



JOURNAL OF THE TEN MILE RIVER SCOUT MUSEUM — DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE MEMORIES OF T.M.R. CAMPERS

Fall 2008

Volume 2, Whole Number 2

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

By: Dr. Gene Berman
gberman@webspan.net

As I write this on a beautiful almost autumn-like afternoon in mid-September, I wonder where the summer went. Gosh, it seemed to fly by, so fast. It was a very good summer at Ten Mile River, I am pleased to say. From personal experience, I can say my troop and I had a wonderful time at Camp Keowa and



Continued on Page 3

FROM THE EDITOR

By: Fred Gervat
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Greetings to you all! It's a beautiful Fall day as I write this: although the leaves are all down from the trees, the weather seems to be holding up. As the colder weather approaches, don't forget that you can rent the facilities at Ten Mile River for late Fall and Winter activities.



There are many contributions to this issue.

Continued on Page 3

Spotlight on T.M.R. Staff: Jake Pontillo

By: Fred Gervat
fgervat@gmail.com

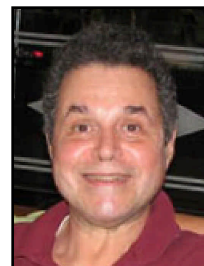
SS: When did you become a Boy Scout? (Town, troop, highest rank.)

JP: I guess I was always crazy for the outdoors, and from my earliest days my head was full of Frontiersmen, Indians, Trappers, fur traders, Colonial soldiers, Pirates, sailing ships and the like. The Boy Scouts offered me the best way of living out those dreams.

The summer before my 9th birthday my family moved from Brooklyn to Queens and it was around September of '55 that I became a Cub Scout. I cannot recall the number of the Pack, but the Den was run by a lady from my Church and a bunch of us in my neighborhood joined. I liked the things we did, it was good making things, but I really wanted more

outdoor activities. I became a Scout in Sept. of '57, when I was 11 and joined Troop 289 Queens.

I enjoyed the Boy Scout program, and if nothing else our troop taught us the basics of Scouting and most particularly First Aid. I cannot recall how many times I have had to use that first aid training I got in the troop. Every meeting we had a segment devoted to first aid training. Our troop was not too strong in the other areas of Scouting; the only time we camped in tents was the camporee, from which we regularly and justifiably returned



Jake Pontillo

Continued on Page 6

2008 MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS

This past summer, the Ten Mile River Scout Museum completed major changes in its design and organization, the biggest since the opening of the Museum Annex in 2002.

We acquired three new showcases and



The Improved Annex

reused two existing showcases. The five showcases now contain exhibits on: T.M.R. post cards and paper, Dan Beard, Religion at T.M.R., The T.M.R. Civilian Conservation Corps Camp and Junior Leader Training at T.M.R.

The showcases were rearranged so that all

Continued on Page 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Scout Museum 'Top-Rated' at T.M.R.	Page 3
"History Detectives" at Camp Alpine	Page 5
Cedric Bodley goes to Binghamton	Page 5
Dr. Kenneth P. Davis Visits Museum	Page 5
Word Search Puzzle Results	Page 6
TMR Was Great in 1978	Page 7
Collecting T.M.R.	Page 9
New Home for Museum Library	Page 11
Museum Web Site News	Page 12



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T.M.R. SMOKE SIGNALS

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum is a not-for-profit entity interested in collecting artifacts, documents, audio and video media illustrating the camping experiences of the Greater New York City's scouting heritage.

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from the chairman's desk

Continued from Page 1

from what I have heard, things were great in the other camps as well.

The Museum got off to a slow start.....as in, "we built it,...why are they not coming to visit?" It soon became apparent that there were several reasons for this. Under the new six-day week, quiet weekends had become hectic at the camps. In the past, with merit badges finished and little program in the camps on Saturday, the Museum had its busiest day. On Sunday, units arriving early or by bus often stopped at the Museum on their way to check in. But now, all the units were being rushed out of camp by 10 AM so the staff members could start their deserved one day off per week. Arriving units did not have to wait for previous units to vacate so they were heading right to their campsites on Sunday.

The bigger problem, we learned, was that unlike activities in the respective camps, the Museum being a distance away had to be more vigorously promoted. While the Camp Directors and/or Program Directors did mention the Museum, it was in passing, along with all the other activities. The difference was the Archery Director was there to promote archery and the COPE Director to promote COPE and the Waterfront Director was there to promote the Aquatic opportunities available at the waterfront. So the Museum was relegated to the back burner. Once our Curators, Bernie and Jake figured that out, they realized they had to attend the Sunday night program meetings with brochures, patch giveaway samples (our 2008 patches glow in the dark), and hours of operation, etc. Once they began to do that, "they did come." The Museum was full for the latter part of the summer. While our numbers did not reach the same as the past two years, due to the slow start, they got very close. And we now realize that each Sunday, the curator staff and helpers must go into the three camps and promote the Museum as described above. Next year we should have our best year ever.

On the future front, nothing concrete (pun intended!) was announced yet about some of the plans for the camp and hopes and dreams for the future by way of the new GNYC Capital campaign. The final recommendations and plan are due out some time before the end of

T.M.R. SMOKE SIGNALS | Fall 2008

2008 and by then we should know what is "in the cards" that is new and exciting. We shall know the plans for the new TMR of the future. Remember, its not only a new Citifield for the Mets and a new Yankee Stadium for the Yankees but soon we hope there will be a new Headquarters Camp for the Scouts and Scouters of the Greater New York Councils. It was sad to see Kunatah closed, especially for me, "a Kuna-kid" who grew up in the south-western part of the reservation. But life has realities and the cost of revitalizing Kunatah was great and the population dwindled more each year until you realize you can't run a camp with more staff than campers some weeks. But the savings can be used and hopefully will be for a better TMR for those who will attend in the future. As I write this, Ten Mile River is still on the National short list as a possible home for the National Jamboree, and is the last local council property still under consideration, although private properties are on the list as well. Multiple sources of new revenue are being investigated that will make the conglomerate of functioning camps into a World Class Operation.

I presented a vision to the Museum Board for our promised new Museum, if and when the move to a new HQ, off Route 26, between Keowa and Kernochan comes to fruition. The vision was a place that all Scouts at camp could hike to or easily get to. A Museum with interactive exhibits and historical exhibits in one part and a Curator show to follow. A Museum with a great Outdoor area such as the one Jake Pontillo has put together at our present location, enhanced by "COPE style" activities being developed by Mike Drillinger.

Meanwhile, the Museum Board continues to raise money both in anticipation of the move in a few years but also to keep improving the existing Museum with new and better exhibits. We hope to complete the back room by summer giving us much more exhibit space in the middle room and a better Scout Shop in the back. Among the thoughts are more interactive stuff for younger boys, and honoring historical TMR figures, Wood Badge, Order of the Arrow, National Youth Leader Training, and a large exhibit as we approach the 100th anniversary of the BSA and the 100th anniversary of New York City Scouting as well. And when we do finally move, what will become of the current Museum building? I "dunno"....maybe we can turn it into a visitor's latrine???

Dr. Berman is founder of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum.

from the editor

Continued from Page 1

We have two contributions by our Chairman, Dr. Berman; and several small and large articles by David Malatzky, plus our usual features. In addition, in this issue, Dr. Jake Pontillo has such an interesting Scouting history that we decided to publish it in its entirety, with only minor editing. This our longest interview thus far.

Which leads me to a request. In addition to all our regular contributors, we want YOU to contribute! Everyone who is reading this has some interesting tales to tell about your time at Ten Mile River. Think back over all the adventures and misadventures that you've had, and tell us about it! If you think you can't write, send us the basic outline and we'll be happy to flesh it out under your byline. Many of you have already done this, and for this we thank you sincerely. Now it's time for the rest of you!

We look forward to your contributions. In the meantime, enjoy this issue!

Fred Gervat is editor of T.M.R. Smoke Signals.



SCOUT MUSEUM TOP-RATED AT T.M.R.

Well, it's official. In 2008 the T.M.R. Scout Museum was the top-rated feature at the Ten Mile River Scout Camps, according to evaluation forms submitted by Unit Leaders. This means that we beat out 55 other rated categories, including the always popular C.O.P.E., Climbing Towers, High Adventure Trek, and Rifle Shooting. In fact, 96.8% of Unit Leaders that responded gave the Museum a favorable rating.

Congratulations to Bernie and Jake for running the best show at T.M.R. Now about that 3.2% . . .

Welcome 2008 Members!

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Join the T.M.R. Scout Museum

Join the T.M.R. Scout Museum - Support the Ten Mile River Scout Museum by joining and keep informed about our latest acquisitions and special Museum activities. Give your time. The Museum needs enthusiastic, knowledgeable volunteers to help in many different ways.

Ten Mile River Smoke Signals - T.M.R. Smoke Signals is the official publication of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum. Published three times each year, it is filled with articles on T.M.R. camp history, camp stories, the latest Museum and T.M.R. Alumni news.

Levels-of-Giving - You can also support the Museum by donating to our "Levels-of-Giving" program. You will receive all of the benefits of Museum membership and be recognized with an engraved metal plate with your name and the year, mounted on a plaque, prominently displayed in the Museum.

Donations - Donations of T.M.R. and other Scouting memorabilia to the Museum by individuals like you are the main way the Museum grows. These include, but are not limited to: photos, color slides, 8-mm film, videos, patches, neckerchiefs, neckerchief slides, uniforms, banners, menus, paper items, etc. We can also photograph items and return them to you, or photograph notable items at your home.

Ten Mile River Wall of Fame - Do you want to recognize some individual, group or organization for their contributions to the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and/or New York City Scouting. A custom-engraved tile on the T.M.R. Wall of Fame, located at the Ten Mile River Scout Museum, might be right for you. Once the tile is installed, a private or public recognition ceremony can be arranged, typically on T.M.R. Alumni Day in July. Tiles are available in a

variety of sizes, colors and materials. Prices range from \$100-\$1,000 per tile. Laser-engraved granite tiles can depict photos, line art and small lettering. Profits from tile sales supports the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and the Ten Mile River Scout Museum.

Become a member of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum and receive the following:

1. A membership card.
2. Three copies each year of the journal of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum: T.M.R. Smoke Signals.
3. A free ad of about 50 words in one issue of T.M.R. Smoke Signals.
4. A free lunch on T.M.R. Alumni Day.
5. 10% discount at the Museum shop (no mail order).
6. A special Member's patch.

Ten Mile River Scout Museum Membership Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone No. _____ E-mail Address _____
TMR Camp _____ Years ____ to ____ Staff Position(s) _____

Museum Dues enclosed (check one):

- ☐ \$25 Membership
Levels-of-Giving (includes Membership)
☐ \$50 Donor
☐ \$100 Friend
☐ \$250 Patron
☐ \$500 Benefactor
☐ \$1,000 Leadership

Credit Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Credit Card Company _____ Expiration Date _____

I authorize Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America to debit my credit card account in the amount indicated above and credit the Greater New York Councils, B.S.A.

Signature _____

Make check or money order out to the "Greater New York Councils, B.S.A." Write account #1-2306-723-00 in the memo part of the check and mail to: Ten Mile River Scout Museum c/o Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10118-0199.

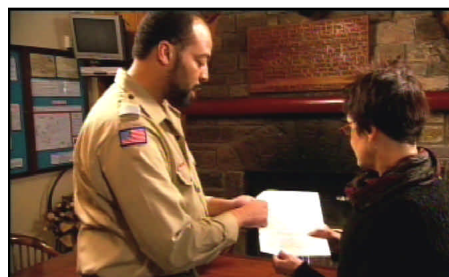
"HISTORY DETECTIVES" AT ALPINE SCOUT CAMP

By: David M. Malatzky
archivist@tmrmuseum.org

The P.B.S. "History Detectives" episode featuring a segment on Franklin D. Roosevelt and Scouting, entitled "Society Circus Program," aired locally Monday, July 14, 2008, at 9:00 PM on WNET (Channel 13). The segment filmed at Alpine Scout Camp was about three minutes long and can be viewed on our YouTube site (<http://www.youtube.com/user/TMRScoutMuseum>).

The segment includes a lot identifiable as Camp Alpine, including the road into camp, the camp sign, the exterior of the Alpine Administration Building and various views of the lounge area inside, including history exhibits placed there by the Museum.

"History Detective" Gwen Wright drives into Alpine Scout Camp and meets Cedric Bodley at the entrance to the camp Administration Building. They both walk in and Ms. Wright asks Cedric why was Franklin D. Roosevelt involved in a 1933 fundraiser for the Boy



Cedric Bodley and "History Detective" Gwen Wright examine T.M.R. historical documents at the Camp Alpine Administration Building.

Scouts that took place in the Waldorf Astoria? Cedric explained that F.D.R. was a strong supporter of the Scouts and that he wanted all boys to have the same outdoor experiences he had as a youth. F.D.R. also convinced many local businessmen and civic leaders to support the Scouts. Cedric noted that Roosevelt got involved with the Boy Scouts in 1921, shortly before he contracted polio. Ms. Wright and Cedric reviewed a document on T.M.R. finances in 1933 and a photograph of F.D.R. from the "Summer Camp!" book,

published by the Museum.

There is some footage on the Civilian Conservation Corps, which was originated by F.D.R. but inspired by the Boy Scouts.

There is also early footage of Scouts running and marching, standing at attention, climbing a ladder and assembling a cart. The most interesting footage is of F.D.R. awarding medals to a group of Scouts, filmed before he contracted polio. Some still images of F.D.R. at T.M.R. and from some Scouting publications were provided by the Museum to P.B.S. for this program.

The entire "Society Circus Program" segment lasted about 20 minutes and covered various aspects of the fundraiser and its organizer, socialite Cobina Wright.

You can purchase the entire History Detectives program (Episode 603, 7/14/2008) from Shop PBS (<http://www.shoppbs.org>). It can also be viewed at the Ten Mile River Scout Museum.

CEDRIC BODLEY GOES TO BINGHAMTON

Cedric Bodley, former T.M.R. Scout Museum Professional Advisor, has been appointed Program Director for the Baden-Powell Council in Binghamton, NY.

Cedric began his career in 1983 as the G.N.Y.C. Camping Services Business Manager. From there he held the positions of Systems Console Operator, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Endowment, Manager of the Information Systems and Support Services Administrator.

After leaving in 1990 to work at Mount Sinai Hospital, Cedric returned in 1998 as a Camping Director in the Camping Service. He

then went on to serve as a District Executive in the Bronx Council and then his current position as Assistant Director of Camping.

Cedric has performed in a number of programmatic roles on the Greater New York Councils staff including staff advisor to Wood Badge, Order of the Arrow Section NE-2A and Director of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps in 2007.



Cedric Bodley

Cedric earned the rank of Life Scout as a Bronx Scout and is a former Lodge Chief of Ranachqua Lodge No. 4, Order of the Arrow. He has his wood badge beads and over 25 years of BSA camping experience as a youth and adult.

Cedric will start his role with Baden-Powell Council on November 1, 2008. As Program Director, Cedric will have overall responsibility for two traditional Boy Scout Camps (Camp Barton and Camp Tuscarora) and other Council responsibilities.

The Ten Mile River Museum wishes Cedric best of luck at the Baden-Powell Council and in the future.

Dr. Kenneth P. Davis visits T.M.R. Scout Museum

By: David M. Malatzky
archivist@tmrmuseum.org

We had a special visitor at the Museum during the Section NE-2C Section Conclave at Camp Keowa (August 22-24, 2008). Dr. Kenneth P. Davis, author of *Brotherhood of Cheerful Service: A History of the Order of the Arrow*, told me that he specifically attended the Conclave so that he

T.M.R. SMOKE SIGNALS | Fall 2008

could visit the T.M.R. Scout Museum. Dr. Davis has a PHD in History, and is an Eagle Scout, a Vigil Honor member and a member of the O.A. National Committee, residing in Alexandria, VA.

I gave Dr. Davis a personal tour of the Museum and he spent at least an hour looking at our exhibits and viewing our videos. He was very impressed with the Ten Mile River Scout Museum and we are mighty glad that he came.



Museum Chairman Gene Berman and Ken Davis (right).

The T.M.R. Wall of Fame

Do you want to recognize some individual, group or organization for their contributions to the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and/or New York City Scouting? A custom-engraved tile on the TMR Wall of Fame might be right for you.

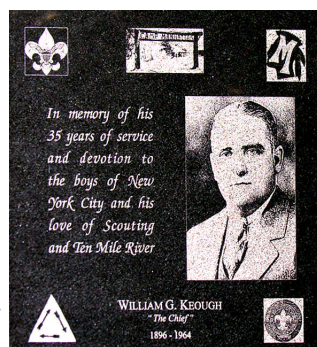
The TMR Wall of Fame is located at the Ten Mile River Scout Museum, Headquarters Camp, Ten Mile River Scout Camps. It consists of two parts:

The T.M.R. Monument - A monument to all 20 T.M.R. camps that operated since 1928. Each tile includes the camp name, Unit and Division names, years of operation and traditional camp logo. On the reverse side is an engraved **T.M.R. Map**, depicting all of the T.M.R. Camps, trails and local landmarks.

The Memorial Wall - Personalized tiles recognizing some individual, group or organization for their contributions to the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and/or New York City Scouting.

Once the tile is installed a private or public recognition ceremony can be arranged, typically on T.M.R. Alumni Day each July. Tiles are available in a variety of sizes, colors and materials. Prices range from \$100-\$1,000 per tile. Laser-engraved granite tiles can depict photos, line art and even small lettering.

Profits from tile sales support the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and the Ten Mile River Scout Museum. For complete tile order information mail in the query form below.



Please send me custom-engraved tile order information for the TMR Wall of Fame.

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 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ E-Mail Address _____

Mail to: TMR Wall of Fame, c/o David M. Malatzky, 2332 Holland Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10467

JAKE PONTILLO

Continued from Page 1

with yellow ribbons. Our other "Overnight hikes" were to Alpine, Pouch, Sanita Hills, and Newcombe where we stayed in cabins and the only "hike" we made was from the cars to the cabins. But we went once a month all during the school year, and for me it was just fine. In 1958 I went to Ten Mile River, Provisional, with four other Scouts from my Troop. We went to Kernochan, and stayed for two weeks in Seneca campsite. It isn't there anymore, but if you go from the Kernochan Memorial out to the road thru the woods you will be walking right through where it used to be.

Hard to think about it, but that was fifty years ago.

I loved camp at TMR. It was just the best thing, even if our Provisional Scoutmaster was a tad insane and used to snap towels at our backsides when he ran us down to the waterfront. Look at that post card Dave is sending out, it shows a bunch of kids checking into Lakeside and the joy in their faces is evident. There we got to do a lot of things that we never could do in our troop in the city. It was real Scouting.

In '59 and '60 our troop went to Lakeside for a month. In '61 I had to go to

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE (Spring, 2008 Issue)

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>
<u>1</u>	G	A	C	L	N	T
<u>2</u>	K	E	L	I	A	F
<u>3</u>	I	U	R	V	H	R
<u>4</u>	N	P	N	O	C	A
<u>5</u>	E	Y	L	A	T	U
<u>6</u>	Q	C	N	G	P	O

ALPINE -----5D, 5C, 4B, 3A, 4A, 5A
 VILLAGE-----3D, 2D, 1D, 2C, 1B, 1A, 2B
 GERVAT-----1A, 2B, 3C, 3D, 2E, 1F
 POUCH----- 6E, 6F, 5F, 4E, 3E
 GNYC-----6D, B6C, 5B, 6B
 KUNATAH--2A, 3B, 4C, 5D, 5E, 4F, 3E
 KERNOCHAN--2A, 2B, 3C, 4C, 4D, 4E, 3E, 2E, 1E

Continued on Page 7

TMR WAS GREAT IN 1978



By: Dr. Gene Berman
gberman@webspan.net

Troop 109 of Flushing, New York had been camping at Keowa in the mid-1970's. As Scoutmaster, I could say, we had a wonderful summer with Jack Kohler and his camp staff in 1977 and were eagerly looking forward to another Keowa Summer in 1978.

In the late spring of 1978, I received a call from my good friend, Marty Levine. Marty was Scoutmaster of Troop 521, Mill Basin, Brooklyn. He had been camping with his troop and some allied troops on Chappagat Hill which had been the center of old Camp Chappagat and now a part of "Greater Kunatah."

Marty would be unable to take the Scouts to Camp in 1978 but he had found a replacement for July. He wanted to know if I would consider moving my Troop to Chappagat Hill and Scoutmastering a combined 109 and 521. Chappagat was a wonderful opportunity to have your own campsite as big as a camp. I agreed providing I could continue bringing 109 to Chappagat Hill each August since I would lose my "prime spot" at Keowa. Marty agreed and so was born the legacy and odyssey of ten wonderful years.

My Assistant Scoutmaster, Steve Prince, came with me to be an Assistant Scoutmaster and I met, Marty's "heir apparent," Dave Leleonek, who would take over in 1979 when he reached 21 years of age and continue through the closure in 1988.

The Chappagat office was the "Palace" and we made it "palatial" with rugs and a refrigerator and just a great "hang-out place" for the Scouts. It was the era of punk rock and we had a "Sex Pistol" patrol and all kinds of "fun craziness" in the site. Steve Lingvuc and Bruce Gleitman found a pair of Bruce Cobern's scout shorts and went to dinner each in one leg of the shorts. 521 was introduced to Willy Baseball and 109 was introduced to Chappytraz and Chappy Soccer, as well as Kangaroo Court and Dave Leleonek as "Rodney."

Our Senior Patrol Leader was David Lerman. One day, while play wrestling with rookie camper, Jay G. (last name not revealed to protect the silly), David began to wheeze. He was having an asthma attack so I took him to the Health Lodge. They said they would keep him a day or so. Back at camp, Jay G. was so upset that he had caused this problem that he was besides himself. To make him feel worse, some of the Scouts convinced him that he had "killed" David Lerman who was now being prepared for burial. They even went so far as to get a cardboard crate (closed coffin) and dig a hole for the funeral. Well, after 48 hours in the health lodge, David came back to camp. Now, how can you have a "dead SPL" walking around? Simple. They told him it was the ghost of David Lerman and no one could see him except for Jay.

Now that was even sillier because when it was fall-in time, things had to go along

normally in the campsite, David would put the scout sign up and everyone would come to attention.

Remember no one could see the ghost of David Lerman but everyone came to attention. David dressed in a sheet and would appear to Jay going BOO or whatever. They even borrowed a necklace I had of extracted teeth that I had saved from my days in Viet Nam and told Jay this would protect him against the wrath of David Lerman for killing him. Well, after a day or so of this silliness, as Scoutmaster, I decided this had to end. So I made the junior leaders tell Jay it was a joke and David was alive, etc., etc.

I think Jay believed them but he wouldn't give back the necklace (I guess...it was just in case). I eventually had to swipe it back one day when he went swimming. It was never mean-spirited, yet today by the standards set, this probably could be considered a form of abuse. I understand the need for such rules, but what a shame. Everyone, including Jay, laughed about this for years. It was just something in the "growing up" experience. It was also the beginning of some life long friendships between members of Troop 109 and Troop 521.



Dr. Berman is Chairman of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum Board of Trustees.

JAKE PONTILLO

Continued from Page 6

summer school, but went to Lakeside Provisional 4th Period. (Last two weeks of the summer, to those of you who don't understand "4th Period.")

When I got to be 14 I became an Explorer, in Post 289 and there we did more adventurous things -- canoe trips, winter camps to Spruce Pond and to the Blockhouse at TMR, it was all good. In '62 a bunch of us from the Post went to Philmont with the GNYC group -- that was the best experience for me in Scouting up to that time. That first summer at Philmont was where I learned a great deal of real Scouting.

When the '63 camp season rolled around our troop went to Kunatah, and my buddy Richy and me came up to be the leadership. There had to be someone in camp over 21, so various men came up, but Richy and I ran the show. When the troop went home Richy and I stayed on with Seth Kaminski's Kunatah staff. Just to be able to stay at camp I was willing to do any job. The regular Nature Conservationist went home sick and they were shorthanded. I did knot and lashing demos, Dutch oven cooking, tracking, stalking, nature hikes, swamp hikes, whatever.

If I could not fill up my days with activities, Seth had other, less fun things for me to do, like search burn barrels for hidden propane

canisters. I liked to schedule hikes down to Mahl's Pond since that could kill a whole morning or afternoon and let us pick high bush blueberries.

Then I got on regular Staff, starting with Bob Carr's '64 and Brendan Sheedy's '65 staff. That old Bob Carr staff was legendary. It produced more off-shoot Camp directors than any other staff I am familiar with.

It also had some of the finest individual staff members I have met, before or since.

In '66, I was a Philmont Ranger. That was the single greatest scouting experience of my life and I was honored to have been able to do

Continued on Page 8

JAKE PONTILLO

Continued from Page 7

it. To this day, people say did you ever hike the Appalachian Trail, shoot the rapids on the Colorado, or whatever and I answer, no, no need. I was a Philmont Ranger...that was enough.

After that I got involved with other things. I did get back to TMR as a volunteer with Norman Russakoff's 1967 Rondack staff for a few weeks after I had Army summer training. But that was the end of it until I came down the road to John Dowd's house in 2006.

My whole Scouting time – in the city or at camp was wrapped up with Scout Skills - nature, pioneering, camping, camp cooking, Woods lore, and the like. I have a bunch of old books by Seton, Beard, etc., and I studied on those. I also started my collection of books on knots then and I likewise worked on knots. In June '65 before camp Brendan Sheedy sent Richy Manus and me to National Camp School at Schiff where I took the "Nature-Conservation" Major, since I did not need the basic course. There I learned to do a "Utensil-less cooking demo" which got to be pretty well known. When I came back for that bit of the summer of '67 and a troop asked for it, I guess they were pretty surprised when all kinds of other people came to see it, "for old times sake, one more time."

I never was one too concerned with Rank. I think I may have gotten Life, but I do have 34 Merit Badges, all the required for Eagle, and a few left over for Palms, I guess. But I never went for it. It did not seem that important to me then. Someone recently said that for every Eagle there is somebody behind them pushing, and that may be true. I never had anybody pushing. Neither at home or in my troop or post. I got all the badges, learned what I needed to learn, and it just did not seem necessary to go for it. Sometimes, nowadays, when people make a big deal out of it, I feel bad, but not too bad and not for too long.

SS: What is your history in the OA? (Ordeal date, Lodge Officer?)

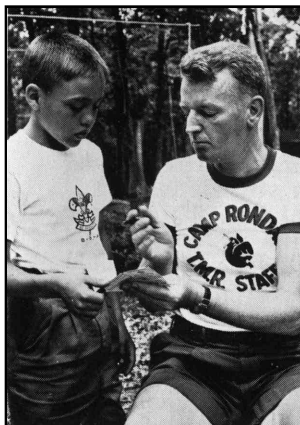
JP: I have no idea of my Ordeal date. But I have a Suanhacky lodge card that shows me a Brotherhood Member for '63 - '64, so I guess I took my Ordeal sometime in '61 or '62. I was more or less active in Suanhacky Lodge #49 from then until I went off to Graduate school in June '68. Then I got involved with graduate school, career, family, etc.

The interesting thing about it all was that during the year in the city I was active in the OA with many of the same guys who I was working with at TMR. It was one big

connected circle. For a while I was pretty active, mostly in the Rit and Regalia committee, making costumes and doing ceremonies. I think I was Rit and Regalia Committee Chairman. I became Brotherhood, but that was about it. At one point I think all the lodges joined together as a "Super Lodge" with Norman Russakoff as the "Super Chief" and I seem to remember doing Rit and Regalia for that, but I honestly cannot be sure anymore.

It was, after all, 40 years ago and more...

I think the last actual thing I did for the OA at TMR was a council fire and tap-out in the summer of '65. There was a big feed afterwards. I always used to stay behind to make sure the council fire was completely out. Well, that time when I got back to the staff lounge at Kunatah, there was absolutely no food left -- they had eaten it all and no one thought to save me even a single spaghetti. I got annoyed and asked Brendan Sheedy the Camp Director if OA activities were part of my job. He told me they were not, so I sat out the rest of the events. They got somebody else to make sure the fire was out. Whoever it was did not miss the Feed, but also did not make sure the fire was out, and that caused the great Forest Fire of '65, but that is another story. I always say that I caused that fire by NOT being part of the ceremony...



Camp Rondack

SS: Between the time you started, and today, what were the most significant changes at TMR (property, people, or both)?

JP: How to answer this question! When I came back to TMR in 2006 I felt almost like a hundred years has passed.

I knew almost nobody and nobody knew me. So many things have changed.

The biggest is the presence of so many girls and women. This has taken quite a bit of getting used to. It was just not even something we would have thought about when I was at Scout Camp. The ladies are very nice, but in the old days it was nice to get away from my mom and my sister. I do not think I would have been a very happy camper (literally!) if my mom were there to make sure I had a hanky

and clean socks.

I find it fascinating to spend the whole summer at TMR, with a car of my own and some money in my pocket. Not as when I was on Staff and a day off was filled up with walking from Kunatah to Yulan to do laundry. Now I have the time and money the means and the map to go and eat in and visit the places we only heard about. When you were on staff back then, as I imagine now, you simply do not have the time to go to other camps to get to know or even see them.

It is also strange to go back to Lakeside and find almost nothing to suggest that ever there was a camp on that ground. A few feet of paved trail and some pipes out of the ground where there was the dishwashery and that is all. It was a real camp, there were real people there, having real experiences. It had a long and proud history, and it is all as if it never existed, never happened. Like a lot of TMR history, it exists now only in the memories of rapidly aging people and on the TMR Museum web site. My first summer back, 2005, it took me three trips back to the Rondack area to find where the various places in our camp had been. Finally, I found it going up from the waterfront side. The whole time I had the strangest feeling that I would go around a bend in a trail and run into my own self from 40 years ago.

I was and I am still a little put off by the seemingly lack of emphasis on basic scout skills nowadays. Scouts who learn a few knots to pass a test and promptly forget them. I suppose I am just a plain old-fashioned "Canvas and Manila" guy, but I cannot stand a ragged rope end or a series of lopsided knots tied because somebody who 'doesn't know knots ties lots.' Sometimes when I visit a camp and there is a piece of rope hanging around with a 'mare's tail on it, I do a quick back splice.

I enjoy the knot rack I built at the Museum the last two summers and I enjoy showing off the knots. The scouts, supposedly beyond the need for such old fashioned skills, and for all their supposed interest in video games and electronics seemed to respond well to old-fashioned knots, splices, seizings, etc. Last summer I watched one boy, scared to death, go up on the Monkey Bridge. He pleaded to be taken down and we told him to take one more step so we could catch him. By the time he took that step he had gotten it and eventually we had difficulty getting him off of it so others could have a turn. That was just plain cool.

Jake Pontillo ("Knot" Jake) is Assistant Curator of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum.

Fall 2008 | T.M.R. SMOKE SIGNALS



By: Bill Mulrenin
billmul@mindspring.com

Another summer camp season is in the books and as usual, there were a number of new issues for the Ten Mile River collector to obtain.

For the first time in several years, there was not a new general Ten Mile River Scout Camps patch, nor was there a TMR Staff patch like 2007.

The individual camps however all had one or more issues for the 2008 Summer Camp Season.

First up alphabetically is Camp Aquehonga. Aquehonga was the most prolific issuer of patches this season with three although one was inadvertent.



The Aquehonga patch was their standard hexagon shaped patch with the "A" design. This was originally issued with red lettering and a red inner border on the upper half (Aqu2008X1). At some point, a second variation surfaced with reddish brown lettering and inner border and the multicolored background is darker with blue elements in it, which were not present in the original. In addition, there was also a twill Staff rocker (Aqu2008X3) with red lettering which was worn under the hexagonal patch (Aqu2008X2).

There was not, to my knowledge, a 2008 issue for Family Camp.

Camp Keowa had a single new issue for 2008. The gray three-inch round patch (Keo2008R1) featured the camp totem the

Thunderbird in blue and Keowa Thunderbirds in blue.

The first of two Camp Ranachqua patches was a blue three-inch round (Ran2008R1) with 2008 Summer Camp in yellow lettering. Camp Ranachqua also had an undated Polar Bear Swim patch (Ran2008X1). This rectangular patch had an Indian Chief at the end of a dock with three polar bears swimming in Lake Nianque.



KEO2008R1

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum also had a new Historian patch (TMR2008R1) which was given to each Scout who visited the Museum during the summer session. The patch was a three-inch round with a gold mylar border using the Indian Cliffs design, but with a night scene with a full moon rather than the traditional daytime scene.



RAN2008R1

To the best of my knowledge, that was all that was issued for 2008.



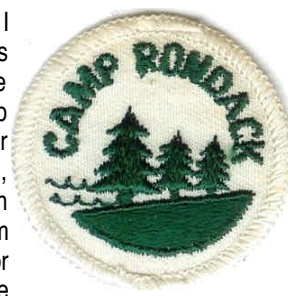
RRAN2008X1

If you have information on any other 2008 TMR issues please let me know.

Whatsit?

I've run across an odd little patch from Camp Rondack. Now from what I can find on the Internet, and from some other patches from the same seller, I don't believe that this is "our" Camp

Rondack. I believe this is from a private girls camp located near Sarnac Lake, NY. Can anyone confirm my suspicion or provide definitive information?



WHATSIT?

If you have a question about memorabilia from Ten Mile River or a topic idea for a future column, please email me at billmul@mindspring.com.

Bill Mulrenin has been collecting TMR since 1967.

MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS

Continued from Page 1

the full-vision metal and glass showcases are in the first room and all the oak showcases are in the Annex.

The Office was moved from the Annex to the Extension and the Library was moved to the old Office in the Annex. (See article on page 11.) The boardroom table was moved to the center of the Annex and is now being used for temporary displays. A 50 ft. "velcro wall" was created in the Annex for temporary displays.

We also expanded outdoor activities in the Museum's picnic area. Asst. Curator Jake Pontillo tripled the size of his very popular knot/lashing/splicing demonstration area from the previous summer and even added a monkey bridge.

The feature exhibit this past summer was on T.M.R. Aerial Photography from 1959-2006. It was called "Changing T.M.R." and showed how 16 T.M.R. camps changed over the years through an exhibit of detailed aerial photographs. Camp buildings and structures were visible and identified on each photo.



Ten Mile River Scout Museum Endowment Fund

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum has established an endowment fund as part of the Greater New York Councils Endowment Trust Fund. Donations to the endowment fund are fully invested and the income generated helps pay for the yearly operating expenses of the Museum. Donations of all amounts are accepted by the endowment fund.

A variety of recognitions are provided to individuals that donate to the Museum's Endowment Fund, based on the amount donated. Donors will be recognized at T.M.R. Alumni Day and other appropriate Scouting events.

The **James E. West Fellowship**, named after the first Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, is a national recognition for those who contribute \$1,000 or more in cash or securities to the local Council Endowment fund.

The **T.M.R. Museum Heritage Society** was formed to ensure the financial future of our council and the T.M.R. Scout Museum. The Society encourages Scouters to step forward with personal gifts to the council endowment. The emphasis is on personal giving. Members of the Society pledge at least \$2,500 to the Council's Endowment over a five year period or less. They are recognized for their gifts, and are entitled to attend the annual Society Functions.

Donation Recognitions

- \$25** Museum lapel pin (black plated).
- \$50** Above & personalized faux leather name badge w/Museum logo.
- \$100** Above & Museum lapel pin (bronze plated).
- \$250** Above & Museum lapel pin (silver plated).
- \$500** Above & Museum lapel pin (gold plated).



- \$1000** **James E. West Fellowship**
James E. West Fellowship lapel pin, knot and certificate.
Personalized faux leather name badge w/James E. West Fellowship & Museum logos.
4 Museum lapel pins (black, bronze, silver, gold platings).

- \$2500** **T.M.R. Museum Heritage Society**
Scouting Heritage Society lapel pin and certificate.
James E. West Fellowship lapel pin, knot and certificate.
Personalized faux leather name badge w/Scouting Heritage Society, James E. West Fellowship & Museum logos.

Ten Mile River Scout Museum Endowment Fund

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Daytime Telephone _____ E-Mail Address _____

☐ I want to make a (\$25-\$1,000) _____ donation to the Ten Mile River Scout Museum Endowment Fund.

Payment method (check one): ☐ Cash ☐ Check/money order ☐ Credit card

☐ I want to join the T.M.R. Museum Heritage Society (\$2,500 donation).

Payment method (check one): ☐ Cash ☐ Check/money order ☐ Credit card

☐ I want to pay the full \$2,500 now.

☐ Sign me up for the Five Year Plan:

☐ \$41.67/month (**Monthly payment by Credit Card only**).

☐ \$125.00/quarter

☐ \$500/year

Credit Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Credit Card Company _____ Expiration Date _____

I authorize Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America to debit my credit card account in the amount indicated above and credit the Greater New York Councils, B.S.A.

Signature _____

Mail to: TMR Museum Endowment Fund
 c/o Michael Mahon
 Greater New York Councils, B.S.A.
 350 Fifth Avenue
 New York, N.Y. 10118

Contact: Michael Mahon (212-651-2850) for further information about the council endowment.

(GNYC #3-4525-000-90)

Recent Acquisitions

Continued from Page 12

during the 1950's and early 1960's. Here is a list of the few that I found:

Joseph A. Brunton, Jr. (GNYC Exec.) - Chief Scout Executive.

Robert L. Billington (GNYC Exec.) - Asst. Chief Scout Executive.

Charles M. Heistand (Queens Scout Exec.) - Asst. Chief Scout Executive.

Russell A. Turner (Queens Council Exec.) - Natl. Director of Camping Service.

David M. Dunbar (GNYC Asst. Exec.) - Natl. Asst. Director, Camping Services.

Lorne W. Barclay (Manhattan-Bronx Council Exec.) - Natl. Director, Editorial Service.

Percy L. Dunn (Manhattan Council Exec.) - Natl. Director of Registration Service.

George K. Myers (Manhattan Council Exec.) - Natl. Director of Civic Relationships.

Also, three volunteers associated with N.Y.C. and Nassau County Scouting were Presidents of the B.S.A.: **Mortimer L. Schiff** (1931), **John M. Schiff** (1951-56), and **Thomas J. Watson, Jr.** (1964-68). Watson was a former G.N.Y.C. President.

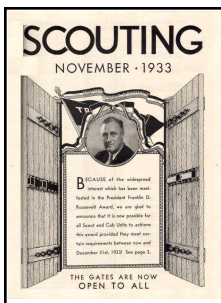
The Scout Executive also included a few articles about Scouting in New York City. The September 1952 issue featured a thorough description by David Dunbar of the G.N.Y.C. Annual Barbecue at Alpine Scout Camp, predecessor to today's Steakouts. The June 1964 issue contains an extensive article and photos of the B.S.A. exhibit at the 1964 World's Fair in Queens, called "The Wonderful World of Scouting." (397 pgs.)

Scouting Magazine (1915-69)

The Museum recently acquired a considerable number of issues of Scouting Magazine, with a goal of eventually acquiring a complete set from the 1930's - 1960's. Articles of interest have been scanned and added to the Museum's online



The Scout Executive



Scouting Magazine

archives. U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (founder and first President of the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York) appeared in many issues during his presidency. F.D.R. addressed the Boy Scouts by radio during Boy Scout Week most years and these were repeated in Scouting Magazine, along with numerous letters from him to the Boy Scouts.

During this period, many volunteers with roots in N.Y.C. Scouting also held positions on the B.S.A. National Committee and appeared in Scouting Magazine. These included: James Beard, Mortimer L. Schiff (National President), John Sherman Hoyt, George D. Pratt, Barron Collier, Frederic Kernochan, Lewis Gawtry and William H. Pouch.

Scouting Magazine also included some articles on Scouting in and near N.Y.C.:

April 1936 - The 1936 Greater New York Boy Scout-O-Rama in Madison Square Garden.

April 1939 - A feature article on the Boy Scout Service Camp at the 1939 New York World's Fair.

Annual pilgrimages to the grave of President Theodore Roosevelt (Oyster Bay, LI), led by National Scout Commissioner Dan Beard, were covered most years.

Oct. 1954 - The G.N.Y.C. "Community Leadership Day" when local Eagle Scouts spent a day with the heads of local institutions and businesses.

Nov. 1961 - An article on a N.Y.C. Troop for overly aggressive, pre-delinquent and delinquent boys, entitled "Scouting in the Blackboard Jungle."

July 1962 - Scouting for "Inner-City Boys" in Harlem.

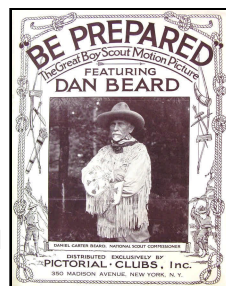
Oct. 1963 - The B.S.A. Service Corp at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

April 1968 - G.N.Y.C.'s "School Night for Scouting."

Annual recipients of the Silver Buffalo, many associated with N.Y.C. Scouting, were reported in Scouting Magazine. (600+ pgs.)

Dan Beard

While closely associated with National Scouting, National Scout Commissioner Daniel C. Beard was a longtime resident of Flushing, Queens and associated with Troop 1, Flushing.



Dan Beard

Dan Beard also organized and led annual pilgrimages to the grave of President Theodore Roosevelt (Oyster Bay, LI). These were major affairs, with thousands of N.Y.C. Scouts and Scouts within 100 miles of N.Y.C. attending each year.

The Dan Beard Outdoor School on Lake Teedyusking, was located near Hawley, Pa., not far from T.M.R.

We have Dan Beard and related photos and paper on all of these subjects in our archives. Our photo collection is especially good, and includes photos of Beard as a young illustrator, digging out his Flushing home during the "Blizzard of 88," and many shots of him as National Scout Commissioner, including a few with Baden-Powell.

There is a variety of stuff here, everything interesting. We have an original copy of the

speech about Dan Beard that appeared after his death in the Congressional Record. We have an original copy of the radio speech he made on Scouting on WMCA (May 21, 1938). We also have newspaper clippings about Dan Beard and Flushing, Queens (including the Dan Beard Memorial Square) and the Dan Beard Outdoor School.

Perhaps of greatest historical interest is the original program to the 1st National Council Meeting in Washington, DC, Feb. 14-15, 1911. We have copies of programs to five of the Roosevelt Pilgrimages (1923, 25, 32, 38, 40), plus minutes to organizing meetings for the 1925 and 1926 pilgrimages. We also have a copy of a 1908 letter on "The Sons of Daniel Boone" stationery, signed by Dan Beard. "The Sons of Daniel Boone" was a pre-B.S.A. organization organized by Dan Beard and eventually merged into the B.S.A. (260 pgs.)

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum is always looking for donations of paper and memorabilia from the Kanohwahkee Scout Camps, Ten Mile River Scout Camps and New York City Scouting.

NEW HOME FOR MUSEUM LIBRARY

One of several Museum improvements completed this past summer involved moving the Library into the old office, giving it a room of its own for the first time.



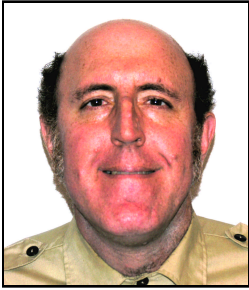
New Library Shelves

We purchased and assembled three stainless steel library shelves and a storage cabinet for supplies. This effectively doubled our storage space for books and binders. The new Library also has a small desk for reading purposes and a file cabinet for our hanging folders.

A DSL line was installed in the Museum, giving us wireless broadband internet access. We are planning to install an Internet terminal in the Library for 2009.

The Museum Library covers the history of T.M.R., the Kanohwahkee Scout Camps, the five N.Y.C. Order of the Arrow Lodges, the N.Y.C. Short-Term Camps, N.Y.C. Scouting history and local history. It is available for use during summer camp and via appointment the rest of the year.

Museum Web Site News



By: David M. Malatzky
archivist@tmrmuseum.org

This past summer's exhibit on T.M.R. aerial photography is long over, but you can still see the aerial photos from the exhibit (and much more) on our web site. Go to the online archives <http://tmrmuseum.org/archive> and click on the following in sequence: Ten Mile River Scout Camps, TMR Maps-Aerial-Photographs, Aerial Photographs, Aerial Photos with Landmarks. Each aerial photo is annotated with landmarks we were able to identify, including buildings, camps sites and various camp structures. Each aerial photo of an individual camp covers the same area. You can click from photo to photo, showing how the camp changed over the years.

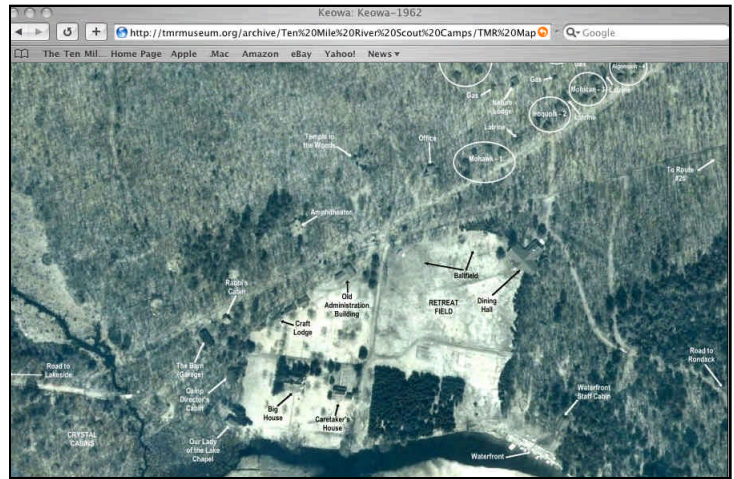
For the latest additions to the archives, go to tmrmuseum.org/archive/newstuff.html.

Be sure to click on Museum News for the latest Museum photos, upcoming events and publications.

I received lots of new paper since the last issue of T.M.R. Smoke Signals. Keep it coming! Here are the recent additions to the Museum's online archives: tmrmuseum.org/archive:

1. Brooklyn Scout Camps: Henry Behrens Photos, Winter Camp Photos (1938, 1939), Other Winter Camp Photos, Headquarters Camp Staff (1951) Photos.
2. Camp Kernochan: Protestant Chapel (Newspaper Article, Chapel Dedication).
3. Camp Kunatah: Henry Behrens Photos, Kunatah Archive Photos (7/7/09).
4. T.M.R. Personalities: Harry Goebelsman.

1962 Camp Keowa
Aerial Photo with
landmarks identified.



5. T.M.R.-Anniversaries: 45th Kernochan Founder's Day (1972).
6. T.M.R. Aerial Photos: Photos w/landmarks, 2006 Aerial Photos.
7. T.M.R. Literature: 1989 - TMR Alumni Assoc., Site Confirmation, Camp Leader Letters, TMR Scout Award, Specialty Camps Brochure, Camping News. 1990 - Troop Confirmation, TMR Tribune, Camping News 1990, Directions to TMR, Campsite Menus, Camping Service News, Camp Leader letters, 1990 Camping Dates, Alumni Day 1990. 1991 - Camp Leader Letters, Unit Fireguard Plan, TMR Specialty Camps. 1993 - Camping News 1993.
8. Order of the Arrow: Suanhacky Lodge- 1974 Camp Alpine Ordeal. Man-A-Hattin Lodge - Old New York Historical Trail Guide.
9. Pre-Boy Scout Foundation: National Executive Board Minutes.
10. Boy Scout Foundation: Adventuring With Boys, Junior Engineering. National Executive Board Minutes. Annual Reports - 1939 (2 versions), 1940, 1942. Scout Executive List.
11. Greater New York Councils: Woodbadge - TMR 1966. Scout Shows - 1961, 1989. Publicity Photos. Standard Award booklet. Advancement Procedures booklet. Annual Reports - 1945, 1947. Philmont - 1958.
12. The Scout Executive: NYC Staff Index, 1935-43, 1950-66.
13. Scouting Magazine (certain issues): 1921-1969.
14. Roosevelt Memorial Pilgrimages: 1923, 24, 25, 26, 27, 32, 38, 40.
15. National Council: National Executive Board Minutes (1912-1920). Camping Department Reports - 4/7/25, 4/18/27. National Committee Addresses (1939). National Camping Committee - Camps to Visit (1935). Committee on Badges, Awards, Equipment (1912).
16. Dan Beard: 1st National Council Meeting, Be Prepared Movie, Christmas Card, Congressional Record, Award Presentation, Estate Sale, Dan Beard Memorial Square, Dan Beard Night, Dan Beard Outdoor School, Photos, Dan Beard & Baden-Powell Photos, Dan Beard Pilgrimage, Letter to Dan Beard, National Court of Honor Certificate, Newspaper Articles, Recipe for Scouting, Sons of Daniel Boone, 5/21/38 Speech.
17. Dan Beard Publications: Famous Men of Flushing, Flushing Birthplace of Scouting, Newsweek, Scouting Magazine, Scouting Memorabilia, The Conservationist, The Queens Scout.
18. Local History - Erie Railroad Timetable.

I am always looking for new T.M.R. and N.Y.C. Scouting paper and photos (especially staff photos) to add to the Museum's web site. Paper items can be scanned and the originals returned if preferred. If you want to make a digital donation, please E-mail it to me archivist@tmrmuseum.org

Recent Acquisitions

The Scout Executive (1938-66)

I recently reviewed and scanned issues of The Scout Executive from 1938-43 and 1944-1966. This completes previous work on The Scout Executive, which I scanned from 1920-37. (See Fall, 2007 issue of T.M.R. Smoke Signals.) I found a tremendous amount of biographical information on members of the

N.Y.C. B.S.A. professional staff, especially those that moved up to positions in National Council, B.S.A. (More on that later.)

The most interesting thing to me is that The Scout Executive listed new B.S.A. Professionals, movements in the Staff from Council to Council (including National Council), retirements, deaths and resignations. So, to a certain extent, you can track a Professional's job history as he moved into N.Y.C. Scouting and from job to job. I created an index listing 396

N.Y.C. Professional Scouters and which issues of The Scout Executive they appeared in. This is on the web site. Great stuff for anyone interested in the N.Y.C. B.S.A. Professional staff. A copy of this information has also been given to G.N.Y.C. to add to their records.

There was a notable progression from the N.Y.C. Professional Staff to positions of high responsibility in National Council, especially

Continued on Page 11

Fall 2008 | T.M.R. SMOKE SIGNALS