

Treasure Island (from page 34)

ing down the Delaware while Scouters serenaded them with songs of Scouting and patriotism. The ceremony ended with the strains of "The Treasure Island Song," composed by E. Urner Goodman in 1919.

Today the Treasure Island Reservation is actually two islands—storied Treasure Island itself and Marshall Island, which is usually called Eagle Island. A 50-foot river channel separates the two islands. Eagle Island, nearly three times as big as Treasure Island, is the site of the reservation's rifle and archery ranges and is used for outpost and weekend camping. For nine seasons during the 1970s, Eagle Island was the summer camp while Treasure Island was closed to summer camping (though not to weekend use) because its facilities needed extensive repairs and the ground cover needed time to regenerate.

The reservation is about 30 miles north of Philadelphia on the Delaware River, the boundary between Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It was first leased and then bought from Oscar Worman, a Philadelphia Scoutmaster, with funds provided by Edward Bok, publisher of the *Ladies Home Journal*. The island had been a stopover point for Lenni-Lenape Indians

in their annual migration from the Pennsylvania hills to their summer grounds on the New Jersey seacoast. Even now Indian artifacts are found occasionally on the island.

Except for the parade field, Treasure Island is thickly forested with oak, birch, sycamore, and hickory. Pines appear, too, mainly near the parade field where they were planted by Scouts during the 1920s.

To reach the island, campers ride barges with outboard motors from the Pennsylvania side. Rowboats were used originally until they were supplanted by a flatboat ferry guided by a cable strung across the river, and later by the motorized barges.

During the camp's first 44 years, Scouts swam in the river and between the locks of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. canal, which ran beside the river. Since 1958, the island has had a swimming pool, and the only river activities are rowing, canoeing, and tubing. With one exception, the island's buildings are the same as those in any Scout camp—dining hall, chapel, arts and crafts, nature lodge, headquarters, health lodge, and so on. The exception is Unami Lodge, home of the first Order of the Arrow lodge.

Awash in the pleasant glow of remini-

science, the last reunion-goers were crossing to the Pennsylvania shore while the next week's contingent of Scout campers was arriving. Among them were Scouts who had never been to Treasure Island.

There was, for instance, Damar Creighton of Troop 234, chartered to Faith Tabernacle in Philadelphia. The island's fabled traditions were the last thing on his mind.

"It's the first time I'm going to go hiking," Damar said, "and I've never been fishing before so I'm looking forward to that."

For Scout Brian Angert, 11, who had joined Temple Shalom's Troop 124 of Philadelphia only two weeks earlier, it would be his first time camping anywhere. "Scouting is fun so far," Brian said, "and the older Scouts told me we're going to have fun with swimming and archery and stuff like that."

Scouting at Treasure Island is 75 years old, but it's also ever new in the hearts of campers. Some day perhaps Damar Creighton and Brian Angert will understand what the old-timers mean when they sing:

*Let the warmth of Scout and brother
Dwell in rank and file,
Still abiding when we leave thee,
Dear ole Treasure Isle.*



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