

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

Summer 2020 Volume 10, Number 1

Building, Grounds & Construction

Here are the major projects accomplished during 2020 at The Museum site.

Tree limbs overhanging various structures at the museum site were trimmed and removed.

The deteriorated water supply shut-off valve pit cover was removed and replaced.

The rear section of the former Kunatah Trading Post annex was leveled and attached to the main building. The main Kunatah Trading Post building was also leveled. The existing roof above the annex structure was removed and completely

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The Summer of COVID-19

The summer of 2020 has certainly been a summer without parallel in the history of Ten Mile River since 1927. For the first time since it first opened 93 years ago there was no summer scout camping at Ten Mile River. There was no summer scout camping at any of the GNYC camps. In fact, there was no summer scout camping in the United States and perhaps around the world.

This issue of Smoke Signals was to have come to you in the spring. So much has happened since then. This issue will share the stories submitted for this past spring and will also bring you stories from this most unusual summer.

The Museum is commemorating the summer with a 6" backpatch. It can be ordered at: www.tmrmuseum.org/onlinemuseum-store

Ten Mile River Historical Trails Committee Report

David M. Malatzky

Members of the Trails Committee and other members of the Museum Board are taking a two-track approach as far as the Historical Trails Award is concerned:

1. Improve the T.M.R. Trail Network by removing downed trees, adding trail markers, repairing and adding trailside lean-tos, adding and identifying existing potable and non-potable water sources, erecting trail

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TEN MILE RIVER SCOUT MUSEUM



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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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POSTMASTER: Send change of address to TMR, 1481 Crystal Lake Road, County Road 26, Narrowsburg, NY 12764-4414.

From the Chairman

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By: Michael Drillinger

This issue is the return of Smoke Signals after too long a hiatus. Wow, what a time to come back! Yes the Covid-19 pandemic closed TMR to scout summer camping and the TMR Scout Museum to visitors. Nevertheless, we did what Scouts always do. We found ways to turn lemons into lemonade, we improvised, and we delivered programs. This issue will report on what we did. It also has many of the personal stories we do best.

The Museum launched a series of virtual, online talks that covered topics like bats, bears, eagles as well as classic cars, improvisational theater and patch collecting. If you missed any of these programs you can see them at the Museum's YouTube channel.

Since the Museum building was closed to visitors, we created a virtual tour. Scouts taking the virtual tour, and completing other requirements, could earn the Historian Patch. There were several families who earned the Historical Trail Medal this summer by hiking the TMR Trail and fulfilling the Museum visit requirement by taking the virtual tour and also viewing the TMR History video.

Michael Drillinger is Chairman of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum.

From The Editor



By: Anthony Zalak

After a hiatus the Smoke Signals is back. The hope is to produce this newsletter quarterly.

As I sit here typing in May of 2020, I'm thinking that sprint will soon pass and we will be going back to Ten Mile River. I remember when I was in high school I couldn't wait for the summer to head back to my beloved TMR.

So sit back, relax and enjoy this version of the newsletter. If you have any suggestions or articles that you would like to publish in the next newsletter, please reach out to me at azalak@tenmileriver.org.





Wanted: Your Old Scout Memorabilia

Readers. . . We want you to donate ANY type of Scout Memorabilia for the Museum store...uniforms, mugs, patches, neckerchiefs, books, "anything Scouting" that you have laying around the attic or basement. Money raised from sales will go towards the upkeep of the Museum. We have had considerable success over the past several years selling memorabilia, from our humble tables to the Museum store at T.M.R. and patch sales at West Point. Anything and everything Scouting can be used to help us raise money to help offset our expenses.

Items that can be mailed should be sent to Frank Mullane, memorabilia chairman, at his address, below:

Mr. Frank Mullane 217 Kell Ave. Staten Island, NY 10314

If you have something "bulky" that you would like picked up, we can arrange one of our members to visit. Call Frank at 718-698-2315 to arrange a pickup or send an email to *TheTrader112@aol.com*.

If you plan on visiting camp items may be dropped off at the Museum if you contact Bill Mulrenin: Billmul@mindspring.com



Ten Mile River Historical Trails Committee Report

from page 1

signage, organizing trail summits of interested groups, and identifying possible sources of N.Y.S. funding. A T.M.R. Trails sub-committee was organized last November as part of the G.N.Y.C. Camping Committee. The historical trails committee also instituted the trail-work pin for Troops that do trail maintenance work at T.M.R. Thanks goes to Chairman Michael Drillinger and Trustees Ed Winters and David Malatzky for their efforts.

2. Promote the Trails Award by distributing T.M.R. Trail Maps and trails award literature at T.M.R., the G.N.Y.C. Steakout, and the G.N.Y.C. Training Extravaganza. Thanks go to David Malatzky, Ira Nagel and Glenn Pontier for their efforts.

While many troops completed the trails award requirements over the past 1½ years, the T.M.R. Trail still needs some additional trail-work before it is passable over its entire 33½ mi. length. Sean Johnson, while not a member of the Museum Board, has taken the lead on getting the T.M.R. Trail Network into shape. Anyone interested in assisting the Museum and the T.M.R. Trails subcommittee work on improving the T.M.R. Trail Network should contact me at dmalatzky@aol.com.

Troops receiving trails awards since January 2019

T201/Queens 2 youths/1 adult
T353/Brooklyn 12 youths/1 adult
T353/Brooklyn 10 youths/4 adults
T76/Rip Van Winkle 11 youths/3 adults
T427/Queens 1 youth/1 adult
T139/Lake Erie 5 youths/2 adults

T2061/HVC 7 youths Alumni Day Hike 6 adults

T1002/HVC 2 youths/1 adult T26/T1/Brooklyn 14 youths/4 adults

T 396/Brooklyn 9 youth

T238/Westchester-Putnam Council 3 youths/2 adults T28/Housatonic Council 2 youths/1adult

51 trail medals, 54 14-miler devices, 7 30-miler devices, 3 50-miler devices awarded.

Trail-work Pins Awarded

T1200/Northern NJ Council 5 pins T636/Suffolk County Council 8 pins

Troop 332/TRC completed the hiking requirements for the trails award in October 2019, but did not submit the paperwork.





Building, Ground &

Construction from page 1

replaced including any deteriorated sheathing.

The exterior east side of the museum structure containing the Wall Of Fame tiles was expanded to permit the installation of an additional fifty 12" by 12" granite tiles; two rows of twenty five tiles per row.

The roof leak above the original portion of the museum structure, front section, was repaired.

Two walkway were created leading from the Katohke cabin to the former Kunatah Trading Post building.

FINALLY, our greatest accomplishment of 2019, was the complete

installation of the state of the art restroom.

The work associated with the above indicated projects was performed by various museum board members as well as several of their family members.

Chizzy

Communications Update

By Mitchell Slepian, Vice-Chairman and Corresponding Secretary

2019 was a banner year

for our museum's social media outreach. We posted regularly on Facebook and Twitter. Our posts were liked and shared by the TMR Alumni Association, the TMR Arrowhead, Boy's Life and other scouting organizations.

Our recent post from the Kintecoying Lodge Trade-O-Ree held at Alpine Scout Camp reached over 1,000 people and had a high level of click action and engagement. Our post promoting the Woodstock patch set featuring Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin was viewed by over 7,000 people and helped sell patches.

Over 6,000 people viewed posts promoting and covering the "Classic Car Show," event run by Ralph Daddi. According to an internal poll taken at the car show, attendees learned of our event via social media, posts on the GNYC site, as well as calendar postings on local news websites.

Posts from Troop 396's July 23, 2020 visit reached over 1200 people. To help jumpstart our viewership as camp was opening, Museum Co-Director Ira Nagel's bands post reached nearly 3,000.

Our strong viewership is exciting. But we can and will do more, much more. In 2021, we plan to accelerate our museum's presence in TMR's local community and continue to push via the world of the BSA. You can help. Send me photos, videos, events, etc. I am happy to Tweet and share.

TRIVIA QUIZ

by: Dr. Gene Berman

- 1. Which Lake at TMR was originally called Wildcat Pond?
- a. Rock Lake
- b. Lake Nianque
- c. Crystal Lake
- d. Indian Lake
- 2. Which two Ponds are associated with Crystal Lake?
- a. Mud Pond and Trout Pond
- b. Mud Pond and Mahl's Pond
- c. Trout Pond and Beaver Pond
- d. Trout Pond and Grassy Swamp pond
- 3. Which President as a governor negotiated purchase of the land parcels that became TMR?
- a. Franklin Roosevelt
- b. Teddy Roosevelt
- c. Abe Lincoln
- d. Barack Obama
- 4. Which choice below has a camp listed in it that has no relationship to the other camps in that choice?
- a. Kotohke-Kunatah-Chappegat-Ihpetonga Village
- b. Camp Man-Central-Keronochan-Lakeside
- c. Ranachqua-Stillwaters-Nianque-Family Camp
- d. Camp Manhattan-Keowa-Aquehonga-Rondack
- 5. What was the first year Summer Camp was open for Scouts to camp at TMR?
- a. 1927
- b. 1928
- c. 1929
- d. 2015
- 6. Where was the Original TMR Headquarters located?
- a. same place it is now
- b. where today's HQ cabins are located
- c. where the old barn is at Keowa
- d. where the Blockhouse used to be at Family Camp (Unit A-Ranachqua)
- 7. Who was the Chief Engineer that built TMR?
- a. Harvey Gordon
- b. Fred Flintstone
- c. Al Nichols
- d. Chief William Stumpp

Ten Mile River Alumni Reunion Saturday, September 12, 2020

Rekindle The Flame



In the summer of Covid what to do about the annual mid-summer gathering of TMR alumni? TMR was closed to scout camping so a live and in-person gathering was out of the question. The Ten Mile River Scout Camps Alumni Association lead by co-chairs Johannes Knoops and Frank Rickenbaugh teamed up with the TMR Reservation Director Wayne Holmes, The TMR Scout Museum Trustees David Malatzky, Michael Drillinger and Mitchell Slepian, and also long-time TMR Scouter and past GNYC Professional Steven Benini to create a virtual reunion.

Nearly 100 people from around the country signed on for the live event. The program started with a whirlwind tour of the TMR Reservation by Knoops and Rickenbaugh, welcoming everyone to the 2020 Alumni Reunion. There was then a virtual but stirring opening flag ceremony with still shots of flag raisings across the TMR camps and through the TMR ages, all to Burl Ives singing an emotional tribute to the Scout Oath.

The opening ceremony was followed first by an acknowledgement that GNYC camps were closed for the 2020 season. But TMR was not completely closed. New York regulations allowed families to camp and so Family Camp on Lake Nianque was open and full for the summer. The program showed a video of Family Camp and the fun families enjoyed in and around the lake.

Greater New York Councils did not give up on summer for scouts. The Alumni Day program next high-

TRIVIA QUIZ continued from preceding page....

- 8. Which Actor, spent a week with his son at Keowa, circa 1992?
- a. Raul Julia
- b. Tom Hanks
- c. Tom Cruise
- d. Mark Hamill

(Hint he played Gomez Adams in the movie The Adams Family)

- 9. Which TMR Staffman below grew up with and played with the Ramones Band before they got famous?
- a. Wayne Holmes- GNYC Director of Camping
- b. Anthony Zalak- Assistant Director of Camp Aquehonga
- c. Ira Nagel- Director of the TMR Scout Museum
- d. Jim Loeffel Head Ranger
- 10. When the camps below were active, 3 out of the 4 listed had dining halls that served only KOSHER food. Name the Dining Hall that did NOT serve KOSHER food?
- a. Kotohke
- b. Kunatah
- c. Nianque
- d. Keowa

lighted TMR GO and Scouting @Home, on-line programs with activities and advancement opportunities for scouts and cub scouts.

The opening program included welcomes from GNYC Scout Executive Ethan Draddy and cameo welcomes from many notable TMR personalities. There was a

tribute to Carl Robert (Bob) Madsen with a moving message from Bob, who recently retired from professional Scouting.

A centerpiece of the opening program was a video describing the Tower of Friendship and



the project to restore the Tower to its former glory. You can be a part of this effort by making a financial contribution to the Alumni Association or by buying a patch or a puzzle at the Museum's online store. All the profits go to the Tower of Friendship fund.

The Museum was highlighted in the program with a

Ten Mile River Alumni Reunion

Continued from the preceding page

short version of our virtual tour, featuring Anthony Zalak and Ira Nagel. There was also a Wall of Fame ceremony where tiles were presented for Frank Sofo, Ann Mannix, Reverend Barry Frazzitta, Joseph Van Aken, Catholic Committee on Scouting, Scoutmasters, Scouts and Scouters, especially Paul D Stanton, and Leonard Marcus. There was then a reverent moment of remembrance of Scouters we have lost in the past several years.

The formal opening ended with an exciting look to the future. There are high hopes and big plans for TMR next summer.

You can watch the full video at YouTube, in the search bar type: TMR Alumni Association Presents

The second part of the event was an opportunity for TMR Alumni to actually talk to each other. Four distinct chat rooms were set up and alumni could bounce from room to room. The chat rooms were:

Patch Collectors

Delaware Division—including the Brooklyn camps and camps Hayden and David Lake.

Schiff Division—include Aquehonga (old and new), Ranachqua, Nianque, Stillwaters and Family Camp.

Crystal Division-Including Keowa, Kernochan, Rondack, and Lakeside.

The conversations were lively and well attended. This virtual Alumni Day was a lot of work to produce, but a lot of fun was had and all who participated were very pleased with the results. As fun as it was we all hope that we can be together in person at TMR next summer.



Memories of Ralph DeFalco

From John Pritchard (John Pritchard passed away soon after writing this)

As one of Ralph DeFalco's closest scouting friends, and since I don't see anyone else doing it yet, this is Ralph DeFalco.



Back in 1940, you had to be 12 years old to be a boy scout. Playing baseball in the neighborhood, Ralph found out about the local boy scout troop and just before World War II, joined Boy Scout Troop 17 in Elmhurst. Despite the war, the troop survived camping in Alley Pond Park and doing war drives. Everyone had the war on their mind, and as a student in Newtown HS, Ralph learned to spot aircraft in his high school classes. One of his afternoon jobs was to walk along Queens Blvd and put out lights in case of an air raid. In 1946, Ralph was drafted, became a clerk and was sent to Tokyo where he became the assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 1 Tokyo—the first American Scout Troop in the Far East.

A few years later after returning home, Ralph got involved with Explorer Post 17. The post was there to help the troop and in 1954, someone asked Ralph to become the 'temporary scoutmaster' of the troop until they could find someone else. When Troop 17 reached its 100th anniversary in 2014, Ralph was STILL the temporary scoutmaster 60 years later and was again looking for a replacement. Troop 17 was THE place to be a scout in western Queens. In fact, mail would reach his house addressed as Scoutmaster Troop 17 Elmhurst NY and he would get it.

Troop 17 always attended summer camp in some form or another; whether it was Lone Trooping at Mahl's Pond or later in the more civilized Camp Aquehonga. The Lone Troop experience sparked the idea to do a traveling camp. The troop started to do touring camps visiting many states for the high adventure activities that they offered in Ralph's old station wagon. The troop eventually bought the first of two blue buses and supported it with weekly newspaper drives. These trips were available to any scout in Queens and soon Troop 17 was known for its adventures and their Smokey the Bear hats. Ralph was a leader in District 2 then Newtown District then West District and eventually became

Memories of Ralph DeFalco

Continued from the previous page.....

quite active in Gateway District rising to the position of District Chairman. Ralph started the Gateway District High Adventure Committee and continued district touring camps visiting over 40 states and doing everything that scouting promises but rarely delivers—canoeing, rafting, rock climbing, caving, biking. And this is in addition to attending TMR for 2 weeks with his troop each summer. And he was still Scoutmaster.

Ralph was tired of the professional staff not being able to get into school classrooms including his alma mater PS 13. At the time, most recruiting was done by an adult telling kids about the great stuff scouts did and then left some flyers. Ralph turned this around and analyzed how recruitment should work and has created and taught membership recruitment throughout the boroughs. Just a few weeks before he died, Ralph called me and asked if I would help him finish off his membership handbook for troops. He wanted to finish it before he passed on. Always an analyst, Ralph became the Queens Council Advancement statistician about 20 years ago when I was Council Advancement Chair and was still at it until fairly recently. He did this on index cards, way before computers were the in thing. Ralph also taught me how to create a troop rating system for each scout based on his days as a baseball coach analyzing baseball stats. I switched it into Excel after months of trying. But he kept using a notebook and a calculator. He knew every scout and where they lived and what they had accomplished.

Ralph systematically analyzed what makes a good troop and was holding youth-led program planning long before it was the thing to do. He created the Gateway District Junior Leaders' Roundtable and it ran district events for many years rather than the adults. Out of that came Explorer Post 345-a district-sponsored unit to enhance scout instruction. As young scouts and scouters eventually moved into positions of leadership, Ralph was always there as a friend, mentor and teacher. Ralph has forgotten more about the scouting method than most scouters will ever know. He earned the vigil honor in Suanhacky Lodge and received the name, "Caring one who holds councils." A more apropos name there never was. Ralph holds the Silver Beaver and District Award of Merit, but more importantly, he is there when he is needed. I overheard someone at a camporee say "What's the matter with Ralph, he only wants to do things for the kids and not have coffee with us?"

Ralph was awarded the Jack Kohler- Suanhacky Campership Association lifetime achievement award in 2009. He was an active scout and scouter for over 75 years. In that time, he amassed an Alumni list of over 1,000 individuals!

What an act to follow!

Godspeed Ralph DeFalco. You will be missed.

Memories of John Pritchard

John joined Scouting in 1960 as a member of Troop 70. During his scouting career, John was a Scoutmaster, Post Advisor, Chapter Advisor and the Su-



anhacky Lodge Advisor. John held most District positions at one time or another. He also served in many TMR Staff positions including Assistant Camp Director of Hayden, Kernochan and as TMR Trading Post Director. He holds the Vigil Honor, District Award of Merit and Silver Beaver Award.

John studied business administration at Baruch College and held various positions working for Con Edison. His eclectic interests led him to study Earth Science Education at CUNY Queens College and Geology at CUNY York. He was even a lecturer at CUNY York.

John started a second career, after retiring from Con Edison, and became a school teacher. He studied School Administration at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and he eventually became a beloved Assistant Principal of Grover Cleveland High School.

John was a deeply religious person. He was a longtime member and board member at First Unitarian in Brooklyn where he led many initiatives and fundraisers. When he lost his legs to complications from cancer treatment he had to move to another Unitarian congregation that had an accessible building. He joined the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Central Nassau, where again he stepped up for leadership positions.

John was a Trustee of The Ten Mile River Scout Museum and we are grateful for his service and miss his wise counsel.

The TMR 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 might be right for you.

The T.M.R. 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 or August. Tiles are available in a variety of sizes, colors and materials. Prices range from \$125-\$1,000 per tile. Laser-engraved granite tiles can depict photos, line art and even small lettering.

For more information, cut out the form below and mail it to: TMR Wall of Fame, 2332 Holland Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467 Or visit www.tmrmuseum.org/tmr-wall-of-fame

Please send me custom-engraved tile order information for the T.M.R. Wall of Fame.		
Name		
Street		
CityState	Zip	
Telephone	_ E-Mail Address	

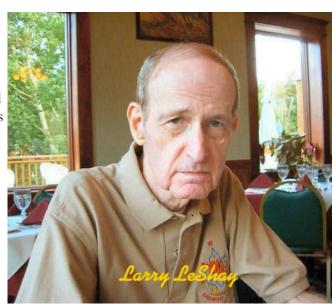


Memories of Larry LeShay

by David Lelonek

A few years ago, when our dear friend Dr. Karl Bernstein passed away, I made sure to write an article about our friendship and the loss I felt with his passing. Sadly, we lost Larry LeShay, another TMR and Scouting icon, on October 7, 2017, at the age of 81. Unfortunately, at the time of Larry's passing Smoke Signals was not being published, but now with its return I wanted to remember our friend Laurence LeShay.

I first met Larry over 50 years ago, in the basement of my home. At that time, my older brother Cliff was Chapter Chief of Sakanenk Chapter of the Order of the Arrow, from the Kingsway District, in Southern Brooklyn. Regular Executive Board meetings were held a few times a year, and at that time Larry LeShay and Karl Bernstein were the adult advisors to the chapter.



I should mention that Larry and Karl were like brothers. They both grew up in Brooklyn and spent their Scouting and College years there together. In many facets of their lives, they did many things together, depending upon each other, as brothers truly do.

Well, back to the Executive Meetings. Being curious as kids were, my brothers and I would try to sneak down to see what was happening at these "secret meetings". My brother Cliff and his friends would shoo us away, but Larry and Karl were friendly and welcoming, and over the years, we looked forward to those meetings in our home to greet these two great guys.

As the years went by, I joined Troop 521, and eventually I was inducted into the OA, where Larry was the Chapter Advisor. Soon after my Ordeal Induction, I was asked to take on a committee, which I didn't think I was ready for, but Larry encouraged me. He helped me every step of the way. I ended up doing what most people thought was a good job and I moved up the ranks in the Chapter, eventually becoming Chapter Chief. Here I had the opportunity to really work with Larry. As Chief, Larry taught me many great life lessons including how to plan and organize my life, the Chapter, my schoolwork and the many projects I had become involved with. It is very easy to say that Larry became my mentor and my friend.

I was last Chapter Chief of the Sakanenk, working side-by-side with Larry for 5 years. We planned many great activities and events. Our Chapter was well known for our large active group and under Larry's guidance, our support of the many District and Council events. We just seemed to be everywhere when Larry was the Advisor, as everyone knew we could pull anything off. At our yearly Ordeal or induction weekends, we would always take in over 100 new brothers just from our own little section of Brooklyn. In comparison, the other 10 chapters of the lodge usually inducted in total about a hundred new Ordeal members per year. This did not happen by accident. This happened because of Larry.



I should note that Larry was involved in the OA way before my time. In fact, Larry received the highest achievement in the Order, that of the Vigil Honor, on the day I was born, August 24, 1959.

And please don't think that Larry was just involved in the OA. If so, you would greatly shortchange him. In the 70's Larry was involved on a week-to-week basis in Troop 202 as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Larry helped plan and execute the weekly meetings and overnight hikes for many years. Larry was also involved in Kingsway District and the Brooklyn Council. Larry was well known for taking on many projects which were "ugly ducklings" and turning them into swans. For that skill and for all his hard work, Larry was awarded the highest honor by the local council, that of the Silver Beaver in 1980.

Memories of Larry LeShay continued from the previous page....



But what Larry is probably best known for was his time in Ten Mile River. As a teenager Larry spent time there in the 50's as a staff man, primarily as the Kunatah Office Manager. I was told he did an outstanding job (it was a bit before my time).

In 1981, I became the Scoutmaster on Chappy Hill. Chappy had once been its own camp in TMR, but it was abandoned for about 10 years until my home unit, Troop 521 took it over. We had a Provisional type of troop, taking mostly Scouts from our local Kingsway District. My first year as Scoutmaster, Larry came up in early summer for a visit with Karl. Larry saw that I needed help in running this large endeavor of over 100 Scouts that came some weeks, and he volunteered to stay extra that summer and to return the next year. This changed the history of Chappy Hill. With Larry's help, we ran what most people would consider the best program in TMR. We had amazing new programs, great facilities as we had a

whole camp to ourselves and were early innovators of technology. We came to be known around Kuna-

tah as "Camp VCR", and we loved it.

In Larry's first year on Chappy, he wrote an almost daily audio journal of the troop's happenings. He broadcast it over the Chappy loud speaker system and he called himself "Uncle Funky". For this, he became well known not just on the hill but throughout Kunatah and the rest of the TMR reservation. Larry made these hilarious observations of what the scouts were doing and with a little creative license, came up with these side-splitting reports. Scouts and Kunatah staff men found it an honor to be included in that day's broadcast. Guys from throughout the camp came over to the hill to hear what was really happening in Kunatah. As



these broadcasts took so much time to prepare, Larry had to cut back on them to eventually only make them on a weekly basis after his first summer. At the end of each broadcast, the scouts would shout, "We love you Uncle Funky!", and Larry would reply, "And Uncle Funky loves his little Funkies". It really became one of Larry's trademarks.

Now please don't think that Larry just played around in camp. Larry was the Banker, handling both the scouts' and the troop's money. Larry often woke up the troop on our PA system, as he liked being the first to our latrine to take a hot morning shower (yeah on Chappy with the help of Gene Berman we secured our own shower system, "borrowing" what we needed from long-closed Camp Hayden). Larry made sure that our program was accurate, and we were running on time. Larry was such a creative force in our dynamic programming. Larry was never short on great ideas. He ordered our food weekly for our weekend cookouts and our many troop trips. Larry gave merit badges to hundreds of scouts over the years. Larry was involved in every aspect of Chappy Hill. In summary, Larry did everything in camp.

Early one Summer, Larry even broke his foot at a dam cookout, but he refused to leave, spending the rest of that summer on crutches, doing everything that Larry did.

Larry was also well known for our famous Chappy Scrapbooks. Larry spent countless hours each Winter designing and putting together these camper favorites. In these scrapbooks, one could see that Larry had a great sense of humor, which at times might have been a bit "off-color" but it was always spot on. But Larry wasn't mean. He did not say or

write anything to hurt others. He loved to laugh and helped us laugh at ourselves. That was just another of his great qualities.



In addition to everything else he did, Larry was also very active in the Brooklyn Arrowheads. They are a group of guys who went to TMR in the good old days (those who were inducted into the OA at camp primarily before 1960), and Larry was one of the founders of that group. Larry really enjoyed going to the Annual Dinners in the city and the yearly visits to TMR with his old friends. Larry continued coming regularly for over 50 years until his health started to deteriorate a few years ago.

Memories of Larry LeShay continued from the previous page....

And let us never forget Larry's grace and sense of style. Larry didn't just put on clothes, he got dressed. Most would say that Larry was dapper. He always matched. Larry even was finely dressed at camp. Larry never let himself go. That would not have been proper.



From what I've written so far, you might think that all Larry did was Scouting, but that was so far from the truth. Larry loved a fine meal, a good movie, the theater, his music, and spending time on the computer. Larry was extremely well read. He was well informed on politics and sports. Larry kept up on all the current events and trends, and that is probably why he was so liked by generations of Scouts. He was knowledgeable in so many areas, that it surprised many people. But Larry was that way, as you should have expected the unexpected. And Larry loved his sister Linda and her family. He was a very proud uncle. Larry lived a very full and fulfilling life.

We all know that nothing lasts forever. In 1989, they closed Chappy and with a district realignment, Sakanenk was no more. Still I was privileged to continue my friendship with Larry, as he joined my home unit, Troop 521. Larry became the Committee Chairman of our troop, and he came weekly to the meetings and helped in all aspects of our very active troop. In the late 1990's the troop disbanded and that ended Larry's week-to-week Scouting experiences. Still Larry continued on giving Merit Badges to Scouts and he remained active as a Board Member of the TMR Museum, helping it go from a small shack to a real force on the museum scene. It seems, whatever Larry did, he did big.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that Larry was a real friend to me away from Scouting too. Larry was at my wedding, he came to the baby namings of my daughters and he was at their Bat Mitzvahs. He was like an uncle to my kids and they dearly miss him.

As I mentioned previously, sadly our dear friend Dr. Karl Bernstein succumbed to cancer a few years ago. That was a tremendous blow to all of us but especially to Larry. Karl was Larry's rock, and with Karl gone, Larry's health deteriorated. Larry just never got over the loss of his dear friend Karl. As Larry's health issues mounted, he found it very hard to even leave his home. Thankfully John Cleary, I suspect a friend to many who are reading this article, was often there to step in and help take Larry to doctor's visits and other excursions. I did my best to assist as well.

Just over a week before Larry's passing, John came to pick him up for one of those doctors' visits, finding Larry terribly weak, unable to get out of bed so John called 911. Larry was brought to Maimonides Hospital. I had the chance to visit him there and I could see how weak Larry was. But Larry was still alert and sharp as could be, despite his pain. In usual Larry fashion, he was more concerned with me, than his own situation. On Friday afternoon, October 6th, I was out-of-town, when I got a text from Larry's sister Linda. She said that Larry was not doing well and that he really wanted to speak to me. I called immediately, and in a barely audible voice, Larry told me that he wanted to thank me for my friendship and that he wanted to say goodbye. He thanked me for being there for him. He told me that he loved me. I told him he was like a brother to me and that I loved him too. It was a short call, maybe a minute, as Larry was too weak to stay on longer. Larry passed away the next morning with Linda and her family by his side. Fittingly Larry was sharp and alert to the very end.

During Alumni Day, on July 20, 2018, early in the morning, a group of about 30 Scouting friends and Larry's sister Linda, and her husband Roy, gathered at the site of the old Chappegat Dining Hall. We came to remember Larry and to

spread his ashes. There were guys from our Chappy camp days, Home Troops 202 and 521, Sakanenk and Arrowhead Brothers, the TMR Museum, and friends from Larry's TMR staff days. It was an incredible and touching showing to remember a great friend. Words of tribute and poetry were said, along with many memories shared. Larry's ashes were then spread at the site of the old Chappegat Office, Larry's old leanto and his favorite places in Chappy. We then moved on to Kotohke and spread his remaining ashes at Picture Window. This was Larry's last request, and as his friends, we were honored to fulfil it for him. Later that afternoon, a TMR Museum Memorial Tile was dedicated in Larry's memory.

Larry was a wonderful friend to so many of us and those who knew him have deeply felt his loss. I am sure that all can agree that we were all blessed to have known Larry LeShay.



THE DAY I LOCKED MY SCOUTMASTER IN THE WILLY



By: Dr. Gene Berman Chairman Emeritus TMR Scout Museum

The year was 1957. It was my second year in camp. I know that because my first year, 1956, I was a timid little rookie who didn't know much about anything; I only got in trouble at Rock Lake for canoeing on the lake in areas designated for Kotohke, Chappegat and Ihpetonga Village. My camp was Camp Kunatah. But as is true with many, I was a different person my second year at camp. "I

knew everything".. I was truly a Sophomore (wise fool from the Greek). We were camped in Seneca and Susquehanna (later 11A and 11B) right next to what would become the Central Showers for Kunatah located right across the road from the ballfield. For those that know me as a staid organized adult leader it is unlikely you would recognize the somewhat good hearted but obnoxious kid I was back then.

My crew and I were mad that day because one of the scouts, a rookie named Larry, who was in our patrol, decided he did not want to take his turn being dishwasher that day even though it was his turn to do so. Yes, back in those days a scout not only took his turn being a waiter as he does today but he also rotated to be a dishwasher and a host on subsequent days. Well that scout thought he was being cute by waiting for everyone else including the waiter to be dismissed and then tossed our yellow crockery dishes and silverware out the window of the Kunatah dining hall. How he thought they would not be missed and traced back to him I do not know but that is what he did.

When it came time for Lunch and the Waiter could not find the dishes the whole thing unraveled for him. We assigned him to be dishwasher for the next 3 days and he promptly left the lunch meal, again without doing the dishes. We talked about all kinds of punishments and the one we settled on, or I should say the one the majority settled on



was to "TAR AND FEATHER" him. Needless to say that would never fly today and likely it would be grounds for the perpetrators being arrested. But even then I considered it "one bridge too far". I would have been on Board for a "Pink Belly" where toothpaste is smeared on the person's belly and people play pattycake until it gets real red. By the way, that too would never fly today but back in the 50's it was an acceptable form of punishment.

I went to the Lake and got in trouble doing something else (going into Pirates Cove which was forbidden because the waterfront staff could not see the canoe if it went into the cove). But the others went about tarring and feathering poor Larry. They got rubber cement from handicraft, since they had no feathers they put the rubber cement all over him and put leaves and twigs on top so he became a "walking forest." Needless to say he was crying and went to our Scoutmaster, Mr. Henry Fuller of Troop 515 Brooklyn. Mr. Fuller was a great Scoutmaster

but boy could he cuss up a storm when he got mad. I think his favorite word was "Unglick" which I think means "Idiot" or "Moron" or something like that. Till now you might be



thinking, "this is an interesting story but what does this have to do with locking Mr. Fuller in the Willy?"

By the way let me digress one more time to explain for those who did not have the fortune to grow up in Brooklyn that what was called a LARRY or LATRINE in other camps was known as a Willy in Brooklyn. Anyway, somehow, I got blamed for the tarring and feathering which was not true. I learned later they had blindfolded him, so he did not exactly know who did the evil deed. All the leaders were furious. Years later found out they had to use up a full bottle of Bell's 12-year-old Scotch to get the rubber cement off as they had no acetone or such as we all came up on a charter bus so no one had a car in the leadership.

I am not sure why they were on my case and even when I told them during the time of this incident I was getting docked and in trouble elsewhere and I could prove it I got the same punishment as everyone else. Holding rocks, building rock paths, and extra kitchen cleanup duty were going to come my way So, I did what any good "Jewish Altar boy" would do, who felt he had been wronged. I waited for Mr. Fuller to go into the Willy and took a 2' by 6' board and stuck it between the

THE DAY I LOCKED MY SCOUTMASTER IN THE WILLY continued from the previous page....

handle of the door and the ground so he could not get out.

I might also have to explain now that the old Kunatah Willys were double-deckers. Upstairs was the showers and washing sinks. Downstairs on one side was the urinals with a door to get in and on the other side were the "Crappers" for that purpose, with its own separate door. This was door #2. I expected Mr. Fuller would be found in a few minutes as someone would hear him yelling. But being a kid myself when they yelled to hurry up and get into formation and get to the Camp Compound for Retreat and dinner, I totally forgot about Mr. Fuller. Forty-five minutes later after dinner the troop returned to camp. Obviously, someone released him from his "Willy Prison". Mr. Fuller had emigrated from Germany and spoke English well but with a very thick German Accent. The whole troop learned how to curse in German that day as he went around with a big stick looking for the culprit or culprits. He never did find out I was the one. When its my turn to go and I do not mean to the Willy, I hope if I do meet him in the Afterlife, he does not remember that day. Mr. Henry Fuller was a great Scoutmaster and I think he was very proud of me and my accomplishments through the years before he passed away. But not on that day!!

Some Chappegat Willy History

By David Lelonek



I started coming to TMR in the early 1970s. Due to having camped in several different TMR eras, I have had the unique opportunity to use many different types of willys (latrines) in camp.

I first camped on Kunatah Hill. These are the sites that were just up the hill, behind the Kunatah Dining Hall, just past the QM, and the then nature lodge. The willys there were the classic 2-seater pit latrines that were common throughout the reservation at that time. I am sure that most are familiar with these, where once you

went, your business sat in a pit below for eternity (or at least until it decomposed). Most were under the impression that these were the only available facilities in Kunatah, but we were wrong.

In 1973, the Kunatah Shower House was built. It had a few flush toilets. There were three areas to the new shower house – two areas for Scouts, with a separate area in the center for adult leaders and staff, with each Scout area having two flush toilets, and three in the adult area). This was a major advancement, and it brought a bit of a modern touch to Kunatah. But as they were far from most sites, you only used these modern marvels when you were at the shower house or at the adjacent ballfield.

In 1974, my home unit, Troop 521, spent the first six weeks (of then an 8-week summer program) in the old Camp Chappegat, or as most people referred to it as "up on Chappy Hill". Chappegat had been its own camp, but in the early 60s it was closed up and absorbed into Kunatah. We were given the opportunity to use this abandoned, out-of-way camp, and we loved it. Chappy seemed to have it all.

Chappy, having been its own camp, and although it was older than much of Kunatah, it was also larger and more spread out. It still had its old camp office, which we call "The Palace." The Palace was the epicenter of our unit. We conducted all of our business and administration there. It also had electricity and eventually we were even able to get our own private phone line hooked up. There was many leantos in the front sites, of which there were three, and many more leanto sites beyond that, going into the woods and further up Chappy Hill. At that time, Chappy still had the old QM standing, which we turned into a Play Room (we had pool and ping-pong tables in them), and a small ballfield. In addition, still standing was the open-air Chappegat Dining Hall, which we used for all sorts of innovative programming (indoor soccer, basketball, dodge ball, prison ball, game nights, competitions, movies, etc.). The Chappy Dining Hall became our rec

center.

Conta

Still, when you first arrived on Chappy, a structure that seemed to catch most everyone's eyes was the

Chappy latrine. This was a large, old wooden structure, with five seats and a urinal on one side, and a large sink with five faucets and a shower on the other. The latrine

Some Chappegat Willy History

Continued from previous page....

had a cement foundation, like any permanent structure, with a step going up to the cement platform. When you used the urinal, you stood on a wooden set of planks, which covered the most unique part of the structure, the "tippan". Hence the name given to these types of willys were the tip-pan latrines. At that time on Chappy, there were still actually three of these latrines still in functioning condition, all with electricity and in service.

The willy which I previously mentioned was the main latrine, for all of the front sites. If one continued further, past the Chappy Field, you came to a small trail that took you into the woods and eventually to another tip-pan latrine and another set of hidden leantos. This area was called Hidden Valley. The Hidden Valley latrine was a six-seater, but it had faucets on both sides as well as a urinal and three seats on each side. There was no shower in the Hidden Valley latrine.

I mentioned that there was a third latrine to be found. If one was to continue on the road past Chappy, going up towards Kotohke (D-1), about 100 yards past Blow Horn Rock, you came to a large field on the left. If you walked west, through the field, you came to another set of leantos and a latrine. This was the final willy still on Chappy, and it was the High Chappy Latrine. This willy was similar to the one in Hidden Valley, but it had four seats and four faucets per side, along with its urinal on each side, as well as a shower.

These last two willys to say the least were off the beaten path, and in general, were not often used by most. Personally, I only used them when the main willy was full, and with the cooking at Kunatah Dining Hall being what it was, this was not a rarity. As well, at times when we topped some mid-summer weeks with over 100 boys on Chappy Hill (in 1975 through 1978), we were forced to open up the sites in Hidden Valley and High Chappy, so then their respective willys were in much more frequent use.

According to my late dear friend Karl Bernstein, these tip-pan latrines were at one time all over the reservation. Each was individually built on-site, with the 5 and 8 seaters being the most prominent. Ask anyone who has used, maintained and cleaned them; they were high maintenance and expensive to keep up, so like many things, they became obsolete. They were unfortunately replaced by the 2-seater pit latrine most of you know.

You might ask what made a tip-pan latrine so special and how did they work. Gravity was our big helper here. When one washed or showered, the waste water would empty into the tip-pan. The tip-pan was shaped like a big dipper, set on a fulcrum. When enough water would fill the tip-pan it would shift the center of gravity, which would eventually tip the pan to its side and dump its water into the foundation of the latrine, where the solid waste had accumulated. It was then washed down a small 4" pipe. From there it traveled to a filter sand bed, which was on the side of the ride by the then Archery and Rifle Ranges. All the willys on Chappy emptied into these filter beds, which at that time, only were fed by Hill, as all the other feeders were now gone.

I became an expert in them through need, as someone had to learn how to fix and maintain them. By the time 521 arrived on the Hill in 1974, these were the last functioning latrines of their kind in TMR. All the others had been destroyed and replaced. As Chappegat stood empty for so many years, there seemed to be no need for the rangers to deal with these latrines or they were forgotten, and they thankfully stood the test of time until that point. Once I became the unit leader on Chappy in 1978, the two outer willys had deteriorated and were torn down. Still the main Chappy willy was still going relatively strong. With the help of Dr. Gene Berman, we were even able to secure a hot-water tank, so we now had hot water showers on Chappy.



So, if everything was so special, you might wonder where the repair and maintenance part comes in. Well as I mentioned before, all the waste went down a 4" pipe. Unfortunately, a willy roll is about the same diameter. Invariantly, despite and most stern warnings and plead-

ings, rolls did accidently fall through the holes. If advised soon enough, I or someone else could usually fish out that roll with a rake. But on rare occasions, that roll got stuck at the mouth of that pipe and there was no other way to get it out except to go in after it. That someone became me. To do so, you had to lift the heavy wooden planks over the urinal, then the tip-pan had to be gently lifted out of its setting and placed to the side, which was no easy task. The tip-pan was very heavy, about 50 pounds, was very large and bulky, and due to age, was

Some Chappegat Willy History

Continued from previous page

rather rusted. We knew that it would be nearly impossible to replace, and if possible, it would be rather costly. Once the tip-pan was off to the side, I had to limbo in and fetch the offending roll. This was no easy task, as you might understand, there was still solid waste down there. I would dress in high water boots, an old bathing suit that I eventually used just for this task, and large arm-length gloves. As soon as I did what I had to, and everything was back in place, I was hosed off, and took a long hot Chappy shower. As you might imagine, we tried to keep these occurrences as infrequent as possible. We asked the Scouts to please tell us as soon as a roll went down, so the water and waste levels would be as low as possible. Finally, as well, once this situation was identified, the latrine was off limits until the problem was solved, this meant that we had to resolve the issue quickly.

Another problem that developed with our latrine was that the tip-pan eventually did start to crack along the bottom, most likely due to its handling and the rust from its age. We tried to weld it and we even tried to putty the cracks, but they quickly reopened. With this problem in mind, we made sure to intentionally tip the pan at least once a day, as the cracks often leaked so much water that it prevented the tip-pan from flushing out the waste, unless it was a busy day. To make sure that the willy was clean, we assigned each patrol on a rotating basis to serve as the Service Patrol, who had to wash it down and sanitize it daily. Still despite its challenges, we kept our Chappy Willy going on for years.



Me entering the Chappy Willy (about 1982)

In the early 80s, the county health inspector finally found Chappy. For many years when he came to inspect Kunatah, he was not aware that there was any real activity beyond the main part of camp. On one of inspections of the shower house, he followed that electric lines and he came upon Chappy Hill. Once he discovered the Hill, he

was not happy. The inspector disliked many things about Chappy, with it being on a hill, the "steps" which were made of logs, it being remote from the main part of camp, and he mostly hated the willy. He felt the willy was too old, and the fact that it relied on an infrequent flushing system, as opposed to after every use, made it unsanitary (he knew nothing of the cracks in the tip-pan, which would not have helped). Sadly, after the summer of 1988, the inspector was able to apply enough pressure on GNYC to have Chappy shut down. This was a great blow to many scouts and staff who came to Chappy year after year. Still, in retrospect, I guess we should be thankful that we got so many years of camp despite the health inspector trying to close us down.

Since then, the Chappy Willy was torn down, where it lies in a pile of rubble. A few years after Kunatah was closed, a large fire destroyed the remaining buildings on the Hill. It is sad to go back, but a bit calming to see nature re-establish itself. Thankfully we have many happy memories from our summers on Chappy Hill.

CORRECT ANSWERS TO THE TMR TRIVIA

6. B

1. B

7. A

3. A

2.

8. A

4. D

9. C

5. B

10. D



2020 Museum Historian Patch Promotion By David M. Malatzky

By early July it was clear that the Museum would not open for the 2020 season. This presented a problem and an opportunity. The problem was that the Museum had already ordered 500 of the 2020 Museum Historian patches. What to do with the patches when they arrived? The solution was to host a web-based Museum program based on the traditional in-Museum Historian Patch requirements. Individuals that satisfied the requirements would receive the 2020 Historian Patch in the mail.

But how do you make a virtual tour of the Museum? It took two trips up to T.M.R., and a lot of retakes, but our acting crew of Ira Nagel and Anthony Zalak did it. The 11 ½ minute video provided a complete tour of the Museum and grounds, with expert commentary. By October 2020 more than 1,000 persons viewed the video on our YouTube Channel.

Besides viewing the tour video, participants had to view the "Origins of TMR" video (the same one you usually see at the Museum), and answer an online TMR history quiz.

The results were astounding. By early October, participants came from 96 Troops, hailing from 19 States, 38 Boroughs and Councils, 96 adults and 94 youths. From New York City, participants came from 44 Troops.

Participants received the 2020 Historian patch, a letter from Chairman Drillinger inviting them to visit the Museum and a TMR Historical Trails brochure. Adults also received a Museum brochure.

The 2020 Museum Historian Patch promotion will run until the end of the year. For additional information visit:

https://www.tmrmuseum.org/historian

2020 T.M.R. Museum Historian Award

Scout or Adult, You can earn the unique 3 in. "No-Covid-19" 2020 T.M.R. Museum Historian Award w/button loop. No visit to the Museum. All requirements can be completed online.



To earn the 2020 T.M.R. Museum Historian Award:

- 1. View the 9-min. video "Origins of T.M.R." at https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=d5BlrpU26mI
- 2. View the 11-min. video "Virtual Tour of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum" at https://youtu.be/S6LesmXuWF0
- 3. Complete the Ten Mile River Scout Museum Quiz at https://www.tmrmuseum.org/museum-quiz-1

Notes:

- You are required to provide your First Name, Last Name Initial, Troop and Borough/Community.
- Enter the mailing address where the Historian Award should be mailed. This could be you, a parent, Troop leader, or adult friend.
- We urge Troops to request that the Historian Awards be mailed to the Scoutmaster or adult Troop leader. A list of the Scouts that earned the award will be included. This makes mailing the awards far more easier and gives the Troop the opportunity to present the awards at a Troop function.

Visit: https://www.tmrmuseum.org/historian





JOIN THE TEN MILE RIVER 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 two 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 customengraved 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 ar-

ranged, typically on T.M.R. Alumni Day in July or August. Tiles are available in a variety of sizes, colors and materials. Prices range from \$125-\$1,000 per tile. Laserengraved 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.
- Two 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. 10% discount at the Museum shop (no mail order).
- 5. A special Member's patch.

2020 Dues-Paying Members

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Credit Card #:	Expiration
I authorize Greater New York Counc	cils, Boy Scouts of America to debit my credit card account in the amount indicated above and credit the
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Signature	
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WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Purchase this 6-inch commemorative backpatch to remember the summer TMR had no camping for scouts.

Visit: www.tmrmuseum.org/online-museum-store





Visit the Museum's YouTube channel and see all of the TMR-related programming.



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