

REGION TEN
WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS
RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	Spencer, Carl G.
ADDRESS	1955 "B" Ave. N. E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
COUNCIL	
DATE OF TRIP	August 3rd to 16th, 1936
GUIDE	Hugh Leach

PADDLE AWARDS : DATE	
BRONZE	x
GOLD	x
SILVER	

NORTHERN CANOE TRIP of CARL G. SPENCER.

Monday August 3.

Our Cedar Rapids Scouts, two Virginia, Minn. Scouts Hugh Leach and Bill Betts, our guides, comprised the first party that left Hibbard's lodge, for a two weeks canoe trip through some of the lakes of northern Minnesota and Canada. We paddled through Moose, Newfound, Sucker, Birch, Carp, Knife river and made camp on the Canadian side of Knife lake. Had lunch at the portage of Birch lake.

Tuesday August 4.

We canoed through the north arm of Knife lake to Little Knife lake into Cypress lake, where we camped for two days. On a high rocky bluff, just across from the portage, we picked blueberries for pancakes. In the narrows just beyond this point, we caught ten wall-eyed pike, which made us a fine fish fry that night.

Wednesday August 5.

After breakfast, we crossed the lake for an all day hike. We saw moose, deer, bear, beaver and porcupine tracks and marks. I found a dead porcupine, probably killed by a bear. During our hike, we studied trees and plants for the paddle tests. After this strenuous fifteen mile hike (that's what my pedometer read) of climbing cliffs, bluffs, stepping over fallen trees etc., we returned to camp to wash and swim.

Thursday August 6.

In the morning, part of the boys explored the lake by canoes, while others hiked to a small lake south of our camp. In the afternoon we had another tree hike, while some of the boys worked on merit badges,

Friday August 7.

We broke camp early in the morning and set out against a

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strong head wind. Most of the canoes shipped water in this hard struggle against the wind. We made camp early in the afternoon in a secluded bay on Knife lake. A threatening storm broke just after supper, so we went to bed in the rain.

Saturday August 8.

After breakfast Hugh, Bill, the Virginia boys, James Ralston and myself left our camp on Knife lake and returned to the Carp portage for food supplies. The boys left at camp passed merit badge and paddle tests. We arrived at the portage at 10:30 A.M., but the food did not arrive until 8 O'clock that night. We subsisted on two porcupines and pin, blue and June berries. Those remaining in camp had a combination split pea soup and what have you.

Sunday August 10.

We packed and headed for the south arm of Knife lake, from which we portaged into Eddie lake and then into Lake Jean. We later reached Ogishkemuncie after numerous short carry-overs and pot-holes were crossed. Thirteen miles were covered that day.

Monday August 11.

I encountered what I believe was the most worthwhile sight on the whole trip and that was a large Great Blue Heron rookery on Little Saganagua. There were as many as four nests in one pine in which the colony was located. Many of the adult birds could be seen perching on the nests and on neighboring trees. After three hours of paddling around this lake, we finally found the portage into Elton lake on which we made our camp.

Tuesday August 12.

We smashed our way through the toughest portage on the trip, when we went from Elton lake into Hoe lake. At the next portage over a beaver dam, we saw bear and moose tracks. Roe lake was finally

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reached after we had pushed and poled our canoe through a mile of water lilies and boggy swampy land, that would not hold one up. We camped that night on the side of a rocky bluff, that was infested with mosquitoes. In fact we were chewed to pieces. The mosquitoes and the rocks were bad enough, but then it had to rain. (And How.)

Wednesday August 13.

The Tuesday night rain continued through Wednesday morning as we portaged into Fraser lake and then into Thomas lake. We next paddled through a string of pot holes, near which was a foresters camp and a canoe slide. We camped that noon on Ima lake and caught a number of pike for our supper. Don Ross and I passed on our bait-casting and fly casting for distance and accuracy on the smooth rocky shore. (Angling Merit Badge.) The Hunter's Island group passed us here.

Thursday August 14.

Our party broke camp early as we headed for Ensign lake. On the portage between the lakes, I saw a pair of bald eagles and several ospreys. I also saw and photographed a buck deer, a doe and two fawns. The eagles aerie was located about ninety feet above the ground in a large spruce. Immediately following our lunch, we crossed a three-quarter mile portage, into Boot lake, where we made camp for the night.

Friday August 15.

From Boot lake we passed through several lumber camps on the way to Snowbank lake. After canoeing the length of Snowbank, we took a half mile portage into Flash lake, where we camped for the night. The final test on the trees and plants for the Bronze paddle and oral quiz on the history of the borderland waterways for the Gold paddle were given this afternoon. Many large bass were jumping, but the fishermen had no luck.

Saturday August 16.

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Saturday August 16.

After a grand and hearty feast, we dried and packed our equipment. Our last and longest portage of the trip greeted us, as we headed for Moose lake. It was one and one-fourth miles long and mostly down hill. At the end of the portage, we had our last good swim, washed ourselves and our canoes. We arrived at Hibbard's lodge at eleven o'clock, completing, the most wonderful trip any Scout could take- a trip on the Northern Canoe Trails of Region Ten.

