



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

Winter 2013 Volume 6, Whole Number 2

T.M.R. ALUMNI DAY & HISTORY WEEKEND, AUG. 2-3, 2014

Celebrating 87 Years of Ten Mile River

Save the date on your calendar now for the T.M.R. Alumni Day and History Weekend, Saturday Aug. 3, - Sunday Aug. 4, 2014, at Headquarters Camp, T.M.R. Gathering is at 10:00 am with a welcome orientation and ceremony at 11:00 am followed by lunch. After lunch, feel free to visit the camps of yesterday and today.

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum will be open for visits and video viewing of T.M.R. History. You can visit the Cayuga/Kotohke Cabin historical display and the Kunatah Trading Post at the Museum.

Do you miss sleeping in the canvas tents? We can help you! Arrangements can be made for an overnight stay on Saturday at Camp Keowa. We will supply the tent and cot; just bring your own bedding.

Register and pay online by credit card: bsa-gnyc.org/alumniday. See the flyer on Page 6.

MUSEUM TO HOST HISTORY WEEKEND

By: David M. Malatzky
archivist@tmrmuseum.org

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum is planning to host a "History Weekend" the same weekend as the T.M.R. Alumni Day, August 2-3, 2014. The program will start Saturday at 1:00 pm (immediately after the Alumni Day Lunch) and continue until 5:00 pm, then resume on Sunday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Alumni desiring to participate in the entire two-day event will be able to stay over in camp Saturday night. Lunch will be available for purchase on Sunday.

The theme of the weekend will be local history and will feature guest lecturers and displays from various local and regional museums and the National Park Service. The Museum will be open the entire weekend.



SEVEN LONGTIME SCOUTERS INDUCTED INTO G.N.Y.C.'S CAMPING HALL OF FAME

By: Mitchell Slepian, Editor

Richmond Hill, N.Y.—Nov. 12, approximately 100 scouters and their families gathered at Villa Russo for the Greater New York Councils' (GNYC) Camping Hall of Fame Induction. Richard E. Benini, Dr. Karl E. Bernstein, Ph.D., Harold "Hal" Rosenfeld were the 2013 inductees into the Ten Mile River Scout Camps Hall of Fame (TMRHOF). Benini was inducted by TMR Rangers Jim Loeffel and Lou Farragher. Bernstein and Rosenfeld were inducted by 2012 inductee, John Cleary. Martin H. Eisenberg and John E. Franzreb III were inducted into the Pouch Scout Camp Hall of



Museum Trustee Hal Rosenfeld (L) receives award from John Cleary

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MUSEUM TO PUBLISH COMMEMORATIVE BOOK FOR ALUMNI DAY

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum and the Ten Mile River Alumni Association are planning to publish a special commemorative book, filled with T.M.R. history, photos and the memories of T.M.R. Alumni. The book, entitled "T.M.R. - The Way We Remember It," will be distributed free of charge to participants at the 2014 T.M.R. Alumni Day on August 2nd. Between now and Alumni Day, the Museum will solicit from the T.M.R. Alumni their favorite recollections of life in camp.

The Alumni will also have the opportunity to place ads in the book, commemorating their years at T.M.R., recognizing their camp friends and their favorite T.M.R. summer camp(s). All profits from the book will benefit the Ten Mile River Scout Camps. See the flyer on Page 11.

MUSEUM STRATEGY MEETING

By: Mitchell Slepian, Editor

Alpine, N.J.—Nov. 3, over one dozen Ten Mile River Scout Camps Museum (TMR) trustees attended a full day of strategic planning at Reeves Lodge, Alpine Scout Camp. Chairman Drillingier opened the session with a warm welcome and explanation of his goals as the newly elected chair.



Participants at the Strategy Meeting

Long time Trustee Ed Winters used his vast not-for-profit fundraising and money allocation experience to help plan our future. At first he broke us into three groups of about 6-7 people charged with the task of figuring how to best invest \$1,000,000 into the museum. All three groups charted out its ideas and presented their findings.

Interestingly all of us planned along the same lines. For the most part we were going to reinvest
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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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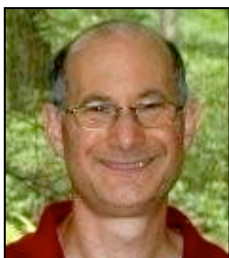
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POSTMASTER: Send change of address to TMR, 1481 Crystal Lake Road, County Road 26, Narrowsburg, NY 12764-4414.

some words from the chairman



By: Michael Drillinger
chairman@tmrmuseum.org

Dear Friends of the TMR Scout Museum,

Welcome to a new year and a new beginning for the TMR Scout Museum. As told in the story *"The Devil and Daniel Webster,"* if you visit Daniel Webster's grave you may hear him ask, *"Neighbor, how stands the Union?"* Then you better answer, *"The Union stands as she stood, rock-bottomed and copper sheathed, one and indivisible..."* Now I am not comparing anyone at the museum to the great Daniel Webster, but if you ask me *"How stands the Museum?"* then I will answer *"It stands as it stood, rock-bottomed and copper sheathed, one and indivisible!"*

We had a great summer in 2013. We had twice as many visitors as the year before. There was great interest in our first photography show, *"The Moods of TMR."* Forty-seven scouts earned our first merit badge, the Archaeology Merit Badge at the Museum. And we produced the museum's first public event! We hosted C.C.C. Day to commemorate the 80th anniversary of President Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps and the only camp to be operated on private property - at our own Ten Mile River in what is now Headquarters Camp.

C.C.C. Day was widely publicized and well attended. This summer we are planning a two-day public event that will be a *"History Day."* We'll invite many local historians, other museums, historical societies and other special guests. The event is set to coincide with Alumni Day, so we hope you will make plans to come up for the day and stay for the weekend.

Speaking of Alumni Day, we are planning to prepare a special keepsake Journal that will be given away to all those who attend Alumni Day 2014. The journal will be filled with stories and photos about TMR then and now. We will be inviting you and other TMR alums to share your memories if you would like them included in the Journal. You will have the opportunity to buy space in the Journal if you want to send a special message to others who will share the journal. Check the Museum website and Facebook page for more information.

We are now developing a brand new exhibit for the 100th anniversary of the Order of the Arrow, which will happen in 2015. Our exhibit will debut this summer and will feature the histories of the lodges of Ten Mile River Scout Camps. We hope to show some very special OA memorabilia.

There will be another *"Moods of TMR"* photography show in 2014, to enter see the information in this issue of Smoke Signals.

Early in November, almost 20 Museum trustees met at Alpine to re-imagine the Ten Mile River Scout Museum. We are developing a new long-range strategic plan for the Museum. Expect to see new and exciting things!

I want to personally thank you for your interest and support of the Museum and its programs. I know you will be pleased with the results of our work. I know I have said a mouthful here, but as Daniel Webster says to farmer Jabez Stone after he saves him from the Devil: *"Let's see what's left in the jug, for it's dry work talking all night..."*

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



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 this summer, items may be dropped off at the Museum as well.



from the editor



By: Mitchell Slepian
olaf93@earthlink.net

As the new editor of *"Smoke Signals,"* I first want to thank Dr. Gene Berman for his decade-plus of service as chair of our Museum. I know Former Editor, now Chair Mike Drillinger, will continue Gene's tremendous work and lead us to new heights.

I only hope I do as good of a job with this newsletter that Mike did. I know there were some "reservations" about me taking on this role. However, there is no need to worry. I will never change the direction of this newsletter. Yes there might be an occasional reference to one of my favorite topics and social locations in camp, the latrine. But that will be it.

In 1999, my friend, the late Gary Motelson, told me about the museum and suggested I join. I remember my first meeting like it was yesterday, Gary, Gene and Dr. Karl Bernstein (also a museum trustee) and others met for pizza near the old GNYC office. We talked about our days in camp. Gene was part of Chappagat, where I spent the best years of my life. Karl was an "honorary" assistant scoutmaster of Troop 521 (later 721) and Gary was from Aquehongan Lodge #112 and camped in a site near Chappy. All of them knew me from when I was about 12.

After our pizza, we went over to GNYC's offices for our meeting. I knew from the moment we were at the pizzeria, I was going on a journey. But the trail to this journey started more than 30 years ago. In 1983, I climbed the steps of Chappagat Hill and met then Scoutmaster Dave Lelonek and Troop Committee Chair and Assistant Scoutmaster Larry Leshay of Troop 521. Little did I know that every day the three of us would discuss our memories of the Hill in countless emails, texts, etc.

Dave and Larry led our troop through hundreds of great activities. Favorites included Hurdles, ChappyTraz, campfires with our homemade skits, going to the waterfront and just hanging out in my leanto with my fellow scouuuuts. During Chappy mail call, Larry or Dave would read out "scouuuut" and then toss us our mail. I still think about the fun times in Chappy daily.

Karl came up several weeks a summer. I often went on hikes with him to D-1, Kotohke. He pointed out all the interesting spots in Kotohke be it the old dining hall, cabins and the "Asshole." Clean your minds. It is two rocks that are shaped like one.

In 1999, I visited the Museum for the first time with Gary and his son, Matthew. It was the first time I'd been in TMR since 1989. Along with Gene, Karl and a few other trustees we moved some things around. We called it a day at the museum site.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 3

Gary, Matthew and I headed over to Chappy. We then went to Pecks so I could buy Genesee Cream Ale and a box or two of Freihofer's chocolate chip cookies. We used to devour these cookies during our camp days. Genny was another fave.

Then we went to the now closed El Monaco's for dinner. We had their delicious "red sauce." No matter what you ordered at that restaurant, it was coated in the red sauce. Us Chappy scouts used to have our Super Week banquet there. We ordered pizza from there every other week on Thursday nights. Sometimes on pizza night, we would watch movies in the "Palace," our office. I can't count how many times we watched the "Rocky Horror Picture Show."

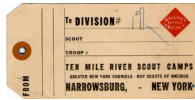
A year later, Gary, his dad, Steve and one of his kids went up for a day over Memorial Day Weekend. We did some work at the Museum and came home.

A few weeks later, Gary, Steve, Brian, Evan (Gary's sons) and I went up again. Sadly, we didn't all come home. A horrific auto accident occurred on our way home. Steve did not survive. Brian and I were medevac'd to Westchester Medical Center. I sustained more injuries than I care to go into. The fact that I survived is a miracle. Unfortunately, Brian did not. I spent the rest of the summer in JFK Medical Center, Edison, N.J.

July 4, 2010, Gary went to the Great Campsite in the sky.

Well I am excited about the path ahead of me. As hike this trail, I hope to keep the memories of Chappy and my dear friends alive. At the same time, I hope to create new memories and make more long lasting friendships around our campfire.

Yours in Ten Mile River,
Mitchell Slepian



MUSEUM STRATEGY MEETING

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the money to let it grow and use a small sum of it each year for maintenance and upkeep of our museum and some new capital projects. We all share the same goal. We want to expand our exhibits. But more important increase the number of visitors we have each summer.

We spent the next hour so going over some key projects we would like to see the Museum take on. We broke for pizza and sandwiches. Sadly, there was no GOP. We were forced to drink bottled water, Snapple and soda.

After we adjourned from lunch we went back to our planning. The different groups discussed some of the projects they wanted to bring to the museum, including signage around camp and the towns surrounding us to alert both TMR campers and local residents of our existence. We also talked about maintenance issues, such as cleaning up our storage facilities, display cases and obtaining and installing a large tent for alumni day.

The day concluded in the late afternoon. Chairman Drillingier drove off with dozens of sheets from the easels we wrote on to create our future.

BIG APPLE JAMBOREE

By: Rich Miller Jimenez

Ten Mile River Scout Museum Trustees Richard Miller and Ira Nagel spent three nights at Pouch Scout Camp, October 11-13, for the G.N.Y.C. Big Apple Jamboree. Ira and myself set up the display of the history of T.M.R. Scout Camps from the 1920s to 1980s. Dozens of scouts and leaders and the general public came to visit and see the display. Museum Trustees Hal Rosenfeld, Frank Mullane and David Malatzky, were also there to help out.



Rich Miller and the Museum Exhibit

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Continued from Page 1

Fame. Eisenberg was inducted by Peter Gioia. Franzreb was inducted by 2007 TMRHOF inductee Francis J. Harty. James Debonet and Lorri E. McGregor were inducted into the Alpine Scout Camp Hall of Fame. Denonet was inducted by Bob Madsen, director of support service and CFO for GNYC.



Museum Trustee Karl Bernstein (L) receives award from John Cleary

All of the honors were well deserved. Combined these individuals been giving service to the Boy Scouts of America for over 300 years. They have earned a slew of honors, including but not limited to Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor, the Silver Beaver and the Good Scout Award.

On a personal note I met Bernstein in 1984, Rosenfeld and Eisenberg shortly after. I serve with Bernstein and Rosenfeld on the TMR Scout Museum Committee and worked with Eisenberg as a scout and scouter on Staten Island. Interesting enough Bernstein and Rosenfeld remember when my father was chief of Shu-Shu-Gah Lodge #24 in the 60s. To bring things even closer to home Eisenberg was the French Horn player in the Thomas Jefferson High School Band and dad was the drummer.

All spoke beautifully about the treasures scouting has given them and why they continue to stay involved. It is fitting to paraphrase Rosenfeld who captured the sentiment everyone in the room believes, "While it is nice to receive awards. The real award is what scouting has given to me: friendships that have lasted all of my life."

THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE – THE O.A. INDUCTION OF PRESIDENT F.D.R.

*By: David M. Malatzky
archivist@tmmuseum.org*

The Museum recently received from Bill Topkis a copy of a video that he and his son produced for the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference on the induction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt into Suanhacker Lodge, Order of the Arrow at Camp Man, T.M.R. on August 23, 1933.

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum contributed both video footage and still photos to this project and is recognized at the end of the video in the credits.

The 3:11 minute video consists of mostly excerpts of newsreel footage of F.D.R.'s speech on the NRA (National Recovery Administration). It shows F.D.R. being driven into the Camp Man Amphitheater to the cheers of the Scouts, and him welcoming the Scouts, stating "Fellow members of the Boy Scouts of America. I haven't been here for two years - all sorts of things have happened up here in that time."



President Roosevelt Speaking at Camp Man

On the video, F.D.R. stated: "I am glad too, to see that you have adopted the NRA insignia. . . . When you come right down to it, the NRA is based on the same fundamentals that scouting is based on, in other words, trying to do something for the other fellow and not trying to do somebody. It is based on cooperation - you know what that means. It is based on the spirit of service and it is going to work - just like Scouting has worked."

The video shows President Roosevelt wearing an Indian headdress that was placed on his head by a Bronx O.A. member.

It concludes with President Roosevelt stating, "I suppose that I have to be getting along, on my way."

Two newsreel companies were identified at the beginning of the video: Universal Newspaper Newsreel and Hearst Metrotone News. Mr. Topkis and his son obtained the newsreel footage from various film vaults. This was not an inexpensive undertaking. According to Mr. Topkis he was charged \$80 per second of footage from one film vault.

You can view the video on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ch2PHjvhtKc&feature=player_embedded.

T.M.R. C.C.C. DAY

By: David M. Malatzky
archivist@tmrmuseum.org

On Sunday, August 4, 2013, the Museum organized a C.C.C. Day to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps and our very own C.C.C. Camp Ten Mile River, only a short walk from the Museum Building. This was the day following the 2013 T.M.R. Alumni Day and the Alumni were invited to stay in camp overnight and attend the event.



Jonah Triebwasser as "F.D.R."

C.C.C. Day was mainly a public-oriented event and widely publicized in the local media, due to the efforts of *T.M.R. Smoke Signals* Editor Mitch Slepian. As we all know, the Ten Mile River Scout Camps does not organize public-oriented events, especially during summer camp. So it was an open question on many minds how many people would attend. I joked months before that it was worth it to attend the event, just to see how many people showed up. Attendance was light at the 9:00 am opening ceremony but picked up during the day as more people arrived. We had a decent crowd for lunch and the afternoon program, with about 80 in all attending. The weather was sunny and warm.



Bob Chiusano on the Midway

The program centered on the Museum's picnic area, the HQ dining hall, and the Pump House in the HQ staff cabin area, the last remaining building from Camp Ten Mile River. It was designed so that a lot of things were going on at the same time so that the participants always had plenty to do.

The Museum Building, Kernochan Blockhouse and Cayuga/Kotohke Cabin were open for the day. Local historical and cultural groups manned tables in the back of the picnic area, including the Sullivan County Museum, the Tusten Historical Society, Upper Delaware River Council and the National

T.M.R. SMOKE SIGNALS | Winter 2013



John Dowd, Jonah Triebwasser and Asst. Curator Tyler Margotta dedicate the C.C.C. plaque

Park Service. Bob Chiusano manned a table selling C.C.C. pins, patches and literature.

The regular C.C.C. Camp walking tour was augmented with informative signs on posts at each stop describing the history. Museum Assistant Curator Tyler Margotta led the participants on guided walks of the C.C.C. Camp throughout the day.



Tyler Margotta leading a walking tour of the C.C.C. Camp site

Inside the Museum Building, a documentary on the C.C.C. was shown hourly. There were special displays on Camp Ten Mile River.

The organized program began in the picnic area with a flag ceremony, courtesy of Camp Keowa Director John X. Restrepo and the Camp Keowa Staff, followed by a benediction by Museum Curator Paul Lumpkin and a welcome by T.M.R. Reservation Director Sean Quinn. Next, Museum Chairman Michael Drillingier welcomed the participants and I talked about the history of the C.C.C. and the contributions that Camp Ten Mile River made to the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and



Panel Discussion with Peter Osborne, Diane Galusha, Jonah Triebwasser and John Dowd

the local area. Hudson Valley Council Scouter Jonah Triebwasser made his first appearance as "F.D.R." and talked about Franklin D. Roosevelt's role in Scouting and the acquisition of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps property.

After a short break, Jonah returned again as "F.D.R." and gave an inspiring speech about Franklin D. Roosevelt and the C.C.C.

Next, the participants walked over to the Pump House in the HQ staff cabin area for the dedication of a plaque commemorating C.C.C. Camp Ten Mile River, led by Museum Trustee John Dowd.

A delicious hot dog and hamburger lunch followed in the Headquarters Camp dining hall.



C.C.C. Presentation by Peter Osborne

The afternoon program began in the picnic area with a panel discussion on the C.C.C., led by historian Peter Osborne, with panelists Jonah Triebwasser as "F.D.R.," Museum Trustee John Dowd, and local historian Diane Galusha.

After a break, Peter Osborne presented an informative hour-long PowerPoint presentation on the C.C.C. in the HQ dining hall.

Back in the picnic area, I closed the event with some remarks, thanked the event staff for their support, the C.C.C. Day Committee for organizing the event and the participants (mostly the public) for showing up.

Thanks go to the C.C.C. Day Committee, which consisted of myself as Chairman, Michael Drillingier, Decan Paul Lumpkin, Hal Rosenfeld and John Dowd. A special thanks goes to two persons: Jonah Triebwasser, who electrified the audience with his interpretation of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Peter Osborne for leading the panel discussion and for his highly informative presentation on the C.C.C.

The Museum received a tremendous amount of positive publicity as a result of organizing the T.M.R. C.C.C. Day. This started last May, with a 3-page article on C.C.C. Camp Ten Mile River in the *Upper Delaware Valley Magazine*, edited by former Brooklyn Scouter Tom Caska, in a radio spot on Jefferson Radio station WJFF recorded by Michael Drillingier, articles in local and national newspapers and magazines, including *The River Reporter*, *The Catskill Chronicle*, the *C.C.C. Legacy newsletter*, *The Times Herald-Record*; and online lists and publications, such as the *Sullivan County Catskills Event List*.



Celebrating **87** Years of TMR Scout Camps

You're Invited To:

Ten Mile River Alumni Day And History Weekend

Sat. & Sun. August 2-3, 2014

10:00 AM - Gathering

11:00 AM - Welcome Orientation & Ceremony

T.M.R. Alumni Reunion Day

1481 Crystal Lake Road
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Join us for a Welcome Orientation and Ceremony to be followed by lunch held at Headquarters. After lunch, feel free to visit the camps of yesterday and today with your family and friends. Visit our Camps and reminisce as you speak to the current camp leadership as they showcase their camps of today. The Reservation will be open for visits and video viewing of T.M.R. History. You can visit the Cayuga/Kotohke Cabin historical display and the Kunatah Trading Post at the Museum.

Do you miss sleeping in the canvas tents? We can help you! Arrangements can be made for an overnight stay on Saturday at Camp Keowa. We will supply the tent and cot; just bring your own bedding.

NEW THIS YEAR: *We will be hosting a History Weekend in conjunction with the TMR Alumni Day. The History Weekend will start immediately after Alumni Day and run through 3:00 pm on Sunday. It will feature guest lecturers and displays from various local and regional museums and the National Park Service. Please reach out to David Malatzky for more details about this program: DMALATZKY@AOL.COM*

Don't miss your opportunity to relive your youth as you partake in our Alumni Weekend.

2014 TMR Alumni Day

Register and Pay online by credit card: bsa-gnyc.org/alumniday

Make Checks payable to:

Boy Scouts of America, GNYC

Mail Payments To:

TMR Alumni Association

Ten Mile River

1481 Crystal Lake Road

Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Camping Services Call (212) 651-3073

F-Name: _____ L-Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

H-Phone: _____ W-Phone: _____

☐ I would like _____ lunch ticket(s) at \$5.00 each. **Total cost \$** _____

☐ I cannot attend, accept my donation of \$ _____ to benefit TMR Scouts.

☐ I would like to stay over. I will need arrangements for _____ # of people.

Credit Card Payments: ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Print Name on Card: _____

HISTORY OF THE TEN MILE RIVER SCOUT CAMPS

By: David M. Malatzky
archivist@tmmuseum.org

(Continued from the TMRSS Summer 2013 issue.)



Ranachqua Lodge, Order of the Arrow

Wallace, the new camp, called "Camp Davis Lake" was opened as a truly primitive camp. Troops were required to prepare their own meals and for the most part provide their own program though staff was now available to supplement the program. During the last week of that summer at Davis Lake, the first Explorer Camp was run successfully. Powerboats were brought in a water skiing program that provided some true high adventure!

THE ORDER OF THE ARROW

Until the mid-1950s, the Order of the Arrow elected and inducted its members exclusively at T.M.R. Its activities outside of summer camp included monthly chapter meetings and social or service events. The O.A. became a home-troop based organization starting around 1953. Camp chapters became district chapters and elections were shifted to home Troops in the city. Over the next several years, Scouts elected by their home Troops in the city had the option of being inducted on a weekend by the district chapter or presenting their letter of election and being tapped out and inducted during one of the four two-week camp periods. This choice was phased out at the end of the 1950s, basically ending Order of the Arrow participation in the camp program.

THE BIG CAMP REORGANIZATIONS OF THE 1950S

By the middle of the 1950s Ten Mile River was organized differently than it had been at its founding. Instead of eleven 100-boy camps around Rock Lake comprising "Brooklyn Camps," there were now four distinct camps known as Kunatah, Kotohke, Chappagat, and Ihpetonga. On Crystal Lake, the original Camp Manhattan was now Camp Keowa and Camp Rondack; while the old "Queens Camp" known, as Camp Man was now Camp Kernochan, Camp Lakeside, and Camp



Family Camp

Central. On Lake Nianque the original "Bronx Camps," known as Divisions "A," "C," and "E" were now Family Camp (or "Zumi Village"), Camp Nianque, and Camp Stillwaters respectively. Only Camp Aquehonga remained essentially unchanged by this time. However, despite the name and organizational changes, the reservation still had the same basic boundaries and very much the same Borough loyalties to the camps, which had existed since the beginning.

Camp Kotohke closed after the 1956 season. Its waterfront was not accessible by emergency vehicles and the camp itself was difficult to reach at the end of a long road.

The Council was also actively purchasing parcels of land bordering the Ten Mile River property so as to increase the potential of the physical operation. In 1959, the old Half Moon Lake Hotel property was purchased giving the Greater New York Councils full ownership of Half Moon Lake. This would later become new Camp Aquehonga and the "Barta House."

THE B.S.A. 50th ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN

By 1960, home Troops in increasing numbers attended Ten Mile River under their own leadership. New concepts were developed under the title of "self-reliant camping." Instead of sleeping in cabins or lean-tos and eating in dining halls, Scouts would sleep in tents in their campsites and cook their own food.



The Main Trading Post

To fund the huge capital expenditures required, in 1960 the Greater New York Councils conducted the 50th anniversary of Scouting Capital Campaign with the expressed purpose of building capital projects at Ten Mile River and the other weekend camps. This campaign was enormously successful and among the facilities constructed were the staff and family cabins at Rock Lake, Crystal Lake, and Lake Nianque. The entire Headquarters service area including the administration building, the main trading post, the health lodge, the maintenance shop, the central warehouse and fourteen



The Main Trading Post

Adirondack shelters for housing key staff and families were also constructed during this era.

The residual effect of this capital infusion was to continue to increase the boy population so that at its peak in 1965 Ten Mile River was operating eleven camps with a peak usage of nearly 12,000 boy-weeks. In 1962, Camp Stillwaters was renamed Camp Ranachqua. In 1963, Camp Chappagat was absorbed into an expanded Camp Kunatah.

TEN MILE RIVER OUTPOST CAMPS

In 1965, T.M.R. Program Director John Duffy began the Outpost Camp program. Patterned after Philmont Scout Ranch, the eleven T.M.R. camps were each responsible for staffing a nearby Outpost Camp. Scouts participated in an afternoon program, cooked their own meals and slept overnight at the camp. Among these were canoeing, archery, survival, fishing, sailing and Indian-lore camps. Less popular Outpost Camps dropped over the years and by 1973 only five remained.

In 1966, the riverfront property known as the "Conklin Farm" was purchased. This enabled the development of a "Canoe Base" from which the Delaware River canoeing operation was first developed. A number of other parcels were purchased in both New York and immediately across the river in Pennsylvania until the land holdings at Ten Mile River totaled more than 14,000 acres.

"SELF-RELIANT" CAMPING INTRODUCED

By 1967, "self-reliant" camping programs were available at T.M.R. Instead of dining hall feeding, Troops cooked at least one meal each day in their site, using shepherd stoves, patrol boxes, dining flies and kitchen tarps. Troops could either cook their own dinners or receive it, ready to eat, in insulated "heater stacks." Modified Baker tents were provided for shelter. As a result, dining halls closed in Camps Kernochan and Ranachqua and many Troops moved to the remaining dining hall camps. Over the following years, many other dining hall camps closed at T.M.R.



Camp Aquehonga

In anticipation of further increases in population in the late 1960s, Camp Davis Lake was renovated

Continued in next issue

Note: You can read the complete history at:
tmmuseum.org/history/history-1924-1969.htm.



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 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 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 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. 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. 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.

WELCOME 2013 MEMBERS!

**Marv Abrams
Steven Benini
Joseph P. Bohn
Lawrence Fener
Larry Fine
Johnny Gonzalez
John R. Halpern**

**Eric T. Hansen
Mike Herbert
Samuel Lewbel
John A. May
Frank Mullane
Bill Mulrenin
Thuy T. Nguyen**

**William B. Norden
Kenneth Palius
Steve Palius
George Pouder
Stanley Scharf
Clifford E. Schwartz
Robert Viggiano**

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 #: _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration _____

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, Suite 7820, New York, N.Y. 10118-0199.

NEWS FROM THE CATSKILL CRIER

Editor's Note: The *Catskill Crier* was a newsletter published by C.C.C. Co. 299 when it was based at C.C.C. Camp Ten Mile River in early 1936. It was well written, with many interesting articles. Here are two from the Feb. 14, 1936 issue about the company moving from the C.C.C. camp in Masonville, N.Y. to Camp Ten Mile River, and a humorous one on how to make the camp a paradise.

MOVING IN THE C.C.C.

By: Alexander Baelon – Ace Reporter

On the evening of January 7th, as I was returning to camp from an emergency leave, I received my first inkling of the Masonville camp abandonment. As I alighted from the car which I had hitched a ride upon, I happened to glance up the hill to the camp proper. Imagine my astonishment when I noticed line upon line of army trucks standing on our quadrangle. We had taken so many pains to plant grass and flowers upon this patch of ground, that even walking on the grass was prohibited, what were the trucks doing there?

I entered Headquarters to check in and was greeted by Bill Haag's salutation, "*just in time to go to work!*" I inquired the reason for his expressing this most hideous thought and was told we were moving to Narrowsburg, New York.

Leaving Headquarters I counted twenty-eight trucks, an ambulance and one official car. Opening my barracks door I beheld a sea of strange faces. Finally I beheld the face of Jimmie Vivacqua who showed me where my bunk had been moved. This had been done to make room for the army truck drivers.



"Where is this Narrowsburg camp where we are moving to," I asked, "have you been able to find it on the map yet?" "It is on the New York-Pennsylvania border," he replied. "What is the nearest town and how big is it," I asked. "We are eight miles from Narrowsburg, and Honesdale, Pa. where we will go for recreation is twenty-two miles from camp. It has a population of ten thousand or more," replied Jimmie. "Oh Boy," I exclaimed, "Do I love those mining towns with their beautiful 'Polack' girls. When do we move?"

We did not start the next day but had everything packed up. Our trucks and barracks gadgets labeled and on the trucks. I had spent most of the day in the latrine dodging Sergeant Harley who was putting every man he saw to work. I succeeded in this task admirably as I only took care of my own stuff.

We were awakened the next morning the ninth of January at five o'clock. Harley upon seeing my fair face promptly put me to work hauling our mattresses upon which we dropped the flag pole so that it would not break. After toiling laboriously (?) we were through at six-thirty and hung around waiting our chow, chow was called at eight o'clock. The grapevine (latrine rumor) had it that we were

due to start at nine o'clock but it was nine-thirty when the whistle blew for all out. We had dressed warmly as the weather had been cold. We stepped out into the ranks carrying our barracks bags.

Twelve men were counted off into each truck. A leader was detailed to ride in the cab with the driver. After each man had thrown in his barracks bag we then proceeded to clamber into the truck. There was hardly room for seven men but get in we had to or walk. Some were sitting on the floor, others on the barracks bags and mostly on each other. Flaps were dropped over the back of the truck and there we were like rats in a dark cellar. Finally we started off. With a great deal of "Goodbye Masonville," and other farewells to the winds we settled down to await what the trip had in store for us.



C.C.C. Camp Ten Mile River

We had proceeded about two miles when our first and only mishap occurred. A car had skidded into the truck behind ours and luckily had only locked bumpers. This only held us up about twenty minutes. But during this time it started to snow. This soon changed to a sleet so that by the time we had reached the town of Deposit, New York most of the windshields on the trucks were coated with ice, making it difficult for the drivers to continue. Some of the trucks were already equipped with defrosters, but a majority of them lacked this necessary mechanism, so when Deposit was reached the convoy was held up while defrosters were

purchased and attached on the trucks lacking them.

Off again after another half hour delay, songs being sung and every one feeling boisterous. This soon halted as the weather kept getting colder. By the time we had left Hancock most of the joviality had subsided and everyone huddled closer, if such a thing could be possible. A halt was called about ten miles out of Hancock and everyone rushed for the chow truck. Here we were temporarily refreshed by steaming hot coffee and cookies. This was at twelve-fifteen (what a chow). Through Roscoe, then came the snow. It snowed and snowed. The highway was soon covered so that the first car had to break trail.

The town of Narrowsburg was reached at about four-thirty. "*How much further*" was then heard. Everyone seemed to have forgotten that it had been told over and over that it was eight miles. Ten Mile River Camp was painted on a rustic archway at the entrance of the camp. A hundred foot away was a cluster of buildings, which comprised the camp. We had reached our new home at last.

As we entered through the archway, the first thing that caught the eye was the lake, which was right in back of camp. Here was a place for ice skating and fishing. When the weather warmed up and the ice melted it could be used for swimming and boating. A hill just outside of camp could be used for sledding. Recreation was assured.

The first thing everyone seemed worried about was where they were going to bunk. There was a wild scramble as everyone tried to get their bedding and pick out the best beds. By the time bunks were straightened, chow call blew and a more welcome sound was never heard. After eating our fill we had planned to go to bed. But, alas and alack, our leaders had different ideas. We were put to unloading the trucks. We realized that moving camp is no lark. We hope that this is the last move.

HOW TO MAKE THIS CAMP A PARADISE

By: E. Lewis

To make this camp a paradise, one of the first things to be done is to eliminate the rude way in which we are awakened in the morning. The first call should be blown at no earlier than 10:00 A.M. to the tune of "*Why Can't This Night Go On Forever.*"

Then the second call could be blown at about 11:00 A.M. to the tune of "*Sleepy Head.*" Third call could be at 12:00 N to the tune of "*I Never Had A Chance.*"

When the third had been blown, pretty dames acting as K.P.'s would rush in carrying trays bearing our breakfast. Then the rest of the day of course would be given over to recreation.

I think it is very rude of Harley to come into our barracks and insinuate that we had been playing

craps. If I had my way he would come in and hand each one of us ten bucks and tell us to show some action.

For extra duty we should make the boys stay in and watch some chorus girls dance the fan dance. This would make the boys feel that in order to keep away from this crude punishment they had better start working. This would create more company spirit. Maybe the boys would only drink one quart instead of two as customary.

The trucks would be sent into town every night in the week and twice on Sunday. All trucks would be steam-heated and have a radio installed. An easy chair would replace the hard bench and in one corner of the truck we could have a tap-room so that the boys could practice their drinking on the way to town.

We would be given money to spend in town. All Bull throwers would be placed in one barracks. I know that if our camp were like this I would forget to go home at all. Also our salary would be a mere \$500 a month.

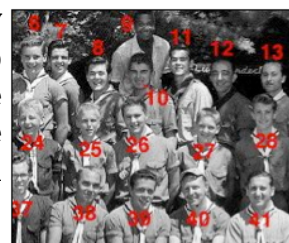


T.M.R. - THE WAY WE REMEMBER IT

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum and the Ten Mile River Alumni Association are planning to publish a special commemorative book, filled with T.M.R. history, photos and the memories of T.M.R. Alumni. The book, entitled *"T.M.R. - The Way We Remember It,"* will be distributed free of charge to participants at the T.M.R. Alumni Day, August 2, 2014.

T.M.R. Alumni can place ads in the book, congratulating their fellow Alumni, commemorating their years at T.M.R., recognizing their camp friends and their favorite T.M.R. summer camp. (See previous page for details.) All profits from the book will benefit the Ten Mile River Scout Camps.

Submitting Camp Stories: We want your favorite T.M.R. camp story (maximum 400 words) to include in the book. You can also include a photo of yourself as a youth (preferably at camp) and/or a recent one. Note: We can use your photo if it is in one of the T.M.R. staff photos on our web site <http://tmmuseum.org>. Just identify your camp, year and red identification number (see example) and we will use it.



E-mail your camp story and photos to dmalatzky@aol.com or mail them to:

Staff Photo from T.M.R. Scout Museum web site

David M. Malatzky
2332 Holland Ave.
Bronx, NY 10467

If you have any questions, E-mail David Malatzky at dmalatzky@aol.com.

IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND T.M.R. ALUMNI DAY

If you do not attend T.M.R. Alumni Day, you can still obtain a copy of the book through the mail:

- By purchasing one. (See order form on previous page.)
- If you purchased an ad that costs \$40 or more, you will receive a copy in the mail for no additional charge.

GOING TO T.M.R. IN THE 1940s AND 1950s

By: Karl Bernstein
Louella558@aol.com

So you're getting ready to go to TMR for a week. You and your troop mates pack your gear and get ready to go off for a week of fun, excitement and learning. More often than not, all of this gear will be loaded into your parents' car or a troop bus and off you go. When you arrive at TMR and have been assigned your campsite, unloading is relatively quick and easy!

This was not always the case.

During the 1940s and 1950s The TMR camp season consisted of four 2-week periods. Some Scouts attended for only 2 weeks but many for 4, 6 or even 8 weeks so packing had to be done differently. Several weeks before you're going to camp you began to get ready amassing all of the clothing and supplies that you would need for your camp stay.

It becomes obvious that this equipment is not going to fit into a back pack so most Scouts obtained a trunk or large duffel bag in which to send their

equipment to camp. Almost all campers came to TMR in chartered buses since most parents didn't own two cars, let alone one. Very few Scouts came to camp with their home troops and, in any event, troops didn't own buses and vans as they do today. If the SM owned a station wagon, that was a big deal.

How did we get our things to camp? We used the services of the Railway Express Agency, a company that picked up your luggage at your home address and delivered it to the correct division at TMR. When you signed up for camp, you were given luggage tags pre-marked with your division #. You filled in your name and troop number and called Railway Express for a pick up. We were usually advised to give ourselves two weeks between pickup and delivery. The truck appeared at your house and miraculously (most of the time) you next saw it in a pile of luggage in your camp usually in the vicinity of your campsite in your division.



When you were assigned to your campsite, one of your immediate jobs was to claim your luggage and carry it back to the site. Scouts usually paired up in

small groups to help each other and the job was usually quickly done.

At the end of your camp stay, you had to repack your trunk, and with the help of your bunkmates, carry it back up to the baggage collection point where it was again picked up by Railway Express. I'll always remember one member of our patrol, Joel, who was offered a ride home at the close of camp in 1951 but without his trunk. He left it in the cabin for the rest of us to carry up to the collection point. Well we did. At least half of the camp trunks sold in those years were equipped with a "T-44" lock as was his. Before leaving his trunk at the collection point, we opened it and filled it with some of those ubiquitous TMR (ten million) rocks, re-locked it and sent it to General Delivery in Fairbanks, Alaska. To make a long story short, his trunk was finally delivered to Brooklyn in November.

About two weeks after camp, your trunk, usually filled with dirty and sometimes damp clothes, arrived home and was opened by your mom. After she revived, she usually gave you the lecture about a Scout being Clean! It was great fun!

T.M.R. MEMORIES

By: Pat Coviello

When Mitchell Slepian asked me to write a short story about some of my Ten Mile River memories I readily agreed, and now for the better part of a month I have been reminiscing in my mind about the MANY memories that place has made for me and more importantly, how TMR has shaped my life.

As a Scout from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, I attended Camp Kunatah with my troop each summer. Being a city kid who lived in an apartment with no air conditioning it was wonderful for me to get to the fresh air of the Catskills and the legendary Ten Mile River. I will always remember my first swim test (I only made it to Beginner), my first sampling of kosher feeding and the great food at the dining hall (as well as my first dishwasher duty in the old dishwasher!) and especially my very first hike to Indian Cliffs. Back then, they still had the Indian Village outpost that was very awesome for a kid like me. To be sure, my first summer at

TMR in 1971 was what hooked me on Scouting, and changed my life forever.

My first job at TMR was in 1974 when I served as the quartermaster at Camp Keowa with Joe King as camp director. This was my first time ever being away from home all summer and it was a fabulous experience. We had a great team on the staff, and I worked harder than I ever thought possible, but had more fun than I ever thought possible also. That summer of 1974 was also the first time I became aware of the fact that there are Scouting Professionals who spend their careers in the movement. The idea that this could be for me started to grow in my young mind, and over the next few years solidified into my life plan.

So, fast-forward to summer of 1989, seven years into my BSA career and I find myself back at TMR as the Camp Kunatah Director. They say you can't go home again, but I sure felt like I had. What a tremendous experience it is to serve as Camp Director of the place you grew up as a Scout (and as a man). A lot had changed in the 15 years since

I first attended Kunatah, both in the world and at TMR, but something that hadn't changed was the impact our camp had on the Scouts attending. 1989 was one of the first times the Scoutreach program was sending kids to camp, and we served many of them though the summer. There were some interesting challenges with this new program, but what struck me was the profound difference we were making in the lives of many kids who had never left the city... kids who were very similar to whom I was as a young 12-year-old.

It is the importance of Scout camp in a boy's life that has been one of the most motivating factors in my now 31-year Professional Scouting career. It gives me great satisfaction and joy to have a career whereby I can help provide the experiences I had as a youth in scouting to the next generation. I am so thankful that this dedication to continuing and providing the TMR camping experience still burns brightly in so many of my fellow scouters, both volunteer and professional, because we have the obligation to keep the light of Scouting burning brightly!

LATRINE MEMORIES

By: Larry LeShay
Laurence11@aol.com

One of my first memories of Kunatah was being told by the camp director that I could use the indoor kitchen bathroom since I had a key staff position. It was great but I did miss the "socializing" that went on in the outdoor 5-seater pit latrines. A few years later, in Kotohke, a group of us would get together in an 8-seater every morning to do our thing, exchange news and gossip, and play catch with the willy rolls. Many years later we would take our troop to TMR for the summer and used Chappy Hill as our campsite. Things hadn't changed for the scouts who used the Chappy latrine for socialization as well as what it was meant for. All the pit latrines are gone but live on in our memories as part of those long ago golden summers.

CAMP AQUEHONGA

Continued from Page 18

each morning for use in the kitchen.

As darkness fell over the camp one could smell the smoke from the campfires where there was always singing and story telling. I believe that the singing that took place after every meal and at every campfire was the one element that fostered and cemented the feeling of adventure, belonging and togetherness that still endures. And this is one of the first things that most "old-timers" will mention when asked about the "Aquehonga" experience. In fact many can still sing many of the tunes from five decades ago.

I hope that these comments can in some way explain the reason for the sentiments of those who

years ago camped on the shores of Half Moon Lake, where as young scouts they lived out their youthful adventures in an atmosphere of shared excitement and lasting comradeship.

I can still remember the sound of the bugler playing "taps" at night and joining of arms around the campfire to sing "There's a Camp Called Aquehonga."

There's an old saying that in life there are two things that no one can ever take from you, and those are your education and your memories.

And I know that the experiences of camp Aquehonga gave us both of these, especially the memories...

Larry Soldovieri is a former Chief of Aquehongan Lodge No. 112

T.M.R. PROPERTY FOR SALE (1911)

By: David M. Malatzky
archivist@tmmuseum.org

Did you realize that in an alternative T.M.R. history you might today be an owner of waterfront property and a home on Rock Lake, Davis Lake or the Delaware River?

If you ever considered what it would be like to own your piece of T.M.R. property you should see a small pamphlet recently acquired by the Museum entitled "Country Homes in Sullivan County New York - The Minisink Company, Tusten, N.Y." This

1911 pamphlet solicits the purchase of home plots, completed homes and farm plots in 4,000 acres of what we know today as the western section of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps, including all of Rock Lake, Davis Lake and all the camp property between them and the Delaware River.

The pamphlet and map describes an extensive network of roads and streets bordering the Delaware River, a bridge across the Delaware River, a railroad station, and other physical improvements, none of which apparently existed at the time.



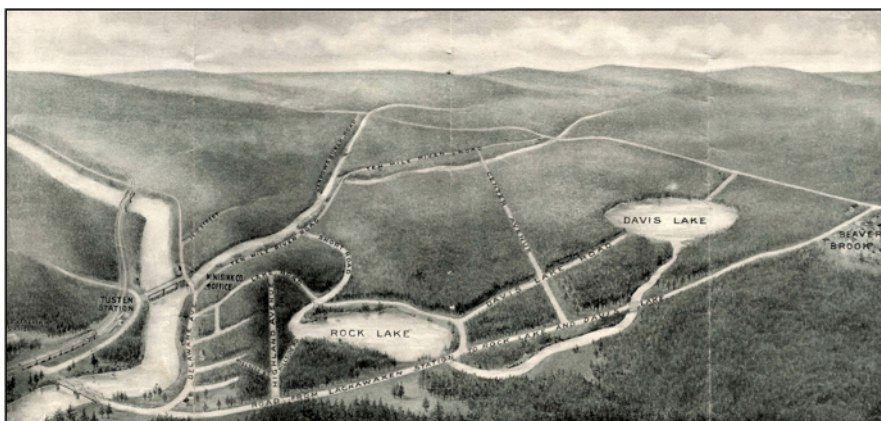
Rock Lake circa 1911

Much of what the pamphlet describes about the property we can easily recognize today:

"The property of the Minisink Company comprising about 4,000 acres, is located amid the hills of Sullivan County on the bank of the upper Delaware, in a region widely known for the beauty of its scenery and salubrious climate. A large portion of the property is covered by groves and forests of white pine and other woods enclosing two large natural lakes of native beauty unsurpassed. These lakes, Rock Lake and Davis Lake, are fed by springs and their water is pure, wholesome and neverfailing. The Ten Mile River, long famed as a haunt of the brook trout and for its cool glens and picturesque scenery traverses the length of the property. The elevation rises gradually from a level of about 800 feet above sea level along the Delaware River to about 1500 feet around Davis Lake."

"Owing to the excellent drainage as a consequence of this slope, the atmosphere is remarkably dry. The nights are cool and the thermometer registers an average of ten to fifteen degrees lower than the temperature of New York and Philadelphia. The pine forest too lends its aid rendering the air always pure, healthful and invigorating and in welcome change to the air of the city."

According to the pamphlet, the Minisink Company had laid out into 100 ft. x 200 ft. lots two



Bird's Eye View of the Property of the Minisink Company

miles of property fronting on the Delaware River and constructed streets and roads connecting various portions of the property. The streets were described as being fifty feet wide with ten-foot sidewalks. The Delaware River lots were supposed to be ready for purchase by August 1, 1911 at a price of \$400 each and other lots in this section at \$300 each.

Rock Lake was described as being nestled in a cluster of forest-covered hills, about a fifteen-minute walk from the Delaware River along Lake Road. Its water was of remarkable purity, fed from mountain springs and the lake was peculiarly well adopted for bathing as it had a fine sandy beach of gradual slope. The Minisink Company was in the process of laying out in lots the portion of the property surrounding Rock Lake, which would be shortly available for sale.

The Company was also preparing lots for farming purposes to be later placed on the market. These farms would be adaptable for either summer or permanent residence, and would be suitable for raising garden products, dairy and chicken farming, which, as the pamphlet noted, was carried on extensively in the vicinity.

Davis Lake, with a tract of 500 acres, would be sold as one parcel for a club, hotel or summer estate.



Minisink Company Bungalow

The lots along the Delaware River were considered to be particularly well suited to villas and bungalows, which the Minisink Company could construct (according to the buyer's plans) at a cost of from \$500 upward, according to the style and permanency desired. Discounted lumber would be obtained from the Company sawmill and extensive lumber tracts. The Company also planned to erect bungalows and sell them at reasonable prices.

It was noted that the Delaware River lots were within ready driving distance of Narrowsburg, from which point delivery of groceries and butcher's supplies could be arranged via daily wagons. A

telephone connection on the property with Narrowsburg would facilitate ready transmission of orders.

A schoolhouse and a church upon the property were available for those who desired permanent residence.

Access to the property would be via the Erie Railroad on the opposite side of the Delaware River, utilizing a train station and a bridge that were planned but not yet constructed. A ferry then operating across the Delaware would provide access to

purchasers. According to the pamphlet, a fast express train leaving Jersey City at 2:30 p.m. would get a busy man to the mountains before dinner to spend the weekend with his family. A similar fast service would get him home on Sunday without loss of time from his business.



Davis Lake circa 1911

Arrangements could be made with the Minisink Company for a special \$2.00 round trip fare on the Erie Railroad to inspect the property.

The pamphlet contains a foldout map depicting 325 numbered lots, 27 named streets and roads plus Delaware Ave., which ran alongside the Delaware River. It includes a church, post office, schoolhouse, Minisink Company office building, three unidentified buildings, a bridge across the Delaware River (proposed) and a Tusten Train Station on the opposite side of the Delaware River from the Ten Mile River.

It also includes a "Bird's Eye" aerial view of the entire property with one obvious mistake. The bridge across the Delaware River at Lackawaxen appears to be immediately across the property, while in reality it is more than seven miles away.

Additional information on the Minisink Company's property, including booklets and large-scale maps, was available from their office at 2 Rector Street, New York City.

Except for the Tusten Baptist Church, which stands today, we have no evidence that any of the numerous physical improvements or structures cited in the pamphlet actually existed or that any of the plots were actually sold. It was the failure of this venture by the Minisink Company in 1911 that made the 4,000 acres it owned available for purchase by the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York in 1927. The rest, as they say, was (T.M.R.) history.

THE NIGHT THE PUMP HOUSE BURNT DOWN

By: Martin D. Poller

The year was 1958. The place was Old Camp Aquehonga. I was an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 18 sponsored by the JCC on Staten Island. As a troop we always went to camp the 1st two-week period. (Yes, in those days camp was two weeks.)

I had just turned 21 and was feeling my oats. As I had a '51 Chevy coop I would drive to either Nick Dales or to Peggy's Run way across the river in Pennsylvania to have a beer. Sometimes a few of the camp staff that was off for the day would come with me. (18 was the legal drinking age.)

On one of the nights I decided to stay in camp I went to bed early. It was about midnight when Nick Straniere (Bobby & Phil's dad) woke me up out of my very sound sleep.

Nick kept yelling, "*Come on Marty - wake up - the pump house is on fire.*" In my stupor of half-sleep at this time all I can say was "*OK the pump house is on fire let me sleep.*" After splashing cold water on me I finally became fully awake and realized what was happening and I quickly got dressed.

Most of the senior staff and unit leaders were gathering at the camp fire station where we grabbed the Indian pumps and started down the trail to the pump house, stumbling all the way in the dark. It must have taken us about five minutes to get there.

When we arrived those of us with the Indian pumps surrounded the pump house and started to pump the water on the fire. Much to our sorrow the water just trickled on the ground. The pumps did not have the power (for lack of a better word) to push the water onto the fire. At that point all we could do was watch the building turn into ashes. Then some wise guy I don't remember who yelled "*Someone go to the trading post and get the marshmallows.*"

The next day we found out what caused the fire. It was dumb luck that Chet, the camp ranger was not seriously injured. Every night about 10:00 pm Chet would go to the pump house to start the pump so that by morning the water tower would be full for the day. The pump was a gasoline-driven pump, it and the building had to be at least 25 years old. That night, Chet forgot his flashlight. The only light he had was a kerosene lantern.

He no sooner entered the building when the accumulation of 25 years of gasoline fumes was ignited by the flame of the lantern.

As far as I can remember the camp had a new pump and a new building was erected as soon as possible. It really was a night to remember.

DOCK TEST

By: Mitchell Slepian
olaf93@earthlink.net

If we wanted to swim in Rock Lake, Camp Kunatah we had to pass a dock test. All of the swimming areas of the waterfront were divided up based upon a scout's ability to swim. We had non-swimmers, beginners and advanced.

On the first day of camp, our Chappy Scoutmaster Dave (aka "Rodney") would give us a tour of camp. It ended with the dock test. We started going down the muddy steps of the Hill. You can't beat the Hill. We hiked through camp.

Rodney showed us the nature lodge, we went to the Kunatah Dining Hall, where we might have rocked-n-rolled or discombobulated. We stopped at the trading post for Bon Bons or a Coke.

Eventually, we made it down to Rock Lake. By the way, it rocks.

All of us eager scouts went up to the docks and gave our name to one of the dock guards. One by one we jumped into the lake and we were charged to swim three laps of any stroke. But were forced to conclude with the elementary backstroke. Then we had to tread water for about a minute, while holding the Scout sign and repeating the Scout Oath, Law, Motto or some other scouting diatribe. Our dock tester decided what we would do.

Those of us that passed all parts were given a red and blue buddy tag. We needed to check in with this when we went to swim. 'Ya see you and your buddy would give it to dock guard who was



manning the Buddy board. You told him which area of the lake you were jumping into. He attached the tag to the Buddy board's respective section and you were off for your swim.

Sounds simple and fun, right? Well I was always an advanced swimmer. In fact, the first merit badges I earned as a Chappy scout were Swimming and Rowing. You think I would have an easy time with my dock test.

Well, well, well.

One year, perhaps '85 or '86, a man who I call my leader gave me my dock test. He had been a waterfront director in the now closed Kotohke or D-1 section of camp. Sadly, these days Chappy and Kunatah are closed too. During his day he spent a lot of time on the lake and used it for swimming, boating and well? I have nothing more to say.

Back to my dock test, my leader asked me to jump into the lake and begin. I easily did the laps. I do a great elementary backstroke. I learned it as a young Cub Scout in Lake Ohrbach, Pouch Scout Camp, Staten Island. I figured I was home free. Then came the treading test.

I followed my leader's orders and held the Scout sign upside down and began repeating the Scout Law - no big deal. Oh, I forgot to remind you the esteemed leader is not into it. I will never say what being into it or not into it is.

But for some reason that morning he became into it and made these interesting facial gestures and other movements while I treaded. By the way, he made me tread far longer than it would take to repeat the Scout Law, Oath and Motto. We skipped the OA Obligation. I'm not sure why. Then all of a sudden strange noises started to emanate from his smiling mouth. I was aghast. Eventually, he said I could climb out of the lake onto the dock. I speedily did that. He gave me a passing grade.

MY FIRST SUMMER AT AQUEHONGA

By: Pete Petrone

My first summer at Ten Mile River Boy Scout Camp was back in 1990. My Troop was going up "Week 7" which had been designated "Staten Island Week" at Camp Aquehonga. Our families dropped us off at Pouch Camp and we boarded large coach buses along with several dozen Staten Island Units. It was a long trip and we finally turned onto the Schiff Trail. From here, it was a bumpy ride along a dirt road into camp. We were greeted by an enormous "A" made out of white birch trees.

That summer we were in Site 11. I remember it being a far walk from everything, except the waterfront. Our Site Guide greeted us and helped us settle in. Later that evening, while the Adult Leaders had their meeting in the Scoutmaster's lounge, the boys received a tour of the camp's program areas. I still remember the poolside comedy skit that the lifeguards performed. The skit was designed to demonstrate "pool safety." I can remember the colorful triangle banners that hung crisscrossed above the pool. Later that evening the Aquehonga Staff put on an amazing campfire. I will never forget the first time I heard the Aquehonga Song performed at the end of the fire along with

taps. It was magical. The sky was so black and the stars so bright.

Later that night they played taps again over the camps audio system. The summer nights were cool in August and we all slept well. The next morning my Troop awoke to morning reveille. It also meant that members from each Patrol had to strap on these strange packs on their backs and run down to retrieve the food. "Grub Hustlers" they were called!

Other highlights from camp that week were Rowing Merit Badge, the Trading Post and the barbeque. The barbeque was one of the few times that the entire AQ Staff was assembled all together. I remember how sharp they looked with their Aquehonga bolos. Years later when I had the privilege to serve on staff, it meant a lot to be able to wear the AQ bolo. Finally, camp would not be complete in those days without a visit from Wally, the Commissioner. He would stop by our site after taps for coffee and cookies and tell us stories about the good old days.

Pete Petrone is a former Keowa staff member and chief of Aquehongan Lodge #112

THE HIGHER VISION

By: Martin D. Poller

What do you create to the memory of the gentleman who had the most profound effect on the youth and adults during his tenure of 17 years as the Lodge Advisor of Aquehongian Lodge No. 112?

WHO WAS LEE A. ELLISON?



Lee A. Ellison

Mr. Lee A. Ellison, was the advisor to our lodge from 1940 to 1957. He was the second brother to be called to the Vigil. His Indian name was ACHGEKETUM, which is translated as "The Teacher." Mr. Ellison in addition to his advisorship was the Scoutmaster of Troop 43 sponsored at that time by Slosson Post, American Legion, for many years. He was a member of the Staten Island Council Executive Board and the Council's Training Chairman. He was a recipient of the Silver Beaver. He was the Director of the Nature Section of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences. A graduate of Cornell University, he was the chief chemist for Con Edison. He was an expert in nature and was noted for his expertise on mosses and lichens of New York State on which he published many papers. He wrote a weekly nature column for the Staten Island Advance. He joined the Lodge eternal in 1961.

When Mr. Ellison passed away, his Vigil brothers



The Higher Vision

thought of many things with which they could memorialize him. The memorial that they decided on was a symbolic painting.

Upon contacting Mr. Martin Mockford, then National Secretary of the Order of the Arrow, he recommended Mr. Joseph Csatari to paint the picture. At that time Mr. Csatari was a protégé of Norman Rockwell. A meeting with Mr. Csatari was arranged and a theme for the painting was decided upon and Mr. Csatari was commissioned by the Vigil Honor of the Aquehongian Lodge to create the painting.

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE PAINTING

The Indian in the painting is a depiction of Uncas.

He is handing down to the Scout the legend of the Order of the Arrow for posterity. The legend itself is something that was developed in Aquehongian Lodge by Mr. Ellison. (The original skin along with a skin of the Explanation of the Ordeal hang in Berlin Lodge in William H. Pouch Scout Camp on Staten Island.) It is the Legend of the Order in authentic Lenape pictographs, which Mr. Ellison personally researched. It was created on a deer skin by Lodge Chief Walter Vines. The Scout represents an Order of the Arrow member in Mr. Ellison's Troop. On his sleeve you will notice the unit number 43 together with the red and white Staten Island Council Strip. The rock formation that Uncas is standing on represents the rock formation that was part of Aquehongian's ceremonial site at Old Camp Aquehonga at Ten Mile River. It was used by the Scout who on the formation played the part of Allowat Sakima to admonish the candidates. The Scout is also wearing our Lodge neckerchief with our Lodge's 25th Anniversary neckerchief slide.

The painting was presented to the National Order of the Arrow Committee in October 1963 at the BSA National Headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ. Mr. Martin Mockford accepted the painting on behalf of the National Committee. Aquehongian Lodge was represented by Lodge Chief Walter Vines, Martin D. Poller, Secretary of the Vigil Honor, and Past Chief John F. Braniff III, Vigil Honor Chairman and Fred Novo-Mesky, Co-Chairman of the Painting Committee. It should be noted here that the painting was paid for by the members of the Vigil Honor of Aquehongian Lodge and that no monies from the general lodge treasury was used.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

By: Mitchell Slepian, Editor

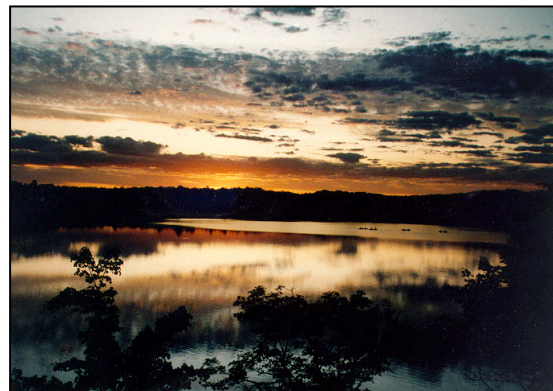
The Ten Mile River Scout Museum now has a Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/TMRMuseum?ref=br_tf. We are starting to build a following. Naturally, we would like you to become a part of it. Please visit and like us. More important, post some of your favorite camp memories. Email us if you want to send us pictures for our "Name that Building" game or any other game we create.



Our Facebook Page

We hope to make the newsletter interactive in the future. In the interim if you would like to submit stories to an issue let us know on our page or send us the story. Please Comment!

The Moods of TMR



A Photo Exhibit by Those Who Love TMR

The Moods of TMR Photo Exhibit debuted this past summer. There were 140 entries and the top 20 were selected by a panel of independent judges.

Do you have great photos of TMR? Your images may be selected for this summer's show. Submit

images that evoke an emotion or feeling of this very special place.

If selected, be prepared to submit a 5X7 high quality print either framed or matted. Email your entries to chairman@tmrmuseum.org.

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 TMR Wall of Fame might be right for you.

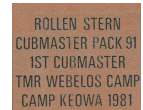
The TMR Wall of Fame is located at the Ten Mile River Scout Museum, Headquarters Camp, Ten Mile River Scout Camps. It consists of two parts:

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 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.

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



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

Name _____
 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.

DANIEL BLECHMAN, IRVING BERLIN AND GOD BLESS AMERICA

By: Daniel S. Blechman

In the late afternoon one day in 1940, shortly after I came home from Brooklyn College where I was a commuting student, I received an urgent telephone call. Phil Wagner, the Executive Director of the Brooklyn Council of the Boy Scouts of America, asked me to do him a favor. At that time I was 18 and the Scoutmaster of Troop 260 in Brooklyn, N.Y. Phil and I knew each other from Scout Camp at Ten Mile River, New York where I worked in the summer as a Scout Master. He directed the camp. I told him I'd be happy to do him a favor. He told me to go to a hotel in Manhattan near Grand Central Station and lead a group of people in the singing of God Bless America.

I quickly called 17 year-old Marvin Hodes, a member of the troop, a strong, rich baritone, got him to agree to join me, put on my Scout uniform and off we went to Manhattan. We were ushered into the grand ballroom, a tremendous space filled with what looked like at least 1,000 people sitting at tables finishing their dinners.

As instructed, without any musical accompaniment, we led the group in singing. After a very weak start: "God bless America, land that I love," with much vigorous arm waving and head

movement and encouragement on my part and with Marvin's belting out the lyrics, we got them to sing with spirit and enthusiasm. We bowed to the applause and started towards backstage. I had to get home to do my homework.

Irving Berlin, the composer of God Bless America and hundreds of other popular songs, met



Irving Berlin and N.Y.C. Scouts

us on his way to the microphone on the stage. He asked me where I learned to lead songs and I told him Scout Camp. He started to greet the audience. We left.

Only much later I learned that on that day Irving Berlin had donated all the royalties he received from God Bless America to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America. An immigrant who came to this country when he was a young child, he was very thankful and proud to be an American.

WHY TEN MILE RIVER HOLDS A STRONG PLACE IN MY HEART

By: Seth Wolchok

Ten Mile River holds a strong place in my heart because my father attended and worked at Kotohke. This paved the way for my brother and myself to become members of Troops 521/721 and spend our summers as campers on Chappy Hill. This led to us both serving on Camp Kunatah staff. This enabled us to become life-long brothers. Another personal reason, it where I was inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

Seth Wolchok is a former Chappegat Hill camper and Camp Kunatah staff member.

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SPRUCE POND SCOUT CAMP

Continued from Page 20

as the original site of "Dan Beard's Wilderness Camp" before he moved it in 1916 to Lake Teedyuskung in Pike County, Pennsylvania. Having researched Dan Beard for several years now, this is the only time I have seen this claim and consider it bogus.



Spruce Pond Lean-to - 1946

However, Spruce Pond definitely was the site of the Rock Oak Forestry Camp, which was established in 1923 by Franklin D. Roosevelt for Scout conservation training, as part of the Kanohwahke Scout Camps. It was also used as a campsite by the Ramarondackers, a group of young Scouters and camping enthusiasts under the leadership of A.T. Shorey.

When Brooklyn Council moved to the Ten Mile River Scout Camps in 1928 it was permitted to acquire Spruce Pond as a place where individual troops could build their own lean-tos and establish their own weekend camps. When the camp first opened neither New York State nor Brooklyn Council had sufficient funds to construct any lean-tos on the site. The State and the Council offered



Scouts Sleeping in Lean-to. Yank Kandell in center.

individual troops the opportunity to build their own lean-tos. Six units accepted the offer and six lean-tos were built, the first by Troop 2, Brooklyn. The troops building the original six lean-tos assumed the responsibility for maintaining them.

In 1931, Brooklyn Council appointed a special committee to make a survey and solicit recommendations for the purchase of a new weekend campsite, which could be developed with

permanent structures for the use of all Brooklyn Troops. The committee recommended retaining Spruce Pond.

Negotiations were then completed with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission for a construction program at Spruce Pond. The arrangement provided for an annual rental of 12% of the construction cost.

The construction program was completed in 1932 and consisted of 12 lean-tos, a lodge, a swimming dock, two latrines and a 110 ft. deep hand-pumped well. This represented a total investment of \$7,000, so the annual rent was fixed at \$840. The State assumed the responsibility to maintain the lean-tos that they built.

Through the years some of the troop-built lean-tos were destroyed and some of the troops disbanded, with responsibility to maintain their lean-tos reverting to Brooklyn Council. New York State remained responsible for their lean-tos but spent little funds on maintenance.

The camp was operated by a volunteer committee with the guidance of a member of the Councils' staff. The Spruce Pond Committee was originally a subcommittee of the Brooklyn Camp Committee.



Spruce Pond Crib

When the camp operation became the responsibility of the Greater New York Councils, the Spruce Pond Committee Chairman became a member of the G.N.Y.C. Camping Committee. The Spruce Pond Committee subsequently became a self-perpetuating body with no direct connection with the Councils' Camping Committee.

Spruce Pond once offered tent sites, eighteen 18 ft. x 16 ft. 14-person lean-tos with potbellied coal-burning stoves and tarps (to close off the front of the lean-tos in case of inclement weather). Scouts slept on the wood floor overnight. 25-lb. bags of coal were purchased from the Campmaster. Rakes, brooms and waste containers were supplied. Water was obtained from the pump or a natural well closer to the lean-tos. The camp was not electrified, although there was a telephone in the Campmaster's room.

The two-room 26 ft. x 67 ft. Campmaster Cabin had a fireplace and lockers which individual Troops could rent to store their equipment between campouts. It also served as a program and emergency shelter. Seasonal swimming, boating and fishing was available on Spruce Pond. The camp was also a great starting point for treks to Kanes Open, Harriman State Park and the Appalachian Trail. Nearby was the Red Apple

Rest, a favorite rest stop for vacationers traveling from New York City to the Catskills.

During the 1940s the camp provided a full-time Campmaster during the summer season. A Waterfront Director supervised swimming. There was an L-shaped waterfront dock and swimming



The Campmaster Cabin

crib and rowboats and canoes were available for use.

Prior to 1967, the camp operated on a year-round basis and was available for long-term camping and weekend camping during July and August. Starting in 1967, the Council maintained a nine-month lease and the camp was only available for weekend camping.

G.N.Y.C. let the Spruce Pond lease with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission lapse in 1984 over disagreements with the Commission, mainly over camp safety, staffing and maintenance issues. Emergency vehicles were unable to get to



The Pump

the camp over the steep gravel road and the Park Commission was not willing to pave the road, claiming that it was too expensive.

In the mid-1990's I visited the site of Spruce Pond Scout Camp, up that steep dirt road just off of Route 17. The Campmaster Cabin had obviously been burnt down and the pump was long gone, but I did see some of the lean-tos, but in a dilapidated condition. It might be interesting to visit the site today and see what is left.

You can see our Spruce Pond paper and photos at: <http://tmmuseum.org/archive/Short-Term%20Camps/Individual%20Camps/Spruce%20Pond/index.html>

THE CHAPPY YEARS, THE BEGINNING

By: David Lelonek

Sadly it has now been over 30 years since my last days on Chappy Hill. I spent the happiest days of my youth and young adult life on Chappy and I will forever be thankful for my years on the hill. So much happened there, and I went through so much history there, that it was suggested that I put some of it on paper. For the next few issues, I will do that.

To begin with, the question must be asked, "*What is Chappy?*" Camp Chappagat was part of the Delaware Division of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps. You need to ask some of the real historians about its name changes for the details about its ancient history, but these are my personal stories, so this history lesson starts in the early 70s. When I first started coming to camp as a Scout in Troop 521 of Brooklyn in 1971, (this was when I first met Mike Drilling and Ed Winters, who were to become lifelong friends), Camp Chappagat was closed for a number of years, and was absorbed into Camp Kunatah. It was then called Chappy Hill, but most just referred to it as Chappy. At that time Chappy stood quiet for most of the summer, only being used for weeks 7 & 8, by Troop 278 of Queens, led by Andres Testa. They were referred to by many as the "Big I."

In 1971 and 1972, our troop spent their summers on Kunatah Hill, in sites 3A to 3E, 4A to 4C, and 5A to 5D. Each site (or sub-site) had three to five lean-tos and a small pit latrine. Another important aspect to understand was that Troop 521 at home was not

the same Troop 521 at TMR. In those years, both troops were led by Marty Levine, but that's where the similarities ended. The home Troop 521 was a strong unit in southern Brooklyn, part of the Kingsway District. We had a troop of between 30 to 40 scouts, and we went on hikes every month during the year. We also had many active guys in Sakaneek, our local OA chapter. Marty through the OA got the chance to meet many other local units with kids who wanted to go to camp but their leaders could not get the time to bring them. With Marty being a young math teacher, having the summers off, these troops were able to send their scouts to camp with a familiar face, in a Provisional sort of set-up but still have a "home troop-type" experience. With this system, there were often 80 to 100 scouts in our sites on our big weeks. As a young scout this was great, as you got to know so many of the local kids from your general area (your local district). Amongst other benefits, this really helped to make our OA Chapter very strong. Even with the many lean-tos we had, some weeks there were so many scouts that we needed to set up tents to accommodate our large TMR troop.

Still, this worked well until 1973. During that spring, GNYC decided to renumber the Kunatah sites. So when Marty got the paper work, he immediately noted that we just had sites 3, 4 and 5. When he inquired as to what that meant, he found out he now had what was his former sites 3A to 3C. So, instead of the about 40 lean-tos and 12 pit latrines he had, he now was down to 10 and 3, respectively. This would not do for the again 80 to 100 scouts that were expected

to come on many of the weeks for the upcoming summer. At that point, GNYC offered Chappy to Marty. The site was empty for the first six weeks and it was his if he wanted it. It seemed so isolated from the rest of Kunatah, which gave it both some pluses and minuses to me and the other scouts from our unit.

At that time in Chappy there were about 15 lean-tos close to the main office and another 30 or so in the outlying sites. There were also three functioning pit latrines (if you don't know what one is, that will be a lesson for another time). As an experienced TMR camper and a young junior leader at that time, I was invited to join a bunch of other guys to go up to Chappy to check it out, get our opinions and to see if we could do something with the place. We saw that the electric was still on and all the latrines were electrified too (each being a multi-seater). There was a great office still there, and a small field for activities (big enough for football, whiffle ball or a Frisbee catch but too small for baseball or ultimate). At the foot of the hill, stood what was to become a very important building for us, the old Chappagat Dining Hall. This unused old dining hall was a large open-air structure, which we felt would be perfect for many activities, especially on rainy days. By the end of that faithful weekend, almost all of us could see the great potential of Chappy and we strongly suggested to our SM Marty to try Chappy. Although a bit reluctant, he did and the rest became history.

Next Issue: The Chappy Years, Setting Up Camp

RECOLLECTIONS OF CAMP AQUEHONGA

By: Larry Soldovieri

When asked to contribute an article about my recollections of my camping days at Aquehonga, I wondered if my remarks about a camp that I attended over 65 years ago would be of interest to today's campers, since today's camp organization is very different from what is called "*The Old Aquehonga*."

Any scout who has camped on the shores of Half Moon Lake whether it is today or decades ago will have personal remembrances of those days.

But what has always fascinated me is the nostalgia expressed by those who camped at TMR so many years ago. If you were to ask any of these former scouts about Aquehonga you might be surprised by their very vivid recollections and heartfelt feelings.

This brings to mind a comment made by Richard Filos a fellow scout and former Lodge Chief (1951-1953), who died many years ago. Rich and I were campers together at Aquehonga and shared the same camping experiences. I remember him saying "*those were the happiest days of my life*." Now that's a pretty remarkable statement, but one that is often echoed by the "*Old Aquehonga*" campers. So the question is, what was so special that it still fosters such wonderful and lasting memories? What is also unique is the effort to "*fix in time*" the essence of this camping experience at

TMR. One needs to look no further than the excellent and detailed study titled "*Exploring Historic Camp Aquehonga*" which was completed by the dedicated members of the TMR Scout Museum.

I believe it is a reflection of the tremendous impression Camp Aquehonga made upon those lucky enough to have fallen under the magical spell of camp life back then. I have tried many times to pinpoint the reasons for those good feeling and nostalgia. Perhaps, a brief overview of camp life circa 1944-51 will give some insight.

Back then most scouts came to camp alone or with a few fellow scouts from their troop.

The camp was really a Staten Island camp rather than a troop camp. Scouts had a chance to meet boys from many different "*Island*" schools and communities, and to make new and lasting friends.

Upon arrival everyone was assigned to a lean-to site, which would be home for the duration of their stay. Then everyone was given a cloth sack to be filled with straw and used as a mattress. These were called "*tics*."

The camp day would begin with a buglers' wake-up call, and a mad rush to the wash house where only the crazy or brave would take an ice cold shower. The next bugle call was for camp

formation, the raising of the flag. Then it was into the dining hall for breakfast. There was a camp cook and a small kitchen staff. All meals were served in one large dining hall, where everyone took turns bringing food to their group table. What made mealtime special was that there was always singing afterward. The day's activities were organized and run by counselors who were older scouts and usually former campers themselves.

This use of former campers helped foster a fine internal leadership program. The day's activities featured swimming, handicraft, nature study, camping skills, etc. Scouts could choose their days activities, usually with the goal of earning some TMR badge or maybe a merit badge. After lunch there was an hour of quiet time, which usually meant a short nap. Late afternoon was swim time in the lake. Before supper, everyone dressed in full uniform for a gathering around the flagpole for the firing of a small cannon and the lowering of the flag. After supper, the trading post was open and at the lake scouts could go rowing or canoeing. There was no electric lighting in camp except for the kitchen area. Current was supplied by a small generator and a bank of batteries. Ice was supplied from a block house which was filled with lake ice that was gathered the winter before and covered with sawdust. Scouts took turns bringing in ice

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AN INTERVIEW WITH KEN CRANDALL

By: Ed Winters

Editor's Note: This is part three of the third edited interview based on interviews Museum Trustee Ed Winters made in 1975 with key individuals in T.M.R. history. This one is an interview with longtime T.M.R. Property Superintendent Ken Crandall, Sr.

(Continued from TMRSS Summer 2012 Issue.)

Ken Crandall: and have camps. This was really going to be a big Explorer thing, just crude camps, and they would travel just by canoe.



Ken Crandall

Ed Winters: Was the Pine Brook property necessary for that?

KC: Yes, the little house that stands there now, that was the Maurice , and I told them if they wanted, they would have to buy that. Of course, we wanted to sell it, and they bought it.

That was a very feasible thing, and I thought, as an Explorer thing for Scouts old enough to do this sort of thing, it would be a wonderful adventure. It would be six or eight miles by water.

There were nice springs around the Flood Marsh, nice camping spots, etc., but when the engineers got into it, botched it up.

What could have been a very simple construction job became a major construction job. They used up all the money, and everything went down the drain. I don't really know whether they used the money or decided not to go ahead with it.

EW: What about the Aquehonga area. I heard there was the Half Moon Hotel, and there was a fence across Half Moon Lake?

KC: The Howald family owned it, and that of course is on the eastern half of the lake. I would say he owned 7/10 of the lake, and he sort of held on the



Ken Crandall, 1936

. . . days, and he wanted to sell it to the Boy Scouts for \$25,000. They wouldn't buy it, so, he put a fence across it about 1946. He was trying to force us to buy it. He didn't let them cross the fence. He said that the Scouts were such a nuisance; they interfered with his boarders, etc.

They had a bar room. They had daughters and girls, jukebox, etc. They welcomed the Scouts. The fence was there to force us to buy.

EW: Where did the hotel stand?

KC: The house to the left house, right above

it, right on top of that hill. There is an old structure there, and it was in that area. He had maybe 12 rooms or something like that. I guess the original one was one or two rooms. He had a garage and a couple of rooms upstairs for the help, then he had a nice house, an addition to it, for the help, etc.

It was quite a colorful place. It didn't have much of anything in it, but it was a good place to go. They were Swiss and they had Swiss people come there. They used to have what they called a yodeling contest, etc.

It was opened before 1928. He came up here in 1919, and he was a writer in the in New York. He bought that property and started this. The place was there until we got it in the late 50's. It operated up until a year or two before we bought it. He died and his wife operated it. I think that we gave them \$35,000 or \$37,000, then we burned it down.

EW: At the border properties, there are a lot of little bungalows. Was that part of it originally?

KC: No, that was the Abler Farm. They were Swiss, and then up the road there was Gender (?). Direction east. There was and Gender. Then on to where the trooper lives here that was owned by an Oscar

Then of course where the little house is where we bought the Buchettes, Pinebrook was the Buchetts (?) place. They were French.

EW: There is a house on the other side of the road where now is a ranger's house, was that part of their outfit?

EW: We were at the Halfway Hotel. I heard that there was a speakeasy there during the prohibition times?

KC: That was Pinebrook. During prohibition they used that.

EW: I heard there was a place behind the Half Moon Hotel?

KC: It wasn't behind it. Everyone went up there and drank. Nobody bothered you.

KC: You would go in there and that old kitchen would be so dirty He stopped in there he gave them the steward and Joe (Sonneborn), and everybody He reached down, and there was a cook's counter, and comes up with pounds of butter, just caked under there. So, while he was giving them a dressing down, I had walked out and I kept standing by the door, he would look at me, and I would look out toward the garbage cans. He stalks out there with Joe and the kitchen crew, and he saw that garbage he grabs his head

They cleaned it up. If you wanted to find Joe you went out to the he was lying on the bunk,

always. The kids loved him, and the parents liked him.

EW: How many years did he direct it?

KC: Maybe two or three.

EW: What did he do after that?

KC: After he got through directing, he came into headquarters. He really didn't do a lot. He sort of went here and there. They gave him some kind of titles. But he raised so darn much money. He just about called the shots. He wanted to come to camp, and he took a big interest in the infirmary and the kids I sort of discounted Joe myself. I was so busy with maintenance; it was outside my field to know just what he did do and how he functioned. I think that he was quite timely at times. Somebody told me he was very ill.

. . . . I was about to talk about the T.M.R. Trail. Well, that was laid out in 1938. Morty Hyman was probably the prime mover. Chet had something to do with it, because he knew some of the area. It seems to me through that Morty and Nick (Dale) , pretty sure that Morty actually blazed the trail. Other members of the party I don't remember. It was quite an undertaking.

EW: Were there any mills by Grassy Pond?

KC: Yes, at Mahl's Pond, there is a foundation, the old Billy Neil place, but was actually Mahl. That was a farm there. Rock Lake was known as Canfield Pond. Grassy Lake, there was nothing. There is an old sawmill, and had been a sawmill on the eastern side of it back in the Spear Swamp. The outlet to Grassy Pond goes down through the old Peter Shott place, and The road that goes up into Painter's Swamp.

If you take the road from Brooklyn Camp going east toward Yulan, the first road to the left is the Road. That goes across and comes out here at Beaver Brook. There are old foundations along that road.

If you go by my house you come out near through the woods here. There is an old place there, Henz Place. Well, when I first came here there was a house there

I lived in Yulan and I tore down the house and chicken coops for lumber. There is a well over there still there; it is right along side the road going to the camp. They had to carry every pail of water

Continued in next issue

Note: You can read the complete Ken Crandall interview at:

<http://tmmuseum.org/archive/Ten%20Mile%20River%20Scout%20Camps/TMR%20Interviews/Ken%20Crandall/index.html>



Ken Crandall, circa 1950



Ken Crandall and Family, 1942

Museum Web Site News



By: David M. Malatzky
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Welcome back to my column. On the web site <http://tmmuseum.org> be sure to click on Museum News for the latest Museum photos, upcoming events and publications. Here are some recent additions to Museum News:

1. T.M.R. C.C.C. Day Photos – 2013.
2. T.M.R. Alumni Day Photos – 2013.
3. T.M.R. Smoke Signals – Summer, 2013 Issue.

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

1. Kanohwahke Scout Camps – Group Camp List 2013. Publications - Kanohwahke-Camp Naturalist – 1927, 1927 Vol 3 No 5. Camp Manhattan – Literature - Camp Guides – 1925, 1925 Camp Application.

2. Ten Mile River Scout Camps – Brooklyn Scout Camps - Staff List 1944-2. Additional Photos - Bernie Lerner Photos. Camp Man - 1940s - Newspapers. Camp Ranachqua(Old) - 1930s - Individuals 1930 - Sidney Symons-1931. Camp Photos 1930s - Unit C. New Headquarters Camp - Camp Post Cards. Misc. - TMR Post Cards. T.M.R. Personalities - Nick Dale - Fort Delaware Post Card 2. Robert Lander - Advancement Cards, Membership Cards, SPL Warrant, Red Cross

Certification cards, Merit Badge Board of Review Cards, BSA Membership Cards, Boys Life Sleeves, Boy Scout Trading Post Gift Card. Brooklyn Scout Camps - Brooklyn Scout Camps Roster 1944, Brooklyn Scout Camps Map. Shu-Shu-Gah Lodge - Reunion Dinner 1943 - Entertainment Committee, Program. Ihpetonga Chapter - Ihpetonga Presentation Invitation, Banquet Invitation 1943, Brotherhood Honor 1944, O.A. Summons, Brotherhood Induction Letters. D-4 Induction Banquets – 08/30/44, 08/14/44, 08/28/43, 08/11/43, 07/29/43, 08/25/41, Unknown. Art Manning – Photos. FDR - FDR Camp Man Visit – West/Kernochan/Cropsey Camp Man photo, Long Island Sunday Press article.

3. Short-Term Camps - Short-Term Camp Exhibit 2006. Alpine Scout Camp - The Local Council Exchange, The Staten Island Advance. Spruce Pond - Hikers Region Maps, Publications - Reports - Spruce Pond Camper Guide, Upgrading Lean-tos, Spruce Pond Report (01/26/67), Report and Recommendations, Spruce Pond Info, Lumberjacks Program, Full Year Lease – Correspondence – 09/14/73, 05/02/73, 03/28/73, Full Year Lease Proposal, Spruce Pond Camper Newspaper - Summer 1955, Winter 1955, Palisades Interstate Park Info, Photos - April 1962, Explorer Skill-O-Ree 1958, March 1959, Others, Photo Group, Raft, Repelling, Winter Scenes, Xmas Week 1957-58, Local History - Heritage of Sterling Forest, Spruce Pond Maps, Other - Plants and Trees (06/14/53). William H Pouch Scout Camps – Literature - Stewart Area.

4. Order of the Arrow - Ranachqua Lodge - 1960s - NY Botanical Gardens Rain Dance (1963). Shu-Shu-Gah Lodge - Banquets and Reunions - Reunion Dinner 1943, Banquet Invitation 1943, Ordeal - O.A. Summons, Brotherhood - Brotherhood Honor 1944, Brotherhood Induction Letters, Ihpetonga Chapter - D-4 Induction Banquets – 08/25/41, 07/29/43, 08/28/43, 08/11/43, 08/14/44, 08/30/44, Unknown.

5. Greater New York Councils – Publications - Eagle Recognition (1962) – Invitation, Program. Explorer Ball Program (1952).

6. National Council - Dan Beard – The Brick Church, Dan Beard Biography. Dan Beard Outdoor School – Publications - School Report (1920), Enrollment Forms – 1917, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1924, 1937, 1938, Certificates, Camp Info – 1920, 1927. Promotional Literature – 1917, 1918, 1919, Others. Other DBOS - Reunion 1930, Americanism. Correspondence – 1915-1919, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1936-1938, 1940, 1941, 1943. Newspaper Articles and Ads (09/19/20). Endorsements. Dan Beard Cabin – Photos, Publications - History Society Anniversary Journal, Camp Catalogs – 1922, Newspaper Articles.

7. NYS Scouting History – Publications - The Local Council Exchange (1942-1946). Borough Councils - Manhattan Council – Publications - Troop 500. Staten Island Council - Staten Island Advance (1943), Staten Island History 1909-1959. Boy Scout Foundation – Publications - Troop Scouter Guidebook.

8. Local History - Stone Arch Bridge – Photos. Narrowsburg – Photos. The Minisink Company (1911). T.M.R. CCC Camp - Arnold C. Everett, Gettle CCC Pics, Other Paper - Newspaper Articles, Camp Newspapers - Camp Ten Mile River - Co. 299 - The Catskill Crier, Co. 2214V - The Rattler - Vol 1 No 13, Vol 1 No 14, Vol 2 No 13, Vol 2 No 18. Other CCC Camps - Co. 2214V - Stillwater Echos – 12/37, 01/38, 02/38, Co. 299 - Spirit of 299, 299 Bugler, 299 Lowdown, The 299th Broadcast, My Own Camp News, Co. 299 News, The Script, The Reflector, The Spotlight, The Courier, Nothing But Best News, The Catskill Crier, Co. 1245 - The Yaphanker – 04/15/35, 05/15/35, 6th District Yearbook 1937, Paper By Date – 1933-1937, Other, US 2nd Corps - Happy Day 2nd Corps – 09/02/33, 10/14/33, 12/28/35, 02/29/36 (2nd Corps Issue). Happy Days.

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 you want to make a digital donation, please E-mail the file attachment to me at archivist@tmmuseum.org.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

SPRUCE POND SCOUT CAMP

By: David M. Malatzky
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The Ten Mile River Scout Museum recently received from historian Susan Scher a small collection of documents related to Spruce Pond Scout Camp, some dating back to the mid-1950s:

Copies of the Spruce Pond Camper newsletter from 1955. (4 pgs.)

Spruce Pond Camper Guide - 1962 (draft version.) (19 pgs.)

Description of the Spruce Pond Lumberjacks Program for Explorers. (5 pgs.)

A Report and Recommendations to the Greater New York Councils Camping Committee on Spruce Pond Scout Camp by The Spruce Pond Committee. (7 pgs.)



1962 Spruce Pond Lean-to with Potbellied Stove

Spruce Pond Report – 01/26/67 (22 pgs.)
Recommendations For Upgrading The Existing Lean-tos and Adding Additional Lean-tos at Spruce Pond Scout Camp. (7 pgs.)

Spruce Pond Information Packet for Units – 1960s. (5 pgs.)

Map, Guide and Story of the Palisades Interstate Park and Parkway. (2 pgs.)

Spruce Pond Scout Camp, in Southfields, N.Y., was considered to be the most rugged of the N.Y.C. short-term camps, with few creature comforts. While those of us that camped there (including me) always considered it a N.Y.C. Boy Scout camp, it was actually part of Harriman State Park and leased by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission to the N.Y.C. Boy Scouts.

The documents repeatedly identify Spruce Pond

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