

One was John (Butts) MacMillan, 73, who has rarely missed a summer since 1927, except for the World War II years. He joined Troop 160 of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Philadelphia that year and has been continuously registered with it since, currently as a troop committeeman.

"I think that very first year the Treasure Island spirit was instilled in me for some reason and it has grown in me since then," Butts MacMillan said. "It was like magic being on an island. And it was not just me, it was all the kids at the time. The night before going to Scout camp at Treasure Island was like the night before Christmas when we were kids. We couldn't wait to get up and get going."

MacMillan continued, "I can't explain what the spirit is. It has to be lived. You have to spend time on the island, live here, get under the trees and stars, hear the river flowing by."

Roy Imsick agrees. "In the years I was here, from 1925 to 1937, there was a bona fide Treasure Island spirit," he said. "You couldn't define it, but you couldn't leave it here. You had to take it with you. Just look around here today and see how many old-timers are back," he said. "That tells you something about the spirit."

Imsick was a 13 year old on the home stretch of the advancement trail toward Eagle Scout when he first went to Treasure Island. He was such an eager beaver that he volunteered to help on weekends when the staff was short-handed. "So they offered me a job as a 'pearl diver, (dishwasher)' " he recalled, "and after that I was on staff until 1937." During that time he designed a tent that could be pitched in 22 configurations; the tent was produced at Treasure Island for use at the first national jamboree in 1937. Roy Imsick is now a troop committeeman and roundtable commissioner in the Baden-Powell District of the Valley Forge, Pa., Council, with 63 years in Scouting.

As is true at most Scout camps, unique traditions developed at Treasure Island. One, which began before 1920, was the practice of electing a mayor, judge, and town clerk from among the Scouts every Saturday night to oversee the camp for the ensuing week. (Camp headquarters is still called City Hall.) Another tradition was a three-mile march upriver to Frenchtown, N.J., by the whole camp to stage a giant campfire program on the main street for the entertainment of citizens. A third tradition, which lasted for many years, was hiking up a mountain on the New Jersey shore to the Devil's Tea Table, a rocky promontory overlooking the river valley. It was the site of the first

Vigils by the founders of the Order of the Arrow.

Staff nature counselors also took hikers there for exploration, Charles White recalled. White, who first camped at Treasure Island in 1931, remembered, "There used to be barn owls in a cleft near the Devil's Tea Table, and the nature instructors would show them to you. To a kid from the city, that was a fantastic exposure. And," he continued, "the beauty part of the hike was that after you had worked yourself into a frazzle hiking up to the top and coming down, at the bottom was the Devil's Bathtub. It was a pool maybe seven by 10 feet, and you dove into this exhilarating, chilly water, and you were reactivated and revitalized."

Old-time Scouts recall
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before they headed
off to Treasure Island
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Treasure Island's anniversary celebration included a wide range of activities as well as reminiscing. There were displays of Scouting memorabilia, a slide show on the island's history, and walking tours.

Scouter Harris M. Tanner of Holyoke, Mass., gave an illustrated lecture on Scout uniforms from 1910 to 1950, using Scouts as models. And members of Unami Lodge No. 1 of the Order of the Arrow recreated the first Ordeal ceremony which was performed July 16, 1915, by the Order's founders, E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson, now both deceased. Goodman was camp director and Edson his assistant when they devised the Order of the Arrow to honor Scouts who best exemplified Scouting's ideals.

The full day of activities and reminiscing was climaxed by a reunion dinner, campfire, and another Treasure Island tradition—setting tiny candles adrift on the Delaware River. Speakers at the dinner program were Allan Geller, chairman of the anniversary committee; Philadelphia Council President George Gunn, Council Commissioner Marvin Arkans, Scout Executive Richard Marion, and Scout Executive Emeritus H.M. (Mac) Privette.

The featured speaker was William

(Green Bar Bill) Hillcourt, famed 88-year-old author and Scouter, who called upon today's leaders to make troop activities and meetings "the best show in town." Hillcourt recalled that he had first visited Treasure Island in 1927 while he was doing research for the first edition of the *Patrol Leader's Handbook*.

"It was an interesting experience, and I relived it today," he said. He remembered how he had undergone his Ordeal, a day of hard work and silence, for the Order of the Arrow at Treasure Island, and so the site had special meaning for him. "I think that's the only time I've ever been silent for a whole day," he laughed.

For the campfire program, the visitors hiked a meandering trail past illuminated signs with the 12 points of the Scout Law to reach the ceremonial grounds. Not until they were within 30 yards of the natural amphitheater could they see the council triangle with two fires already blazing. The focal point of the ceremonial grounds, a stone lectern bearing a bronze plaque commemorating the birth of the Order of the Arrow, was lit by luminarias.

The campfire began with the lighting of 12 candles along two sides of the council triangle, symbolizing the Scout Law. Former Treasure Island camp directors Joseph J. Davis, Allan Geller, and Bob Kestler had roles in the program, as did Allen Mossman, national professional adviser to the Order of the Arrow.

"There is something about this place—I can't tell you what it is—that is motivating and causes us to think deeply about values," Mossman said. Many times, he added, OA founder E. Urner Goodman had said, "The Order is a thing of the spirit." And how could any of us be here without feeling some of that spirit which is Scouting?"

Council Camping Chairman Bill Scott may have come as close as anyone to defining that spirit with a story about a Scout named Kevin. "I asked him," Bill Scott said, "have you found the spirit of Treasure Island?"

"Yes," Kevin responded.

"Great! Where did you find it?" Scott asked the boy.

"I found it in my heart," Kevin replied. "It was there all the time, but I just didn't know it until I came to Treasure Island."

To close the campfire, visitors and staff members hiked to the boat landing for the camp's traditional candle ceremony. Each person was given a birthday candle and a tongue depressor to use as a raft. Soon scores and then hundreds of little flames were drift- (continued on page 42)