it probable that any considerable gifts of funds will be made for expansion of canoeing facilities. If a program is undertaken, it must be with the full realization of the policies involved — the funds needed — the physical facilities desired — the limitations of ownership of the area to be used — and with the needs of a growing Explorer segment of the Boy Scouts of America paramount.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Sommers Canoe Base has been described in some detail to show that it is situated where canoe country is accessible and is adequate to serve the purpose for which it is intended. Cost of construction has been met by securing contributions from Region Ten Scouters, both initially and for added structures.

The Superior National Forest and Quetico Provincial Park comprise together an area of more than 7,500 square miles. Of this, the 998,400 acres of Quetico and 1,038,743 acres of the roadless area of Superior National Forest is prime canoeing country, protected by an airplane ban, restrictions on lumbering, mineral exploitation, and designated by the respective countries as recreation areas. No place in the world is better suited to canoe trips.

Cost of plant and equipment is not large. Since the country used for trips is public domain, no costs are involved for structures, roads, and the like. The appendix lists evaluation of the present plant and equipment. The 1956 budget is attached so that operating costs may be judged.

The demand for canoe trips, without extensive promotion, far exceeds present capacity. Indications are the demand will increase rather than diminish.

Operation of Philmont Scout Ranch by the National Council, the Explorer Base by Region Seven and Sommers Canoe Base by Region Ten constitute an endorsement of the principle that such facilities are supplied councils for their use to augment the Exploring program they can provide. There are many values individuals and posts or troops can derive from participation that are of lasting benefit.

There are problems to be solved for Base expansion, but none are insoluble. Capital costs would not be comparable to Philmont and the present fee of $375 for a crew of ten Explorers and an adult Advisor compare favorably with Philmont's fee even though a guide is supplied for every crew and Canadian fishing licenses for Explorers is included in the fee. Operating costs are entirely met out of the crew fees.

The writer reaches the conclusion that an expansion of canoeing facilities for Explorers is an undertaking that can only be done by the National Council and that the National Council should seriously consider such an expansion.

This manuscript is submitted as source material for such consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. After this material is submitted and accepted by the Professional Training Service, permission be secured for wider circulation.

2. That Oren R. Felton be authorized to furnish copies to the Division of Program for study. Exploring Service would be supplied with copies as a part of the Division of Program. Camping Service would also be included.

3. With the approval of the Division of Program and through the division, a study be initiated to determine costs and other phases of the proposal.

4. That at the appropriate time, prior to the study or before its inception, it be brought to the attention of the Chief Scout Executive and Deputy Chief Scout Executive.

5. If the project meets with favorable reception in this process and the Chief Scout Executive recommends it to the Executive Board, it should be implemented as soon as possible. The growing Exploring program and the present emphasis on Exploring are powerful argument.

6. That meanwhile Region Ten carry on the program on the present basis until relieved of responsibility by the National Council. Should the National Council not now see fit to accept the responsibility, Region Ten will of necessity continue operating the Base with little possibility of providing for more Explorers than at present.

APPENDIX A
CANOE BASE EVALUATION

	COST	1956 VALUE
Lodge	$10,114.24	$40,000.00
Cabin	900.00	2,000.00
Bay Post	6,000.00	12,000.00
Sauna-Latrine	1,000.00	2,000.00
Tepee	6,500.00	7,500.00
All other structures	500.00	250.00
Tents and platforms	3,890.00	3,000.00
Water system, pumps	3,000.00	2,500.00
Kitchen equipment	1,500.00	1,000.00
Dining equipment	1,000.00	700.00
Cots and mattresses	1,350.00	800.00
Canoe racks	500.00	400.00
Canoes	24,400.00	20,000.00
Trail tents	1,900.00	1,500.00
Flies	450.00	300.00
Ground cloths	350.00	300.00
Packsacks	2,100.00	1,700.00
Life jackets and covers	3,000.00	2,000.00
Paddles	1,450.00	1,200.00
Kettle packs	1,800.00	1,200.00
Outboard motor	150.00	60.00
Tools	500.00	300.00
REA line, Electrification	1,000.00	1,000.00
Vehicles	4,000.00	2,000.00
Other equipment	500.00	250.00
TOTALS	$77,854.24	$103,960.00

APPENDIX B - CANOE BASE ATTENDANCE

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	TOTAL
LaSalle, Ill.								4				4
Waukegan, Ill.									10	10	10	30
Anderson, Ind.					13							13
Hammond, Ind.									11			11
Indianapolis, Ind.											15	15
Marion, Ind.				10		11					21	42
Richmond, Ind.			10		16			11				37
Detroit, Mich.				11								11
Midland, Mich.											11	11
Green Bay, Wisc.					10							10
Janesville, Wisc.							7					7
REGION VIII	99	126	99	158	89	51	63	130	361	338	389	1903
Colorado Spgs, Colo								4	22	24		50
Denver, Colo.						14					14	28
Greeley, Colo.									36	15		51
Burlington, Ia.		20							29			49
Cedar Rapids, Ia.	15	22	12	40					38	17	23	167
Clinton, Ia.		10							14			24
Council Bluffs, Ia.										11		11
Davenport, Ia.				7				13		36	11	67
Des Moines, Ia.	9	9							34	36	12	100
Dubuque, Ia.									12			12
Independence, Ia.		12										12
Mason City, Ia.	27	11	18	23		27	13	36	49	25		229
Ottumwa, Ia.		10	10							11		31
Sioux City, Ia.				34					13		11	58
Waterloo, Ia.			11	14			4			12	28	69
Hutchinson, Ks.									26	25	21	72
Kansas City, Ks.			5	10					25	11	58	109
Salina, Ks.	18	13		9				35	56	62	56	249
Topeka, Ks.	18	10	12	13		10	14	12	7	7		103
Wichita, Ks.			22							15	24	61
Columbia, Mo.								2				2
Kansas City, Mo.											30	30
St. Joseph, Mo.			9	8			11			14	12	54
Grand Island, Nebr.											22	22
Lincoln, Nebr.							15	28		17	12	72
North Platte, Nebr.											55	55

APPENDIX B - CANOE BASE ATTENDANCE

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	TOTAL
REGION I												39
Framingham, Mass.											39	39
REGION II				8								8
New York, New York				8								8
REGION III			12	17	9			10				48
Allentown, Pa.								10				10
Sharon, Pa.			12	17	9							38
Newport News, Va.											11	11
REGION IV			12	52	31	34	42	50	110	42	82	455
Akron, Ohio						11						11
Canton, Ohio						9						9
Cincinnati, Ohio								12	10	11	21	54
Cochocton, Ohio							8					8
Dayton, Ohio				11				13	23	9	11	67
Hamilton, Ohio									22	11		33
Marion, Ohio				11								11
Massillon, Ohio						14		13			22	49
Sandusky, Ohio									22			22
Springfield, Ohio								12				12
Louisville, Ky.			12	30	31		34				18	125
Paducah, Ky.									33			33
Pikeville, Ky.											10	10
Charleston, W. Va.										11		11
REGION V				6	7			30	37	73	118	271
Eldorado, Ark.				6	7							13
Little Rock, Ark.								30			35	65
Lafayette, La.									26	14	18	58
Tupelo, Miss.									11	24	20	55
West Point, Miss.										24	23	47
Nashville, Tenn.											22	22
Memphis, Tenn.										11		11
REGION VII			10	21	59	11	7	54	84	40	36	322
Aurora, Ill.									12			12
Chicago, Ill.					10					9		19
Danville, Ill.									39			39
Evanston, Ill.					10			30				40
Freeport, Ill.									12			12
LaGrange, Ill.								9				9

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	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	TOTAL
Omaha, Nebr.	12	9										21
Scottsbluff, Nebr.							6					6
Iowa, (undesignated)					75							75
Kansas, (undesigna.)					14							14
REGION IX			58	64	71	203	318	110	197	167	381	1569
Roswell, New Mex.						22	18		22	6	22	90
Bartlesville, Okla.							28		23	9	12	72
Chickasha, Okla.							13			12		25
Enid, Okla.						12						12
Oklahoma City, Okla.											60	60
Okmulgee, Okla.									12			12
Ponca City, Okla.											13	13
Tulsa, Okla.						18	48	27		23	44	160
Abilene, Tex.						33	20	9	33	29	20	144
Amarillo, Tex.									38	38	35	111
Beaumont, Tex.						9						9
Corpus Christi, Tex.							36	6			16	58
Galveston, Tex.								14	9		14	37
Houston, Tex.				28		15	21		28			92
Pampa, Tex.				36		35	23	15			53	162
Paris, Tex.						29	33			12		74
San Angelo, Tex.							13					13
Tyler, Tex.							37	39	18	38	60	192
Waco, Tex.						30	28		14			72
Oklahoma (undesigna.)			41		34							75
Texas (undesignated)			17		37							54
REGION X	330	195	246	217	247	480	558	455	582	674	724	4708
Albert Lea, Minn.			10	24	32	44	42	49	28	15	24	268
Mankato, Minn.			13	25	12	33	39	32	26	25	23	228
Duluth, Minn.			0	9	19	18	11	0	14	12	34	117
Minneapolis, Minn.			30	11	14	30	80	47	100	131	163	606
Hibbing, Minn.			13	18	9	19	17	18	23	20	37	174
St. Paul, Minn.			32	13	30	21	37	37	68	53	118	409
St. Cloud, Minn.			23	10	30	11	12	36	34	34	40	230
Rochester, Minn.			37	30	28	68	63	53	91	94	64	528
Billings, Mont.			0	0	0	35	30	33	24	27	12	161

APPENDIX B - CANOE BASE ATTENDANCE

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	TOTAL
Fargo, N.D.			18	10	19	13	52	22	21	35	64	254
Grand Forks, N.D.			0	3	24	23	10	15	10	12	9	106
Minot, N.D.			15	14	0	37	11	11	14	43	13	158
Bismarck, N.D.			0	10	0	12	19	19	0	4	0	64
Superior, Wisc.			6	0	0	18	26	9	10	11	12	92
Huron, S.D.			18	14	4	46	50	20	49	47	65	313
Rapid City, S.D.			0	0	0	21	23	20	21	26	26	137
Sioux Falls, S.D.			31	25	26	28	36	34	49	85	20	334
Region X (undesigna)	330	195										

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