

A Good Turn for Generations

*The Illustrated History of Boy Scouting
in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina*

Richard E. Shields, Jr.



\$29.95

A Good Turn for Generations

For nearly a 100 years, the Boy Scouts have stood for the American model of youth.

A Good Turn for Generations is the first fully-illustrated history telling the sweeping story of Boy Scouting in Mecklenburg County. *A Good Turn for Generations* provides a fascinating insight into local Scouting, from the days of streetcars and the Model A up to the present. Learn about camps and campers; relive Jamborees and World Fairs; discover the patriotic response of Scouts through America's wars; see how Scouting enriched the community; and find out about how Scouting teaches values and outstanding character to generations of youth.

More than 400 color and black/white photos and maps illustrate this unique glimpse of Scouting yesterday and today!



A Good Turn for Generations

Norm,
To me of the
best Scouters I've
ever known.
Rich E. Shields Jr.
April, 24, 2006

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in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina*

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*To the men and women of Mecklenburg County who had the vision
to make the dreams come true for boys and girls*



*"If you don't catch them as they go by
and do your part in molding good citizens, then it's too late.
Once they're past, they're gone. That's the staggering realization of it all."*

Fred Vantrease
Scout Executive
Mecklenburg County Council
1945 - 1958

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Foreword

Traveling the Scouting Trail

Dear Scouters and Other Readers:

It only seems that I was around at the beginning. While I can't claim to be there at the creation of the Boy Scouts in Mecklenburg County, I have been involved as a Scout and adult leader for most of the 20th Century, and even into the new millennium.

I am pleased to salute the involvement of the Mecklenburg County Council of the Boy Scouts of America. For almost a century, the Boy Scouts have been an important part of Charlotte. More than 200,000 boys and girls have participated in some program of the Mecklenburg Boy Scouts over the decades.

This book tells the story of Scouting and how it has been a "Good Turn" for Mecklenburg County since 1913.

Scouting has made a significant difference in Charlotte by generous service projects and by developing character in the young men and women in this community. Charlotte has reciprocated by supporting the Scouting movement with financial support, provision of facilities and the involvement of its top business leaders.

It is a wonderful partnership that has enriched the city and local communities — a partnership that should continue for long into the future.

As a young boy, I remember learning, saying and living the Scout Oath, the Scout Law and the Scout Slogan: "Do a Good Turn Daily."

Scouters have lived these principles in giving many hours in community service and helping people at all times. This book describes some of these efforts. The Scouts have both helped with and sponsored many clean-up campaigns —

from the 1916 cleanup of back yards and alleys, to the Brooklyn area cleanup in 1968, and to the Governor's road cleanup of the present day. The Mecklenburg Scouts have sold war bonds and stamps, "fed" a soldier, collected black walnut lumber for soldiers' rifle stocks, collected peach pits for gas mask filters and much more.

Many of this area's business leaders have grown up following the Scouting Trail — and many are good friends. In Scouting, they learned the virtues of the Boy Scout Oath and Law and the positive attitude of "Doing a Good Turn Daily" and "Being Prepared."

Scouting has given them the character to become leaders, developing a solid community service ethic that they demonstrate so often today.

I have been richly blessed with my friendships and opportunities to serve this community over the years.

As I turned the manuscript pages of this volume, I revisited the memories of a Charlotte, both long gone and still vibrant today.

This book has been written for those Mecklenburg County Scouting families, who yearn to know the roots of Scouting in this area, as well as for thousands of other residents interested in what makes Charlotte such a unique place.

A Good Turn for Generations should find a prominent place in your library. It has one in mine.

John M. Belk
December 2004

Prologue

Good Turns — Large and Small

For 90 years, Scouting in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, consisted of boys and, recently, girls with dreams of camping, climbing walls, riding down rivers in canoes and rubber rafts, and building lasting friendships.

Thousands of men and women have had the vision to see those dreams become reality.

All of us in Scouting have seen quiet youngsters and adults, who within a few months have become leaders because of the Scouting program. Their lives were changed in school and in their work.

For the past nine decades, the Boy Scouts of America in Mecklenburg have performed good turns that fed and clothed families, cleaned up neighborhoods, put a smile on a children's faces at Christmas, rescued a child, gave a soldier a book to read while in a hospital, and maybe just helped a little old lady across the street.

Starting in 1913 with a small group of boys meeting in Dilworth, the council has grown to the time of this writing to over 3,400 Cub Scouts in 129 packs, almost 3,000 Boy Scouts in 127 troops, 650 Venture boys and girls in 47 crews, and 5,400 other young people in the Learning for Life program. And a small group of businessmen in 1913, who gave up an afternoon to talk about forming a council, has increased to over 4,200 men and women who volunteer each year.

The dream continues through the vision of today's leaders.

This book starts with the formative year of the Boy Scouts of America, and picks up the story of small groups of men in 1913 at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church and the YMCA, plus those from other churches, who took time from their daily schedules to work with the young men in their institutions and the community around them. The giving of their

time and resources were the first good turns in Mecklenburg County.

From those early days, the Boy Scouts collected peach pits, books, records and scrap iron during the World Wars, as well as sold war bonds. Bundle Days to assist Goodwill and Scouting for Food to help the food pantries in the county became council wide good turns in later years. Over the years, millions of small good turns have been done by individual Scouts that have never been mentioned or perhaps even remembered by those who did them or received them. That was the way it was planned. One was not to brag about a good turn but to quietly do it.

The knot on the bottom of the scroll on the First Class Scout badge is to remind the Scout to do his daily good turn and the scroll turned upward is symbolic of the smile on the Scout's face as he does that good turn. A good turn may only be helping another student pickup a dropped book or carrying something for someone else. It may be a major project, such as cleaning up a vacant lot of debris and trash, or building a playground. The churches and other civic groups who sponsor the various units of the Boy Scouts of America are doing their good turn also by using the program to enhance their institution's program.

This also is the story of change and innovation, while remaining true to bedrock character values.

Scouting started for boys 12 and older. When 7 to 11 year-old members of the Sir Galahads lined up at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in the late 1910s and early 1920s to announce their "Good Turn" for the week, they had no idea that they were part of a larger movement. A movement that would expand Boy Scouts into new programs for Sea Scouts (1912), Cub Scouts (1930), Rovers (later known as Explorers

(1933), Air Scouts (1942) and Venturers (1998).

The men and women who spend their evenings and weekends, sometimes even a week of summer vacation to take the boys to camp, are probably the ones giving the biggest good turn of all. Without the volunteer leaders, there would be no packs or troops.

Another group that does a good turn is the professional and administrative staff of the Mecklenburg County Council. Yes, they are paid, but nowhere near what they could earn in a business or a professional field. Many long evenings and weekends are spent away from their families in order to conduct training, to recruit boys into the program or to successfully conduct an event. They give of their hours and their lives to a program they love.

This is also the story of those businesses and individuals who have given financially to the Boy Scouts over the years either through the United Way or directly to Scouting.

In reading the story, the reader needs to note that certain things changed over the years. Adults, especially Scoutmasters, were allowed to earn merit badges and other awards until 1965. In the early days, advancement was earned at a slower pace than it is today. The first Eagle Award in Mecklenburg was not earned until 1927.

This story could not have been told without the help and assistance of many people who told me about their Scouting days and about the men and women they remembered helping them. A big thank you needs to go to the unknown persons who kept the scrapbooks for the YMCA from 1913 to 1917. I also want to thank the Scout office, which gave me a lot of information about what was going on in the council and with the units. Another thank you goes to the staff of the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room of the Public Library of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, who assisted in my research and kept the microfilm machines operating.

The Council's History Committee, chaired by T. R. "Tommy" Lawing, Sr., has really pushed to have a book completed and gave many an afternoon to help with research

and guidance. I appreciate their help and efforts. Also, a thank you to Gene Conder who put up with my asking where things were in the office and who assisted in reminding people of meetings, plus helping where she could. My appreciation also goes to Scout Executive Leroy Mayne for helping make this book possible. He has enough to do with keeping the council going day-to-day, but was agreeable to form another council committee in which he would have to spend more time. His assistance and encouragement has meant a lot to all of us on the history committee.

In the late 1970s, Beaumert Whitton became concerned that valuable stories and documents about the formative years of scouting in Mecklenburg County were being lost with the passing of the earliest Scouts and Scouters. With "Beau" Whitton's vision, the encouragement of Bonnie Cone, Dean W. Colvard and E. K. Fretwell, Jr., and the leadership of Frank "Chip" Wampler and Dorlan Mork, a project was undertaken at UNC Charlotte to collect and preserve stories and documents about the formative years of scouting. This project focused on scouting history for the period of 1910 to 1925 in Mecklenburg County.

Between 1978 and 1983 about two dozen oral history interviews were conducted with older Scouters, who possessed first-hand experience and knowledge about the early days of scouting. In addition to relating their stories and memories, they shared scouting snapshots, clippings and memorabilia. Students and staff at UNC Charlotte prepared typed transcripts of the interviews, produced photo enlargements of snapshots and memorabilia, and researched early scout history in the UNC Charlotte Library Archives, *The Charlotte Observer*, Charlotte Public Library, and the Mecklenburg County Council Scout Office.

A transcribed copy of these interviews, titled "*Early Years of Boy Scouting In Mecklenburg County, North Carolina*," and a collection of photo enlargements were graciously provided for use in producing this book. Our thank you is extended to UNC Charlotte, Frank "Chip" Wampler, Dorlan Mork,

and especially to Beau Whitton for their timely insight and contributions to the documentation of this critical era of Mecklenburg County scout history.

Thank you to Bill Fox, Bob Bartlett and the members of the council's 1990 75th Anniversary Committee for the research they did on the history of the council.

The complete story could not have been told without the editing efforts of Ron Vinson, who had a vision of what makes a story complete with illustrations, photos, additional research and interesting sidebars. His arrival on the scene to

help the committee and was like a gift from heaven.

Last, but not least, a big thank you to my wife, Esther, who puts up with my various projects and business ventures. I love her dearly.

Richard Shields
December 2004



photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

The History Committee of the Mecklenburg County Council (MCC) —
first row (seated), left to right: Leroy Mayne, MCC Scout Executive; Chip Wampler; T. R. "Tommy" Lawing, Sr., committee chairman; John M. Belk; Larry Banks; Dick Carter.
second row (standing), left to right: Richard Shields; George Meier; Max Cooper; Bill Nichols, Sr.; Tom Burgess; Steve Clardy; W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Jr.; Henry Wallace; Jack Boyte. Not pictured are: Dennis Guthrie and Russ Ford.

Chapter One

"It Would Spread Like Wildfire"

In Mecklenburg County, more than 200,000 boys and girls have participated in various programs offered by the Boy Scouts of America over the years. It is one of the largest, not-for-profit youth organizations in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Special Scouting initiatives reach out to fragile, urban neighborhoods, as well as to all minority communities throughout the county. In addition, Venturing, Exploring, and school-based Learning for Life reach boys and girls with values-based programs and career planning. This is the story of the Mecklenburg County Council and how it grew, as well as the history of the formative year of the Boy Scouts of America.



The heavens marked 1910 as an auspicious year. Halley's Comet was coming! Former President Theodore Roosevelt was in Africa wrapping up a year-long safari for The Smithsonian Institution. Peace treaties promised to ease war tensions threatening European nations.

On February 8, 1910, the news in Washington, D. C., was about murders, suicides, the French naval build-up, poor school buildings, tainted meat and a declining stock market.

Quietly, in the District of Columbia law offices of Ralston, Siddens & Richardson, Chicago newspaper publisher William D. Boyce signed incorporation papers for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), which would be



William D. Boyce

photo: ResolutionArchives

filed later that day. It was less than two months after he sought and received permission from the British founder of the Boy Scouts — Robert Baden-Powell. The incorporation co-signors were Stanley Dutton Willis, a law school senior, and Edward S. Stewart, an attorney with Ralston, Siddens & Richardson. Willis had done work for the law firm in the past.

Within three months, a Congressional bill would be introduced to charter the group; hearings held by the U. S. House Committee on Education; and national publicity reported in American newspapers.

On April 21, Boyce's effort would be publicized in the *Washington Post*, *Washington Star* and other newspapers. Perhaps in the tradition of colorful journalism practiced at the turn of the century by Boyce and his fellow publishers, including William Randolph Hearst, William Boyce told an intriguing story of his first exposure to Boy Scouts in the famous encounter in the London fog.

"If such an organization were introduced to the American boys, it would spread like wildfire," Boyce told a *Post* reporter. "I never heard of the Boy Scouts until last December, when I was trying to find my way across a

"Give the American boy a chance to improve himself physically and mentally, and he will make the best of his opportunities," said W. D. Boyce, of Chicago, at the Willard, last night. "For this reason I am strongly in favor of a movement similar to that which originated the Boy Scouts, the great organization for the uplift of the youth established in England by Gen. Baden-Powell. "If such an organization were introduced to the American boys, it would spread like wildfire. I never heard of the Boy Scouts until last December, when I was trying to find my way across a London street in a fog. A lad of 12 noticed my futile efforts to get across, and he led me with a lantern in the right direction. I thanked him and offered him a penny. But he thanked me, saying: 'I'm a Boy Scout, and we never take tips for doing kind acts.' "When I inquired of him regarding the Boy Scouts, he said that all the boys who were scouts were in honor bound to do at least one kind act a day. From what I learned from the boy, I found that it was a praiseworthy organization. "The Boy Scouts in England had a membership of 200,000. The movement has been started in Canada, and already there are as many as 10,000 boys enrolled. In England, it is understood, was started to benefit the race. Statistics showed that the average man of Great Britain was becoming smaller in stature, and to correct this in the younger generation it was thought to give the youth more facilities for being outdoors. "The scouts are taught to study animals, trees, and plants; how to build huts and put up tents properly; how to make bridges and boats, mountaineering, exploration, pathfinding, telling time by the sun, and traveling by the stars."

April 21, 1910
Washington Post

William Dickson Boyce — How A Failed Safari Launched Scouting

William Dickson Boyce published two weekly tabloids for rural America — *The Saturday Blade* and the *Chicago Ledger*. Sold by thousands of boys across the rural Midwest and South, the newspapers made Boyce one of the newspaper titans at the turn of the 20th century.

His papers were a mixture of sensational news, dime-novel literature and ads.

When former President Theodore Roosevelt departed in April 1909 on a year-long African safari, the public's interest was insatiable. So Boyce decided to launch his own safari — the African Balloonograph Expedition — which would offer aerial photos of the mysterious continent.

Hiring *Chicago Record Herald* baseball writer Charles Hughes as the publicist and expedition manager, Boyce departed in late June 1909 for London and apparently visited the Boy Scout office before joining up with the expedition in mid-August at Naples, Italy. Traveling to Africa, Boyce later wrote: "During the

next four months in Africa, I had a chance to study over the organization through the printed materials I had secured. Also, the British papers printed a good deal about the Boy Scouts in England and I thought what a wonderful thing it

would be for our American boys."

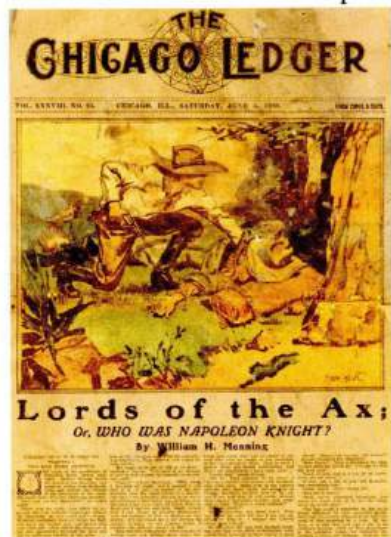
Meanwhile, the photographer, George R. Lawrence, couldn't produce quality pictures of animal herds or landscapes, either from the balloon or on the ground. By late November, it was clear that the project had been a boondoggle.

Returning to London, Boyce searched for African photos he could use for his papers, while preparing a lawsuit against the photographer, who failed to deliver.

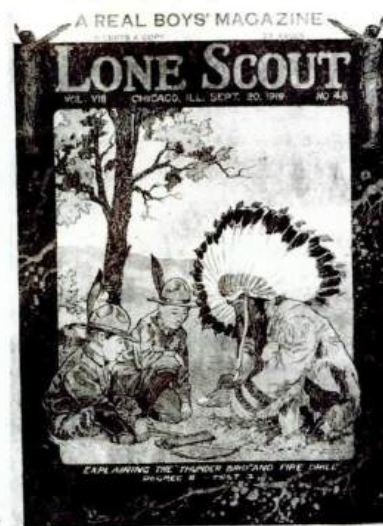
He also re-visited the Boy Scout office.

Perhaps inspired by his encounter in the December fog with an English Boy Scout or maybe just searching for some new challenge, Boyce won approval from Baden-Powell to form the Boy Scouts of America.

Boyce vigorously supported the Scouts, but after 1913, he remained only slightly involved with the Boy Scouts of America. In 1915, he started another group — the Lone Scouts — and newspaper for rural boys, who could become Scouts without being part of a troop. The Lone Scout group was merged with the BSA in 1924. Memorabilia of the Lone Scouts is located in an archive located in Stanly County, part of the Central North Carolina Council that once included Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.



Nairobi, British East Africa, September 1909



photos top & right: ResolutionArchives

London street in a fog. A lad of 12 noticed my futile efforts to get across, and he led me with a lantern in the right direction. I thanked him and offered him a penny. But he thanked me, saying 'I'm a Boy Scout, and we never take tips for doing kind acts.' When I inquired of him regarding the Boy Scouts, he said that all the boys who were Scouts were in honor bound to do at least one kind act a day. From what I learned from the boy, I found that it was a praiseworthy organization."

But Boyce's efforts to win Congressional action on April 21 came to naught, perhaps because another publisher — William Randolph Hearst, who also visited Congress that day — opposed the action, as he was seeking to create a Boy Scout organization, the American Boy Scouts.

The publicity about Scouting piqued the interest of an executive at the Young Men's Christian Association. Edgar M. Robinson headed the YMCA's Boys' Work program, which was planning its summer camp that year.

The YMCA already had numerous groups of boys that were camping and meeting, some as Scouts. Robinson and two other YMCA executives traveled to Chicago on May 3 to meet Boyce.

The original proposal was that the YMCA should run the Boy Scouts, but facing Boyce's reluctance, Robinson then proposed the nascent Boy Scouting movement work with the YMCA and dozens of other potential competitors to organize the Boy Scouts of America.

With Boyce's upcoming marriage and European honeymoon set for late May through summer, he let Robinson and one of Boyce's Washington, D.C., friends — Colin Livingstone, who had advised him on incorporation — proceed with the organiza-

tional effort.

Robinson invited 37 groups to meet on June 15 to discuss combining their boy programs under the Boy Scout umbrella. Scout troops were being informally organized around the country in many cities using Baden-Powell's book, *Scouting for Boys*. Some had been formed as early as 1908.

The Boy Scouts of America was being run, beginning June 1, by YMCA executive John L. Alexander and one secretary, out of one room in the New York City YMCA. It became the job of Robinson and Alexander to convince these early troops to join the Boy Scouts of America program. The small staff was in the process of being overwhelmed.

Attending the June 15 meeting were early pioneering and potentially competing groups — the Woodcraft Indians (1902) led by Ernest Thompson Seton; the Boy Pioneers and Sons of Daniel Boone (1905) led by Daniel Carter Beard; National Scouts of America (1910) led by William Verbeck, director of The Manlius School, a boys' military academy; Boy Scouts of the United States (1910) sponsored by the National Highway Protective Society and led by Peter Bomus; and others. All would merge into the Boy Scouts of America.

Beard, Verbeck and Bomus all would be named simultaneously as national Scout commissioners — there have only been four in the history of the Boy Scouts of America. Seton was named chief Scout. Robinson and Livingstone both displayed a deft touch at merging competing interests.

The major holdout was the American Boy Scouts, incorporated by publisher William Randolph Hearst on June 10, 1910, in New York. Hearst would become disillusioned with the group's operations, cease his support and resign from that board, along with Admiral George Dewey, on December 8, 1910.

The American Boy Scouts later became the United



Edgar M. Robinson
Secretary
YMCA Boys' Work



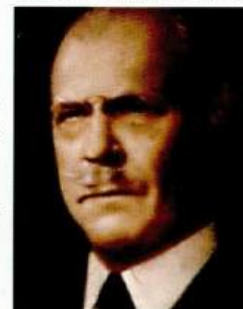
Colin H. Livingstone
National President



Ernest Thompson Seton
Chief Scout



Daniel Carter Beard
National Commissioner



William Verbeck
National Commissioner



Peter Bomus
National Commissioner



Seton, Baden-Powell and Beard photographed on the roof of the YMCA in September 1911 following the special kick-off dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria.

photos: ResolutionArchives

States Boy Scouts. It vied with the much larger Boy Scouts of America for a Congressional charter in 1916, before losing that battle and a subsequent court case about use of the term Boy Scout. The group became the U.S. Junior Military Forces, Inc. and then went out of business by the early 1920s.

The BSA group created a Committee on Organization on June 21, 1910, to develop organizational plans. Seton was chairman and the committee included Beard and Livingstone. The Committee began planning a National Council, which was in place by late October.

During the summer, Seton and the committee adapted the English Boy Scout Handbook and other materials. The new publications were ready by a September 23, 1910, dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in honor of Robert Baden-Powell. At that dinner, Seton graciously referred to Baden-Powell as the "father" of Scouting. But in his remarks, Baden-Powell told the audience he was "correcting" Ernest, acknowledging the contributions of Seton and Beard.



1911 booklet on Scouting distributed by the Minute Tapioca Company.

"You have made a little mistake, Mr. Seton, in your remarks to the effect that I am the Father of this idea of Scouting for Boys. I may say that you are the Father of it, or that Dan Beard is the Father. There are many Fathers. I am only one of

the Uncles, I might say.... The scheme became known at home (England). Then it was that I looked about to see what was being done in the United States, and I cribbed from them right and left, putting things as I found them into the book (his 1908 Scouting for Boys manual)."

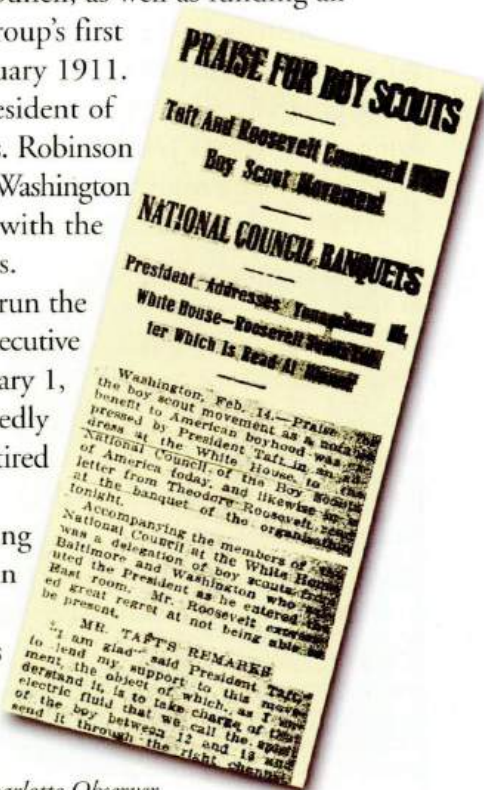
With the creation of the National Council in late October, President William Howard Taft agreed to serve as honorary chairman, setting a precedent for future U.S. presidents. Former President Theodore Roosevelt agreed to become honorary vice-chairman and Chief Scout Citizen. Ernest Seton became Chief Scout.

By October 1910, 2,500 Scoutmasters had been recruited in 44 states. John L. Alexander had worked with the Minute Tapioca Company, which in 1911 printed and distributed a full-color booklet on Scouting to thousands of boys.

Throughout this period, Boyce continued to serve as a member of the National Council, as well as funding all operations, including the group's first office which opened in January 1911.

Livingstone served as president of the organization for 15 years. Robinson had known James E. West, a Washington attorney, who was involved with the YMCA and youth programs. Robinson recruited West to run the organization day-to-day as executive secretary, beginning on January 1, 1911. Accepting the supposedly temporary position, West retired in 1943.

At the first annual meeting on February 14-15, 1911, in Washington, D.C., Boyce and the other incorporators signed over all rights to the organization and its



February 15, 1911 Charlotte Observer

National Council. President Taft addressed the Scout leaders in the East Room.

"Praise For Boy Scouts" was the headline on page 1 of the February 15, 1911, *Charlotte Observer*. Local readers must have been interested as Presidents "Taft and Roosevelt Commend The Boy Scouts." The story read: "Praise for the boy scout movement as a notable benefit to American boyhood was expressed by President Taft in an address at the White House...."

Mecklenburg County Council

In 1910, North Carolina Scout troops included those in Hickory and Salisbury, as well as an informal effort in Charlotte, where Scouting had trouble catching on at first. Record keeping was incomplete and troops were being formed in the absence of any formal registering process during 1910. It is believed that there may have been such a group meeting in the Hickory Grove community in Mecklenburg County.

Charlotte newspapers, the scrapbooks of the YMCA and a UNCC living history project on the Boy Scouts give glimpses into the formation of the Mecklenburg County Council and the first troops.

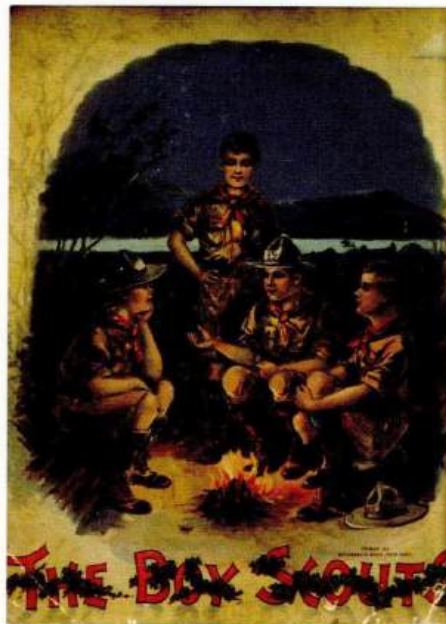
The *Charlotte News* on February 18, 1913, reported that the first

From left to right —

1911 *The Boy Scouts* booklet,

Tom Slade: Boy Scout (1915),

The Boy Scouts on War Trails in Belgium (1916)

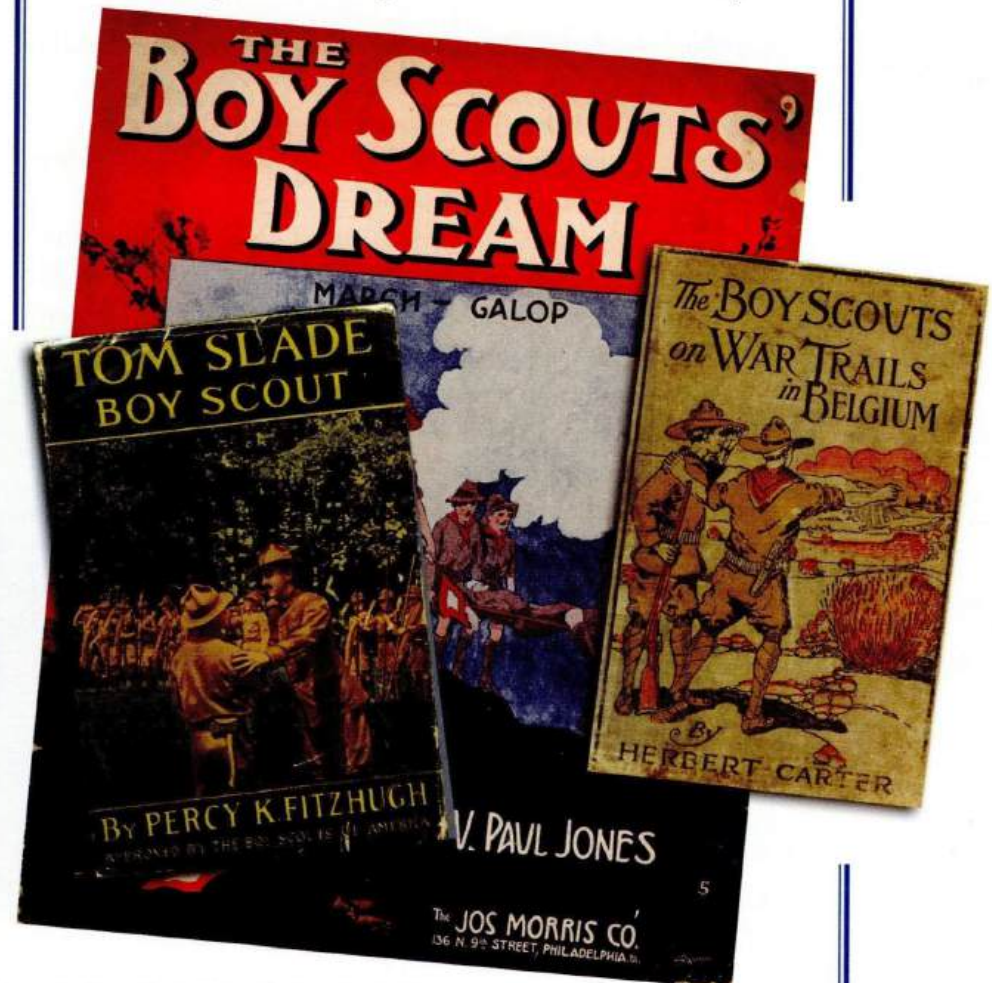


photos (left to right) courtesy of: Tony Morton; ResolutionsArchives; Duke University Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library; Mecklenburg Council County, BSA.

Read! Sing! Publicity

During the 1910s, publishers and musicians rushed to take advantage of the public's infatuation with Boy Scouting. Numerous book authors wrote Scout adventure "dime" novels, while composers, including John Phillip Sousa, tried their hand at creating musical tributes and popular tunes.

In the meantime, the Boy Scouts were proving very adept at generating publicity in local and national publications to build the image of Scouting and to increase membership.





Francis M. Osborne
Interim President &
Initial Scoutmaster
1913

attempt to organize a troop in Charlotte in 1910 had not generated enough interest.

The February 16, 1913, edition of the *Charlotte Observer* announced that a meeting would be held the next day to determine if there was enough interest to start “a company” of Boy Scouts in the city. Meeting at the Greater Charlotte Club, the men agreed to organize a troop from a group of boys, who had been meeting in the Dilworth Area without any adult leadership.

At this meeting, temporary officers were chosen and given the task to seek a charter from the Boy Scout National Office. These officers were: Rev. Francis M. Osborne, president; Rev. L. A. Falls, vice-president; Leake Carraway, secretary-treasurer; William A. Reynolds, commissioner; and an Executive Committee of Capt. W. R. Robertson and Archie Sheldon.

This group wanted to recruit 25 prominent men of Charlotte for the committee and to have the largest “camp” in this region. The news articles also mention C. L. Lockett, George Stephens, John A. Parker, and Charles W. Tillett, Jr., as others who were interested in starting a Boy Scout troop.

Rev. Osborne, captain of the University of North Carolina track and football teams in 1900, organized the Episcopal Parishes of Holy Comforter in the Dilworth Area and St. Martin’s in the Elizabeth area.

The national office of the Boy Scouts of America was directly registering troops in the 1910 - 1915 period, and recognizing, but not chartering, local councils.

By July 31, 1913, permission had been granted by the Boy Scouts of America to form a council, and officers had been chosen at a meeting at the Greater Charlotte Club, according to newspaper reports.

The council officers were: General Arthur L. Smith, president; Rev. Francis M. Osborne, vice-president; Charles C. Hook, treasurer; Leake Carraway, secretary. Council members were: Stuart W. Cramer; Hudson C. Miller; C. E. Mason; R. A. Dunn; Charles W. Tillett, Jr.; William C. Dowd;

J. V. Simms; Rev. L. A. Falls; C. L. Kinney, and H. B. Crowell. Executive Committee members were Capt. W. R. Robertson and Archie C. Sheldon, who was the YMCA’s boys work secretary.

Leake Carraway was the publicity manager for Southern Public Utilities and William Carey Dowd was president and manager of the *Charlotte News*. The group represented clergy from prominent churches, textile executives, insurance men, bankers and other leading citizens.

They approved Osborne as Scoutmaster and directed the Secretary to order handbooks. Boys twelve or older could apply to the council for affiliation. It was noted that the business and professional men looked forward to the future of Scouting in the city.

In 1915, the Boy Scouts of America decided to officially charter local councils. In October 1915, a new Charlotte council applied for official recognition. There were 200 Boy Scouts in the city and the new council was pushing for 500.

The October 12, 1915, *Charlotte News* reported that the new Boy Scout council had elected: Jesse M. Oldham, president; W. M. Wilcox, vice-president; Dr. J. H. Caldwell, secretary-treasurer and Scout executive, and Archie C. Sheldon as commissioner. J. Frank Wilkes and Professor H. P. Harding also were elected to the group to form an Executive Committee. A finance committee was appointed — John A. Parker, E. H. T. Foster and the Rev. M. Falls. A Court of Honor was established to examine the Boy Scouts for Merit Badges — J. Frank Wilkes, Dr. E. H. T. Foster and John A. Parker.

On November 24, 1915, the Boy Scouts of America granted a charter (second class) to the Council, now known as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Council. The charter’s



Jesse M. Oldham
Council President
1915 - 1920



Gen. Arthur L. Smith
Initial Council
President
1913 - 1914

photos: top and right,
T. R. Lawing Sr.; above,
ResolutionArchives

Early Council Scout Executives

Dr. J. H. Caldwell was named the first council Scout executive in 1916. He was followed by Gilmer Horton in 1917 and J. M. Samonds in 1918.

One afternoon in June 1918, a group of the leaders of the Boy Scout movement in Charlotte visited Jim Steere in a jewelry store, where he worked. They asked him to become a full-time Scout executive. Steere served as Scout executive from June 1918 - 1919, when he went to work as a field executive with the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). He worked in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida starting troops. He returned as the Charlotte Scout Executive in 1923.

From 1920 to 1922, John B. Floyd served as Scout executive.

In 1919, the council was listed in the BSA Report to Congress as a Class H council with 198 Boy Scouts in 11 troops. The BSA's 12-Region System was created in 1920 with the Charlotte Council being in Region 6 along with the rest of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Mecklenburg became a First Class Council by 1924 because of the city's population of 50,000 people and its 22 troops and 395 Scouts.



*James E. Steere (left)
& John B. Floyd
(right) were early
Scout Executives.*

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA LOCAL COUNCIL • Charter •

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS OF
CHARLOTTE - MECKLENBURG CO. - N.C.
HAVING MET THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED FOR THE
ORGANIZATION OF A LOCAL COUNCIL BY THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ARE HEREBY
GRANTED A CHARTER AS A LOCAL COUNCIL OF THE 4TH
CLASS FOR THE PROMOTION AND SUPERVISION OF SCOUT
WORK WITHIN THE LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES OF
THE TERRITORY SPECIFIED ABOVE

FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 12, 1916
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS SET FORTH IN THE
OFFICIAL HAND BOOKS -
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA HAS CAUSED THESE PRESENTS
TO BE SIGNED BY ITS OFFICERS AND ITS CORPORATE SEAL
TO BE HERETO AFFIXED - THIS 24TH DAY OF NOVEMBER
IN THE YEAR 1915

Woodward Wilson
HONORARY PRESIDENT

W. H. H. H.
HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT

Sheldon Ross
HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT



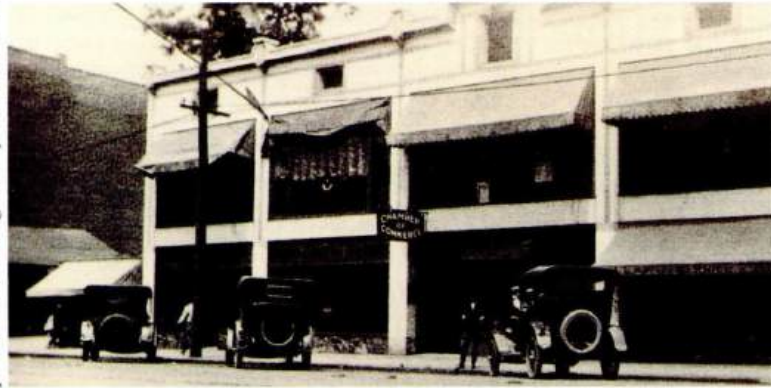
Chas. H. H. H.
PRESIDENT

James M. H. H.
CHIEF SCOUT

Samuel H. H.
NATIONAL BOY SCOUTS COMMISSIONER

James E. Steere
EXECUTIVE

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS - NEW YORK CITY



The Scout Office was in the Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 1920s to 1940s.

class type reflected the city's small population and the limited size of its Boy Scout operation.

Also that November, James Esek Steere was hired to be the Scout commissioner. His job was to train leaders that churches provided to start new Boy Scout troops.

In June 1918, the council named Jim Steere as the Scout executive. While he may have operated out of a desk or temporary office space loaned by a council member, the first council office was opened in late 1918 or early 1919 in Room 3, Law Building at 307 South Tryon. When the landlord required an increase in rent in early 1920, the frugal council moved the Scout office to the second floor (Room 208) of the Latonia/Chamber of Commerce Building, 404½ South Tryon, for a fee of \$25 a month. Both offices were within a block of the downtown YMCA, which continued to be a major Scout supporter and sponsor of troops.

Early Scout Troops

During the first decade of Boy Scouts organizing in Mecklenburg County, troops were constantly being formed, merged and re-constituted under different numbers and different sponsors. In addition, there were troops mentioned in newspaper articles by their numbers, but nothing more is known about them.

The first two troops formed in 1913 were at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church (Dilworth) and at the Young

Men's Christian Association.

The *Charlotte Observer* reported on January 25, 1914, that the Boy Scout movement in Charlotte had grown in the year since it had started with troops in Elizabeth, at the YMCA and in Seversville.

When Dr. Henry Davie, the commissioner Scoutmaster of the State of Maryland, spoke in Charlotte on January 18, 1914, to the YMCA Boy Scouts, the *Charlotte Observer* reported that he also was going to speak at Thompson Orphanage and St. Martin's Episcopal Church. A question remains whether there were Boy Scout troops at these locations. Later records clearly indicate troops at both places. The *Charlotte Observer* on February 22, 1914, mentioned that the Elizabeth Heights Boy Scouts had taken a fine hike to McAlpine Creek the day before.

Troop 1 Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, also known as Troop A (1913 - 1916)

Holy Comforter Church on South Boulevard (shown below, where Arlington Condominium is now located) organized the first Boy Scout troop with William A. Reynolds as the Scoutmaster. To help start the troop, Reynolds organized a committee composed of Jesse M. Oldham, J. Frank Wilkes and Fred Glover. In 1915, three of these leaders were instrumental in officially chartering the Charlotte Council.

Some members of that 1913 Boy Scout troop were: Ernest Spong, Brevard Williams, Thomas Taliaferro, Gilder Craver, Eugene Crayton, Brittain Elms, Frank Shannonhouse, Charles Peasely, C.

W. (Pat) Gilchrist and Alex Walker. Judge William Bobbitt



remembered this troop as “rather informal — either an actual or embryonic Boy Scout troop.”

Troop A had grown to 24 boys by January 25, 1914, according to the *Charlotte Observer*. At that time, the troop was engaged in a good turn for the community. The boys were working on a public playground in the south end of the city, around Dilworth. A banquet had been held with city officials to push their idea. The troop would pay for the playground. They were raising money for equipment by showing the movie “*The Fall of Constantinople*.”

Troop 1 YMCA, also known as Troop B and Troop 2 (1913 - 1916)

On November 16, 1913, Clyde Welch announced in the *Charlotte Observer* a meeting that afternoon for all the boys in the city to meet at the YMCA (at right). This may or may not have been the first meeting of this troop, as there were other activities at that time at the YMCA for boys. Since Welch was one of the early Scout leaders, it may be assumed that he was looking for Boy Scouts.

The *Charlotte Observer* reported on January 18, 1914, that the troop held elections: Edwin O. Clarkson — patrol leader; James Craig — assistant patrol leader; Emmett Wilkinson — scribe; Thomas N. Alexander — surgeon. Others attending were: Turner Finger, John V. Lawing, James Heath, Thomas Barnhardt, Wesley Heath, Edward Campbell, Edwin Matthews, Claude R. Gaither, Mortimer A. Bland, Obie Thomas, Charles J. Miller and William Austin.

On January 17, 1914, the *Charlotte News* reported that 45 boys had shown up for the Friday night meeting and they were to go on a hike the following afternoon at 3 o'clock. General A. L. Smith, president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Boy Scout Council in 1913-1914, gave a short talk.



photos: Resolution Archives

The *Charlotte Observer* on May 14, 1915, announced that Troop 2 was now at the YMCA and Troop 1 was in Dilworth. The YMCA troop later took the number 1 since the troop at Holy Comforter had disbanded or possibly had never registered with the national office. They also were known as Troop A at Holy Comforter and Troop B at the YMCA, in some newspaper articles. Reggie Price's widow had a roll book from the YMCA troop that showed a roster for Troop 1 and a roster for Troop 2 that contained some of the same names.

Billy Wilcox was the first Scoutmaster and he was succeeded by Clyde Welch, the night clerk at the Selwyn Hotel. According to Judge William Bobbitt, Harry Witherspoon and Willard Dixon went with him to visit Wilcox and asked him to be the Scoutmaster. Bobbitt had been a Second Class Scout in Baltimore and had moved to Charlotte. P. D. Davis was recruited as assistant Scoutmaster in March 1914.

Why Staves?

With a growing number of Scouts being seen around the city, some Charlotte citizens questioned why the Boy Scouts carried staves or staffs. The Boy Scouts periodically had given the “Staff Drill” and had done so the previous Friday on the street in front of the YMCA. While the Scouts were compli-

1916 Boy Scout Anniversary Week Celebrations

In the early years of Scouting, anniversary weeks were a big occasion with a lot of activities. By the millennium, they had evolved into just a Scout Sunday or Sabbath observance with some troops having a special dinner and packs having Blue and Gold banquets.

The 1916 observance was full of activities — possibly because both the council and Scout Commissioner James Steere had just started in their positions. Plus, Scouting was the number one activity in town at the time.

The 1916 Boy Scout Anniversary Week started with church services at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 6, with all the troops present. On February 8 from 4:30 to 6 p.m., the Boy Scouts visited the sick in hospitals and private homes with flowers and best wishes as a Good Turn. At 7:30 that evening was the special anniversary meeting for each troop. At 8 o'clock, each troop had the reading of the message from Colin H. Livingstone, BSA national president. At 8:15 p.m., the troops repeated the Scout Oath.

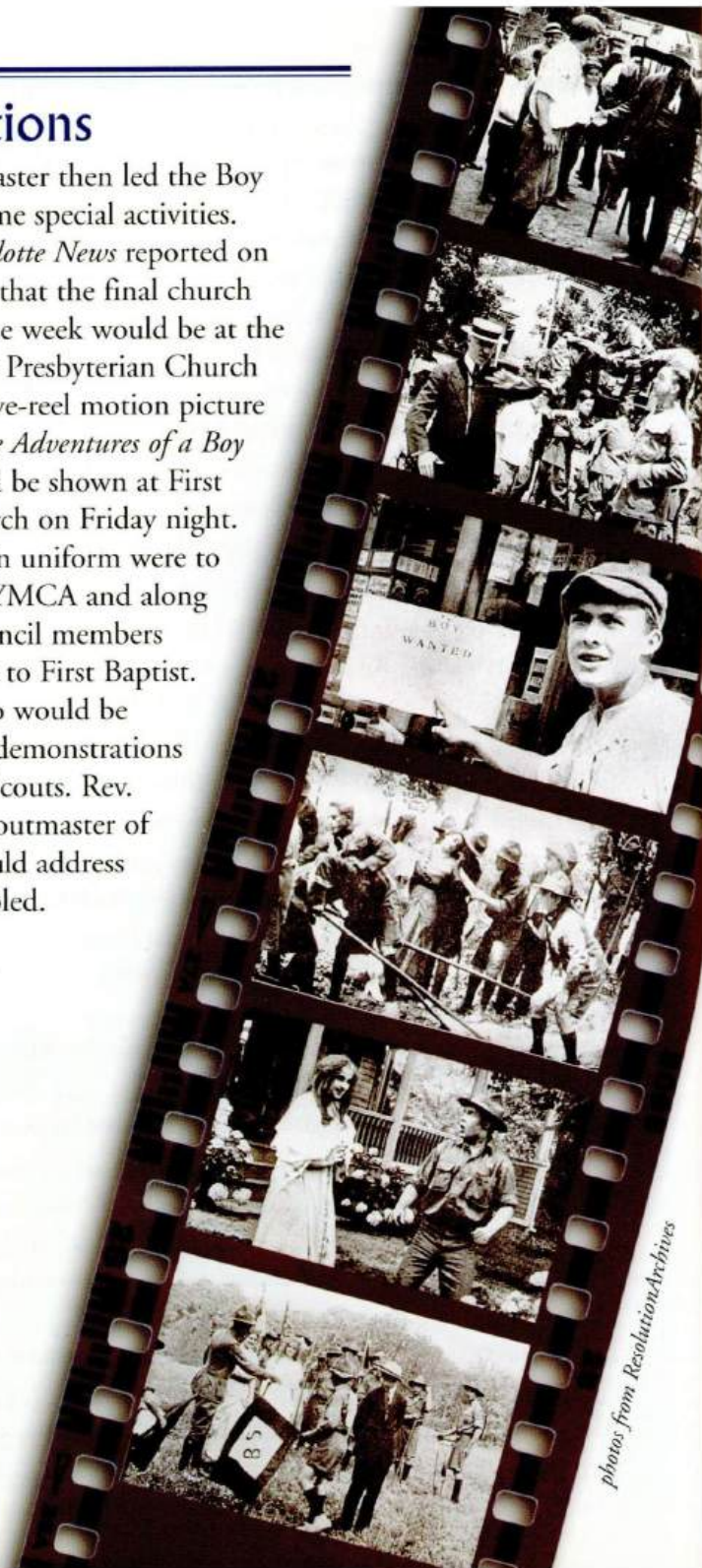
The Adventures of a Boy Scout (1915) hit the box offices from New York (below) to Charlotte. Stills from the film are at right.



The Scoutmaster then led the Boy Scouts in some special activities.

The *Charlotte News* reported on February 10 that the final church service for the week would be at the 10th Avenue Presbyterian Church and that a five-reel motion picture entitled "*The Adventures of a Boy Scout*" would be shown at First Baptist Church on Friday night. Boy Scouts in uniform were to meet at the YMCA and along with the council members were to walk to First Baptist.

There also would be singing and demonstrations by the Boy Scouts. Rev. Osborne, Scoutmaster of Troop 1, would address those assembled.



photos from RevolutionArchives

mented on the proficiency of the drill, some viewers were quoted as seeing no reason for the Boy Scouts to carry them. The August 7, 1915, newspaper explained to the readers that they were used to cross creeks, vault fences, scale walls, etc. They protected them against snakes and vicious dogs. They could also be used as a tent pole or flagpole, as well as used for signaling. While doing traffic control, the Boy Scouts also could create a fence by each Scout holding the ends of two staffs and standing in front of the crowd. The staffs were made of bamboo or some other lightweight wood.

Two more Boy Scouts, Thomas Whitted and Clarke Smith, made it to First Class according to the October 22, 1915, issue of the *Charlotte News*. At that time, this was a big award. As some of the Boy Scouts stated in the UNCC Study, the emphasis was on getting to First Class and very little on getting to Eagle. The *Charlotte News* reported on December 31, 1915, that the troop had ended the year with 10 First Class Scouts and 20 Second Class Scouts. Members mentioned in the article were Willard Dixon, James Penney and Jillian Butner.

By the summer of 1917, this troop apparently was moved to St. Martin's Episcopal Church to form Troop 3, according to an interview with Tom Barnhardt. Both Barnhardt and John Vernon Lawing show up on rosters of both troops.

Troop 2 First Baptist Church (1915/1916)

This troop was started at First Baptist, according to Jim Steere, Jr., who was a member there. Along with him were Arthur Barringer, Worth Helms (Senior Patrol Leader and later Scoutmaster) and Andy Taylor. The troop moved to the YMCA when Jim Steere, Sr., became Scoutmaster. At that time, the troop number was changed to 7, according to a roll book that Reggie Price had in his possession.

Troop 3 St. Martin's Episcopal Church (1916)

Rev. John Long Jackson arrived in August 1915 at St. Martin's from Harrisonburg, Virginia, to become the parish

priest. Jackson had been Scoutmaster of Troop 2 in Harrisonburg from October 1911 to August 1915. Jackson was the 157th leader to register with the BSA Headquarters. He created Troop 3 from Troop 1 at the YMCA, according to troop member Tom Barnhardt, Jr. Barnhardt remembered other members before he left the troop in 1917 as including Willy Lillicrop, Randolph Craig, Albert Glover, George Snyder, Eddie Clarkson and Tom Alexander.

Albert Glover described Reverend Jackson as a heavyset man known for his cooking and being an outdoorsman. He was known for being strict when it came to passing requirements and, many times, he made a Boy Scout redo what he had not done quite right. The troop was known for its thorough knowledge of Scoutcraft and not how fast they went up the ranks. He later became a bishop in Louisiana and died in the 1940s.

The Parish Newsletter of January 21, 1918, contained a troop membership list that included Taylor Lucas, scribe, and Owen Woodside, treasurer. The Wolf Patrol was made up of Paul Guthrie (patrol leader), Elbert Madden (corporal), Owen Woodside, Cornelius Somerville, Latta Woodliff, Spencer Harrill, Marion Tarrant and Duffy Bruns. Beaver Patrol was Albert Glover (patrol leader), Tom S. Clarkson (corporal), Taylor Lucas, Leslie Cave, John M. Justice, Lloyd Staton, Robert Dye and James Gardner. Fox Patrol was Walter MacPhail (patrol leader), James Johnston (corporal), Walker Jarrell, Ralph Woodside, Morgan Speir, Jr., George Stephens, Jr., George Snyder and Herman Howie. The troop met on Friday nights



The Rev. John L. Jackson at St. Martin's Episcopal Church was early Scout leader nationally & locally.

photo: T.R. Lawing Sr.

First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., circa 1910s. The building is now Spirit Square.



photo: Resolution/Archives



*Troop 3 from St. Martin's
circa 1916 - 1918 (above).*

*St. Martin's Episcopal
Church circa 1912, at
right.*



*Hawthorne Lane
Methodist Church
circa 1920, below.*



*photos: top, Mecklenburg County Council, BSA;
middle, credit; bottom, T. R. Lawing, Sr.*

at 7:00 p.m. in the Guild Room. There also were Junior Scouts meeting at the time under the leadership of Jackson, according to the newsletter.

An older structure at St. Martin's was moved and placed behind the new building. The Boy Scout troop played games in this old building. One of their favorites was to build a barricade of chairs and such in the middle of the room and turn out all the lights. The boys would have different markings on their arms to tell one patrol from the other. The object was to get to the other side of the room. The troop called it "Big Rough House."

Troop 4 YMCA (1917)

This troop also was at the YMCA. James Van Ness was one of the members. W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, then a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina, took over the troop as Scoutmaster in 1918. He was the first of a long line of Cuthbertsons to be in Scouting in Mecklenburg County. Beau Whitton told the story that Cuthbertson came home on a Thursday after graduating from Chapel Hill and became Scoutmaster on Friday night.

Troop 5 Chapel of Hope — Episcopal (1916)

John Bradfield was Scoutmaster when the troop won the Hike and Field Day Contest held in February 1916, according to the *Charlotte News* of November 14, 1916. The church was on 15th Street.

Troop 5 Hawthorne Lane Methodist Church (1916)

Troop 5 was in existence until 1988. Marvin Robey was the first of 70 Scouts from Troop 5 to receive the Eagle rank. In the 1920s, Arthur Beatty was Scoutmaster. He accompanied the Boy Scouts who brought the boats down the Catawba River from the Piedmont-Charlotte Area Camp to Camp Steere (see pages 50 - 52).

Troop 5 was popular because it was one block from the streetcar route, and beginning in 1925, the troop had a full-sized basketball court at its Scout hut.

Troop 6 Westminster Presbyterian Church (1916)

The speaker for the March 19, 1916, monthly Boy Scout Sunday observance at the YMCA was the Rev. W. H. Adams of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The Scoutmaster was A. J. Bateman. Around 1918, the church also took over sponsorship of Troop 7, which initially started at the YMCA in 1916. Scoutmaster Bateman resigned in 1917 or early 1918.

On June 28, 1918, the Boy Scouts of Troops 6 and 7 of Westminster Presbyterian Church, with J. E. Crayton as Scoutmaster, had a picnic at the Kirkpatrick Homestead. Their 1917 picnic had been at the Catawba River. The troops were sponsored by the Men's Bible Class and played a baseball game against each other at the picnic. Other sporting events also were held.

In 1919, Howard C. Sheridan was Scoutmaster. He was followed in 1920 by the Rev. L. D. Thompson.

Westminster Presbyterian and Second Presbyterian churches combined to form Covenant Presbyterian Church in 1947.

Troop 7 YMCA (1916 - 1917)

The March 10, 1916, *Charlotte News* reported that Troop 7 had just been organized under the leadership of James E. Steere, who was described as a "successful leader of boys. Being a camper and naturalist of much experience, he is especially qualified to conduct a troop of Boy Scouts."

Steere said his first troop stayed intact during 1916 and 1917 and that the members were: Henry Alexander, Glenn Brown, Duffy Bruns, Richard Brown, Jack Brown, Bonnie Burton, Jack London, Irwin Maston, James Owens, Reginald Price, William Pitts, Erwin Setzer, Lee Colyer, Morgan Spier, Jr., Allen Moore, William Weaver, John Rike, Jerry Whitsett, William Harding, Vernon Smith, Kenneth Jackson, Billy Harvil, Brevard Miller, Edwin Sehorn, Walter Shipley, Fred Boger, Conway Carter, John Dunlap, Robert Dixon, Wort Dearmon, Claude Hinson, Joe Kenny, Vannoy McCall, Albert Moffott, James Penney, Ralph Smith, James Burwell,

Bennie Swartz, Jno. R. Morrison, Olin Todd, Frank Woodle, Thos. B. Whitted, McClain Sinclair, Jack Setmer, Henry Dula, Chas. Hunnicutt, Richard Littlejohn, Hugh Barkely and Warren Hunnicutt. Other members of this troop were Pete and Fred McCall, Julian Rutledge, Ernest T. Seton and Reggie Price, who all sold War Bonds during World War I. According to some Scouts, members from Troop 2 (First Baptist) joined this troop.

Troop 9 St. John's Baptist Church

Alan Guthrie was the Scoutmaster when Esley Anderson joined the troop in the 1920s. Anderson also remembered another Scoutmaster named Oscar Guyney. Anderson later joined Troop 11.

*YMCA building at 330
So. Tryon St.*



photo: T. R. Lawing, Sr.



Jim Steere in 1926.

photo: Mecklenburg County
Council, BSA

James Esek Steere, Scout Executive (1918 - 1919 & 1923 - 1940)

No man probably had more influence on Scouting in Mecklenburg County than Jim Steere, affectionately known to his Boy Scouts as "Chief." Without his ideas, enthusiasm, and dreams for Scouting, the local council would not be as we know it today.

Steere was born on July 31, 1881.

In a *Charlotte Observer* article on February 10, 1929, Steere was asked how he got into Scouting. He happened to see an advertisement in the 1915 local paper for a Scoutmaster for a troop at the YMCA and applied for the position.

During the interview, he was asked why he thought he would qualify as a Scoutmaster and he responded with two reasons; he was an outdoor man and he enjoyed working with boys. Told that he would do, Steere was ushered into a room full of boys waiting for a leader.

That was his introduction into Scouting.

Steere, a native of Charlotte, was an engraver, jeweler and watchmaker by trade in the days when watchmakers had to make their own parts.

A YMCA publication in 1905, entitled the *Educational Institute Booklet*, had a display ad for J. E. Steere Jeweler located at 41 North Tryon Street. He specialized in high-grade watches, diamonds, diamond jewelry, cut glass and silverware. By 1915, he was working for Garibaldi, Bruns & Dixon Jewelers in Charlotte.

After retiring from the Boy Scouts, he opened the Happy Times Toy Co. in 1941, making

wooden toys during the war years, since he realized that metal would be in short supply for toys. Later, he made

wooden equipment for textile machines until he retired in 1959.

In November 1915, he was recruited to be the first Scout commissioner for the newly formed council. This was a volunteer position. He must have done a good job, because a group of the Scout leaders asked him to be the new Scout executive in 1918.

Steere stayed on as Scout executive through 1919, when he became a field executive for the BSA National Office. He organized troops and councils in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

Sometime before going to work as a field executive, he attended Columbia University in New York and took a number of Scouting courses. At that time, Columbia was known for its close association with the BSA.

Jim Jefferson, a long time Scouter, described him as a naturalist and a Scouter who knew his Scoutcraft skills.

Steere was a local Indian expert and took Boy Scouts at Camp Steere arrowhead hunting many an afternoon.

He was the 6th District Commissioner for the State Board of Conservation and Development from 1927 until 1936, as well as an active member of the Masonic Phalanx Lodge, the Scottish Rite and Oasis Shrine Temple. He helped organize the Mint Museum.

He was active in the Red Cross, where he served as volunteer director and organized the first water safety program in the county. In 1928, he underwrote the costs for First Aid Classes for Southern Bell Telephone Co. and Charlotte Fire Department employees, so that 100% of them were trained. Steere served two years as chairman of the School Board.

James E. Steere passed away on May 11, 1966. He was buried in Elmwood Cemetery. His wife was Irene Johnston Steere; they had a daughter, Mary, and a son, James E. Steere, Jr.

Chapter Two

“Do A Good Turn Daily”

The Scout Slogan says that Boy Scouts will do a good turn or deed daily. It was an edict that Scouts took seriously. Good deeds were performed by individual Scouts, as well as by the entire Scouting community.

On February 13, 1915, the Boy Scouts held an exhibition in Hanna Hall of the YMCA at 8 p.m., according to the announcement in that evening's *Charlotte News*. The program started with a Grand March of the Boy Scouts, followed by the song “America,” and the Boy Scouts giving the Scout Oath, Law and Motto. There were demonstrations of knot tying, Boy Scout lifts, improvised stretchers, proper use of knives, signaling and semaphore. A quartet of Boy Scouts sung. The Rev. Francis Osborne, Scout commissioner, closed the exhibition with an address.

The 4th General Convention of the Laymen's Missionary Movement of the Southern Presbyterian Church was held in Charlotte later that week (February 16-18, 1915). According to the *Charlotte News*, the Boy Scouts met the delegates at the train station and showed them to the homes where they would be staying during the convention. The paper noted that this would keep the delegates from being delayed or inconvenienced in locating their sleeping quarters.

On December 11, 1915, the Boy Scouts helped with the municipal Christmas Tree that was in front of the county courthouse. The Scouts also gave a party on Christmas Day for the residents of the county home.

During these early years, Scouts held a special monthly Boy Scout Sunday at the YMCA, bringing in special speakers. In January 1916, the speaker was Capt. John A. Parker of the local militia. This was a time when the United States was trying to stay out of the war in Europe.

On March 28 and April 21, 1916, the *Charlotte News*

reported on a campaign by the city and the Boy Scouts to inspect the backyards and alleys. This was part of a citywide cleanup campaign. Boy Scouts reported yards and alleys that needed additional cleanup. They inspected 121 houses. The Boy Scouts also reported on residents who had done an exceptional job. These citizens were given awards.

When Woodrow Wilson came to Charlotte on May 20, 1916, the 141st anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, the Boy Scouts marched in uniform to meet him and helped with crowd control. The Boy Scouts

photo: Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Public Library of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County



Scouts greeted President Woodrow Wilson (second from left) at the 1916 Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence celebration. Others left to right are: S.C. Gov. Richard Manning, III, Wilson, his wife Edith Bolling Wilson and N.C. Gov. Locke Craig.

Street Cars & Friday Night Scouting

Eagle Scout Dick Simpson recalled that Scouting was the only non-school, extra-curricular activity available for young boys at the time. The troops all met on Friday night.

Simpson said that you could stand at the downtown square in Charlotte and watch the uniformed Boy Scouts riding streetcars or walking in from all four directions to attend meetings in the downtown churches or YMCA.

Charlotte's streetcar system was critical for transportation between 1891 and 1938, when it was phased out by buses and the proliferation of automobiles.

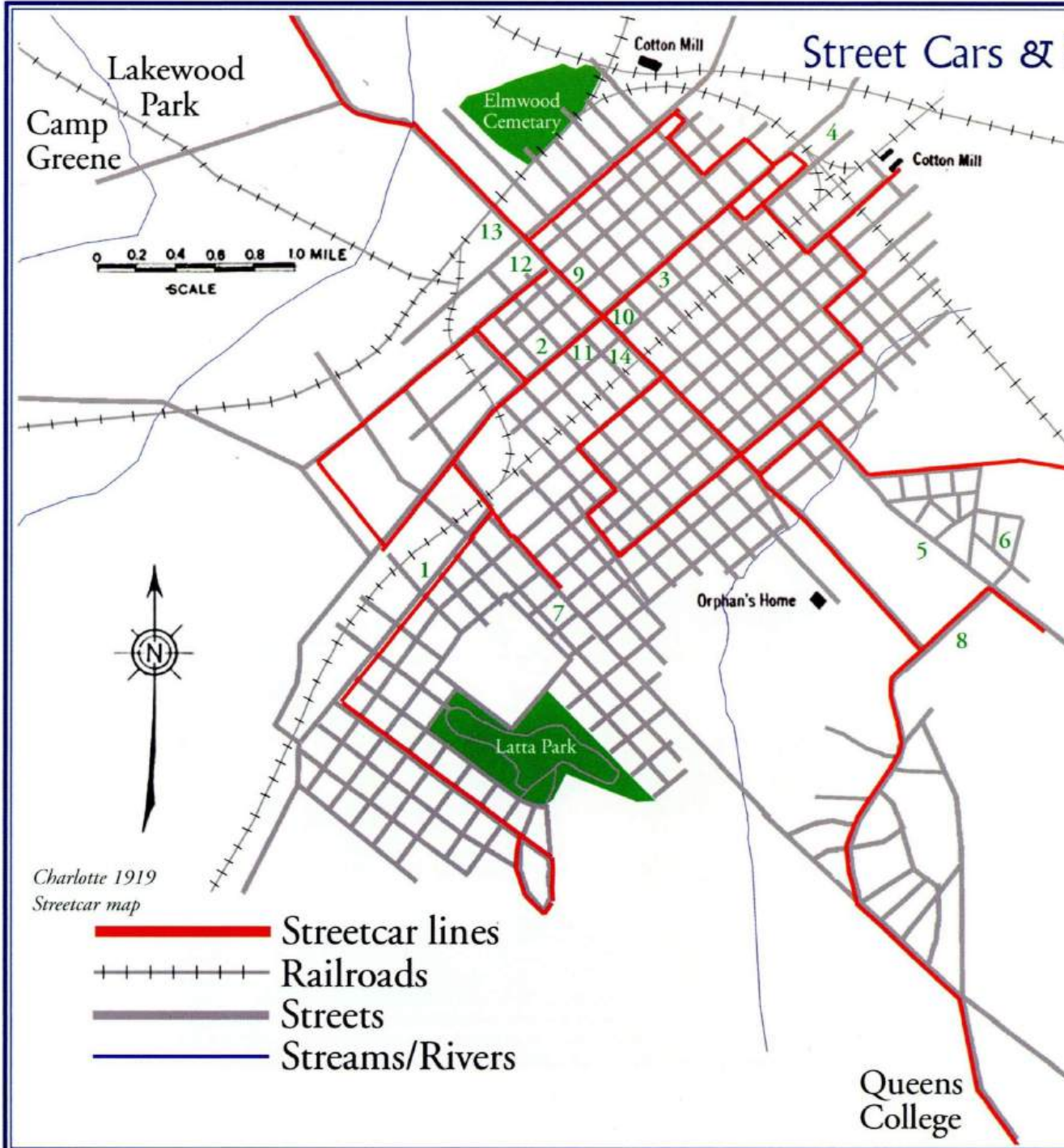
The map at left shows streetcar routes around 1919 and locations of some early Boy Scout sponsors and key buildings.

Early Troop Sponsors —

- 1 Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
- 2 YMCA
- 3 First Baptist Church
- 4 Chapel of Hope
- 5 St. Martin's Episcopal Church
- 6 Hawthorne Lane Methodist Church
- 7 Westminster Presbyterian Church
- 8 St. John's Baptist Church
- 9 First Presbyterian Church

Key Buildings —

- 10 City Hall
- 11 Courthouse
- 12 U.S. Mint
- 13 Southern Railroad Passenger Station
- 14 Southern Railroad Freight Station



also served as an honor guard. Morgan Spier, Jr., said that “we stood up and carried on and behaved ourselves real nicely....”

The President’s wife agreed. Writing in her memoirs, Edith Bolling Wilson noted the visit: “It was a boiling hot day; one of those sudden descents of summer that cause unexpected discomfort.... The hapless Marine Band had been summoned from Washington, and they wore the thick, red uniform coats of winter weight.... On and on (the mayor of Charlotte) went — thirty, forty, fifty minutes — when suddenly the members of the Marine Band began to succumb. They dropped like flies, and the valiant little Boy Scouts tried to lift and carry them to some blessed shade.

“...Hardly had the band received first aid when women all around me began to faint, and the Scouts, with perspiration pouring down their boyish faces, came to tender their services.”

World At War

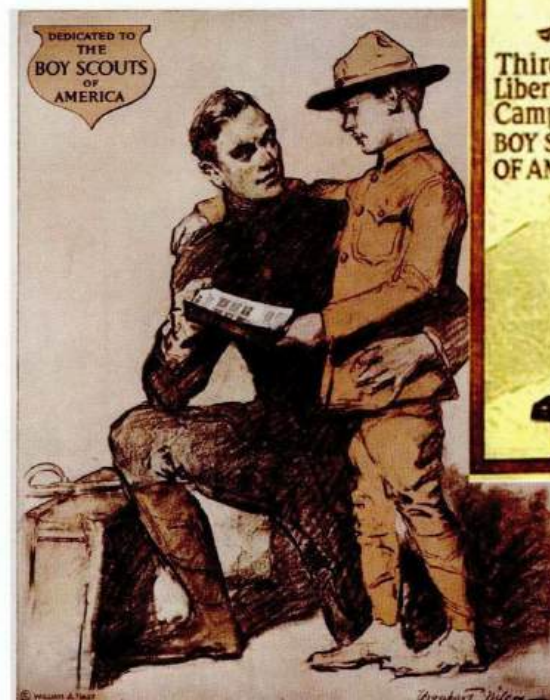
When America joined the war on April 6, 1917, the Boy Scouts of America responded with patriotic fervor. Scouts conducted many good turns or deeds for the community and nation.

The U.S. Army opened a training facility, Camp Greene, off Wilkinson Boulevard just outside of Charlotte. The camp and thousands of soldiers around Charlotte brought the reality of the war effort home.

The Boy Scouts in Mecklenburg County were involved in all of the customary activities that the Boy Scouts became involved in for the war effort including parades, selling Liberty bonds, meeting the troop trains, and being honor guards when necessary. More than 60,000 soldiers passed through Camp Greene during the war.

There were three national service campaigns sponsored by the Boy Scouts during World War I, plus a tremendous effort to sell Liberty (war) Bonds and War Savings Stamps.

The national service campaign for 1917 was “Every Scout to Feed a Soldier.” Boy Scouts and troops started gardens, so that food grown commercially could be sent to feed the sol-



**“We’ll Help You to
Win the War, Dad,”
with
War Savings Stamps**



World War I efforts by Scouts included growing home victory gardens (top left), as well as selling Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps. Note that both of the 1918 posters shown are dedicated to the Boy Scouts.

photo: top — Mecklenburg County Council, BSA; posters: National Archives & Records Administration

diers in camps at home and overseas.

Boy Scouts were publicly recognized for their fund-raising efforts. Nationally, Scouts sold about \$335 million in Liberty Bonds in several campaigns.

In addition, a small campaign by the Scouts to sell War Savings Stamps generated more than \$3 million for the government. The U.S. Treasury Department awarded medals to many Scouts, including those in Mecklenburg County, in recognition of their service in selling war bonds and stamps.

The Allied armed forces also needed lumber for rifle stocks and airplane propellers. Scouts searched local forests to locate suitable lumber, including black walnut from North Carolina for rifle stocks. Nationally, Scouts found more than 21 million board feet of black walnut.

A second service campaign was "Every Scout to Boost America." Boy Scouts delivered over 30 million government brochures, including one printed with the President's Flag

Day remarks.

Will Bankston and Ernest Shaw of the Panther Patrol agreed to distribute the weekly bulletin for volunteers published by the War Camp Community Service, according to the *Charlotte News* on July 7, 1918. The bulletins were given to soldier guests and others in the community.

The third service campaign by the Boy Scouts was "Every Scout to Save a Soldier." This campaign sought to gather peach pits, which would be turned into activated charcoal for gas mask filters. Nationally, the Boy Scouts collected over 100 train carloads of peach pits for the manufacturing of gas mask filters. It was one of their largest and most successful efforts.

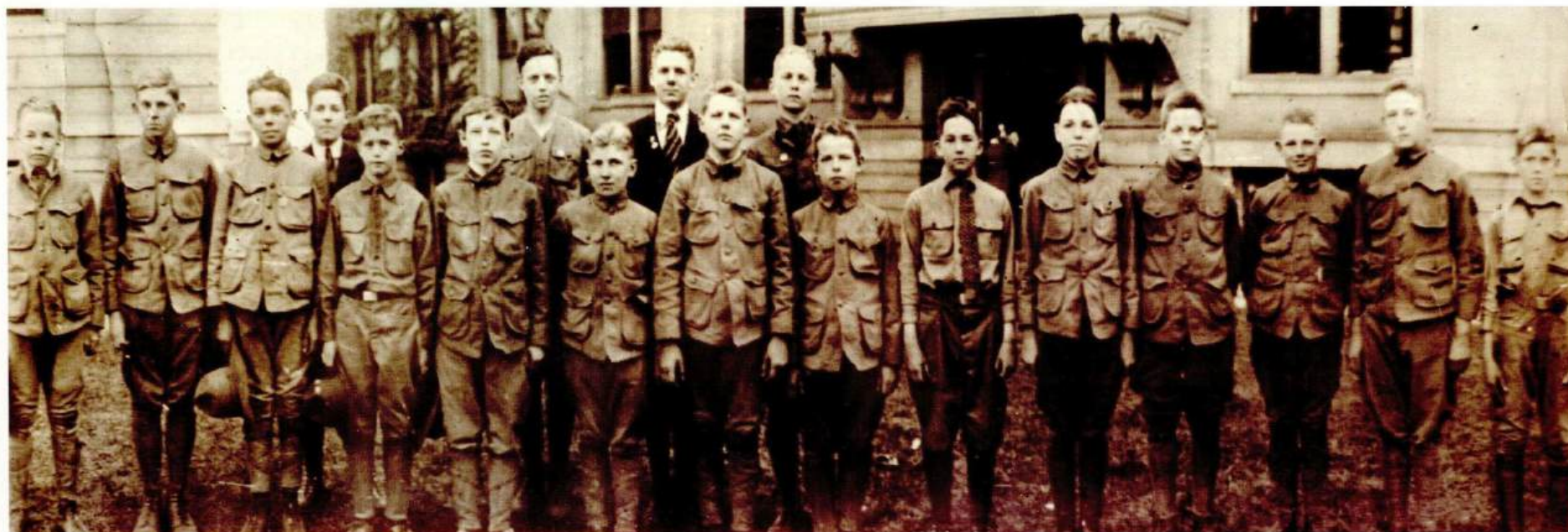
The Mecklenburg County Boy Scouts were very active collecting peach pits. The Rev. John Jackson and his Boy Scouts, including Junior Scouts (*see below*), were honored by the Army for their efforts in gathering peach pits. They were

At far right top are some of the Mecklenburg Boy Scouts who received U.S. Treasury medals for selling Liberty Bonds in 1917



Elizabeth Boy Scouts who furnished peach pits for Chemical War fare Service, Learning how

Junior Scouts & Boy Scouts — photo title: "Elizabeth Boy Scouts who furnished peach pits for Chemical War fare Service,"



Learning how to use gas masks. Camp Greene, N.C., Nov. 16 '18 — Lieut. E. D. Gilmore, C.W.S. — John L. Jackson Scoutmaster"

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

invited to Camp Greene and loaned gas masks. Some Scouts had the chance to experience Army training by learning how to use the masks in the camp's practice gas chamber.

Morgan Spier, Jr., related that a group of 13- to 15-year-old Boy Scouts would be put into the chamber with gas masks on and after a while a puff of smoke would come in. He was never really convinced that it was toxic gas and not just some smoke from burning leaves. Just the same, it was a heady, and often talked about, experience.

The Boy Scouts also were taught how to knit squares for

mufflers. Spier remembered his mother taught him to knit. He would sit on the front porch and knit the little squares, while talking to people. These squares were sewn together to make a muffler for a soldier.

The home front also recorded its losses. On January 24, 1918, a spinal meningitis quarantine was declared for Charlotte, closing churches, schools, Scout meetings and other public gatherings. Although lifted two weeks later, an October 1918 influenza outbreak generated another quarantine. There were some deaths at Camp Greene due to illness over the course of the war.

Scout Morgan Spier, Jr., related that he learned to play the bugle. Due to this talent, he played every Sunday at the funeral services of the soldiers being buried in Mecklenburg County. He was playing at so many funerals that his father became concerned for his mental health.

Church bells rang across the land on Armistice Day, November 11, 1918. The war was over.

And Scouting returned its focus to traditional activities of community service and camping.



photo: Resolutions/Archives

Boy Scout campaign hat and bugle of the period at left, as well as a 1918 card from the Committee on Public Instruction identifying the Scout as a messenger to distribute government brochures and materials.

1920 World Jamboree

The first International or World Jamboree was held in England in 1920 in London's Olympia Stadium. This was 10 years after the formation of the BSA and 13 years after Baden-Powell's experimental camp at Brownsea Island.

A number of Mecklenburg County Boy Scouts were able to raise the money to go, while their parents raised the money to pay for John Floyd, the Scout executive, to accompany them. Those attending were: Jim Copeland, George Snyder, Lynn Garibaldi, Richard Cannon, Lewis Watts, Bob Manson, James Van Ness, J. L. Staton, Robert Massey and two others, possibly Joe Josephs and Walker "Piggy" Jarrell.

Floyd served as Scoutmaster of American Troop 8 for the Jamboree, which included the Charlotte Boy Scouts. They were issued new uniforms and rover packs at Fort Hamilton, an Army camp, outside of Manhattan. After a week of training, they were a sharp-looking group.

Before leaving the states, the Boy Scouts marched down 5th Avenue in New York City on July 4th.

The United States government provided transportation that helped to keep the cost down. But it was not the finest in accommodations. An old German freighter from World War I took two weeks to get the Scouts to England. Each Boy Scout was given a hammock below decks for sleeping. The Boy Scouts thought the food was terrible and they had to attend classes during the day.

The Boy Scouts stayed in Richard Park, a London suburb, during the Jamboree. It was about fifteen miles from London. A circus tent served as a mess hall and another large tent was used as a hospital. The campsite was arranged with tents forming something like streets. There were no visitors. The Boy Scouts spent some time bartering things they had brought along.

The activities were held in Olympia Stadium at night,

along with the athletic events in the Crystal Palace. The troops entertained King George V and his wife, Queen Mary, at Windsor Park. Baden-Powell was there, along with Daniel Carter Beard of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The contests consisted of wrestling, boxing, rowing, jumping, horseback riding and more.

Following the Jamboree, the Mecklenburg Scouts stayed a few days at the London YMCA and then toured France. While visiting the ruins of Rheims Cathedral, James Van Ness was arrested for going into the Cathedral.

The BSA contingent went on to Belgium and Germany, but two of the Mecklenburg Boy Scouts had contracted typhoid fever. The Mecklenburg Boy Scouts were quarantined, missing visits to the World War I battlefields and the other sites.

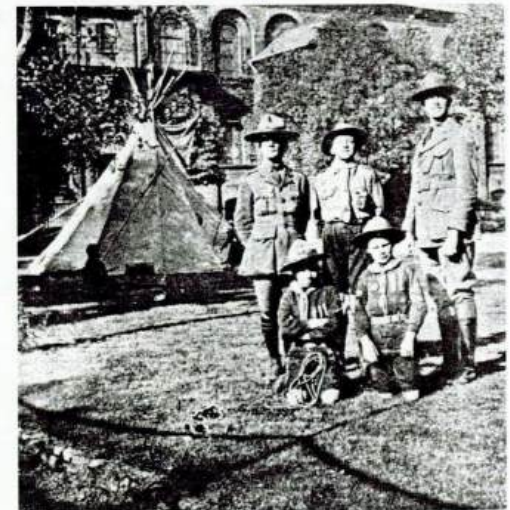
Upon their return to the U.S., they toured New York City and again had a parade and a closing dinner at the Commodore Hotel, where they each received their discharge papers. They returned one week after Labor Day, so that they missed the first few days of school after the two-month trip.

Charlotte Boy Scout Robert Massey appeared in a newsreel, along with Baden-Powell, shown at the Imperial Theater in Charlotte in June 1921. Inspecting troops at the Jamboree, Baden-Powell had asked his son, Peter, to pick a Boy Scout to lead the drill inspection. Peter picked Massey.

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA (top); ResolutionArchives (bottom)

Charlotte Scout Executive John B. Floyd and Scouts at the International Scout Jamboree in London (1920), below.

American Scouts and leaders placed a wreath at the Jamboree (bottom).



Strike Up the Band

Between 1916 and the 1930s, Scout bands were an important and locally visible part of the program.

A Drum and Bugle Corps composed of Boy Scouts was first reported by the *Charlotte News* on March 31, 1916, and again on April 18, 1916. At that time, Jim Steere was trying to organize a band with the members of Troop 2 YMCA.

1921 Scout band

The May 12 issue mentions that the Boy Scouts were ready to march and were also going to have a float in the upcoming parade, probably the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence celebration.

The Rotary Club purchased some instruments for the Scout band in 1919.

In June 1921, the Charlotte Merchants Association



endorsed the Boy Scout band after their performance in the Memorial Day Parade, according to the June 15, 1921, *Charlotte News*. Because the band was such a hit, the association was going to make a donation to the band. On December 9, 1921, they went to Monroe and played for the visit of World War I French General Ferdinand Foch, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in 1918.

Arnold Bartlett, an Englishman, organized a Scout band in 1923. The band practiced at various times in the Chamber of Commerce Building, the Shrine Building and at the Duke Power Building. The band membership totaled about 38. After Bartlett left, R. L. Keisler led the band. They played in parades and marched every Friday night from the YMCA to the square in Charlotte.

photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



The *Charlotte News* reported on June 3, 1923, that the Boy Scouts were led in the Memorial Day Parade with their Boy Scout band under the leadership of Capt. W. Cox.

In July 1923, the *Charlotte News* reported the band was then the second largest Boy Scout band in the country with 35 members and was under the directorship of R. L. Keisler. The band had recently played at the Kirkpatrick Homestead for the luncheon of the Lions Club convention held in Charlotte (see picture below). The Lions Club in Charlotte had taken over support of the band when the club was formed in December 1922.

This band took in Boy Scouts from all over the city. Some of the known members of the YMCA band were Tom Barnhardt, Jr., John Scott Trotter, Albert Glover, Charles Connelly, Spencer Harrill, Hal Kemp, Karl Selden, Jr., Lowell and Robert Mason, Spencer Bell, Morgan Speir, Jr., Jack Pascal, Ed Yarborough, Harry Easman, Earl Clonset, and Charlie Stone. Hal Kemp and John Scott Trotter became the most famous. Both men had bands that traveled the country. Trotter was musical director for Bing Crosby.

The best known Boy Scout band was the 1926 group led

by the Rev. Herbert Spaugh at the Little Church on the Lane.

In 1926, Rev. Spaugh took the instruments that were donated by the Rotarians to the now disbanded band and painted "Boy Scout Band, Myers Park Moravian Church" on the drum. He proceeded to recruit boys into his band and Boy Scout troop. It became so popular that the number had to be limited to 35. It never traveled far, mainly playing at church and civic functions around the city. The members of the band were members of Troop 28 at the church.

Members of the Moravian band included: John Belk, future mayor and businessman; Beaumert Whitton, future president of Southeastern Construction Company; Addison Brenizer, future surgeon; T. M. Barnhardt, Sr., future president of Barnhardt Manufacturing Co.; and Arthur Wilford, who became the comptroller of the Ed Mellon Co.

Spaugh's knowledge of music was vast. He played the organ and other instruments, in addition to teaching the boys how to play. The band made such a favorable impression that eventually the school board started musical instruction in the schools. The band later became the core of the Central High School band.

The 1926 Moravian Church Boy Scout band directed by the Rev. Herbert Spaugh (shown far right).

This picture shows Lions Club members and their families from around the state at the 1923 Lions Convention in Charlotte (below). Also pictured is the Mecklenburg County Scout band which played for the group.



The February 7, 1940, Executive Board minutes noted that the band instruments owned by the council had not been used for a few years. Jim Steere asked the Board to approve giving them to the Moravian Church band.

The Boy Scout band must have been reorganized at some point in 1940. Rev. Spaugh asked the Executive Board members, at the December 1940 meeting, to each donate \$1 to buy a suit for the Boy Scout Band Director Bob Smith — \$17 was collected.

The April 10, 1942, Scout Circus promotion letter from L. W. Slye, the General Chairman, instructed Troop 7 Drum and Bugle Corp to start tuning their horns.

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



In 1958, another drum and bugle corps was organized. At the November 17, 1960, board meeting, the corps was approved. On September 21, 1961, the *Charlotte News* reported that the Central Lions Club, with the assistance of the Marine Corps Reserve, had taken over sponsorship of the corps. At that time, it had 45 members and marched in such parades as the Carousel Parade in Charlotte and the Myrtle Beach Sun Fun Festival.

Explorer Post 588 was organized in 1990 as a drum and bugle corps and participated in a once-a-year competition was held among a number of drum and bugle corps in Charlotte.

Charlotte Scout Executive John B. Floyd in 1920.

photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



John B. Floyd, Scout Executive (1920 - 1922)

John B. Floyd came to Charlotte in 1920, when Jim Steere became a national field Scout executive. He stayed for three years before going to Topeka, Kansas, where he was paid \$300 a month, an increase of \$75 over the \$225 he was being paid in Charlotte. When the great depression came in 1929, he left the profession.

Floyd was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 4, 1895. His father felt that his children should be raised in the country and purchased a farm, 13 miles out of town. Floyd fell in love with nature on the farm. Floyd's father was active in the church and encouraged the church to start a boy's club that incorporated some of the Scouting ideas. During the depression of 1913, the Floyds lost the farm and moved back to the city. Floyd was 18-years-old at the time and was forced to quit school and help with the family finances.

Back in Louisville, he got involved as an assistant Scoutmaster with a church troop. He also was active with the Baptist Youth Young People's Union as a Scout leader. In 1917, he was inducted into the U.S. Army and knew his Boy Scout skills would be useful. He survived the war and the flu epidemic that followed. He was discharged as a second lieutenant.

In January 1919, the council in Louisville hired Floyd as an Assistant Executive. A short time later, Stanley Harris, a national field Scout executive, needed an executive in Charlotte and assigned Floyd to the Charlotte Council. About that time, he married his wife, Mabel.

The budget for the whole council in 1921 was \$5,600. Miss Eugenia Lockhart was the council secretary. During 1920, Floyd accompanied local Boy Scouts to the 1st International Scout Jamboree in London, England.

During 1980, Beau Whitton contacted Floyd, who was living in Florida. Floyd remembered very fondly his days in Charlotte and the Scouters he worked with in the early days of the council.

Floyd died on October 6, 1993.

Chapter Three

“The Time of Their Lives”

While the Scouts worked on performing their good turns or deeds during the 1910s, they continued with Scoutcraft lessons — learning woodcraft and other skills, as well as engaging in that primary Scouting experience, camping. Camping trips ranged from one-night, hiking treks to full week-long excursions to a number of early Scout camps — Kanuga, McDonald and other less formal campsites.

In the early years, the Boy Scouts took every opportunity to display their growing skills to the local community.

The *Charlotte Evening Chronicle* on March 20, 1914, reported that the Boy Scouts had participated in the Mingling Bros. Society Circus that was performed by local residents. On April 14, the paper reported that they hiked into the country on a fishing trip, cooked supper “in the field” and returned by nine o’clock. The November 14th *Charlotte Observer* gave coverage to “Stunt Night.” The troop leaders had prepared stunts so that the Scouts could show their “prowess.” It also was noted in the same article that a Bible class had been started for the Boy Scouts before the troop meetings.

Sometime during 1914, Troop 1 YMCA (or Troop B) had a band that marched from the YMCA, which at that time was on South Tryon Street, to the square every Friday night. They dressed in uniform and carried the flag.

In late June 1915, the *Charlotte Observer* reported that Boy Scouts wanting to participate in the Kirmess Parade must be in full uniform. They also went on a hike to the country carrying three meals, a frog gig, lantern, camera, uniform and anything else they would need. They were to bring ten cents for carfare. The Boy Scout writing the best 150-word essay, while on the trip, would be rewarded five points in the Troop Contest.

The Boys of Troop B, the *Charlotte News* reported on August 7, 1915, were going on an all-night hike and were expecting to have a great time. The article also noted that they were taking their baseball uniforms with them, but no explanation was given. While the headline called them Troop B, they were also called Troop 2.

In late August, the troop planned a trip to the Wolfe place that was four miles out Lawyers Road. According to the *Charlotte News* on August 24, 1915, each member was to bring something for the stew, such as 3 ears of corn, 6 potatoes, 3 tomatoes, 12 pods of okra, etc. Trek carts had been built for use. These were three-sided carts with large bicycle-style wheels, pulled by two Boy Scouts. The patrol’s equipment would be placed in that cart.

For Troop 3 St. Martin’s, the August camping trip involved a game of war,

1913 Boy Scouts preparing
for a hike, and an official
BSA Compass
from the 1910s.

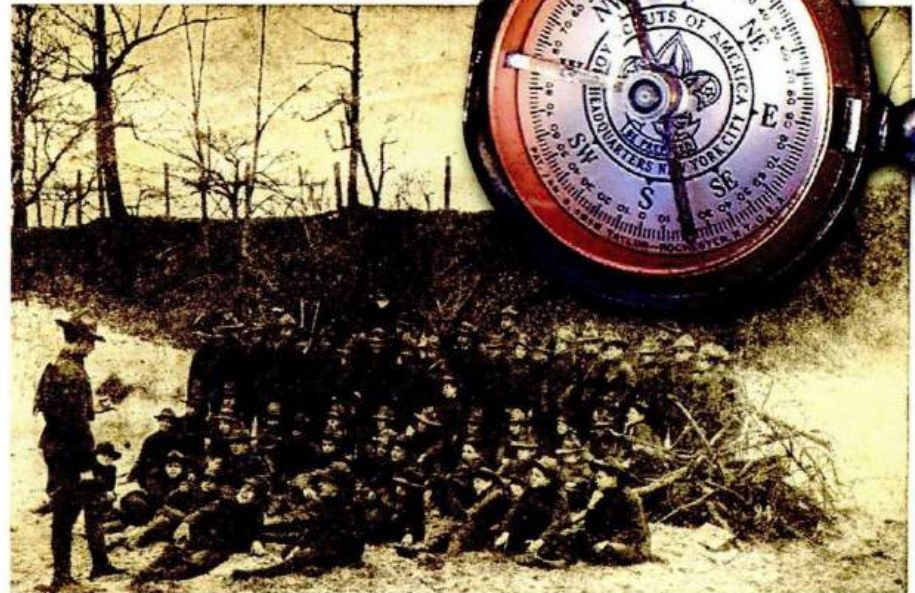


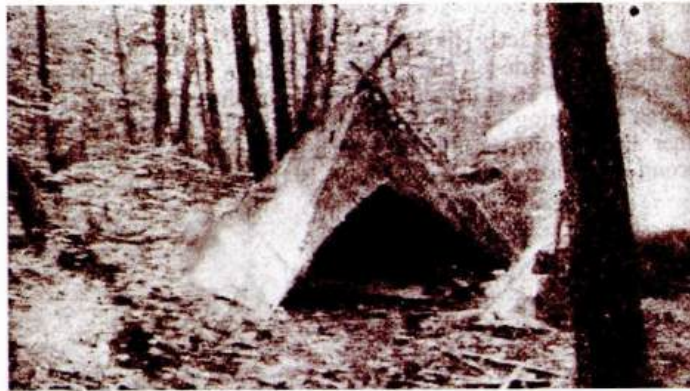
photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA;
compass: ResolutionArchives

pitting the Allies against the Germans, according to the *Charlotte News* on August 12, 1915. Each side set up a prison with guards and then marched off in opposite directions. Each army then sent out spies to find the other army. When they found each other they would "clash."

An opponent was down when his shoulders touched the ground. On this trip the Germans won. The troop was camping on Briar Creek and Boy Scouts Matthews, Kiney, Setzer, and Lillycrop were those mentioned as attending. Also mentioned was Tommy Whitted who was known as "Be Prepared" for all the extra things he brought on a trip.

But the activities didn't stop after the summer camping season ended.

On September 13, 1915, Scoutmaster Welch led five



Scout tent in 1913
(right).

Troop 9 from St. Peter's
Catholic Church camping
in the early 1920s
(bottom).



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

YMCA Boy Scouts, who rode their bicycles to Gastonia carrying a letter from Mayor Kirkpatrick of Charlotte to the Mayor of Gastonia. After they delivered the letter, they telegraphed their time to the *Charlotte News*. They then stopped to cook their lunch. Making the trip with Welch were M. Lafferty, Vernon Rigler, Wilson Brown, Willard Dixon and J. B. McLaughlin, Jr.

That fall was busy. The *Charlotte Observer* reported on September 15, 1915, that Dr. J. H. Caldwell was going to teach a first aid course to the Boy Scouts that had been compiled by the YMCA and the Red Cross. The September 24 issue reported that 25 Scouts had taken the course. In October, there was a first aid contest at a meeting announced by the *Charlotte News* on October 15.

Meanwhile, the need for first aid training for Scouts was demonstrated. On September 19, the *Charlotte Observer* reported that William Carraway had fallen from a tree, landing on a stump of a sapling which penetrated his thigh. Along with some other Boy Scouts, William had been gathering wild grapes near Rhyne's Station, an area near Camp McDonald. The Boy Scouts used one of the sacks, for holding the grapes, as a bandage and got him back to town where Dr. B. J. Witherspoon stitched the wound closed.

The troop held a relay race on October 1, 1915, that was a race to see how fast each patrol could get a message to the Scoutmaster.

At the stroke of 8:30 p.m., Boy Scouts would start running from the corner of Tryon and Seventh Streets, down Tryon to Fifth Street, Fifth to Church Street, Church to Fourth Street, then Fourth Street to Tryon and finally to the finish line at South Tryon and Second Street. The first Patrol to cross the line would get five points. According to the October 8 *Charlotte News*, the Wolf Patrol won; the next week the Boy Scouts would be having a swimming contest.

In order to earn money for gear and future trips, Troop B operated a refreshment stand at the November Fair, according to the *Charlotte News*, November 29, 1915. They had

requested donations of food in order to help keep their costs down. During the fair, they also held an Exhibition of Scouting, demonstrating fancy staff drill, staff exercise, first aid to the injured, carrying the wounded, races and signaling.

Early Scouting Camps

In addition to more formal council Scout camps, troops often had informal, undeveloped sites that would be used.

On August 14, 1916, Troop 2 left for ten days of camping at a site near Stephen's Pond in the Mint Hill area off Highway 218, probably close to where Stephen's Mill was at that time. They called the site Camp Welch in honor of their former Scoutmaster Clyde Welch. Twenty-five Boy Scouts under the leadership of Scoutmaster Helton and his assistant Sharpe went on the trip.

Troop 3 had two favorite places to camp. One was the camp at what is now Myers Park Country Club (Camp Wilkes) and the other was along Briar Creek, where Seventh Street crossed it. The older boys would swim above the railroad bridge in what they called the cupboard on Briar Creek, while the younger ones stayed down below where it was not as deep. The troop also camped at a rock quarry near the childhood home of evangelist Billy Graham on Park Road.

Camp Kanuga (1913-1916)

The June 15, 1913, edition of the *Charlotte Observer* announced that Professor Charles Weeks would be the Scout leader for the Boy Scouts during their stay at the Kanuga Lake Club property, near Hendersonville in the western North Carolina mountains. Weeks had previous experience as a leader in other Boy Scout camps. Miss Marion Robertson, formerly with the YWCA in Norfolk, Virginia, was the camp director.

At this time, Kanuga was a private facility owned by George Stephens, who developed the Myers Park area.

According to the July 27, 1913, *Charlotte Observer*, the Boy Scouts "session was now in full swing." The *Charlotte Observer* mentioned on August 10 that the Scouts went on a picnic at Laurel Park and that the younger boys 7-12 were called Kanuga Indians. That year's program was wrapping up for the summer.

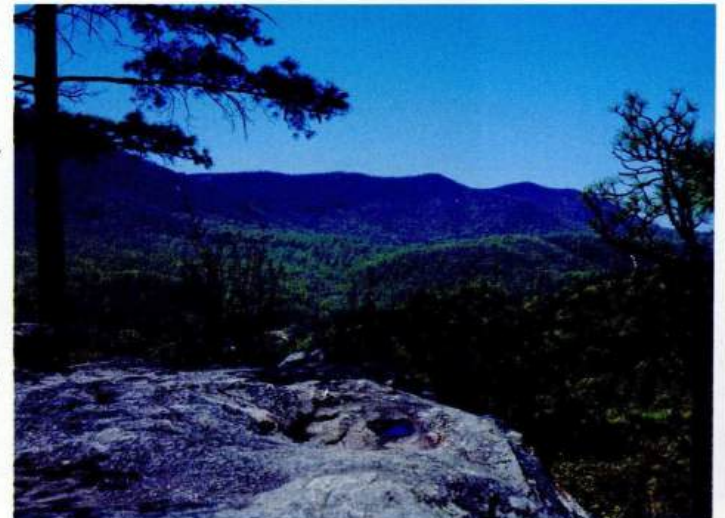
In June 1915, 25 Boy Scouts and boys from the YMCA left for a two-week session at what they called Camp Kanuga. They left in a rainstorm and said they would rather have been at the camp than in Charlotte if it must rain. Archie C. Sheldon, the YMCA Boys Secretary, was the leader. Clyde Welch, the Director of Religious work and

Scoutmaster in charge of the Boy Scouts, assisted him. The Scouts slept under the veranda of a large pavilion that extended over the lake (pictured right). They were bunked in groups of eight or more with an older boy in charge. The interior was equipped as an auditorium with a stage and as a gymnasium. It was large enough to play tennis. The camp cook, Mattie, was again preparing the meals, as everyone the year before had loved her chicken and dumplings. The activities were not specified, except for religious services each morning and afternoon.

The old Kanuga Lake Pavilion (top); the view from Eagle Rock (below).



photos : Kanuga Conferences, Inc.



Morgan Spier, Jr., remembered the trip to Kanuga. Each Scout started out carrying a box lunch prepared by his mother and given to him at 8 a.m. But by the time the Scouts got to Gastonia, most lunches already had been eaten. They traveled by train. When the train left Spartanburg and headed up Saluda Hill, a pusher engine was attached to get the train up the hill, along with the engine on the front to pull it up. All the Scouts would go to the back car to watch the engine push the train up the hill. If the Scouts went to the front of the train, the reward was cinders in their eyes.

The *Charlotte News* on June 10, 1915, published a letter from James W. Kistler, Jr., at Camp Kanuga to his friend "Dunk" back home in Charlotte. The Boy Scouts had hiked twelve miles to Hendersonville, eighteen miles to Caesar's Head and they were going to hike to Asheville before they returned to Charlotte. They had gone frog gigging and had obtained ninety frogs for one of the day's meals. The Scouts looked forward to having chicken the next day. On June 16, the *Charlotte News* reported that the chicken was a reward for getting so many frogs for the earlier meal. Gilmer Holton

had taught them about the various trees and flowers in the area and they were to learn about water that day. They had been swimming in the lake with a raft. The Scouts were able to dive into the water from the place where they slept. Fishing and boating were available at anytime. Kistler wrote that he bunked between Tom Hawkins and Bill Dowd. The camp was equipped with a store that sold candy and drinks to the campers.

The daily schedule for the camp was reported in the *Charlotte News* on June 16, 1915. The Scouts were up with the rising sun, which some had never observed before. "Stoutie" or "Lillyfish" began the first call to get up the buglers. Breakfast consisted of oatmeal, bread, milk and hot gravy. Chapel or Bible Class followed. Clyde Welch led the class for the younger boys and Gilmer Holton for the older ones.

The rest of the day was consumed with swimming, hiking, fishing and boating. At 6 p.m., supper was served and then vespers were held. After activities, the property owners, Ed and Dick Gresham, would tell stories before the Boy Scouts went to bed.

The Scouts hiked to Pinnacle Mountain near Kanuga and on the way killed a six-foot black snake and skinned it. They discovered a full-grown weasel inside the stomach. "Steady" Creswell and A. C. Sheldon had gone fishing in a creek six miles away and had caught 34 "mountain beauties."

The Boy Scouts of the YMCA were invited back to Camp Kanuga in June 1916, under the leadership of Gilmer Holton, according to the *Charlotte News* on May 13, 1916.

In September 1916, the remnants of a hurricane pushed into the North Carolina mountains, causing the great flood of 1916. The Kanuga dam gave way.

Kanuga went through four different owners, each facing bankruptcy, until the Episcopal Church acquired the property in 1928. Still affiliated with the church, Kanuga Conferences, Inc., now operates a year-round conference center, two summer camps and the Mountain Trail Outdoor School for school groups.

Sunrise at the Kanuga lake.



photo: Kanuga Conferences, Inc.

Camp Reynolds (1913)

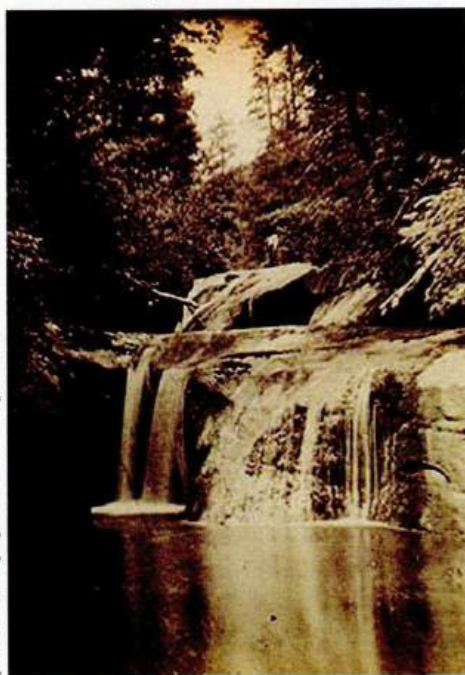
Eight boys from Troop A Dilworth camped at Logan's Place on the Rocky Broad River near Chimney Rock, according to the *Charlotte Observer* of July 28, 1913.

The camp was named Camp Reynolds in appreciation of William A. Reynolds, who was Commissioner at the time

and district manager for Southern Cotton Oil Company of Charlotte.

Rev. Osborne was in charge. The newspaper noted that there had been no accidents and the boys were having "the time of their lives." The eight Scouts on the camping trip were: Frank Yorke, Charles Peasley, Brevard Williams, Brantley Springer, Cecil Gilchrist, Maurice Reilly, James Elms and Harold Wilson.

Scouts returned to the Chimney Rock area to camp again in 1918.



Pool near Chimney Rock. Troop A camped on the Rocky Broad River near Chimney Rock in 1913, naming their temporary camp site, Camp Reynolds.

photo courtesy of UNC at Chapel Hill

Camp Wilkes (1917 - 1918)

The undeveloped land of today's Myers Park had been a nearby favorite of Scouts for camping in the early 1910s.

Camp Wilkes was established along the creek running through what is now known as the Myers Park Country Club. The Boy Scouts named the Myers Park area Camp Wilkes for J. Frank Wilkes, who was the owner of the Mecklenburg Iron Works and had given so much of his time to them. Beau Whitton remembered that Frank Wilkes always wore Indian moccasins and smoked a slung-under pipe. Frank sported a handle-bar moustache and had a wire cage built on the running board of his car to carry his dog, according to Morgan Speir, Jr.

There was an old house on the site that was rotting and falling down. There had probably been a mill there at one time, but it was gone except for the dam that still backed up water to allow the Boy Scouts to swim. Jim Steere remembered that the Boy Scouts swam in the creek that later ran along the greens of the golf course.

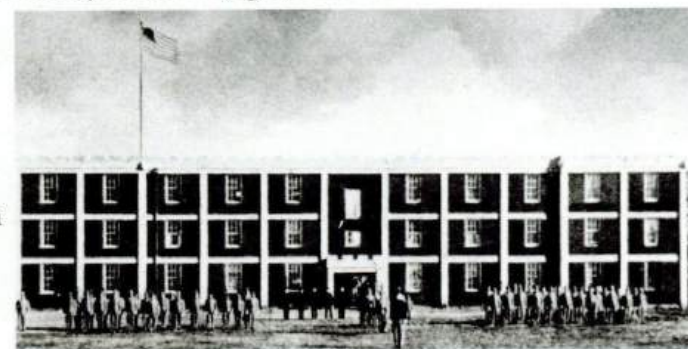
The Boy Scouts took the trolley on Monday morning to the end of the line at Horner Military Institute (right). The school was a military academy on the edge of the Myers Park area on Roswell Avenue. Today, the building is the Rockledge Condominium. The Scouts would then hike to the camp.

Myers Park in 1911.



photo: Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, PLCMC

Horner Military Institute circa 1917.



The *Charlotte News* reported on July 1, 1917, that Rev. Jackson was taking the Boy Scouts of Troop 3 from St. Martin's Episcopal to the camp for twelve days and that almost the whole troop was going. Visitors were allowed from 5 - 8 p.m. each day. The Boy Scouts wanted to thank those who had helped build the camp and W. C. Rankin for letting them use the land. Among the Boy Scouts on the trip were: James Beatoe, Paul Guthrie, Clare Mason, Randolph Craig, Owen Woodside, Willy Lillycrop, Albert Glover, Tom Barnhardt, Jr., Tom Simmons, George Stephens, Jr., Taylor Lucas, Vernon Lawing, Andrew Little, Walker Jarrell, Ralph Woodside, Robert Sherrill, Lloyd Staton, James Johnston, Morgan Spier, Jr., Julian Gill, Hutchison Ham, Charles Clegg, John Justice, James Gardner, Walter MacPhail and Jenkins Harroll.

According to Karl Selden, Troop 4 also used Camp Wilkes.

The development of Myers Park and the Myers Park Country Club can be assumed as the reasons the camp was abandoned.

In 1918, the combined Westminster Presbyterian troops decided not to attend Camp Wilkes. They were interested in a more permanent camp facility. The troops were going to a camp at Chimney Rock under the leadership of Scoutmaster Joe Crayton and the boys were to bring no luggage except for two blankets for the cool nights. The camp featured electrical lights in the tents, a library, and a "first class" swimming pool. The Boy Scouts going were: Frank Phillips, W. P. Finley, Louis Watts, Francis Provost, Wilbur Silvester, Edgar McCorkle, Richard Cannon, Byrd Crayton, Howard Wentz, Robert Frazier, and James and David Carraway.

Camp McDonald (1919 - 1922)

Camp McDonald is the most forgotten camp of the council.

The *Charlotte News* reported on July 13, 1919, that Camp McDonald was ready to open to the Boy Scouts. It was considered one of the best Boy Scout camps in this part of the country.

The February 4, 1920, issue of the *Charlotte News* described the fully equipped camp as located on a bluff overlooking the Catawba River, on a piece of property provided to the council for as long as they wanted it.

A former Boy Scout, Lafferty Robinson, was the camp director, having just returned from France after serving in the Army during World War I. William A. Reynolds was the council camping chairman.

The camp was probably named for L. L. McDonald, who was national camping director of the Boy Scouts of America and a nationally known outdoorsman.

A mess hall from the World War I military base, Camp Greene, had been moved to the camp for use as a bunkhouse. The bunkhouse was a large sleeping room, 20 by 50 feet, with cots and three-tier bunks that could sleep 60 Boy Scouts. There also were large tents on the site.

A large log dining hall could seat 84 people and was connected by a bridge to the kitchen and its army-size range. The refrigerator had a 600-pound ice capacity.

The camp was a mile below the Mount Holly Bridge on the Catawba River near the Southern Public Utilities steam plant (*shown in picture at right*). Sometimes, the Scouts would take the Piedmont & Northern Railroad to the bridge, hop off the train and swim to the camp. Those not swimming rode the train to Rhyne Station, where they got off and hiked to camp, according to Jack London and John Purser.

Scout Executive John Floyd announced in the *Charlotte News* on June 15, 1920, that the Boy Scouts were going to hike to Camp McDonald for the opening session on June 26th. The camp would be open for two months and each

two-week period would accept 25 Scouts. Before each session, the Boy Scouts would take a day to hike to the camp.

On July 27, 1920, R. C. Gresham announced in the *Charlotte News* that 34 boys were going to attend Camp McDonald. Dr. Joseph Caldwell had been appointed camp physician and Coyte Hunter had been camp clerk during an earlier camp period.

Troop 3 attended Camp McDonald in June 1921 for ten days under the leadership of the Rev. John Jackson, who was now Charlotte's longest serving Scoutmaster. His registration card number was #157 — he was the 157th leader to register with the Boy Scouts of America, after it was formed in 1910.

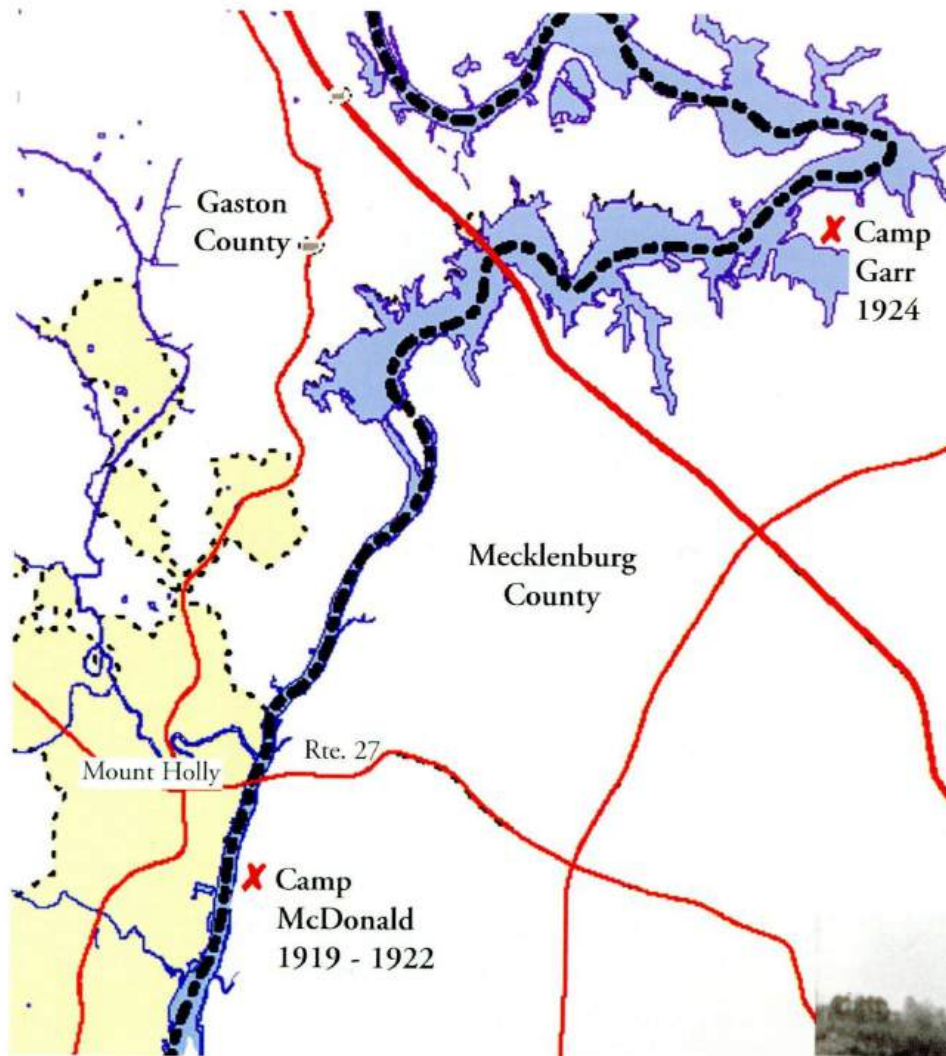


Mecklenburg Scouts on the Catawba River (Bob Mason left), above.



Camp McDonald from the cabin veranda, looking north at the Southern Power Utilities steam plant on the Catawba River, left.

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



Camp McDonald was about 1 mile south of the Piedmont & Northern RR bridge, which is where Rte. 27 now crosses the Catawba River into Mount Holly.

The Piedmont-Charlotte Area Camp or Camp Garr was located on what today is the Latta Plantation. This camp only operated in 1924.

Three scouts in a canoe from Troop 3 on the Catawba River (Mt. Holly in background) — l. to r., were Burwell Maxon, John R. Fort and Ed Glover.

photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



He had been a leader in Virginia before he came to Charlotte. While in camp, Rev. Jackson was presented with his Ten Year Veteran Award.

The camp also enjoyed some new canoes donated by Frank Wilkes. The Scouts named the canoes Frank and Jim, after Wilkes and Jim Steere, who at the time was a national field executive.

The June 13 newspaper reported that there were 30 boys in camp and the only problem was some cases of sunburn. "Life is so appealing and appetizing that Jim, the cook, is almost ready to throw up his hands," the *Charlotte News* reported about the camp.

Al Boyle recalled rowing with Spencer Bell across the river to get supplies for the camp in Mt. Holly.

Morgan Spier, Jr., remembers how the city fathers would come to visit the camp and bring their daughters, who would search the tents to see what was in them and generally bother the boys. The Boy Scouts put up signs that said "No Admittance." But after one Boy Scout leader said that this was not very gentlemanly, Spier changed his sign to "First Aid Only." The guests would watch the Boy Scouts drill and be served a meal by the Scouts as part of the recreational day activities.

Chapter Four

"The Expansion of Charlotte"

"Anyone who has witnessed the expansion of Charlotte over the last years is aware of how much the city has grown," editorialized the *Charlotte Observer* on April 9, 1926. The decade saw the city's population jump 78 per cent from 46,338 in 1920 to 82,675 in 1930. As Charlotte's growth exploded, the Boy Scouts also kicked into high gear.

The February 4, 1920, *Charlotte News* reported on the progress of Scouting in Charlotte. The Charlotte Council was chartered as a second-class (due to size of city and the number of Scouts) council in November 1915; a first-class council was organized with the hiring of an executive in June 1918. As of February 1920, there were 23 troops and 400 Boy Scouts and Scout officials. The Council Board consisted of 43 local business people. Scout headquarters was located at 208 Chamber of Commerce Building, telephone #2053.

Five new troops were being added and the council had a great facility in Camp McDonald on the Catawba River.

The program was growing and very active. Scout trips always were a big attraction. While some of the visits were nearby,

Charlotte Scouts on top of Mt. Mitchell during 1920s trip.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

there were often treks farther afield, including Mt. Mitchell.

In 1920, there were two districts with John B. Floyd and Albert F. Bartlett listed as assistant Scout executives, and Eugenia Lockhart as the office secretary.

William A. Reynolds served as the council president from December 1920 to December 1921. Reportedly a leader of the Sons of Daniel Boone troop in Charlotte before 1911, Reynolds had taken a lead in organizing the Scouts. The district manager for Southern Cotton Oil Company, Reynolds had served as the first local Scout commissioner.

In the 1921 application for re-chartering, when asked to "give...principal causes for Boy Scout losses in troops...", the council answered with "1. Scoutmaster failed. 2. Calling on young ladies instead of troop."

Charles F. Dalton served as council president from December 1921 to December 1922, followed by Dr. Baxter S. Moore from December 1922 to December 1923.

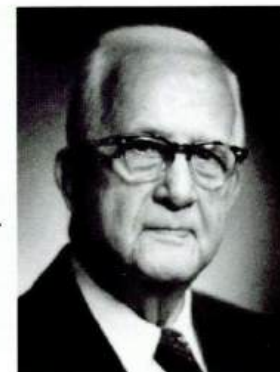
In 1923, Jim Steere returned to Charlotte to resume the position of Scout executive. It is thought that the travel and time spent away from his family while acting as Field Executive caused him to change his mind and his job. From December 1923 through 1924, the Independence Trust cashier, Edward E. Jones, was the council president.

In December 1924, former Charlotte Mayor Frank R. McNinch served as council president

Scouting Activities

One of the big events of the 1921 Boy Scout Week celebration was the cross-country bicycle race from the

photos courtesy City of Charlotte (McNinch) and Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



*Charles F. Dalton
Council President
1921 - 1922*



*Edward E. Jones
Council President
1923 - 1924*



*Frank R. McNinch
Council President
1924 - 1925*



General John Pershing was the special guest at the 1922 celebration for the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

photo: ResolutionArchives

An aerial view of the 1924 Charlotte Speedway with its wooden track (right).

Scout office in Charlotte to Belmont and then to Independence Park. The winner received a gold medal.

Jim Steere related an incident to the newspapers that occurred on May 20, 1922, when General John J. Pershing came to honor Charlotte at the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence celebration. An elderly lady fainted in the enormous crowd that had gathered in Independence Park to hear him speak. A crowd of curiosity seekers quickly gathered around her, but no one knew what to do. A group of Boy Scouts rushed over and started to administer restoratives from their first aid kits. They dispersed the crowd and carried the lady to a waiting car that they commandeered to take her home. Boy Scouts also were stationed at the car's parking space, so that when the driver returned, he

had a parking place.

The 1923 Memorial Day parade must have been a big event for the Boy Scouts. The *Charlotte News* reported a number of troops participated in the parade, led by the Boy Scout band under the leadership of Capt. W. Cox.

The list of the participating troops shows just how much Boy Scouting had grown since the first troops were formed ten years before: Troop 20 of Second Presbyterian Church under the leadership of Scoutmaster P. Woener, Jr.; Troop 25 of N. Charlotte Community House under the leadership of Ben W. Clendinen; Troop 19 of St. Peters Catholic Church under the leadership of Edward Soehle; Troop 23 of 9th Avenue Baptist Church under the leadership of J. U. Grice; Troop 11 of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church under the leadership of George A. Newman. Scoutmaster John Rike of Troop 7 led the rest of the Boy Scouts, which came from troops 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8,

14, 17 and 22. Scout Commissioner Seldon was in charge of the Boy Scout section.

Auto racing was not a modern fad in the Charlotte area. Scouts served as ushers for races at the first Charlotte Speedway, which opened in 1924, nine miles south of town. The racetrack was unusual. Laborers cut and built the roadway out of planed timbers. The wooden track played host to thousands of people in the stands or infield at the races, until the Great Depression put the race track out of business.

Scouts often were called on to help find lost people or lost items. Walt Smith remembered a couple calling the Boy Scout headquarters for help. The couple had been driving down Tryon Street when the man handed his diamond ring to his wife. The car was an old Model-T and as she took the ring, it dropped through the floor boards and bounced into the weeds. The Boy Scouts searched both sides of the road and Smith was lucky enough to find it under a rock. The couple offered him a reward and, after consulting with Chief Steere, he told them he could accept a book on trees. Smith treasured it the rest of his life.



photo: Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, PLCMC

The Yellow White Truck

Every Scout council has had a camp truck or other vehicle that the Boy Scouts always remember.

For the early Scouts of Mecklenburg County, it was the White-brand truck, painted yellow. It was introduced to the Boy Scouts and the community in the 1923 Memorial Day Parade, when it brought up the back of the parade.

Purchased through the efforts of Dr. Baxter S. Moore, the council president, the truck was bought from George Wilson of Wilson Motor Company. Wilson Motor also donated a four-wheel trailer to carry 1,000 pounds of luggage, while the Boy Scouts rode in the truck. The truck was kept in a livery stable on Stonewall Street.

The truck had a hand-crank starter and carbide lights, which gave off very little light. It had curtains in the back and wood-board seats.

On some hot days, the truck would not stop running when the ignition was turned off. The driver would then have to run it up against a tree or something solid, and then put it into gear to stall the engine and stop it.

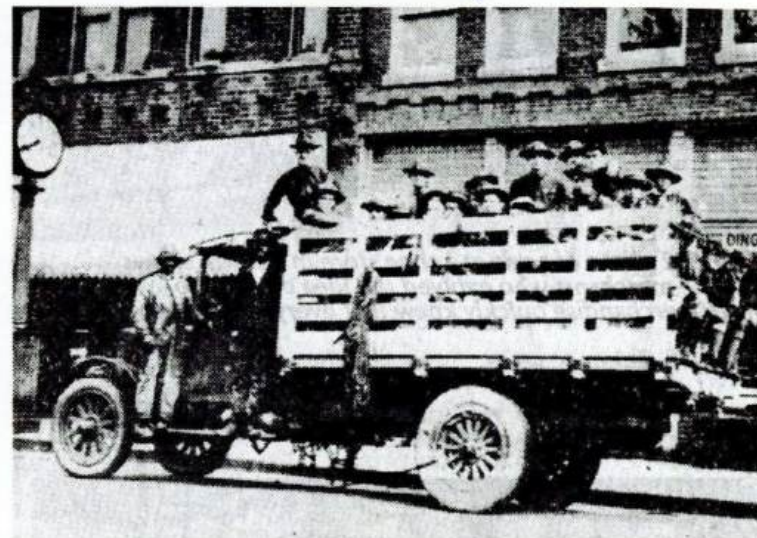
Steere once took a group of Boy Scouts to Greensboro to see an archery team — it took them two days to get there. They camped on the site of Davidson County Community College.

The August 3, 1923, *Charlotte News* reported an accident. Returning from two weeks of camping in the western North Carolina mountains, Jim Steere had turned the truck over with 15 Boy Scouts from in the back. No one was hurt. Eight miles north of Rutherfordton on the Chimney Rock Road, Steere pulled off on the shoulder to allow a car to pass. The heavily loaded trailer, with Boy Scout gear and equipment, had stopped on sand and slid off the road, pulling the truck with it into a six-foot deep ditch. The truck landed on its side.

A team of horses was found to upright the truck. A year later, the Chimney Rock road was widened to Rutherfordton.

In 1925, the truck took the Boy Scouts to Camp Lassiter outside of Winston-Salem.

After 1927, Scouts would meet at the council office each week during the summer and take the truck to Camp Steere.



The famous yellow, White truck of the Scouts.

Algie Lawing's Boy Scout membership card from 1925.



photos: top, Mecklenburg County Council, BSA; bottom, T. R. Lawing, Sr.



W. J. Edwards
Council President
1925 - 1930

Troop 11 Caldwell Presbyterian Church

Although Troop 11 is not one of the first ten troops, it is important because the troop was active for decades. Forrest A. Hipp was the first Scoutmaster when it was organized on April 30, 1923, at Caldwell Presbyterian Church. In April 1925, Reggie Price became the Scoutmaster. Early members included Beau Whitton, Grier Wallace, Hoyt Shore, Bus Wilson, Reggie Price, Jim Steere, Jr., and Morton Scott. Later Scouts included John Belk, future mayor, and architect Jack Boyte.

The troop met in the "hut," a wood frame building in the rear yard of the church manse. In the late 1920s, an education building was built which included a large base-

ment meeting room in the rear wing. This became the troop's home until the troop folded almost a half-century later.

Jack Boyte still relates the story of the time he and John Belk hiked to Camp Steere from the church for their Hiking Merit Badge twenty-mile hike. The day was cold and rainy. Belk's mom sent their chauffeur to pick them up for the return trip.

Troop 11 raked the leaves of Presbyterian Hospital as their annual good turn for a number of years. In 1929, they were paid \$25 for raking the lawn which they put into a charity fund.

A WSOC radio spot in 1947, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the troop, highlighted George A. Newman, Walter Herman, H. J. Kennedy, Jr., Beaumont Whitton, John Belk and others, who had held the troop together for so many years. Twenty-four of its members had earned the Eagle Award and the troop held the record for presenting six Eagles at one Court of Honor.



Troop 11 Scouts
building a roof on a
shelter.

Official Scout supplies
were carried by three
major department
stores: Belk's, Efid's &
Mellon's (with its pic-
ture window shown
right).

Mid-Decade & Challenging Times

W. J. "Will" Edwards was elected council president in 1925 and served until 1930.

In 1925, the BSA Report to Congress said that Charlotte had two Scout commissioners along with a Scout executive. Will Edwards, who was council president, said that his biggest job during that period was raising the money to pay Jim Steere and pay the rent for the Scout Office.

In April 1928, the council became the Charlotte Area Council with the addition of Davidson, Rowan, Cabarrus, Stanly, Union, Anson, Richmond and Scotland Counties. Davidson and Rowan Counties were moved to Uwharrie Council by 1930. Scotland County was later added to Cape Fear Council in 1930.

The council's function was to provide the opportunity for the Boy Scouts outside of Mecklenburg County to attend Camp Steere, which opened in 1927. The council would provide Scouts with their rank and merit badges by mail, after they had earned them, and any other assistance when possible. These other counties were called area districts. They were not to get the same service as would be provided to Mecklenburg County. Later, this would become a point of contention between the leaders in the area districts and the Mecklenburg District.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Early Uniforms

Morgan Spier, Jr., who joined Troop 3 at St. Martin's Episcopal in 1917, remembered that the early uniforms looked a lot like the U.S. Army uniform. The military look sometimes was controversial.

Those who did not have a uniform came to the meetings informally dressed. These BSA uniforms had no neckerchief, but used knickers with leggings and a button-down coat with metal insignia. Scouts and adults both wore their rank insignia on their hats.

Neckerchiefs were added to the supply catalog in 1917 and became standard uniform in 1920.

Charlotte Scout Executive John Floyd said that the uniform looked the way Baden-Powell wanted — campaign hat, britches, and wrap leggings or high stockings that came up to the knee.

By 1922, the uniform had moved away from the jacket-like shirt to a tan shirt with pockets and britches with high socks that came up over the bottom of the britches. Scouts could wear shorts and knee socks in summer, knickers and knee socks in winter.

The first merit badge sash was introduced about 1925 after James West presented an Eagle Medal to a Scout, wearing a sash that his mother had made. Before then, Scouts wore merit badges on their right sleeve (see top left). The rank patch was worn on the bottom of the left sleeve and a pin designating rank was pinned to the front of the campaign hat.

Trousers replaced knickers in 1944 and the campaign hat was phased out in 1948.



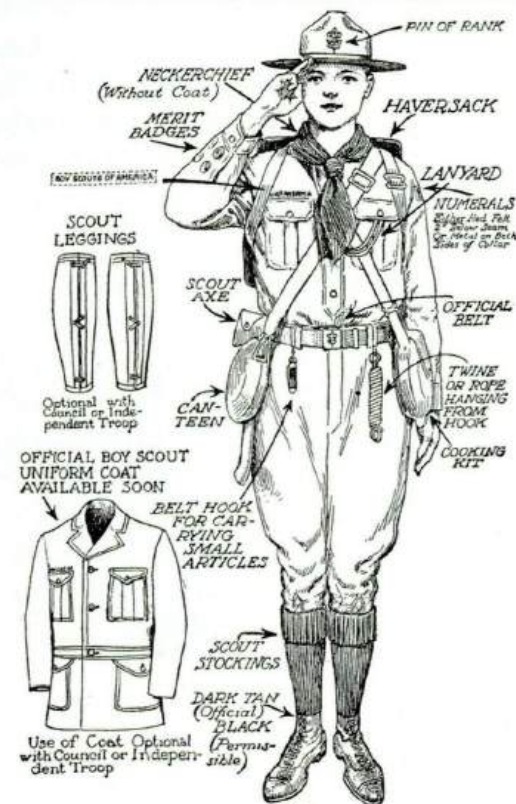
At top middle are two Charlotte Scouts around 1917 — one in a shirt (with tie) and the other in a Scout jacket.

Note in photo top right that merit badges were worn on right sleeve (1910s).

By 1922, the BSA uniform reached its standard shape for the next 30 years.

At right is a 1922 drawing from the Handbook for Scouts.

The picture at left shows a model Scout uniform from 1935.



Minority Scouting Gets A Start



Zechariah Alexander, Sr., was an early Scout troop leader for African-Americans. He was an insurance executive and funeral home owner. Here, he is pictured circa 1898, when he served in the Spanish-American War.

Today, about one-third of all Scouts in Mecklenburg County are minorities — African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians and others. The Mecklenburg County Council has minority professional and paraprofessionals working throughout the county in all neighborhoods, including public housing. Programs are available to all, with special assistance for low-income areas. That wasn't always the case.

Segregation laws passed in North Carolina, beginning in 1900, dramatically limited communities and societies.

There were a few African-American Boy Scouts when the Boy Scouts of America started — in 1911, there were all-black troops established in Elizabeth City, N.C., and some other Southern cities. With the national BSA organization requiring local council approval of all troops beginning in 1916, there were only a few African-American troops in the South.

By 1926, there were 249 black Scout troops around the nation, but none in Mecklenburg County.

In 1927, Mecklenburg Scout executive Jim Steere went to the council executive board and asked permission to start some African-American Boy Scout troops. He guaranteed that there would be no friction between the black and white troops. Dr. Stanley Harris was hired by the national office to work on inter-racial Scouting and could be called upon if the council needed assistance.

Steere publicly pushed for sponsors of black troops in early 1929, and a month later the first black Mecklenburg Boy Scout troops were formed on March 28. In response to a petition presented to the council, two troops were organized — at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church and Grace AME Zion Church.

Grace AME Zion Church (right), St. Michael Church and All Saints (left)



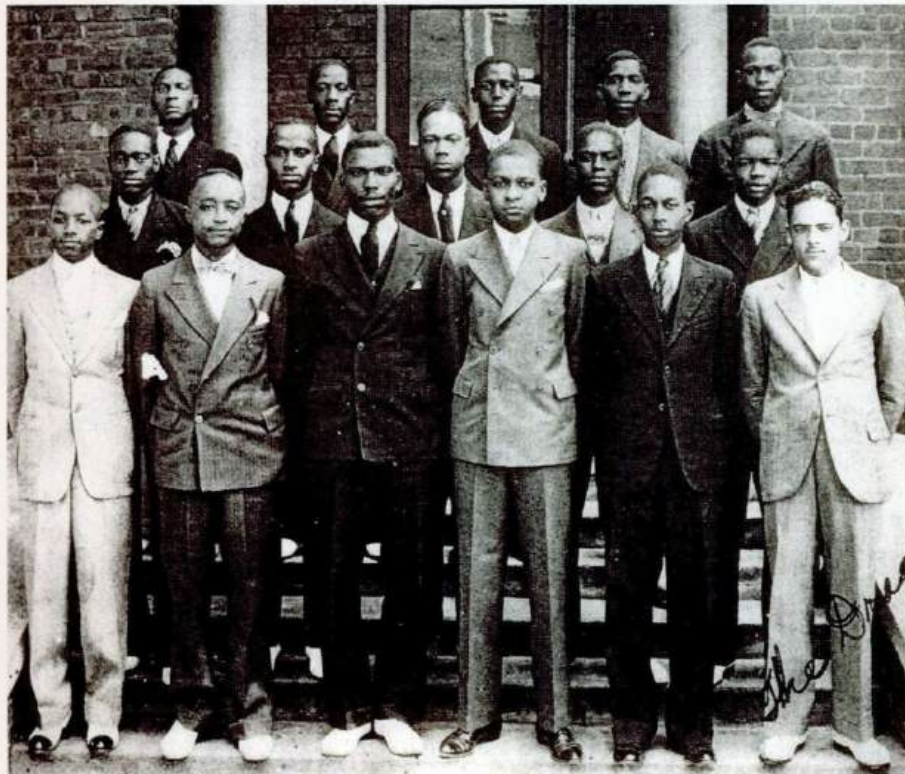
photos: Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, PLCMC



Troop 17 of Grace AME Zion was the first to get started. Some of its first Boy Scouts were Kelley Alexander, L. A. Warner, Alvin Kennedy, William H. Walker, David Williams, and Leonard Barksdale. Early Scout leaders included Zechariah Alexander, Sr., and Dean McKinney of Johnson C. Smith College.

During the 1930s, former Boy Scouts from Mecklenburg's first black troops formed the Dragon Club (*shown below in 1935*). They continued to provide financial and volunteer support for Scouting over the decades.

Johnson C. Smith University conducted Certification in Scouting courses for leaders in the late 1930s.



The Dragon Club in 1935.

The Charlotte Council's Executive Board minutes of April 6, 1938, reported that a representative from the national BSA had come to Charlotte to hold training sessions for black Scout leaders. Average attendance at the workshops had been 34 people. At this time, black Scout troops were administrated as a separate division in the local council.

A committee of the Rev. Willis Clark, Stanley Harris, BSA Representative on Inter-Racial Services, Harris' assistant J. M. Taylor, the Rev. C. F. Rush, James R. Bryant and Jim Steere met at Bryant's office, the J. M. Harry & Co. This bi-racial group discussed how to follow up on the training meetings and what was needed by the black leaders. It was decided that Reverend Rush would receive \$15 a month as a small retainer towards his efforts in organizing the troops that were tentatively set up at the training course. Messrs. Clark, Steere and Bryant offered to underwrite any expenses, so the work could begin immediately and not have to wait for Executive Board approval. The May 4th Executive Board minutes show that the board approved the arrangement.

Bill Faulk recalled that there were some individual black Boy Scouts in rural areas who were not registered with the council.

Created by former members of Mecklenburg's first black Scout troops (photo at right), Dragon Club members included: First row, left to right — Ed Durham, Albert Phillips, Kelly Alexander, J. B. Lauen, Matthew Lindsay, Bill Lytle. Second row, l. to r., Leonard Barksdale, Marco Glenn, Harold McKnight, David Williams, Bill Haygood. Third row, l. to r., Alvin Kennedy, Tom Simmons, Weldon Brown, Johnny Gray, Lovette Warner.



Totem Pole Carving

Mecklenburg Council Scout Executive James Steere was known for his ability to carve totem poles with axes.

In 1925, a totem pole was made for the old courthouse in Charlotte. Steere and 26 Boy Scouts worked on the 25-foot cypress pole at the Indian Refining Company (*left*). Donated by Southern Bell, the log was carved with axes. The totem pole design is of Alaskan Indian origin and represents the history of a tribe.

The totem pole was quite a subject of conversation, and even, letters to the editor.

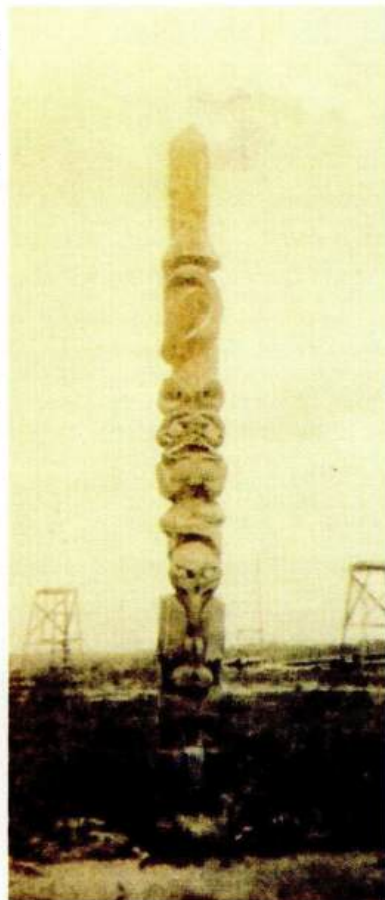
The courthouse totem pole was moved to the Moravian Church grounds about 1928, and then later to Camp Steere. According to the Rev. Herbert Spaugh, the totem pole was restored in July 1971 by Scoutmaster William J. Donaldson and the Boy Scouts of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. The restored pole was dedicated to Jim Steere.

By the time Camp Steere was sold in 1987, the totem pole had deteriorated to the point that it could not be saved again.

In 1928, Steere also was asked to carve a totem pole for the Boy Scouts in Washington, D.C. Steere went to Washington and for three days hewed away on a 35-foot light pole on the lawn of the District Building. The pole told the story of the origin and history of the Boy Scout movement. A group of Washington, D.C., Boy Scouts helped him

with the finishing touches. The completed pole was part of the 18th anniversary celebration of the Boy Scout movement in America.

Steere designed other totem poles, including ones for Macon and Augusta, Georgia, as well as the National Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas.



At far left is a totem pole constructed in downtown Charlotte and erected at the courthouse in 1925.

Another totem pole decorated Camp Steere in the late 1920s (middle left).

At immediate left is the 1971 re-dedication ceremony of the restored 1925 totem pole at Camp Steere. Left to right are: Bishop Herbert Spaugh, Earl Herbert (Rick) Spaugh, Jr., Frank Phillips and William J. Donaldson.

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Confederate Reunion of 1929

The 39th United Confederate Veterans Reunion was held in Charlotte from June 4-7, 1929. Boy Scouts were on duty to help. According to the reunion program book, the Boy Scout Committee consisted of James E. Steere (chairman), L. C. Boyer, George M. Ivey, W. H. Bethea, L. G. Ratcliffe, Keely A. Grice, C. G. Smith, and A. C. Thies.

David C. Trull recalled his experiences at the Confederate Reunion to a newspaper reporter. He was a member of Troop 11 and remembered that the city rushed the completion of the armory so that the Reunion could be held there. Today, it is the Grady Cole Center. It was outfitted to sleep and feed the veterans who were not staying in homes.

The parade was five miles long and watched by over 150,000 people. The U.S. Marine Band from Washington, D.C., led the parade. The parade included 14 other bands, numerous floats and 23 military units from 22 other cities.

General J. Van B. Metts was grand marshal, along with Charlotte Mayor George E. Wilson and the governors of North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama. Boy Scouts by the hundreds paraded, including a troop from Texas.

In addition to parading, the Boy Scouts escorted the veterans anywhere in the city they wanted to go. Streetcars,

movie theaters and other entertainments were free of charge to the veterans and their escorts. Trull was assigned to a veteran from Georgia, who wanted to see a "picture show." So they boarded the trolley at Central High School and rode it to the square. From there, they walked a block to the Broadway Theatre on South Tryon Street. The movie that evening starred Clara Bow in "Red Hot Lips." Trull figured that the old vet probably never stopped talking about it to his friends back home in Georgia.

The First Eagle Scouts in Mecklenburg

By 1928, there had been 15 Eagle Scouts in the council. In the February 10, 1929, *Charlotte Observer*, Jim Steere described how tough it was to become an Eagle. He noted that most Boy Scouts were not able to earn the Lifesaving Merit Badge, required for the Eagle rank.

Over the decades, nearly 4,400 Scouts have earned the Eagle rank from the Mecklenburg County Council (see appendix E).

The first 15 Eagle Scouts awarded by the Mecklenburg County Council were:

Horace Guiney, assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 5, 1927.

Marvin Robey, Troop 5, April 26, 1927.

Beaumert Whitton, Troop 11, April 27, 1927.

Two Scouts helping a Civil War veteran in 1929 (below left).

Troop 5 Eagle Scouts at far right: (left to right) Charles Turpie, Jr., Marvin Robey, Ernest Whittington, Robert Drane, Charles Lucas and Emory Patillo.

photos: Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, PLCMC

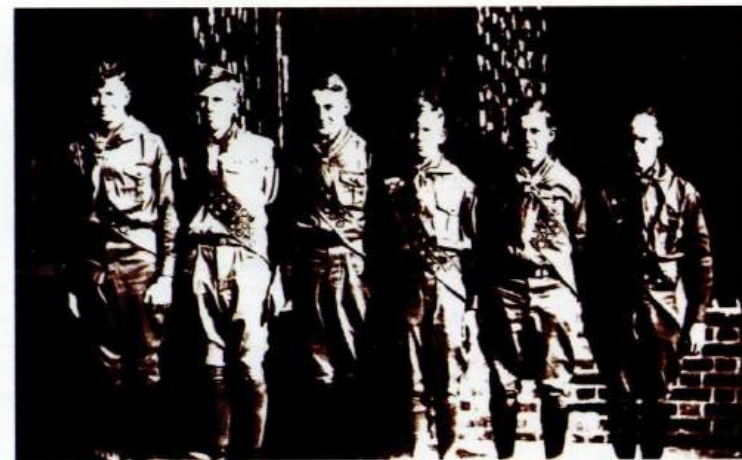


photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

John N. Yandell, Troop 13, May 3, 1927.

George B. Nicholson, Troop 16, June 23, 1927.

Emory Patillo, Troop 5, Dec. 1, 1927.

Ray Putnam, Scoutmaster of Troop 26, Dec. 9, 1927.

Charles Lucas, Troop 5, Jan. 16, 1928.

Charles J. Turpie, Jr., Troop 5, Jan. 16, 1928.

Ernest Whittington, Troop 5, Jan. 25, 1928.

Robert Drane, Troop 5, Jan. 30, 1928.

Roland Kirks, Troop 26, Jan. 30, 1928.

Houghton Barber, Troop 13, Feb. 2, 1928.

Henry S. Taylor, Troop 20, March 3, 1928.

Walton Smith, Troop 20, April 10, 1928.

The Knights of Sir Galahad or the Junior Scouts of Elizabeth

As Scouting became more popular, younger brothers wanted to join. By the early 1920s, the British Boy Scout movement had created a younger boy program, but the Boy Scouts of America resisted the idea. Experimental Cub Scouting did not start until the late 1920s, becoming part of the official program in 1930. Cub Scouting would not come to Charlotte until 1941.

Until that time, local Boy Scout troop sponsors developed programs for the younger boys. One program was the Knights of Sir Galahad, known by 1918 as the Junior Scouts of Elizabeth. At twelve years old, a boy would move up to the Boy Scout troop.

These Junior Scouts held their meetings at St. Martin's Episcopal Church. In the 1918 church annual report, Rev. John Long Jackson was listed as "In Charge" of the group, Charles Lucas was secretary and Robert Mason was treasurer. The Junior Scouts met on Saturdays at 11 a.m. The Wolf Patrol was made up of Buddy Guthery as patrol leader, Edward Speir as corporal, and members Robert Justice, Billy Laivell, Frederic Bretholl, Burwell Mason, Frank McNinch, Jr., Karl Selden, Jr., and Paul Madden.

Harry Lassiter was the patrol leader of the Lion Patrol with Edward Glover as corporal. Members were Charles Lucas, Billy Draper, Richard Banks, Robert Mason, Paul Eagle, Haines Lassiter, Julius Dorr and Francis Selden.

By 1920, Rev. Jackson continued to serve as Scout-

master. Karl Selden was the assistant Scoutmaster. The Junior Scouts members were Lowell Mason, patrol leader; Robert Harper, corporal; Haines Lassiter, scribe. Members were James Renwick Wilkes, Jr., Charles Milstead, Charles A. Bland, Jr., Brevard Moore, Francis Selden, Frederic Bretholl, Charles Lee, Edwin Hodge, and William Johnston. Meetings were on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m.

By 1922, the Junior Scouts had grown to three patrols and were now meeting on their own at 3:30 p.m. on Fridays, still with Rev. Jackson as Scoutmaster. Edward Glover and Billy Glasgow were assistant Scoutmasters. Esley Anderson was scribe, and Bobby Drane was treasurer.

The patrols were: Flying Eagle, Panthers and Tigers. The Flying Eagles had Henry Cowell as senior patrol leader, Thomas Nisbet as assistant patrol leader, and members Esley Anderson, Erwin Laxton, John Whiton, John Parker, Clyde Lisk and George Stone. The Panthers had Austill Tompkins as patrol leader, Bert Cullingford as assistant patrol leader, and members Chas. Robertson, John Mason, Bobby Drane, Buster Hobbs, and Laurence Jones. The Tigers had Marvin Robey as patrol leader, Erwin Boyle as assistant patrol leader, and members Fred Laxton, Char. Graham, George Pickard, Z. V. Linker and John Anshutz.

Jack Boyte remembered being in the Sir Galahads and that at each meeting they would line up and tell what good turn they had done each day for the past week.

First Eagle Scouts Awarded By Mecklenburg County Council



Houghton Barber



Robert Drane



Horace Guiney



Roland Kirks



Charles S. Lucas



Emory Patillo



Ray Putnam



Marvin Roby



Walton Smith



Henry S. Taylor



Charles J. Turpie, Jr.



Beaumert Whitton



Ernest Whittington

Not pictured:
John Yandell &
George Nicholson

“A Bed of Boughs Beside the Trail”

“Camp life means to live under canvas, away from the piles of brick and stone that we generally call our cities,” the Boy Scout’s *Handbook for Boys* proclaimed in the 1920s. “It means to be in the open air, to breathe pure oxygen, to sleep upon ‘a bed of boughs beside the trail,’ to hear the whisper of the trees ..., to look at the camp-fire and the stars ..., and to come to heart with nature....”

North Carolina Mountains 1923

The 1923 summer camp season seems to have been made up of week long camping trips, led by the recently returned Jim Steere, to various places in the North Carolina mountains and foothills. Steere would load the Boy Scouts in the yellow truck with the trailer full of gear, and head out to wherever they were going. The Chimney Rock area was one that the Boy Scouts remember most.

There is an interesting letter in the Council Archives to James E. Martin from his dad, Leonard Garland Martin, written on Charlotte Casket Company stationery. The July



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

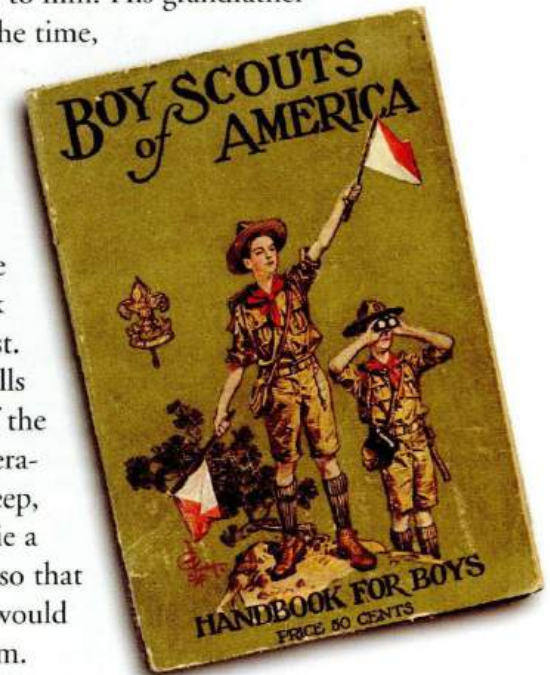
24, 1923, letter was sent to Jim Martin at the Boy Scout Camp in Esmeralda, North Carolina, near Chimney Rock. Scout Martin must have requested his mother to bake some chicken and biscuits and send them to him. His grandfather was not well and she did not have the time, but the father included \$1 for him to go to the Esmeralda Inn and get himself a chicken dinner. He was to be sure that he got “one square meal” for his dollar.

Walt Smith also remembered one of those summer trips to White Oak Springs in the Pisgah National Forest. They hiked up to Looking Glass Falls and swam in the Davidson River, if the person could handle the cold temperature. Henry Taylor walked in his sleep, so his mother made Walt agree to tie a rope from Henry’s foot to his foot, so that if Henry started walking, the rope would wake up Walt and he could stop him.

At that time, the Scouts could hear cougars and wildcats scream at night. That first trip sold Walt on camping and the mountains.

Piedmont-Charlotte Area Camp 1924

The Piedmont-Charlotte Area Camp was situated on Garr Creek at what is now Latta Plantation Park on Mountain Island Lake. The camp name came from the agreement between the two councils — Piedmont and Charlotte — to jointly use the camp. According to Jim Steere’s secretary, Flay Turner Vieira, this camp was estab-



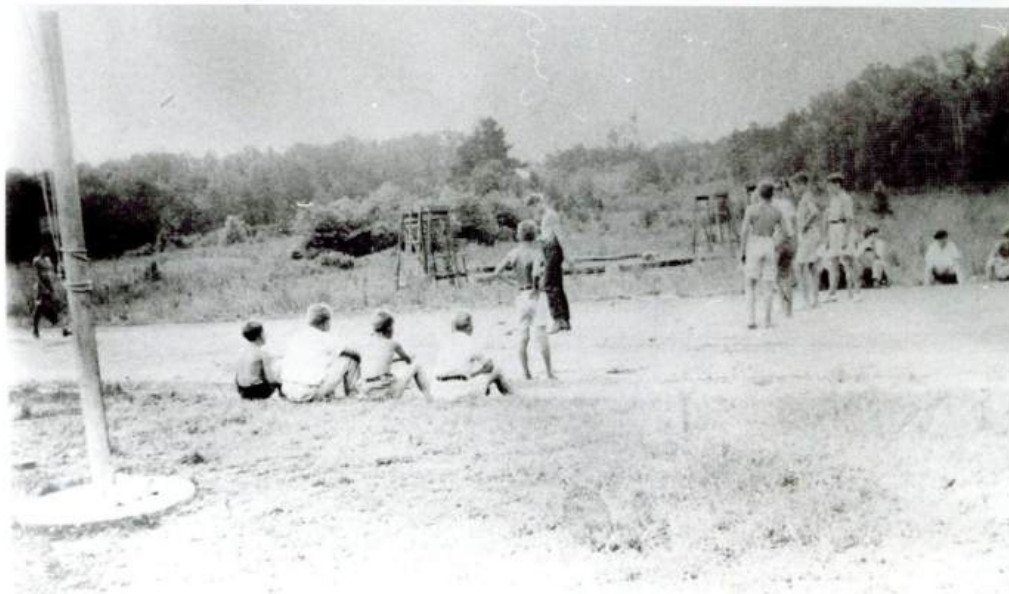
Boy Scout Handbook for Boys (1922), above.

The Piedmont-Charlotte Area Camp (1924) being inspected by Scout leaders in late winter before the summer opening of the camp (left).

lished in 1924 and was sometimes referred to as the Garr Camp. It consisted of a two-story house (pictured on page 47) that contained the kitchen, mess hall and quarters for any overnight guests. Four or five buildings were erected for the boys' sleeping quarters. A large boat and several rowboats were available for use by the Boy Scouts. This camp lasted one year as the city of Charlotte discovered that the camp



Camp Garr, also known as the Piedmont-Charlotte area Camp on what is now Latta Plantation.



was in the watershed for Charlotte's drinking water, near the intake pipe.

In the river is a rock with a First Class Scout emblem. Those who have seen it say it can only be seen when the water level is down.

Ben Mabee, a Piedmont Council history buff, related that the Piedmont Council had been formed in 1923 and their new camp would not be finished in time for the 1924 camping season. Bud Schiele, the Gaston County Scout executive, agreed to be camp director of Charlotte's camp, if Charlotte would allow the Piedmont Council Boy Scouts to attend the camp.

Before the camp even opened, it had problems with stealing. The *Charlotte News* reported on June 19, 1924, that the council was going to enforce a no admittance rule to the camp. Previously, visitors had come to swim and use the property; unfortunately someone also stole things from the camp. Now with the camp opening for the next eight weeks, only Boy Scout visitors would be allowed.

The camping board was made up of J. H. Carson as Chairman and members Walter Lambeth, P. P. McClarity, Dr. H. P. Barrett and M. L. Church.

The June 23, 1924, *Charlotte News* reported that the Boy Scouts were enjoying the camp on the lake. The newspaper referred to it as the Mountain Island Lake Camp, as well as the Piedmont-Charlotte Area Camp for the two councils attending it.

The headquarters was a house built in 1823 that used no nails in its construction. A photo in the council archives identified the house as the John Harry home. The floors had been laid using wooden pegs. The headquarters had a room with hammocks, a rest and reading room with books and magazines, daily papers and a Victrola record player for use during rainy weather. A mess and dining hall was downstairs. Sutton Cathey was the cook. There was also a group of huts for the Boy Scouts, which were erected around an athletic field used for events.

At the time the reporter was visiting camp, the lunch meal had consisted of ham, stewed corn, fresh bread, boiled potatoes, stewed prunes, blackberry jam and steaming rice pudding along with plenty of cold water.

The campers consisted of twelve boys and Scoutmaster Mark Walter from one Charlotte troop, two other Scouts from Charlotte, two from Augusta, Georgia, and eight leaders and boys from Piedmont Council. Bud Schiele reported that there were as many as 65 Boy Scouts in one session and that Piedmont Council Boy Scouts outnumbered the Charlotte Scouts 2 to 1.

The schedule for the day consisted of getting up early followed by assembly, drill, a dip in the lake and breakfast. After breakfast came announcements, patrol duty, clean up of tents and grounds, inspection, and camp duties. Scoutcraft and a morning swim followed before lunch. A rest period followed lunch and then a demonstration hike and afternoon swim. The Scouts then dressed for retreat and assembly.

From there the Boy Scouts proceeded to supper. After the evening meal was a period to write home, play games, a campfire, singing and star study. Call to quarters followed and taps was at 9:30 p.m. Merit badges consisted of Archery, Pioneering, Swimming and Lifesaving.

Visitation by family and friends was limited to Thursday and Sunday from 2-9 p.m. The camp closed August 15th.

Camp Lassiter 1925

In 1925, Jim Steere took some of the Boy Scouts for a week or two of camping at Winston-Salem's Camp Lassiter. Beau Whitton recalled that a fire broke out in the woods at the camp and the Boy Scouts broke pine "laps" off the trees and used them to beat out the flames. The Sunday morning religious service music was led by a 13-year-old Moravian trumpet player, who impressed Whitton with his playing ability. The Scouts from Charlotte also took along their own cook, a gentleman named Frederick Jefferson Goodman.

Camp Steere 1926-1986

Sometime after the closing of the Piedmont-Charlotte Area Camp, Jim H. Carson, Chairman of the Building Committee, and Jim Steere went to Duke Power to ask that some land be leased to the council for a Boy Scout camp along the Catawba River. Carson and Steere rode up and down the river in an outboard boat looking for the right property. Doc Baleridge was in charge of the lands owned by

Scout huts at the Piedmont-Charlotte Area Camp (Camp Garr), top; the camp's water tank and Mountain Island Lake on the Catawba River (bottom). The dam is visible as the dark line across the river.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Duke Power at that time.

The camp was on Catawba Lake which was formed in 1904, when the Old Catawba Hydro Station was built south of the Buster Boyd Bridge by the Catawba Power Company. The lake then was about 100 acres. In 1925, a larger dam and hydro plant were built on top of the old one. That raised the water level and flooded more land. In 1961, in honor of the first President of Southern Power Company, Dr. Walker Gill Wylie, the lake and power station were renamed Wylie Hydro Station and Lake Wylie.

Walton Smith remembered that Jim Steere, Jim Carson and he walked up the shoreline looking for a suitable place for the camp. Smith figured they walked about three miles in and out of coves north of the Buster Boyd Bridge. They finally found a piece of land with an old farmhouse, a chimney, a corncrib and a barn on it. One of the things that

*Aerial view of
Camp Steere.*



appealed to the three was that it had a large cove with three or four prongs or spits of land sticking out. It was completely cut off from the main section of the river and could be patrolled by the Boy Scouts. The Scouts could keep their boats in a designated area. Some of these little coves went back 100 yards, up to half a mile. They set up an area from one point of the Duke Power Property to another point that included the Buster Boyd Bridge and back to the property line along York Road. Smith figured the total property was somewhere around 600 - 700 acres.

Through the years, the council thought that there was a 99-year lease on the property. But in 1977, it was discovered that no formal or legal lease existed. At that time, a 15-year lease was signed by the owner, Crescent Land and Timber, a subsidiary of Duke Power Company, and the council. The lease terms were \$1 a year, plus real estate taxes and proof of insurance.

The very first thing the Boy Scouts had to do in 1926 was get the road cleared to get into the property. Since the house had been abandoned for some time no one had cleared the fallen trees off the road.

Steere, his son, Walt Smith, and other Boy Scouts removed the walls of the house and propped up the ceiling with poles cut on the property to create a dining hall. The barn was used for storage and a craft shop. A flagpole was raised at the highest point in camp. Wooden platforms were built and tents set up on them, but in a heavy rain the tent pegs would pull out and the tents would collapse. A large platform was built under the big oak tree which became the gathering point for story telling and for the band to practice.

Two sixteen-foot metal lifeboats were floated down the river by some of the Boy Scouts to relocate them from Camp Garr to the newly opened Camp Steere. These lifeboats had come off a World War I ship, possibly the *USS Aspenhill*. It took eight boys to row each lifeboat, two per oar and two oars to a side. The trip to camp proved to be an unexpected adventure.

The boats were moved by trailer to Wilkinson Blvd., and from there, the plan was to float down the Catawba River for about 12 miles to the new camp. The Scouts had trouble getting the boats into the water, which delayed the launch until almost dusk. The Scouts thought the trip would take about three to four hours, if the current would help carry them down the river. Unfortunately, the current wasn't strong and the Scouts had to row for about 15 miles. Part way down the river, the flotilla mistakenly went into a cove,

instead of staying in the main channel. Once in the cove, the Scouts knew they didn't have enough time to make it to the camp. So, they built a fire and settled in on the side of the river for the night with no food or water. Worse, it started to rain. The Scouts later related that it was one of the darkest nights ever known on the river. To compound their problems, Scoutmaster Arthur Beatty, who was accompanying the nautical adventure, became ill.

Expecting the Scouts about suppertime, Jim Steere was

In 1929, Scout Executive Jim Steere and some Scouts posed in probably Independence Park.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

worried when they didn't show up. He had gone out to one of the points of land on the river and lit a signal fire, which he kept going all night in the drizzle.

At dawn, the Scouts headed back down the river. It was a bedraggled, but happy, group of Scouts who finally rowed the two lifeboats into camp at 2 p.m.

The June 8, 1926, *Charlotte News* reported on the progress of the new Boy Scout camp, which was to open on Thursday, July 1. Jim Steere had announced that there would be four "Adirondack shacks" built on the property. These would house four Boy Scouts each. There also were twelve tents housing a total of 40 Boy Scouts, giving the camp a capacity of 56 Boy Scouts a week. A well on the property still needed to be cleaned. There was no fresh water

on the site. A special pump had to be found that could lift the water 35-45 feet out of the ground. A new well would be dug if necessary. Due to drought conditions, other springs and wells in the area were dry.

The well was ready to go, according to the *Charlotte News* on July 24, 1926, when it reported on the first few weeks of camp. The first troop to use the camp was Troop 5 of Hawthorne Lane Methodist Church with Arthur Beatty as Scoutmaster. Troop 9 at St. John's Baptist Church with Robert Harris as Scoutmaster was to follow. The paper stated that the camp consisted of 268 acres.

Walt Smith and Jim Steere, Jr., were put to work the first year washing dishes and fixing up the place. Smith said that arriving Boy Scouts were each given a bed tick and then sent to the barn to fill them with hay. He recalled that there was just one row of five to six tents set up near the house that year. Three or four Boy Scouts could stay in one tent with no platform. The tent platforms were built three or four years later.

The Boy Scouts stayed until Friday or Saturday night when Steere would take them back to town. There were exceptions, such as the Edwards twins whose mother wanted to get rid of them for the summer. Camp operated this way for two to three years. The first year, cooking was done by the Steeres, Smith and some of the other counselors. Steere would bring gallons of beans, peaches, apple butter and peanut butter to camp that he purchased pretty cheaply at the Charlotte wholesale market. There was probably no meat on the menu except hotdogs. The staff had to do everything and plan everything. There was no suggested program from the National Office, so the staff created their own.

Walton Smith remembered the first year he

*Camp Steere -
early boat house.*



and Jim Steere, Jr., were used as counselors, even though they felt they were awfully young.

The camp at first was only known as the "New Scout Camp at the River," according to Beau Whitton. Along with Reggie Price, who was in camp with Troop 5 as the camp Scoutmaster, Walt Smith and some others held a discussion in 1927 as to a proper name for the camp. Up to that point it had been referred to as the "Boy Scout Camp." Walt came up with the name Camp Steere. He felt that Steere had developed it and it was his camp and Steere was his idol. Reggie agreed and that was final. While Steere was in town one day getting groceries they went to the entranceway and put up a sign using an old fence post. It greeted him upon his return and the name stuck. During the next two to three years, the staff also included Esley Anderson, Bob Drane, Marvin Robey, and Bill Price.

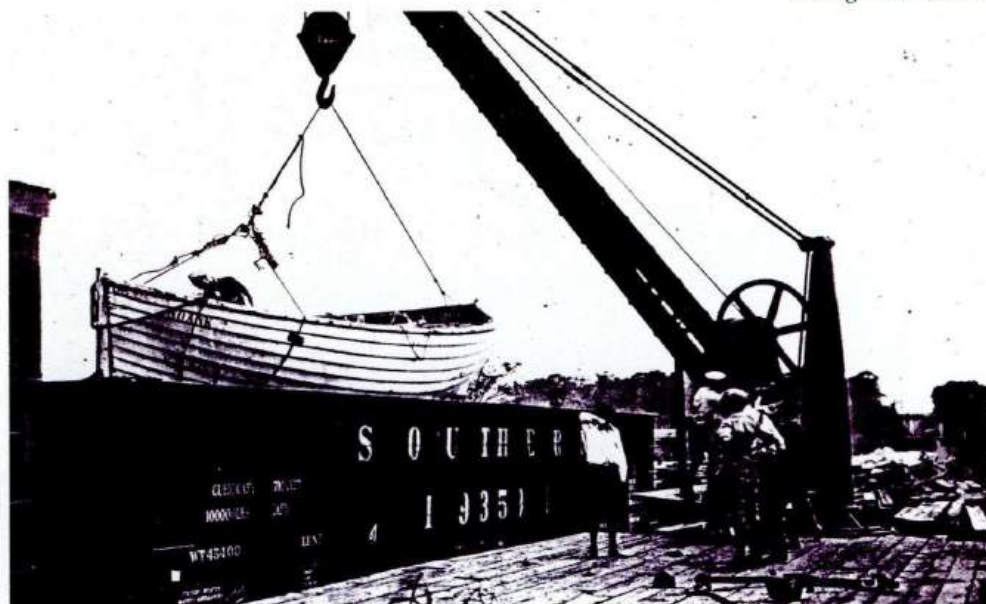
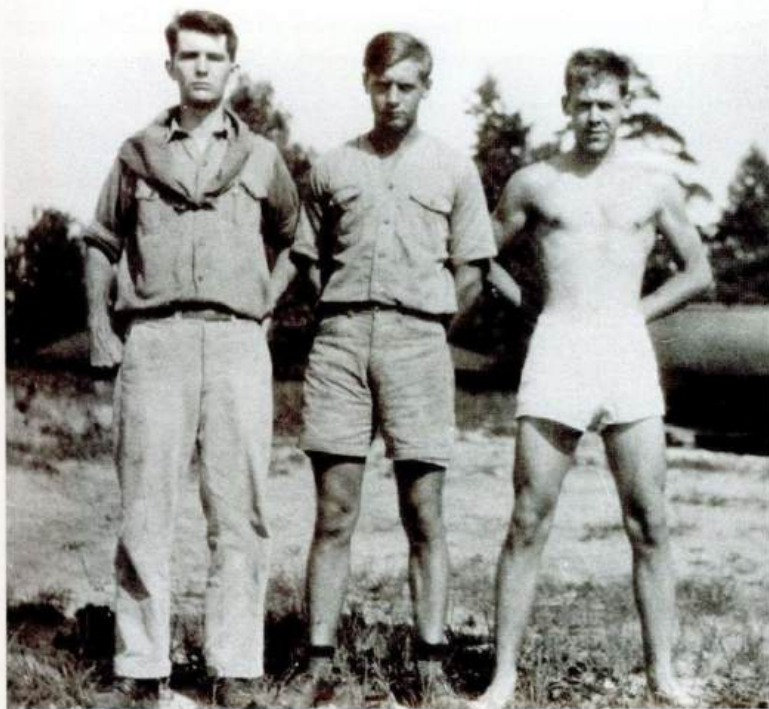
The first year's program was mostly a pioneer camp led by the Steeres and Walt Smith. There was no electricity. The

water had to be pumped by hand and there were no swimming facilities. That first year, they swam on the deep side of the point. In the second year, swimming was switched to the shallower western side.

In 1927, the council bought two additional lifeboats, which were delivered to Charlotte by train (shown below). The boats became part of "Steere's Navy."

A nature trail was finished in 1927. Bridges were built

Camp Steere Counselors in 1926 were (left to right) Beau Whitton, Walt Smith and Jim Steere, Jr. (below left). Jim Steere unloading boats for Scout camps during 1927 (below).



where needed. There was always an interest in American Indians and a lot of the programs were focused on that theme. A log was found across the lake and Steere had the Boy Scouts carve it into an Indian, looking at the camp from across the lake. It was nicknamed Indian Joe and took a couple of weeks to carve.

The camp had been so successful that Steere was expecting hundreds of Boy Scouts in future years. Smith bought a typewriter from Reggie Price and typed up a program in order to organize the activities, such as reveille, morning swim, breakfast and morning classes. Following lunch, there

Long-time camp chef and informal counselor, Sutton Cathey.



Sutton Cathey

Named after a governor of North Carolina, Sutton Cathey is the most prominent African-American mentioned by early Boy Scouts. Cathey became active with the Scouts when he was hired as the cook at the Piedmont-Charlotte Area Camp (Camp Garr) in 1924.

The Scouts had no local camp in 1925. When Camp Steere first opened in 1926, there wasn't a dining hall on the property at that time. When the dining hall was opened in 1927 for Camp Steere, Cathey was hired again to cook. That summer, he stayed in a tent behind the dining hall. He was known for his prowess as a fisherman, catching catfish at night from a trap he set out. Sometimes, he shared the fish with the Boy Scouts, as well as taters and possum. He also was known as a self-appointed counselor to many Scouts.

During the winter, he served as a caretaker and many times the Boy Scouts would visit him during the winter.

was a rest period for an hour, followed by afternoon classes, a swim period and relaxation till supper. After supper at 6 p.m., the evening program or Indian council fire closed the day.

Smith created an oval ring on the top of one of the hills using Dan Beard's book on the Indians. It was on the road side of camp and consisted of logs with east, west, north and south entrances and a fire in the center. It was always started with flint and steel or by using the bow and friction method.

Most nights, Chief Steere told stories. Sometimes, tales were told by counselors. Smith said that some great fiction was told and that it was a shame that there were no tape recorders in those days.

Sunday night was a formal campfire and often the parents stayed for it. Troops put on their own skits and a contest was held to determine who had the best skit.

Jim Steere was known for his generosity. When Walt Smith decided to go to forestry school at N.C. State University, Steere paid him \$200 that summer to be camp director. That was enough to get him started in college. It was the first summer he was ever paid to be a counselor or camp director. It was not until the 1940's that the camp staff was paid a salary.

Between the second and third years, a hut was built at the entrance for Steere and Smith to stay in and observe anyone going into camp at night. The tents were also brought up to the main hill the second year and were replaced with the huts around the shore during the third or fourth year.

Early one morning, some of the Boy Scouts got the camp director's suitcase and proceeded to hoist it up the flagpole. Right at the time they were hoisting it up, the director showed up. The suitcase dropped; the Scouts scattered.

The Rev. Herbert Spaugh was band director, and he would stay in town at night and come to camp each day. The band members stayed at camp. Another morning, the band members tried to prevent Spaugh from getting into camp. They went up to the entrance of camp and piled logs across the road. That did not stop him. When he got to

camp, he gave them “a lecture to last a lifetime.” The Boy Scouts also spent a lot of time looking for arrowheads in those days and getting rid of the copperheads in camp.

According to Jim Carson, the first permanent dining hall cost \$900 and was a 60 by 120-foot building. With the new dining hall, Sutton Cathey returned to cook.

The last original building to remain standing at camp was a log cabin built by a number of the early camp counselors and Boy Scouts (*see below*). In the 1980s, it stood along the shoreline near the flag poles. It was about 12 feet by 20 feet and had a stone fireplace. After it was finished, Jim Steere, Jr., took it over as the camp store selling nickel candy for ten cents as well as other items to the campers. There was an attempt to relocate the cabin when Camp Steere was closed, but it was no longer in the best shape.

There was also a teepee on the side of the hill behind the totem pole (*see page 43*) that was used to teach classes and Indian sign language.

Walton Smith also remembers visiting the troops in Hamlet, Monroe and Rockingham to promote going to

camp in the 1930s. He showed slides using an old lantern-type projector. Many Boy Scouts from that area came to camp.

The *Charlotte Observer* on April 11, 1928, reported that Jim Steere had announced the season at Camp Steere would be six to eight weeks long with Walton Smith in charge of woodcraft, blacksmith work and the camp store. Archery and nature study were under the leadership of Marvin Robey.

Construction of cabins at Camp Steere. (upper right)

Lower right is the interior of the Camp Steere trading post (photo circa late 1950s).



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Jim Steere was in charge of setting up archery, bugling and athletic exercises. Robert Cowhig was to lead the athletics and handicrafts and George Nicholson handled the boats and water safety. Work was to start on a 60 by 30-foot recreation hall at the camp. Boy Scouts attended camp not by troop but individually.

In 1929 or 1930, Sheriff John Ervin sent his deputies to arrest some bootleggers on nearby Pioneer Point guided by a member of the camp staff, who knew the still's location. They found the still and when they returned to their boat, they discovered that one of the bootleggers had taken it across to another point and made his escape.

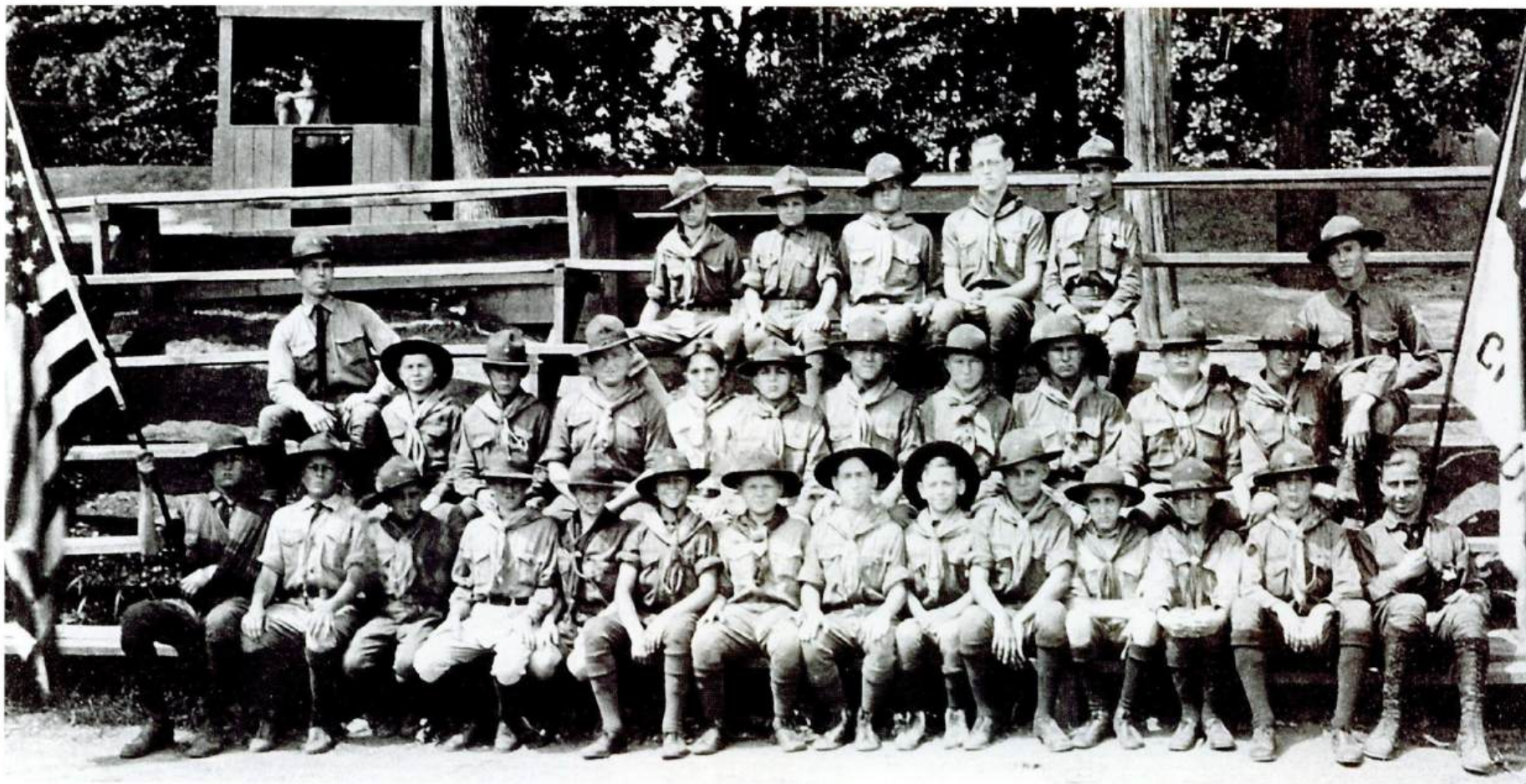
The council newsletter *TEBSA* in the April 5, 1929, issue

reported on the new camp improvements. The highlight was the new roaming archery range that was about a mile long. Targets were set up and the Boy Scout had to retrieve his arrow after shooting it. Archery was becoming a big sport in the country at that time. A new recreation building was being built that would be 20 by 60 feet and would house various handicrafts and the blacksmithing program. The swimming area had been changed and there was hope of getting a steel diving board installed. The boat pier had drifted down the river and the boys in camp the first week would have to go down river and bring it back.

Walton Smith became Camp Director in 1928 and served until 1932.

In 1929, Troop 10 posing in probably Independence Park.

photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



"It Stirred Your Emotional Center"

The Great Depression hit Charlotte hard — several banks closed, land values plummeted, unemployment rose.

The Boy Scouts persevered, and even grew during the decade of the 1930s. However, Scout Executive Jim Steere sometimes went more than a year without receiving any pay. He took a job as a forest ranger to make ends meet, all the while shepherding the local Scouting movement.

The biggest challenge for the council remained raising enough funds to meet the growing demand for Scouting.

The Charlotte Area Council territory at this time consisted of the counties of Mecklenburg, Union, Cabarrus, Anson, Richmond, Stanly and Moore. After 1928, there had been a number of counties attached to the Charlotte Council and these were known as area districts. They received a minimum of help from the council office, but had the opportunity for their Boy Scouts to attend Camp Steere. Advancement reports were mailed to the office.

The BSA Annual Report to Congress in 1930 reported the council as having 37 troops and 825 Boy Scouts and that Scotland County had been transferred to the Cape Fear Area Council. By the 1935 Report, the council had grown to 53 troops and 1,234 Boy Scouts.

Keely A. Grice assumed the council presidency in December 1930. He would remain president until the end of 1933.

Helping Those In Need

A program was started in Charlotte that later was copied by other councils across the country. The project involved getting Boy Scouts to put up flyers for the Chamber of Commerce and others to let the unemployed people know where there were jobs. They also put up other public service

Charlotte Mint Rescue

The Charlotte Mint had served as a meeting site for the Women's Club. But now in the depths of the Great Depression, it was threatened with demolition. Mary Myers Dwelle called James E. Steere, the Scout executive, requesting his help to save the building.

Together, they invited 12 friends to help kick-off a grassroots fund-drive to save the building. As workmen disassembled the building, this group bought the bricks, stones and various architectural pieces for \$1,500 and stored them offsite.

With hard work, the visionaries eventually raised enough money to reconstruct the building.

The structure was restored as the Mint Museum of Art, opening in October 1936. Architect Martin E. Boyer donated his services and the three acres site off Providence Road was given by E. C. Griffith.



*Keely A. Grice
Council President
1930 - 1933*

*U. S. Mint in
Charlotte, circa 1912.*



*photos: left, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room,
Public Library of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County;
top, Mecklenburg County Council, BSA*



*Herbert H. Baxter
Council President
1934 - 1936
1937 - 1940*

Reggie Price

Reginald "Reggie" Price was one of the great Scoutmasters of Mecklenburg County. Price joined Troop 2 in 1915 and became Tenderfoot in 1917. He later earned his Eagle Scout rank as a Scoutmaster. When the Drum and Bugle Corps was formed, he became a member. He graduated from Davidson College in 1924 and did graduate work at Cornell. He returned to Charlotte in 1926 and went to work for the W. E. Price Insurance Agency, started by his father in 1906. He retired from the company in the 1960s.

While at Davidson College, he served as an assistant Scoutmaster. When Troop 11 was formed at Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church in March 1923, he became the assistant Scoutmaster until he was appointed Scoutmaster in April 1925. He served as Scoutmaster for 18 years.

He was appointed to the Council Executive Board and served for many years. He served as Scout commissioner from 1934 to 1940.

During his tenure as Scoutmaster, some of the Boy Scouts he trained went on to become leaders in many cities, including Charlotte — e.g., Beau Whitton, Jack Boyte and John Belk.

In 1948, he attended the first Wood Badge Course held for volunteers in the U. S. at Schiff Scout Reservation.

He received the Silver Beaver Award for his service to the council in 1938. He was also the first to receive the Scouter's Gold Key Award in the council. At that time it took five years to earn the award. Later he received the Algernon Sydney Award from Davidson College for his work with children.

Price passed away in October 1977.



*Reggie Price
Scout Commissioner
1934 - 1940*

announcements. A permanent frame was mounted on the telephone poles in the city and the Boy Scouts would tack the messages onto the frames.

In 1931, there was a national good turn relief project by the BSA to help those who were in need.

Jack Boyte described a typical Scouting meeting held in the 1930s by Troop 11 at Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church. Reggie Price was Scoutmaster at that time. As the Boy Scouts arrived, they reported to H. J. Kennedy, the Troop

Scribe, who noted their attendance. He was crippled and this was an important job to him. Kennedy stayed on with the troop as a leader for many years and did what he could to assist. After the opening, Patrol Meetings were held, but not much ever really was accomplished. Then they worked on troop projects or merit badge work. The older boys did a lot of the teaching and the work that needed to be done. There also was a troop workshop where such things as toys for stocking stuffers for underprivileged children were made throughout the year. The troop had a camp out Wilkinson Blvd. that they hiked to quite regularly. They built permanent lean-tos to sleep in and used old license plates for roofing.

In December 1934, Herbert H. Baxter began the first of two separate terms as council president. Baxter would oversee several transitions for the council. Later, he would be elected mayor of Charlotte.

It also was a time for dramatic feats. Boy Scouts across America celebrated the 25th

anniversary of the establishment of Scouting in this country.

In 1935, five Charlotte Boy Scouts took a two-week, 500-mile canoe trip down the Catawba River to Charleston, S.C. As one headline proclaimed "Charlotte Scouts Beat Ol' Man Rivah — Five Boys Paddle Canoe, Wade, Portage, Shoot Rapids and Alligators."

That same year, Scouts in North Carolina decided to hold a Boy Scout Jubilee in Chapel Hill. More than 1,500 Scouts attended, including 50 from Mecklenburg County. The Charlotte contingent was led by Scout Executive Jim Steere, Scout Commissioner Reggie Price, and Scoutmasters Beaumert Whitton and A. K. Haynes.

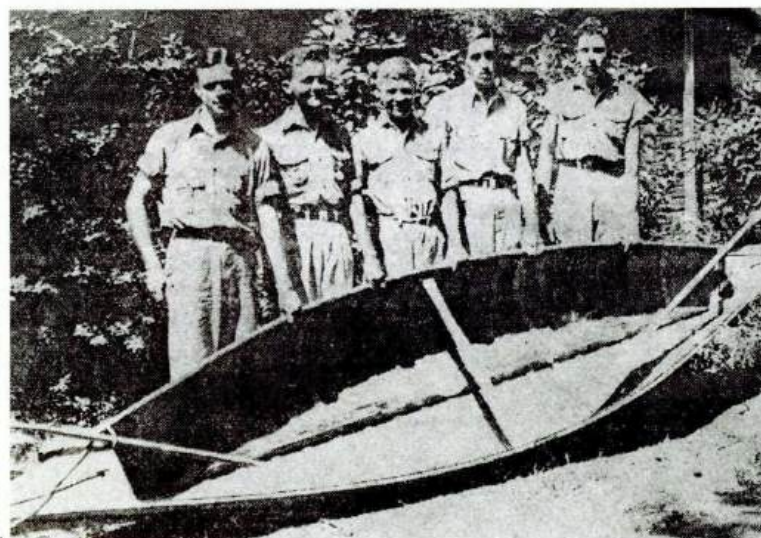
Both national Boy Scouts of America leader James E. West and North Carolina Governor John Ehringhaus spoke to the Scouts. The Governor told the troops that better times were coming: "There are signs everywhere of efforts toward building and rebuilding."

Earle J. Gluck served the first of his two terms as council president in 1936. He was president of WSOC Radio (*see Appendix E for award in his name*).

The council name changed to Central North Carolina Council with the addition of Moore County in 1936.

The January 5, 1938, Report of the Scout Executive stated that there was a lack of district organization that consisted of no commissioners, no monthly meetings and no subcommittees that met.

Schloss Advertising Company erected a number of billboards around the city of Charlotte in March 1938, which promoted the Boy Scout program.



photos: Charlotte Observer, Charlotte Post, MCC



Earle J. Gluck
Council President
1936 - 1937
1940 - 1941

Celebrating their 500-mile trip down the Catawba River are Charlotte Scouts: (left to right) Joe Ashcraft, Harvey Hamilton, Richard Davis, Fred Decker and Tom Rowland.

Adger B. Banks

One of the legends in minority Scouting was Adger B. Banks, who became involved in the Mecklenburg County program in 1937. Over the years, he attended 47 Scout training sessions, according to a *Charlotte Post* article on August 21, 1980. At that time, he was 84 and still going strong. He was a unit commissioner for Pack, Troop and Post 25 at St. Paul Baptist Church. He served for eight years as Scoutmaster and then a committeeman for Pack 25. In 1951, he was the assistant divisional commissioner for the minority division. He was responsible for training, fundraising and organizing five church Boy Scout troops in the black community.

Banks was the first black to join the Order of the Arrow in December 1970, and in the late 1970s received his Vigil Honor for service to the lodge and Scouting. As a minority divisional committee member, he received the Silver Beaver Award in 1950. Over the years, he also earned and received various other training and district awards.

He married his wife Susie in 1919. He was a member of the Usher Board at St. Paul Baptist Church and a member of the police reserve for a number of years.

The Boy Scouts of the 1970s remember him as the caretaker of Camp Vantrease. During the 1970s, Scout leaders remember him in his 70's trimming the shrubbery and mowing the Scout Office lawn on 7th Street.

He passed away in the early 1980s.



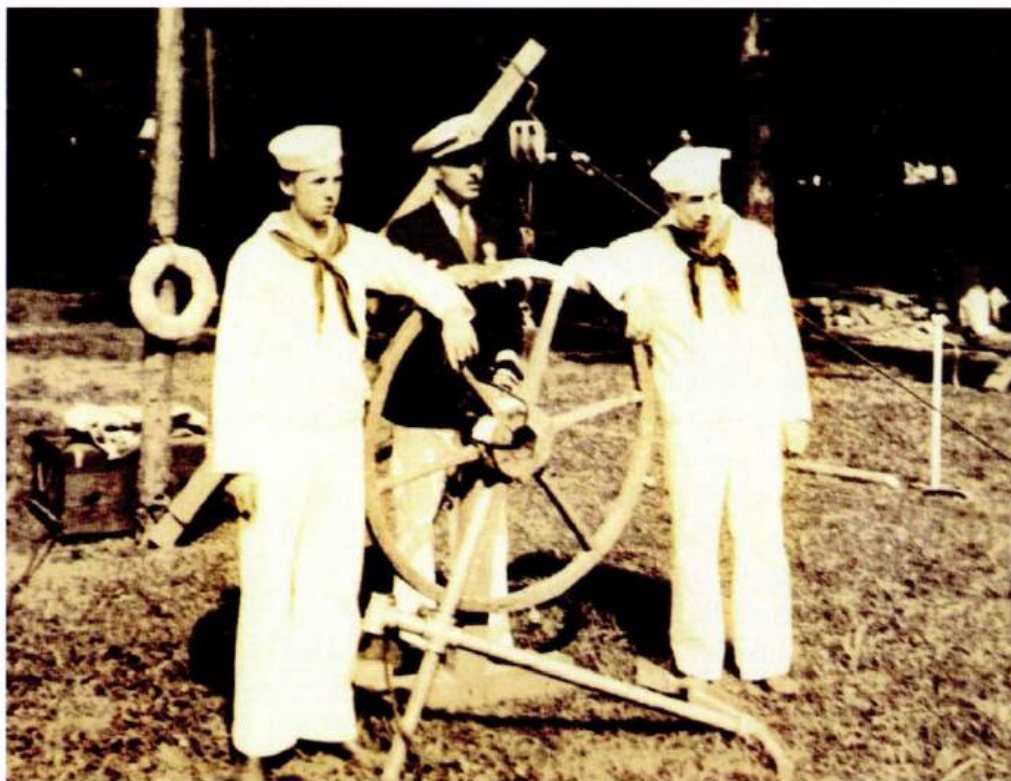
Adger B. Banks

Sea Scouts/Exploring

In May 1938, the Council Executive Board approved a plan for Scout Commissioner Reggie Price to build a Sea Scout Base at Camp Steere. Price would build a 12 by 30 foot building that would cost \$132. In June, the council received hammocks and seabags sent by a naval base. Council President Earle Gluck contacted the Charleston Naval Base, which sent an instructor to Camp Steere for the summer.

Sea Scouting started in 1912, but didn't appear in Mecklenburg until the mid-1930s. Sea Scouting was designed to provide training and experience in seamanship skills for the recreational boater, as well as for those boys deciding to become merchant mariners or sailors in the Navy. Scouts created land-based ship layouts, as well as learning the skills needed on real boats.

One of Charlotte's first Sea Scout posts, the SSS Donald McKay at display in Independence Park (June 1, 1935).



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Patches

In 1932, the Boy Scouts changed the uniform by placing community strips (*see below*) above the numeral on the top of the left sleeve. The rank patch had been moved to the left breast pocket. Camp and activity patches had become popular in the 1930s

and were placed on the right breast pocket.



first Charlotte community patch

Camp Steere

From 1933 through 1935, Rufus Page was the Camp Director. Page was from St. Petersburg, Florida. When he came for his initial visit prior to 1933, everyone really liked him. The second week he was made a counselor. He was pretty good at handling snakes and this came to be known as one of the best parts of the camp program. He also was a photographer and developed a good relationship with the Scouts.



Tom Holder succeeded Page as Camp Director. Later, Holder died while attempting to save a drowning Boy Scout at the Tryon (North Carolina) Boy Scout Camp.

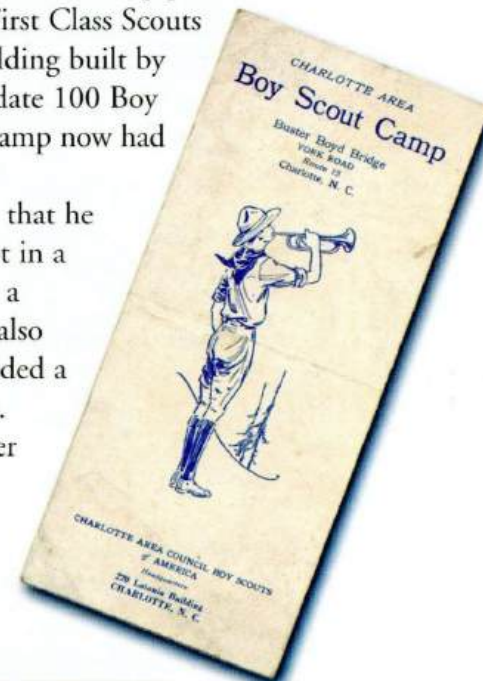
When the Adirondack shacks were built, the tents were taken down off the hill and the Indian council ring was moved to that location. The fires were placed up on towers as the Indians had done. A thirty-foot flag pole also was erected on the top of one of these towers. The Civitans, early big supporters of Camp Steere, donated money for a lodge that was used as a museum, workshop and for group meetings. A museum at that time would be what is now called a nature lodge or ecology center. A wood shop program was started and electricity was needed to run the machines. A Delco system was installed behind the wood shop using Delco batteries that powered the upper part of camp, the dining hall and the wood shop. It never worked very well, so during the 1930 or 1931 camping season an electrical line was run into the camp.

According to the 1930 promotion flyer for the Boy Scout Camp, the camp offered "special opportunities of instruction

in the Recreational branches of Scouting." It was opened to all Boy Scouts in the Charlotte Area Council. The camp covered almost 300 acres. In addition to the usual camp program, there was a blacksmith shop for First Class Scouts only. With the addition of the new building built by the Civitans, the camp could accommodate 100 Boy Scouts. The huts were finished and the camp now had electricity.

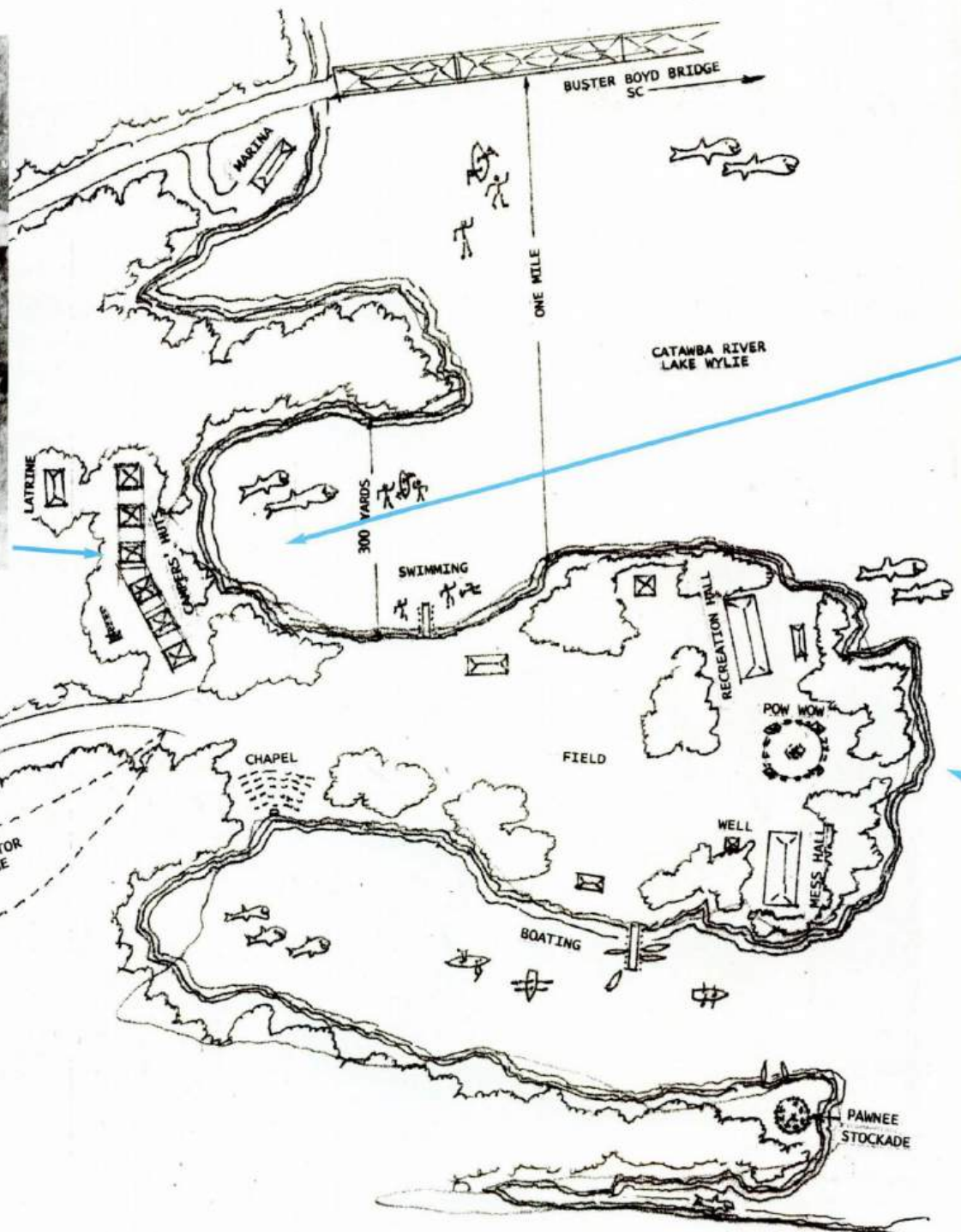
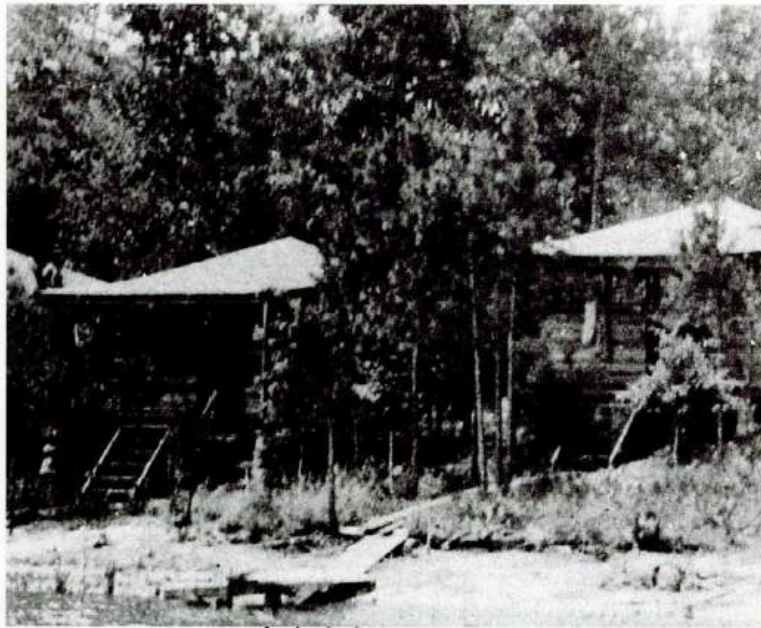
In 1931, Jim Steere slept in a lean-to that he built between two trees. The troops slept in a wooden building with a tarp roof called a "shack." The Civitans at this time were also building a lodge at Steere and had provided a 35-foot cabin cruiser and five row boats. They were planning on spending another \$1,468 on other needs of the camp.

The camp boats went as far as five miles from camp for exploring and looking for arrowheads. Because they had to row, the boys cheered when Jim



photos: Charlotte Observer; brochure, MCC, BSA

The day before Camp Steere opened on June 17, 1931, camp leaders posed in front of the Charlotte Observer building. Left to right are: Eldridge Boykin, Beaumert Whitton, Walton Smith, Jim Steere, Jr., James E. Steere, Rufus Page, Esley Anderson and Grier Wallace. More than 500 Scouts from the Piedmont region attended the camp that year.





*Camp Steere in the mid-1930s. Photos (clockwise from above):
Two Scouters on beach in front of the west campers' huts;
Scouters lined up near Pow-Wow (Indian Circle);
the Camp Steere sign from the early 1930s, and
another view of the campers' huts.*

Map drawn by Jack Boyte.

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Steere was able to get an old oyster boat from the coast that they named the *Sea Gull*. It had a motor and broadened the horizons of the Boy Scouts. The *Sea Gull* could hold 25 Boy Scouts and could tow two other boats carrying another 25 or so Boy Scouts. They still had to carry oars in case they needed to row the smaller boats back and to get the *Sea Gull* into its berth. There were all kinds of wildlife to see along the coves that were now open to exploration. Eventually, the *Sea*

Gull sank somewhere in the lake. There were also a few rowboats restricted to the cove area. The few canoes in camp were privately owned and restricted to those who had earned the Canoeing Merit Badge.

Jack Boyte, who attended Camp Steere in the 1930s, rode the camp truck from the council office to Camp Steere. The cost for camp was \$1 per day. Boyte's father would pay for one week (seven days) only. The rest of the summer Boyte would work doing odd jobs, in order to raise enough money to go back for a few more days. He mowed lawns at fifteen cents a lawn with a reel-type push mower. Just like later Boy

Scouts, he worked on merit badges and "Indian crafts."

At the end of the peninsula was a rambling wooden shelter that the Boy Scouts gathered in for games, athletics, merit badge classes or just to hang out. Boxing was one of their favorite activities.

Evenings were highlighted with campfires where they circled Indian style "while a chief in full headdress led a solemn ceremony of mutual respect and fidelity under the fellowship of Scouting." It was a cherished honor to be asked to light one of the four fire towers that bordered the campfire circle.

Boyte also related that the ditches along the dirt road to camp had to be periodically cleared of brush and undergrowth as the only traffic was the camp truck and the food deliveries by truck and horse and wagon during the summer months. One of their favorite games was Hare and Hound in which they chased each other all over camp. It was not unusual to end up along the York Road at Pleasant Hill Church.

The boys slept in huts that were described by Boyte as setting on the forested slopes of the river coves. The huts were supported by high posts with a rough frame enclosure and had sidewalls that came about waist high. From the top of the walls to the roof were mosquito screens. From the center rafter hung a single light bulb. They slept eight Boy Scouts to a hut with a counselor in each one. There was no inside

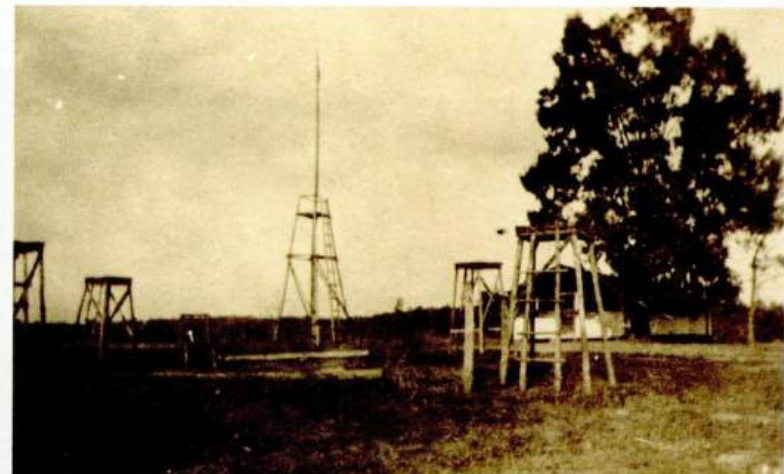
The Sea Gull at Camp Steere.



Troop 11 at a camp outing during the 1930s. (below). The Camp Steere Pow-Wow Indian Circle with the recreation hall in the background (mid-1930s), at lower right.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



The Pawnees

One candidate to join the Pawnees described them as the ugliest bunch of people he had ever seen. In 1926, Walt Smith and others felt that the new Camp Steere needed an achievement organization that campers could qualify to join. In this era, almost every camp in the country developed a service-oriented group or honor society that used Indian ceremonies as initiations. The ceremonial teams often dressed as Indians from their particular area. The Pawnees were created and dressed as ferocious warriors.

The Pawnees took the point across from camp and built a stockade of logs and called it the Pawnee Lodge (*see map, page 62*). Today, it is part of McDowell Park.

Campers would have to make some project that was useful, such as a bridge or tower. Existing Pawnees would note both the projects being built in camp during the week and a Scout's attitude, which would make him eligible to become a member. The initiates would be tapped and then would remain silent for two to three days.

A few Scoutmasters were taken into the group in the early days and there were some honorary members, such as Edward E. Jones of Independence Trust Co., "who took care of affairs."

Sometimes the candidate was taken from his bed in the middle of the night to the Pawnee ceremonial grounds. Beau Whitton remembered that he must have been 100 yards down the trail, before he fully woke and realized his feet were cold — he had left without any shoes.

Ikie Wallace and Emory Patillo were some of the first to be initiated into the Lodge. For their project, they built an entrance for the nature trail. Dickie Davis remembered having to dig a three-foot deep hole to plant a tree in the narrow part of the peninsula. He said it was the hardest dirt he ever saw and that nothing ever grew in it. Essie Anderson built a bridge somewhere near the lodge.

The Pawnees built four fire towers around the camp in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

As part of the 75th Anniversary of the Order of the Arrow, Eric Maillet and Bernie Samonds interviewed Brevard Myers and Jim Hewson and others about their experiences as Pawnees. Apparently to be a Pawnees, a Boy Scout had to be at least a Second Class Scout, a good swimmer and active in most of the camp activities. O. A. Crenshaw remembered building a bridge across to an island. It had to support ten boys and he had to build it himself in his spare time. Brevard Myers cleaned a nature trail around the shoreline to Pawnee Point that also included building footbridges along the way.

Bill Faulk remembered that in the 1940s, when he was initiated into the Pawnees, they were given one match, an egg and a piece of bread. They then cooked the egg in a cup they were given. Lunch was nothing more than a bologna sandwich. They worked in silence while digging holes, cleaning out culverts, and planting a rose garden at Camp Steere.

The first mention of discontinuing the Pawnees and organizing an Order of the Arrow (OA) Tribe occurred in late 1942. The question was brought to the Council Executive Board Meeting on May 19, 1943. The main point of contention was that the Pawnee membership voted in new members, while the members of the individual Boy Scout troop, who were not necessarily OA members, voted on who would be members of the OA from their troop. After discussion, the motion was sent back to committee.

In 1951, the council organized the Order of the Arrow Lodge. Some troops continued the Pawnee ceremony for a few years.



photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Pawnees and Order of the Arrow were recognition groups for outstanding service by Scouts.



Beau Whitton

Beaumert "Beau" Whitton

Beau Whitton was one of the first Eagle Scouts in the council and in the last few years of his life collected the stories and memorabilia from his Boy Scout buddies. A lot of his work along with that of Frank Wampler and Dr. Dorlan Mork make up the UNCC Study and helped lay the groundwork for this book.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1910, he spent an early part of his life in Havana, Cuba where his father worked in construction. Later, he spent the school year in Charlotte and the summers in Cuba. In 1921, the family permanently moved to Charlotte.

Whitton was a member of Troop 11 at Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church and earned his Eagle Award there. He had an early interest in woodcraft.

After graduating from North Carolina State University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he returned to Charlotte, became Assistant Scoutmaster and later Scoutmaster at Troop 11 for a few years. Work took him away from Charlotte for a period, but when he returned, he became Scoutmaster at Little Church on the Lane.

The young Whitton spent at least one summer as an assistant instructor at Camp Beard, the camp located in Pennsylvania run by Daniel Carter Beard, one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America. This camp was well known at that time and to instruct there must have been a high honor and for only those who really knew their Scoutcraft.

Along with his work on the Executive Board of the Mecklenburg County Council and the Mecklenburg Eagle Scout Association, he was a member and president of his Rotary Club, a director of the Greater Charlotte Foundation, president of the YMCA, president of the Charlotte Engineers Club and a member of the Board of Visitors of Davidson College.

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

plumbing, just an outhouse with four holes and an open air washhouse that consisted of a long open tin drainage trough under cold water spigots. They ate a lot of hotdogs, loaf bread that was not pre-sliced, milk, boiled beef, tomatoes and other vegetables.

Each Boy Scout would deposit his spending money at the trading post when he arrived and would charge against that credit as he purchased things during the week. Boyte could not remember any serious discipline problems while he attended camp.

In 1937, Camp Steere celebrated the Fourth of July with fireworks and a field-meet in the afternoon. There were camping and pioneering events, which included building shelters, sawing and chopping wood contests, a greased pole, skinning logs and a water log relay. The events were open to other Boy Scouts and parents of those attending that week. It was announced that those Boy Scouts whose parents could not take them to camp could meet the camp truck at the council office on Mondays and Saturdays at 10 o'clock.

The Executive Board Minutes for June 1938 noted that the new bathhouse donated by the Lions Club had been constructed. It had a water tower and eight showerheads. New patrol tables had been built for the dining hall. It was also noted that more troops were coming to camp under their own leadership.

In 1939, both Camp Steere and Camp Cabarrus opened on the 4th of July. The majority of the staff was college professors and students. Jim Jefferson remembered that at this time the fire ring or campfire circle was on Copperhead Island and Boy Scouts and visitors rode boats out to it for the campfires.



Camp Cabarrus

In 1935, the council opened Camp Cabarrus outside of Kannapolis. Very few if any Boy Scouts from Mecklenburg County attended the camp. The 1939 Regional Study of the council described the camp as a "summer resort" rather than a summer camp. Carson Williams, a Charlotte native and a former Scout, was camp director in 1937 and 1938. When Mecklenburg County Council was formed in 1940, the Central North Carolina Council retained the property and continues to own it today.

Closing out the Decade

There were a couple of great trips at the end of the 1930s.

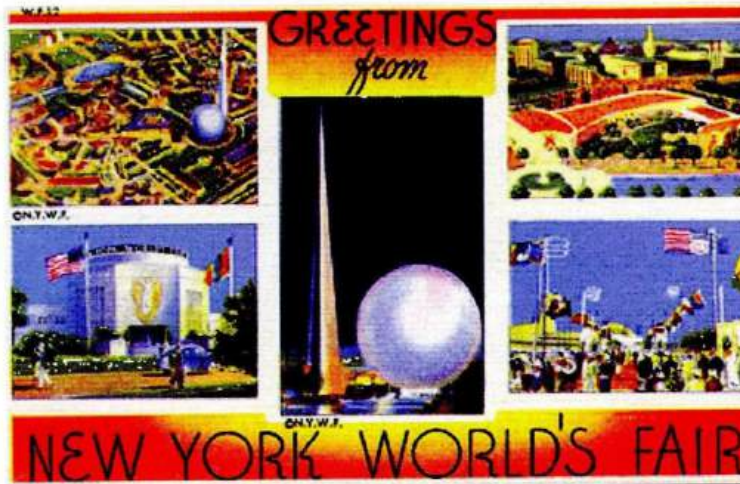
The first trip was for the first national jamboree conducted by the Boy Scouts of America. Postponed from 1935 due to a polio scare, the jamboree was finally held in 1937 (see pages 68-70).

The second trip was the council's participation in the 1939-40 New York World's Fair. Scouts from the Piedmont area traveled to New York City for Boy Scout Day at the fair on June 29, 1939. The fair had a two-acre Boy Scout camp exhibition. Each week, 150 Scouts and leaders would live in tents and demonstrate woodcraft, camp craft and handicrafts.

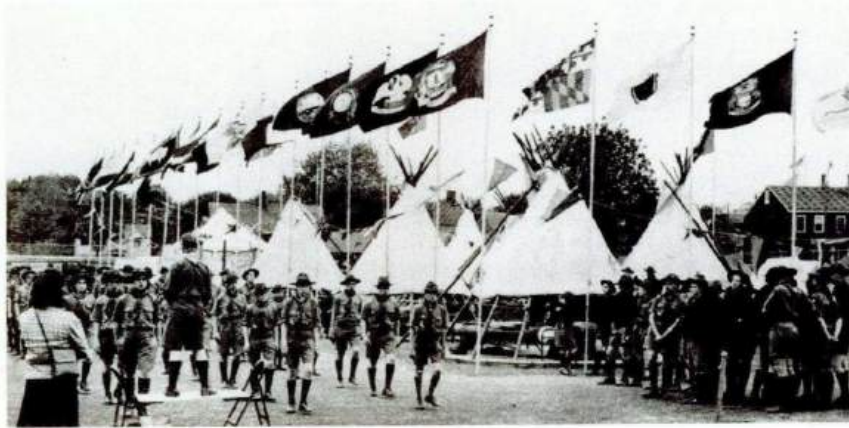
Charlotte Mayor Ben Douglas proclaimed the week of September 10, 1939, as Boy Scout week. The council kicked off a campaign to raise \$15,000.

The Council Executive Board minutes for September 25, 1939, note that the council still owed Jim Steere \$5,417 in back salary and it was to come from the campaign funds being raised or \$1,800 per year for the next two years. The Area Districts had come through with some money that year.

The March 6, 1940, minutes noted that Jim Steere was still owed \$5,028.56 and that he had not been paid in 1939.



The 1939 New York World's Fair featured a two-acre Boy Scout encampment. At left, is a Fair postcard. Lower left, Scouts marched at the World's Fair at their camp site. Below is a brochure to promote Scouting and visitors at the Fair.



In Fall 1940, the minutes note another attempt to get the money needed for 1941's budget and to pay off the debt — \$14,800 had been raised. The October 2, 1940, minutes note that Steere was paid but no mention of how much.

In the 1939 BSA Report to Congress, Chief Scout Executive James West noted two Charlotte good turns in his report — Scoutmaster F. O. Roberts gave baskets of food to needy families; Scoutmaster Reggie Price and Boy Scout Troop 11 established a game refuge under the supervision of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development.



1937 — The First U. S. Jamboree

The first scheduled National Jamboree never happened. The Boy Scouts were to camp in Washington, D.C., in 1935 as part of the 25th Anniversary celebration of the BSA. All kinds of planning had been done and some of the Boy Scouts were even in the District of Columbia at the train station, when the announcement was made by President Franklin Roosevelt that the jamboree would be cancelled because of the polio epidemic.



"Tonight I am especially happy to renew my invitation for the Boy Scouts to hold a Jamboree here in the Nation's Capital in the early summer Our Jamboree, besides, being an event long to be remembered by the boys who participate, will afford a practical demonstration of the principle of self-reliance which Scout work is developing in all of you."

— President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, February 8, 1937

At the 1937 announcement were (seated left to right) Walter Head, president of the Boy Scouts of America, U. S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Chief Scout Executive Dr. James E. West.



Jack Boyte from Charlotte was ready to attend the jamboree when it was cancelled. The troop had not left Charlotte. He remembered the cost to go was \$25. By 1937, a lot of the 1935 group had gone to college, were working or had left Scouting.

In June 1937, 27,000 Boy Scouts from the United States and 24 other countries descended on Washington, D.C., for their delayed first national jamboree.

George Scranton served as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 18 Section L of Region 6. The Boy Scouts from Central North Carolina Council were part of this troop. When each patrol arrived, the Scouts received pots, pans, water buckets and a bundle of wood and nails to make prefabricated tables. The Boy Scouts brought their own tents and other gear they would need. The Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of physical arrangements guided the Scouts in setting up their campsite. The other assistant was in charge of activities. Each patrol had a fireman and waterman for the day.

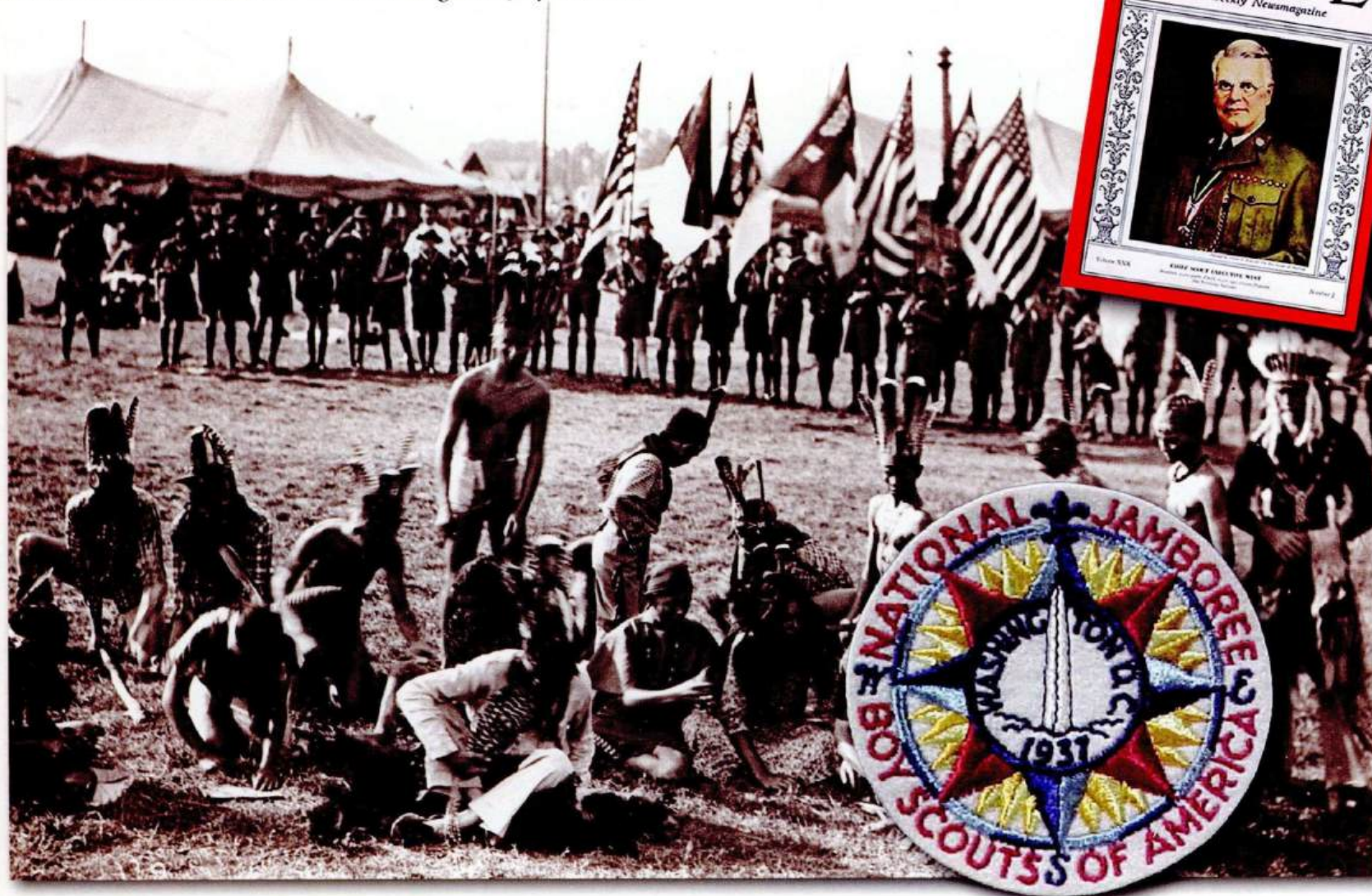
For their part of the program, the Boy Scouts of Region 6 told the history of Florida and Ponce de Leon, the story of Sir Walter Raleigh and the Wright Brothers.

Jack Parker, a member of Troop 5, reported that they traded autographs with the most valuable being those of the foreign Boy Scouts. Another popular item was the trading of cigarette premiums such as silk cloths with baseball players, movie stars and world flags on them.

Martin Hughes, a long-time Scouter, always talked about being presented his Eagle medal at the Jamboree by Dan Beard. It was the highlight of his life.

As one writer at the time noted: "To see those boys together with their flags flying, their songs and cheers and bands and drum corps, thrilled you. It stirred your emotional center."

"But last week the U. S. saw and heard more than 25,000 boys invade the city of Washington. Their tent cities spread beneath the Washington Monument, over Potomac Park both north and south of the Tidal Basin, across the river on Columbia Island and into the fields below Arlington National Cemetery on the Virginia shore.... Boy Scout cheerfulness was put to the test this week by a downpour that lasted all Sunday night and half the next day turning much of the camp area into quagmire. Undismayed, 5,000 selected Scouts marched to a memorial service in the Arlington National Cemetery theatre placed a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Governmental high spot of the jamboree came later this week with President Roosevelt's review." — Time Magazine July 12, 1937



Charlotte Scouts at Jamboree (above), Time Magazine cover featuring BSA leader James E. West (upper right), and patch from the Jamboree.

photos courtesy of Time Inc. (magazine cover); others Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Central North Carolina Council Scouts and leaders on the east side of the U.S. Capitol during the 1937 National Jamboree. At far left (back row) is former Council President Edward E. Jones, Congressman Alfred L. Bullwinkle (with cane), Hunter Marshall, James Steere (in uniform) and Council President Earle J. Gluck.

"Be Prepared"

While the war raged in Europe during 1940-1941, the Boy Scouts in the Charlotte area were going through massive changes — Mecklenburg County was split from the rest of the Piedmont region council; council leadership was changing; the Charlotte group started a dramatic expansion of troops serving the African-American community; Cub Scouting got underway; the local council was losing adult leaders, who were volunteering or being drafted for the U. S. military.

America would soon find itself in a world war.

As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt addressed the American public on February 8, 1941, he told the millions of citizens listening on radio:

"The Boy Scouts of today are approaching manhood in a grave hour in the world's history. Recent events have threatened the security of free men everywhere. And the democratic way of life is being challenged in many parts of the world. The United States must be strong, if our free way of life is to be maintained. And for national policy, we, as a nation, have adopted the motto of the Boy Scout organization: Be Prepared!

"It is not primarily for mere physical feats that the Boy Scout movement has won high praise and the esteem of the American people. It is rather because the Boy Scouts have dedicated themselves to the development of those qualities of character, those qualities of citizenship, upon which the future of our democracy rests."

The world was in crisis. So was the local Boy Scout council. It had been a tough 12 months for the world and for the Scouts.

On February 5, 1940, Herbert Stuckey, the BSA deputy regional executive, had released a study done by the Region

and the BSA national office on the problems and needs of the Central North Carolina Council. A number of problems were brought to light —

- ★ Area districts complained that they did not get any service, but it was noted that they gave very little financially to the council.
- ★ Very little money had been raised in the whole council. Jim Steere had been paid partially during some recent years and not at all in 1939. Although his assistant, Carson Williams, had been paid in full. To compensate for his lack of salary, Steere was working part-time as a forest ranger. This was the end of the Great Depression and things were still not financially stable for many businesses, families and non-profit organizations.
- ★ With part-time staffing, the membership records of the office were not accurate, including some troops which were meeting, but not registered.
- ★ There was no actual council executive board. The Charlotte District Committee had functioned as a council executive board.
- ★ The council was encouraged to reestablish the training committee and to organize Cub Scouting, Senior Scouting and Rovering in the county.

After the release of the Regional Study, an attempt was made by Herbert H. Baxter, the Central North Carolina Area Council president, to reconcile the area districts with the Charlotte District without success. In April 1940, Baxter reported to the Executive Board that the area districts had hired George Thomason as Scout executive and had opened a council office in Concord.

NATION ADOPTS SCOUTS' MOTTO

President Speaks in Commemoration of Founding of Organization 31 Years Ago.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. — (AP) — America's Boy Scouts heard their honorary president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, declare tonight that the nation had adopted the Scout motto: "Be Prepared," for a national policy, since "The United States must be strong if our free way of life is to be maintained."

Participating in commemoration of the thirty-first anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts organization, President Roosevelt spoke over the three major national networks from the White House. More than 1,500,000 Scouts have been celebrating the anniversary all week with special activities.

Scouts, Mr. Roosevelt said, have won the praise and esteem of the American people because they have "dedicated themselves to the development of those qualities of character and citizenship upon which the future of our democracy rests."

He said he was proud of what he knew they would do "in playing your part in our American defense."

Asserting that Scouts of today are approaching manhood at "a grave hour in the world's history," the Chief Executive added that "recent events have threatened the security of free men everywhere, and the democratic way of life is being challenged in many parts of the world."

Scouts have an opportunity, in their Scout troops, he said, to develop "the type of leadership and group co-operation which is so greatly needed in a democracy such as ours."

"The nation," the President said, "is confident that the Boy Scouts stand ready to contribute to the national welfare in these critical hours."

Immediately after the President spoke, Dr. James E. West, chief Scout executive, pledged that the Scouts would "do all in our power."

Charlotte Observer
February 9, 1941



After discussion, the Charlotte District passed a motion to have Jim Steere serve as acting Scout Executive with a small committee to finance affairs, until the region could organize the council.

The Rev. Herbert Spaugh moved and A. W. Lawing seconded the motion, at the April 19, 1940, executive board meeting, to make an application for a charter from the national office of the BSA for the Mecklenburg County Council.

It was noted in the November 6, 1940, Executive Board minutes that the council was losing more and more leaders, who were being called up by the "Call to Arms."

The council president was Earle J. Gluck, who served his second term from April 1940 to February 1941. The end of an era occurred at the November 22, 1940, Executive Board meeting when both Jim Steere and his secretary, Miss Faye Turner resigned effective December 18, to start Steere's new business.

The new Scout executive, Charles F. Safley, arrived on January 7, 1941. At the February 5, 1941, Executive Board meeting the board voted to incorporate the council. The council would be set up with nine committees, including a committee on interracial Scouting. The Scout executive's annual salary was set at \$2,672.24. The new council president was W. H. Halliburton.

As President Roosevelt addressed the nation during Scout Week (February 1941), Charlotte Boy Scouts held "Scout Day in the City." Boy Scouts sat in the various chairs of government and on the various committees. All across the city,

Scout skills such as first aid were demonstrated. Mock victims were treated and then carried off. There were window displays across the city showing the activities of the Boy Scout program.

Also during the week, Boy Scouts, from Troop 7 of West Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte and from Troop 7 in Concord, carried messages from city to city in a double relay. The day was frigid. Runners/walkers were spaced at one mile intervals along the route.

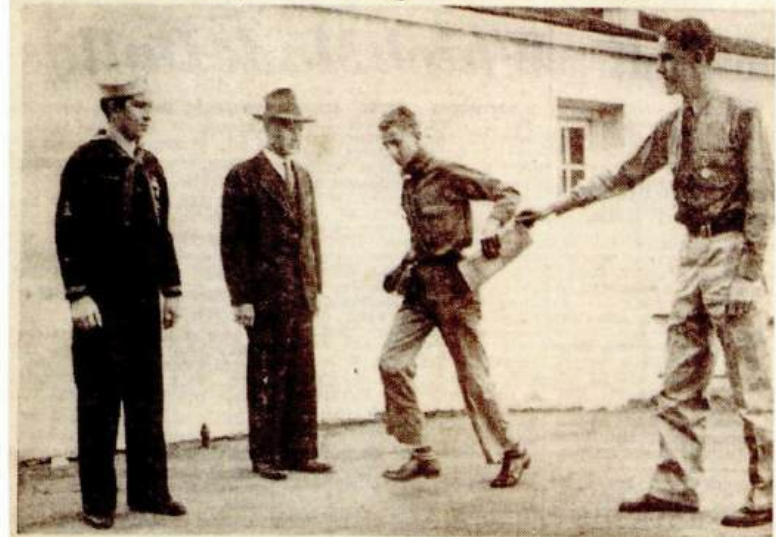
The message was passed from one Boy Scout to another until the messages were exchanged at the county line; the new message passed back down the line. One of the Charlotte Boy Scouts shown in the newspaper was Harry Jefferson, who was later killed while serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

The newly created Health and Safety Committee announced at the April 1941 Executive Board meeting that



W. H. Halliburton
Council President
1941 - 1943

Scouts Relay Message to Concord



Scout Harry Jefferson (third from left) of Troop 7 receives messages from assistant Scoutmaster John L. Smith (far right) to be carried in double relay to Concord. Looking on are Sea Scout James Bennick and J. D. Ramsay, Troop 7 Scout committee chairman.

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA; Charlotte Observer

it would be inspecting the meeting places of the troops in the Council.

On June 16, 1941, the newly named Mecklenburg County Council, Boy Scouts of America, was officially incorporated in the State of North Carolina. In the incorporation papers, the new council was formed "...to promote, through the organization of, and cooperation with, other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others; and to train boys in Scout-craft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues, using methods which are now in common use by Boy Scouts, and by placing emphasis upon the Scout Oath and Law for character development, citizenship training and physical fitness...."

With the council split, there were now only 32 troops and 781 Boy Scouts. By the December Executive Board meeting the Board had expanded to twenty-six members.

Jesse M. Oldham reported at the September 11, 1941, Executive Board meeting, that he was able to get a \$75 pledge for the Scouts from a young lady on the street. Whether raising money was this tough or whether this was a joke is unknown.

The leaders of the city praised the council when it was able to raise over \$1,300 without using a large canvassing staff to do so.

Training began that summer for adult leaders to help create more African-American troops, as well as a fund drive in the black community to support the effort. The council began a recruiting effort to find a full-time professional for the job.

By summer, there were three African-American Boy Scout troops located in Cornelius, Charlotte and Davidson. The council's plan was to substantially expand the number of such troops.

While Cub Scouting was officially approved in 1930 as part of the Boy Scouts of America program, the Great Depression held down program expansion for many councils as the leaders tried to keep the existing program funded.

Charles Safley, Scout Executive (1941-1942)

On January 7, 1941, Charles F. Safley became the Scout Executive of the new Mecklenburg County Council. During 1941, Safley's efforts would successfully assure the council's future.

Born on October 13, 1911, in Drew, Mississippi, Safley was an Eagle Scout and a 1933 graduate of Mississippi College, where he had played football and served as class president.

He taught school in Tunica, Mississippi, before becoming a professional Scouter in Florence, Alabama. He then served as the Scout Executive of the Suwannee River Council in Tallahassee, Florida, for four years before coming to Charlotte.

Safley would oversee the expansion of black Scouting in Mecklenburg, the establishment of Air Scouts and the construction of a firm foundation for the Mecklenburg County Council.

In October 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy and was called to active duty in November 1942, when he resigned his professional Scouting position.

He served on the troop transport, *President Jackson*, for a period of time.

He was then trained to be a beach master for the various island landings in the Pacific, including Iwo Jima, where he saw the marines raise the American flag. He was decorated a number of times.

After the war, he returned to Charlotte briefly before moving to Memphis to work with the Pure Oil Company. At age 50, he left Pure Oil Company to start a chain of truck stops called Mid-Continent. He created the idea of "fleet fueling," where a truck driver used a card to fuel his truck with the bill going to the parent company.

He died on July 18, 1990.



Charles F. Safley
Scout Executive
1941-1942

Expansion of Minority Scouting in Mecklenburg

At the April 2, 1941, Executive Committee Meeting, E. A. Cole was appointed to chair the Interracial Committee and get it organized. Despite efforts in the 1930s, by January 1, 1941, there was only one African-American



Shown in September 1941 are Troop 25 and local program leaders. First row, left to right: Minority division Scout executive Q. J. Addlerly, William Holmes, William Johnson, Thadroy Leeper, Clarence Holmes, Adolphus Howie and James Wilson. Second row, left to right: Fred D. Alexander, chairman of minority Scouting, A. C. Carter, James White, Albert Robinson, and Troop 25 Scoutmaster P. B. Hinton.

photos: Charlotte Observer

troop functioning in the council — it was in Cornelius. Two more troops were ready to register that spring, one in Davidson and one in Charlotte.

During the next four years, the number of black Boy Scouts in Mecklenburg would increase seven-fold, and Cub Scout packs for minorities would be established.

In early June, the Mecklenburg County Council met with leaders from the black community to form a committee to supervise existing and future troops for African-Americans.

The group was chaired by the Rev. W. C. Hart. Fred D. Alexander headed troop organization; the Rev. H. W. Givens and L. G. Green headed training; Paul Richardson was in charge of finances; I. J. Jackson was in charge of advancement; Julian Stinson would handle camping; Dr. S. C. Pyle was put in charge of health & safety; and C. F. Atkins led the Cub Scout effort.

In July 1941, the black leadership in the city of Charlotte pledged to raise funds to pay at least \$1 out of every \$5 needed to hire a professional leader to head up a black division. The rest of the money was to come from a foundation set up by the BSA National Office to fund Boy Scout programs for African-Americans. The necessary funds were raised in one week in July, but there was not a professional available at the time.

In August 1941, Q. J. Adderly of Lakeland, Florida, was hired to start in September. Adderly had headed a black college before attending a special school set up to train black professional Scouters.

The December 3, 1941, Executive Board Meeting noted that since Adderly had started in September, he had organized four new troops. The African-American Scouting effort was now up to seven troops.

As a local newspaper editorialized: "Scout leaders of both races, who have been instrumental in taking this important forward step in the interest of an improved social order in this community, are worthy of the high awards of commendation which their interest in this movement justifies."

Concord was the site of the first Camporall for black troops in 1941. This probably was a statewide activity.

The council Executive Board in their September 15, 1942, meeting agreed to include black troops in any parades involving the Boy Scouts.

The council Information Bulletin #6 in the spring of 1942 mentioned a call for Boy Scout uniforms for the minority "troops in the northern end of the County." About fifty uniforms were needed, according to Bill MacLaughlin, who was collecting them.

When Adderly left in 1944, the minority membership had grown from 56 to 353 Boy Scouts and 82 Cub Scouts.

The Slocum Award, a national competition, was won by the council in 1943 for its record in minority membership.

In 1943, there also were active black troops in Pineville and Davidson.

Camp James, located near Crowder's Mountain, was the site of a summer camp for black Boy Scouts in 1942 and 1943. This camp was developed by the Piedmont Council for their black Boy Scouts. Q. J. Adderly acted as Camp Director.

In 1944, training for black leaders was held statewide in North Carolina, according to the BSA Annual Report.

After not having a camp for the black Scouts in 1945, the council purchased 76 acres of land from the Lowe estate in the Berryhill Section of the county to provide for a camp. About \$7,000 was invested in tents, a dining hall and a dam for a lake. Opened for three weeks in 1946, Camp Oak hosted almost 100 Boy Scouts that first year at a cost of \$9 a week.

By 1947, with the help of Adderly's successor, E. M. Luckey, minority membership had grown to 446 Boy Scouts in 23 troops and 158 Cub Scouts in 10 packs. Luckey said

that the most active were Troop 25 St. Paul Baptist Church, Troop 73 Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church, Pack 67 and Pack 69.

The minority Scout division held its annual meeting at St. Paul Baptist Church in 1948, according to the January 9 *Charlotte News*. Over 500 people attended. As the decade neared its close, there were over 500 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers in the minority Scouting program. Camp Oak had a lake and was serving 80 Scouts a week. Fred D. Alexander was the chairman of the minority Scouting committee, while J. K. Brown was the vice chairman.

The March 2, 1948, *Charlotte Observer* reported that some members of the Dragon Club presented a \$125 check to Dr. Thomas Watkins, Jr., for the improvement of Camp Oak. The Dragon Club was composed of the original members of the first African-American troops in Mecklenburg County.

As the decade ended, S. P. Woodward, a former school teacher from Smithfield, N.C., replaced E. M. Luckey. He had attended Fayetteville State Teachers College and taught in Lumberton.



Top (left to right) — Paul Richardson and Rev. W. A. Blackwell raising funds for Scouting.



Left — Dragon club members (beginning lower left and going clockwise) Alvin V. Kennedy, T. E. Gilliard and Fred D. Alexander, the division chairman, present a check to help with Camp Oak to Dr. Thomas Watkins. The council was raising \$5,000 for the camp.



J. E. Burnside, Jr.
Civil Defense
Committee Chairman

The first Cub Scout units were formed in Mecklenburg County in early 1941. Among these early packs were Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, St. John's Baptist Church and Myers Park Presbyterian Church.

A big test for emergency preparedness of the Boy Scouts was held at Memorial Stadium during the summer of 1941. Even the Boy Scouts at Camp Steere were bused into the city by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Boy Scouts in uniform were recruited to help with pedestrian sidewalk traffic at intersections in downtown Charlotte. They were stationed at 4th and Tryon, 5th and Tryon and at Independence Square. They held a rope up to alternately block the side that could not cross and then switched to the other crosswalk when it was their turn to wait.

Also in 1941, Region 6 held a Boy Scout Jubilee in Chapel Hill, where 120 Charlotte Scouts joined others for camping and Scoutcraft. They also attended a football game and had a large campfire that evening.

Other Boy Scout activities that year included Aluminum Collection drives for industrial and military equipment, as well as Bundle Days — collecting clothing and other items for Goodwill. More than 1,000 posters were distributed urging the residents of Mecklenburg County to buy Defense Bonds.

The Boy Scouts, Charlotte and the nation were preparing.

A Date Which Will Live in Infamy

Sunday afternoon, December 7, 1941. Word began to filter throughout the community that the U. S. Naval forces at Pearl Harbor had been bombed.

On Monday morning, December 8th, the Charlotte Civil Defense Committee chairman J. E. Burnside, Jr., called the Scout office. He requested help from Scout Executive Safley to get posters distributed by the Scouts. Safley called and won approval from the school superintendent to let Boy Scouts out of class at 2 p.m.

At 12:25 p.m., President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

began his address to a special joint session of Congress in Washington, D. C. He reported on the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor — “a date which will live in infamy.” After he finished his address, Congress took six-and-a-half minutes to declare war on Japan.

By 2:30 p.m., about 300 uniformed Boy Scouts blanketed the downtown Charlotte area, posting Civil Defense posters on windows of businesses everywhere (*photo below*).



photos: portraits - Mecklenburg County Council, BSA; others, Charlotte Observer

On December 8, 1941, 300 local Boy Scouts already were hard at work, posting Civil Defense posters around Charlotte. Shown (left to right) are Scouts William McGrady and Charles Padgett.

The War Years

While the nation went on war footing, the Boy Scouts continued to grow. The Dr. W. T. Rainey Trophy was presented to the council for its 93% growth in 1941, according to the annual report. There were now 207 Cub Scouts in 6 packs and 1136 Boy Scouts in 46 troops. With the employment of a black professional the minority division was up to

8 troops with 115 Boy Scouts.

In 1942, Toughen Up and Buckle Down, a physical fitness program, was the national theme for the Scouts. There was also a national good turn to plant a tree for every man in the armed services.

The 1942 Boy Scout Week was celebrated with dinners, special sermons in some of the churches and a waste paper

Cub Scouting Starts in Mecklenburg County

Cub Scouting was officially approved in 1930 as part of the BSA program. The first mention in the local council is in the March 2, 1938, Executive Board minutes. A Cub Scout conference had recently been held in Gastonia and a discussion was held on whether Charlotte should organize some packs.

A study conducted by the Region in 1939 noted that there were no organized Cub packs in the council, but within a couple of years, Cub Scouts would be found all over the city of Charlotte.

A. W. Lawing thought that Cub Scouting would work in Charlotte, if the national program was followed. At some point, probably in 1941, Lawing became chairman of Cub Scouting.

Among early Cub Scout packs in 1941 were those at Holy Trinity Lutheran, St. John's Baptist and Myers Park Presbyterian churches.

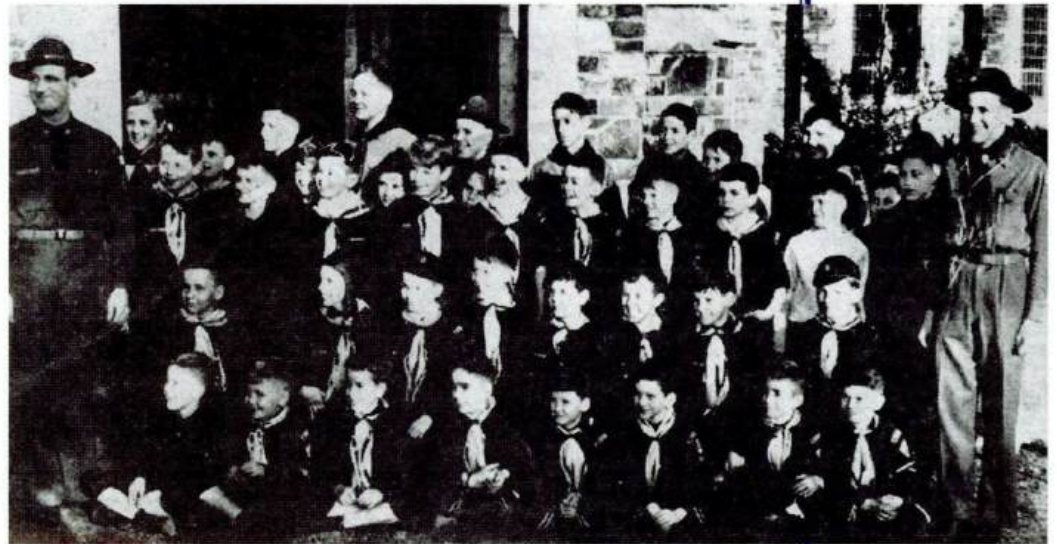
At the April 8, 1942, Executive Board meeting, Lawing brought up the idea of the Cub Scouts going to Camp Steere. A discussion followed and it was agreed to follow the national policy and only allow them to go for a day or overnight with their leaders after the regular camp season was concluded. A second motion was approved to create a special week for Cubs after the regular season was over.

Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church sponsored a Cub Pack in May 1942 with S. E. Dunham as Cubmaster,

followed by long-time Cubmaster Don Miller.

In 2004, the longest tenured Cub Pack in the county is Pack 25, chartered to St. Paul Baptist Church. The pack was set up as part of the minority division in the council.

The first Cub Scout Pow Wow was held in the Scout Hut of Myers Park Presbyterian on July 19, 1943, and was attended by William Wessel, the national director of Cub Scouting.



Pack 55 from Myers Park Presbyterian Church in February 1941. On left is Scout Commissioner & Cubmaster Harry L. McAllister. Among the pictured Cub Scouts are Stuart & Alan Dickson and other prominent Charlotte businessmen — see photo identification in Appendices for individual names.

photo: Charlotte Observer



Capt. William L. Dixon



Lt. Gilmer H. Horton, Jr.



Seaman Hunter Marshall III

Early War Casualties

Hundreds of former Boy Scouts from Mecklenburg County went into the service and saw combat; some never to return. In the first months of the war, at least three local Scouts were killed.

Two Charlotte Boy Scouts were captured at Corregidor, when Japanese forces overran the Philippines. One was Captain William L. Dixon, Jr., who died shortly after capture in April 1942 (*shown at left top*). Dixon's death was not reported until 1943. He was an Eagle Scout. The other former Charlotte Boy Scout captured at Corregidor was J. K. O'Donoghue.

Another early casualty in World War II was First Lieutenant Gilmer H. Holton, Jr. (*shown left*).

He was the navigator for Brigadier General Clarence Tinker's plane, which was shot down during the Battle of Midway (June 1942). The Mecklenburg County Council named one of its new Air Scout Patrols for him.

In addition to those in military service, thousands also served the nation's war effort by manning transport and cargo ships around the world.

U. S. Navy Ensign Hunter Marshall III, formerly of Troop 55 in 1935, was killed in June 1943, when his troop transport ship was hit by a torpedo. He was posthumously recognized by the Navy for his bravery.

drive. There was a special fifteen-minute program on WSOC radio before the Fred Waring Show. Waring was a big promoter of the Boy Scouts and had even written a Boy Scout march.

By the April 1942 council board meeting, Boy Scouts had collected over 100,000 pounds of scrap paper. Bert Kumm, Scoutmaster of Troop 19, used a wagon and a mule to collect paper so that he could save his automobile tires and gasoline. Information Bulletin #6 from the council office in the spring of 1942 noted the second Saturday of each month was "Waste Paper Day" and the Boy Scouts would be around to pick it up. An average troop could make \$10-15 per month from waste paper collections.

In July and August 1942, the Boy Scouts went door-to-door collecting rubber and scrap metal.

The Boy Scouts once again took to the streets passing out flyers on price controls in July 1942. They also collected old phonograph records in August, so that they could be melted down and made into new ones to be sent to the Army



photo: Charlotte Observer

Scouts helped with many drives, including scrap metal and aluminum, for the war effort. Left to right, Scout Charles Randolph collects aluminum pans from Mrs. R. R. Viverette, along with Scout Jack Brown from Troop 25.

camps. In November 1942, they collected 25,000 coat hangers for Fort Lee, Virginia.

Troop 4 rewarded their Boy Scouts with Defense Saving Stamps in 1942 for advancing ranks and earning merit badges. A value of ten cents for Second or First Class or a merit badge, 25 cents for Star, 50 cents for Life and \$1 for Eagle was awarded from the proceeds of the sale of waste paper.

In May 1942, the Council Executive Board approved the Boy Scouts as Civilian Defense Messengers (CDM) and in June, they approved them to assist the Dispatch Bearer Service by distributing United States Government literature.

The Boy Scouts started training for civil defense by working with emergency service stations. They would be used as messengers and for first aid and firefighting. The BSA national program was called Emergency Service Corps. Over 500 Boy Scouts requested to be messengers but only about 200 qualified. Non-Boy Scouts were recruited from the high schools and other organizations. They were trained by the Boy Scouts. All messengers had to be at least 15 years old.

Doug Marshall recalled, in the Troop 55 History, that during the simulated air raids, the Boy Scouts would ride their bicycles to the Civil Defense station (located on the site of today's Myers Park Library). The Boy Scouts who participated wore a blue armband that had a red thunderbolt inside a white triangle. The armbands were worn with great pride.

In November 1942, the CDM listed Assistant Scout Executive Harry Braham as chief messenger with Bob Alexander and Harry McAllister as deputy chiefs. Later, McAllister took over as chief, according to the November Executive Board minutes.

The October 7, 1942, Executive Board meeting received notice that Scout Executive Safley had enlisted in the United States Navy and was subject to be called up at anytime. It was also noted that at least 25 young men in the council had been drafted and new leaders had to be recruited and trained to take their places in the troops.

Charles Bisnett, an Eagle Scout and Sea Scout, was determined to enter the Navy, but could not pass the eye and dental physicals. He had his problems corrected by operations. When he applied a second time, he was rejected by the state office for being underage. He was so dejected that he would not talk to his friends. Finally, his parents signed for him to join. While assigned to the merchant marine, his ship collided with another and he was thrown overboard for about four hours. After being rescued, he developed pneumonia and was hospitalized for several weeks. He was allowed a period of leave, but notified his parents he was not coming home.

During this time period, Boy Scout troops had a hard time keeping a Scoutmaster for a long period of time. Troop 55 had three Scoutmasters in 12 months. The draft was calling up men as fast as they could get them into uniform. About fifty percent of the servicemen had been Boy Scouts. Many troops dissolved due to the lack of adult leadership.

John B. Hackney, Scout Executive (1943-1945)

John B. Hackney was born in England on August 5, 1906, and came to the United States as an infant. While a student at Mercer University, he became an Eagle Scout and acting assistant Scout executive (1926 - 1929).

Hackney decided to become a full-time Scouting professional. He was named as Scout executive for the Waycross, Georgia, Scout council (1930 - 1934).

Hackney also served as executive for the Tampa, Florida, (1934 - 1939) and Charleston, South Carolina, (1939 - 1943) councils before coming to the Mecklenburg County Council in February 1943.

He resigned on January 31, 1945, taking up the same post in Wilson, North Carolina.

Hackney became a deputy regional Scout executive for the Boy Scouts of America in 1951.

He died on December 22, 1967.



*John B. Hackney
Scout Executive
1943 - 1945*

Air Scouts/Exploring

In 1942, the Air Scouts were created by the Boy Scouts of America. "The Air Scout Program ... does not involve instruction and participation in actual flying, but does make it possible for a Scout to cover thoroughly a preliminary training program, which will add to his equipment if he

should, when he reaches the proper age, wish to enter a recognized school of flying," the 1942 *Air Scout Manual* stated.

Rear Admiral Tower wrote in *Boy's Life* magazine that: "Today that creed, 'Be Prepared,' has become a command to all America. Never before has air power meant so much to the world.... Never before has the youth of America been called upon to participate in such a gigantic task.

"Do not feel that because you may now be too young to be a pilot or a member of a ground crew, you have no part in this program. The field of preparation has many fronts,"

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



photo: Charlotte Observer;

Members of the Gilmer H. Holton, Jr., Air Scout Patrol working on a plane for the Scout Circus — (left to right) kneeling, George Davis and George Ham; standing Scoutmaster C. P. Cato, Lem Falkner & Claude Davis.

Admiral Tower advised.

The first two Air Scout Patrols were formed in the Mecklenburg Council in April 1943.

One patrol was formed from members of Sea Scout Ship McKay, while the other came from members of Troop 8. Troop 8 named its Air Scout Patrol after former Mecklenburg Boy Scout Gilmer H. Holton, Jr., who was killed in 1942.

Turning Point — 1943

In January 1943, the Boy Scouts collected fats from meat to be reused for medicines, explosives (fats contain glycerin) and as lubricants for ships' compasses and the gun recoil mechanisms.

Troop 26 also collected wool for the Red Cross that would be used to make men's cuffs.

June 1943 found the Boy Scouts counting the number of soldiers along the roads and at the bus and train stations in the county. This canvas was done to see how many soldiers there were and what recreational needs they might have.

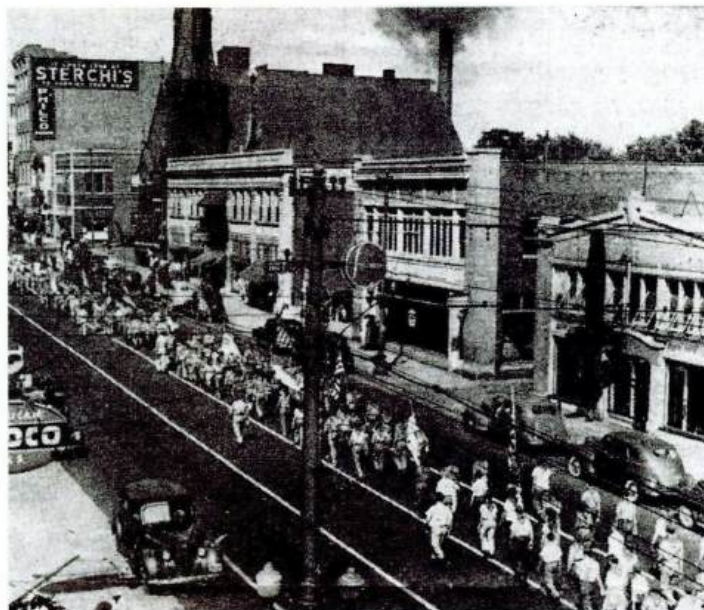
The 1943 Scout Circus was the fifth annual event and highlighted what the Boy Scouts were doing for the war effort. The three rings showed first aid demonstrations, message carrying, stretcher bearing, signaling, scrap and waste paper collections.

Boy Scouts were busy in 1943 collecting books for servicemen to read. Their goal was 6,000 books and the American Business Club assisted them.

In June 1943, the Mecklenburg County Council changed in its leadership, when Council President Halliburton resigned to take over Western Union's southeastern region.

Aubrey M. Elliott was elected as the new president, serving from June 1943 through December 1944.

He was followed by Thomas W. Bird who served as president from December 1944 through December 1945. Bird was the district manager for The Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York.



1943 Scout Parade in downtown Charlotte.

Charlotte's Scouts learn how to use gas masks during 1943 (below). Pictured left to right are: Sgt. Francis M. Smith, John Bachman of Sea Scout Ship Donald McKay, Victor Riggsbee of Troop 11 in the gas mask, John L. Smith of Sea Scout Ship Columbus, James Miller of Troop 23, and Lt. Eldon M. Sutphin.



photos: Charlotte Observer



*Aubrey M. Elliott
Council President
1943 - 1944*



*Thomas W. Bird
Council President
1944 - 1945*

*Dedication of the
Civitan Lodge at
Camp Steere.*

Camp Steere

The Executive Board minutes for January 5, 1940 mentioned that the camp staff would be paid for the first time. Total salary cost for the entire staff would be \$204. Due to competition with other work and commercial camps it became necessary to compensate the staff.

The Scout Circus in 1941 earned \$110 that the Executive Board directed go to the improvements being done by the new camp caretaker. The council also looked at getting a lease for the land.

The 1941 camp inspection did not go very well, according to the report at the July 2 Executive Board. Two latrines were condemned and had to be replaced. The screens in the dining hall were replaced and some changes were made to the kitchen. A septic tank was built. The inspectors also said the electrical wiring in the camp was a big risk.

The Civitans and the Lions Club came forward with the

funds to make the repairs when the council did not have the funds to do so.

In 1941, 250 Boy Scouts attended camp. Scout Executive and Camp Director Safley had announced that the camp would last at least four weeks and longer if necessary. All the buildings in camp had been repainted using cylinder oil donated by the Police Department. The floating docks were built. The Civitan Club had donated two canoes and the Kiwanis Club one. A point system was setup for a weekly award of a trip by boat or auto to some place of interest that would be at least one meal away from camp. Competition was by patrol and included cabin inspection, personal inspection at retreat, advancement, Scout Field Day, the Water Meet and the other recreational competitions.

In 1942, the Executive Board voted to allow troops to come to camp as a troop and camp at their own campsite. One troop per week would be allowed the privilege to do so.



photo & all portraits: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

The first campsite was setup near the mess hall and consisted of eight tents on wooden platforms donated by the Men's Club of Second Presbyterian Church. At the same meeting, the Executive Board also approved Camp Steere as a refuge for children should bombs fall on Charlotte. The Board voted to change the camp period from Sunday-Sunday to Sunday-Saturday at 2 p.m. The new dining hall was also under construction

Marion Pickens, Scoutmaster of Troop 46, was the Camp Director in 1942. He was assisted by Chief Red Fox, a Sioux Indian. One of the highlights of the camp season was an Indian pageant led by the Chief.

A new attendance record for a two-week period was set in 1942 when 81 Boy Scouts and 10 staff members were in camp.

The Executive Board in August 1942 approved Camp Steere as a maneuver ground for the training of the Charlotte Company of the State Guards.



photo: Charlotte Observer

Scout Executive Charles Safley & Sioux Chief Red Fox were 1942 camp leaders.

Because of gasoline rationing in 1943, Scout Executive Hackney, who was also camp director, asked the Boy Scouts to get to camp any way they could. He suggested bikes, hiking, get their father to bring them or to take the York,

S.C., bus. The cost for camp was \$7. Bill Faulk remembers the Boy Scouts from Weddington hiking up Providence Road to about where I-485 intersects it today. They met a man with a bus who transported military troops. He was able to get gas and charged them \$2 each to take them to camp. A boathouse was approved at the July 1943 Executive Board meeting and purchased for \$150.

J. Fred Vantrease, Scout Executive (1945-1958)

J. Fred Vantrease was born on October 20, 1893, in Friendship, Arkansas, the son of a Methodist minister. He graduated from Henderson-Brown College in Arkadelphia with a degree in business administration and worked as an accountant and a bookkeeper for ten years. In 1925, he went to Peabody College to study to be a professional Scouter.

He started his professional career in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1926. Vantrease then worked in fourteen parishes around Shreveport, Louisiana, as a Field Scout Executive. In 1944, he went to Suwannee River Council in Tallahassee, Florida.

In March 1945, he arrived in Charlotte.

During his 13 years as Scout executive, the council grew immensely and most of the buildings at Camp Steere were constructed.

After his retirement, he spent a number of years as the director of the summer camp for Bonclarken, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Retreat near Hendersonville.

His personal philosophy about boys was expressed to a *Charlotte Observer* reporter on April 8, 1956: "You can get out of them just what you put into them and what you expect to get out of them."

Talking about the important work of the Scouting movement with young people, Vantrease once observed: "If you don't catch them as they go by and do your part in molding good citizens, then it's too late. Once they're past, they're gone. That's the staggering realization of it all."

He was a member of First Methodist Church. He was married to Audrey, and they had a son, John M. Vantrease, who also became a professional Scouter.

He died on October 17, 1972.



*J. Fred Vantrease
Scout Executive
1945 - 1958*

Camp Oak/Vantrease

Seventy-six acres were purchased from the Lowe estate in 1945 to provide for a camp for the black Scouts. The facility was named Camp Oak. The council invested \$7,000 for the purchase of tents and to build a dining hall and a dam for a lake. Over a hundred Boy Scouts attended the camp in 1946 for \$9 a week.

The 1958 Council Five Year Plan noted that the camp served 60 Boy Scouts each week. The neighborhood on Walkers Ferry Road was about nine miles from downtown Charlotte. The buildings at that time consisted of a dining hall, administration building, two cabins and an unfinished ranger's lodge. The lake had a drainage problem and needed to be repaired or replaced by a swimming pool.

From 1967 until it was sold in 1975, it was known as Camp Vantrease and used for camporees, training and week-end overnight camping. There are many black and white Scouters who have fond memories of the camp. The funds from the sale were applied to the purchase of the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation.

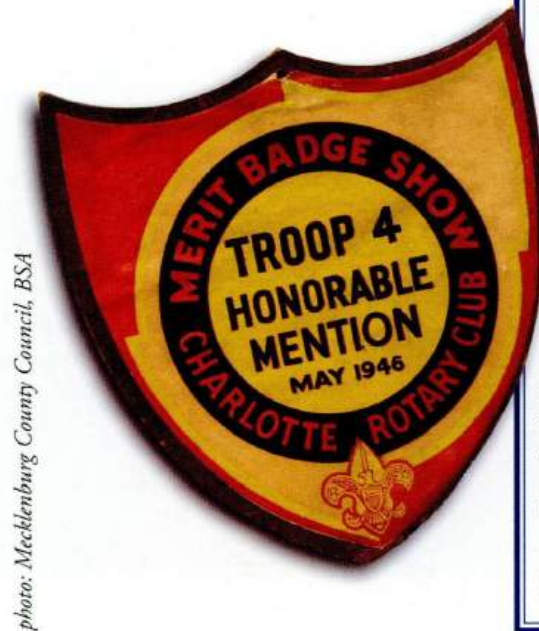


photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Scout Show & Scout Circus

The inaugural Boy Scout Circus opened at 8 p.m. on March 10, 1939, in the Armory Auditorium and was sponsored by the Charlotte Young Civic Association.

"The Purpose of the circus is to portray to our citizens the objectives and activities of the Boy Scout program; to awaken parents of Boy Scouts to fuller recognition of the educational significance of Scouting; to reveal to Churches and Schools the values of the Boy Scout program in their Institutions; and most of all, (to) thrill for every boy in this show," the program read.

Similar to a real circus, the Scout Circus had three rings with each ring showing some Scoutcraft skill or activity. Thus, you might have seen firebuilding in the first ring, a first aid demonstration in another ring and building a tower in the third ring.

The opening would be a couple of hundred Boy Scouts marching into the arena carrying their troop and U. S. flags. Many Scouters still remember the opening ceremonies as the highlight of the Circus.

The 1941 Scout Circus started with a Boy Scout only parade. Tickets were sold for 25 cents for an adult and 10 cents for children. A commission would go to each unit who sold tickets. The June board minutes indicated that the council had made \$110 which was directed towards improvements at Camp Steere.

The 1942 Circus was held on May 20th in conjunction with Bundle Day. The Boy Scouts brought all kinds of donated clothing that were given to the Salvation Army and Goodwill. There also was a parade downtown, celebrating the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. That parade included not only the Boy Scouts and military units, but also 7,000 civil defense workers.

The fifth Circus was held on May 20, 1943, at Memorial Stadium. It highlighted Boy Scouts and the vari-

ous war efforts in which they were active — waste paper drives, aluminum collections, emergency services and more.

In 1946, the Charlotte Rotary Club sponsored the first Rotary-Scout Show at the armory. More than 45 troops participated, aided by a Rotary member advisor. Rotarians also built the stage and did the electrical wiring.

The Rotary-Scout Show idea was the concept of Scout Executive Fred Vantrease and then Rotary President John R. Pender. Rotarian Everett Bierman served as the chairman. The show ran for three days with over 15,000 people viewing the various exhibits for free.

The Sea Scouts showed the various gear they used. An electrically controlled harbor was demonstrated and attracted a large crowd. One troop showed proper dental care, while another would take your fingerprints. Attracting a large crowd of city residents was the calf in the booth of Troop 92 (*below*). Charlie Hunter, the Troop 92 Scoutmaster, would later own Hunter Dairies and be council president.

There was also a Grandstand Show under the direction of Master of Ceremonies P. L. Herrington, who introduced the various Scout stars. Reggie Price led the Cub Scouting demonstrations, Harry McAllister directed the Boy Scout exhibits and F. O. Roberts directed the Sea Scout demonstrations. The closing night campfire was led by John Belk.

The Rotary-Scout Show continued to be held in Charlotte for more than 50 years.



At the first Rotary-Scout Show in 1946, Scoutmaster S. B. Morton (left) showed his Huskies to Scouts (l. to r.) Billy Patrick, Franklin Renfrow and Billy Weddington.

Below, opening ceremonies of a Scout Circus drew tens of thousands to see the Scouts and their activities.



photos: immediate left, Mecklenburg County Council, BSA; others, Charlotte Observer



*Joe L. Blythe
Council President
1945 - 1946*



*Harry L. Allister
Council President
1946 - 1952*

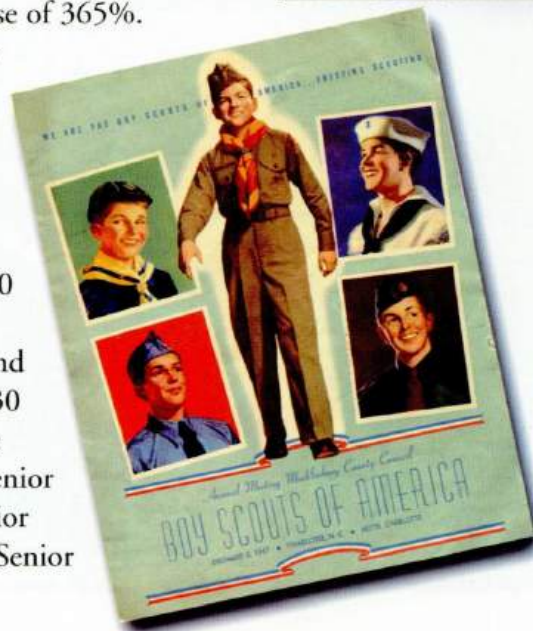
Post-War Boom

The first post-war president was Joe L. Blythe (December 1945 through December 1946). Blythe also served as a state senator during the 1940s. Harry L. McAllister served as president for the remainder of the decade (December 1946 through December 1952). McAllister also had served several terms as the council's Scout commissioner, the highest uniformed volunteer post.

The 1949 Report of the Council President showed the tremendous growth of the council since the Mecklenburg County Council was created in 1940.

Over the decade, Boy Scouting had grown nearly 220%. There also were entirely new programs for both Cub Scouting and Senior Scouting. In total, Scouting in Mecklenburg County had grown from serving 781 youngsters in 1940, to serving more than 2,850 young people — an increase of 365%.

The council now had 26 white Cub Scout Packs with 826 Cub Scouts and 12 black Packs with 168 Cub Scouts along with 60 white troops with 1,240 Boy Scouts and 462 Boy Scouts in 30 black troops. There were also 7 white Senior Units with 114 Senior Scouts and 4 black Senior



At Camp Oak (circa 1957) are Scout leaders (left to right): the Rev. James Bradford Humphrey of First Baptist West Church (Troop & Pack 62), Scout Executive Fred Vantrease, Bruster Hearn of Moores Chapel AME Zion Church (Troop 117), and Ernest Duren of Little Rock AME Zion Church (Troop 71).

photos & all portraits: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Units with 48 Senior Scouts. There had been 10 Eagles earned in the year along with 1246 merit badges. Hundreds of Boy Scouts also earned the various other ranks. Cub Scout advancement kept pace with the Boy Scouts with hundreds of rank advancements. About 30,000 hours of public service had been performed in 1949 by the Boy Scouts for various agencies including the Red Cross, DAV, War Dads, and Community Chest, as well as numerous service projects for Scout sponsoring institutions.

Chapter Eight

"Serve Your God, Your Country and Humanity"

As the Boy Scouts of America prepared to celebrate its 40th anniversary, the national mood was both apprehensive and hopeful.

The Soviets had exploded a nuclear weapon four months earlier; some politicians were warning that Communists had infiltrated government and other institutions; post-war inflation threatened the economy; and race relations were changing.

But it also would be a decade of tremendous progress — both economically and socially.

This was the start of a golden era for Boy Scouting. Its national membership would expand dramatically throughout the 1950s and 1960s.

By the start of 1950, there were 3,890 Scouts in the Mecklenburg County Council. Of that total, minority Scouts accounted for nearly one-fifth — 168 Cub Scouts in 12 Packs, 462 Boy Scouts in 30 troops and 48 Senior Scouts in 4 Senior Units, according to a report by Council President Harry McAllister.

On February 9, 1950, in Wheeling, West Virginia, a little-known U. S. Senator, Joseph McCarthy, generated national headlines by claiming he had a list of 205 Communists working in the U. S. State Department.

Charlotte News
August 13, 1952



It was the start of "McCarthyism." The sensational hunt for Communists would expand beyond civil government to the military and even to non-profit organizations before dying out in 1954. The "Red Scare" caused paranoia that even extended to concerns that the Boy Scouts were the



photo: U. S. Senate Historical Office

target of a Communist plan to infiltrate the organization, particularly in the Mid-West area (see below left).

But in general, life seemed normal around the country.

That same day, February 9, 1950, the Mecklenburg County Council kicked off the 1950 Rotary Scout Show held at the armory.

The Scout Show included a re-dedication ceremony on Scouting's 40th Anniversary, stage shows, band concerts and a Court of Honor, planned for closing night on Saturday, February 11.

The Sea Scouts in Ship 3 made a boat under the guidance of their Skipper O. O. Humphries. Troop 93 of Newell had an exhibit called "Dem Bones," which was a zoology exhibit. Troop 95 had an Indian display. Troop 20 had a first aid booth and Troop 99 had a chemistry booth highlighted with smoking, oddly-shaped bottles.

It was the calm before the storm.

U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy generated headlines about the "Red Scare" before his tactics were censured by fellow Senators.

On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, threatening to touch off another world war.

That day, Boy Scouts around the country began boarding trains for their trip to the Second National Jamboree held at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

On June 30, 1950, over 47,000 Boy Scouts kicked off the jamboree at the Valley Forge State Park, near Philadelphia. That day, the U.S. Post Office issue its first Boy Scout stamp commemorating the 40th anniversary of Scouting in America.



The highlight of the jamboree was the visit by President Harry S. Truman (*left*). "Scouting is based on the ideal of human brotherhood," the President told the Scouts. "We must show them, over and over again, that fellowship is possible between men of different nations, different colors and different creeds."

Jamboree Camp Director Dr. Arthur Schuck told the Scouters: "Go home with a new vision — with new dedication — with a new consecration to serve you God, your community and humanity."

Troop 30 from Charlotte was under the leadership of Scoutmaster W. J. L. McNeary, the council Scout commissioner. Charlotte Troop 29 was under the leadership of Scoutmaster Harry McAllister, the council president. A total of 70 Boy Scouts from Charlotte attended, including three black Boy Scouts who were part of a troop made up of black Boy Scouts from Winston-Salem, Charlotte and Greensboro. George Scranton, who attended as an assistant scoutmaster, paid \$14.50 for his uniform at Efird's Department Store in Charlotte. Beginning at this jamboree, patch trading became the number one pastime. Along the roads of the jamboree, Boy Scouts would be seen with their patches laid out on blankets and ready for trading.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



An aerial view of Valley Forge State Park shows some of the 47,000 Boy Scout camps for the second U.S. Jamboree in 1950.

At left, is a neckerchief from the Jamboree.

At bottom left is the official patch from the 1950 National Jamboree, courtesy of Richard Shield.

At lower right is a U. S. stamp commemorating the creation of Boy Scouts.

photos: ResolutionArchives & Mecklenburg County Council

By the time the Jamboree had kicked off its celebration, South Korea's capital, Seoul, had fallen to the North Koreans. On the peninsula, the battles were desperate.

By the time the Boy Scouts got home from the Jamboree, America has been asked to assume command of the United Nation's forces, primarily American, that were streaming to Korea.

Civil Defense & Explorers

In 1951, the Boy Scout national theme involved civil defense due to the Korean Conflict and the Cold War. Various programs were developed for use by packs, troops, and posts. There were even some publications issued for families describing what they needed to do for protection against an attack or a natural disaster.

Over 550 Mecklenburg County Boy Scouts and Scouters attended an Emergency Preparedness Camporee.

Under the command of Low Walker, Scoutmaster of Troop 3, a council Emergency Service Corps was organized in early 1951. The members came from the 16 Explorer Posts in the county. Four trailers were built to handle all the equipment

that would be needed in an emergency — axes, shovels, kerosene, lanterns, emergency kitchen equipment, medical supplies, etc. The Explorers also had an old Army surplus jeep that had a new cab and bed with a coat of red paint. Radios and other supplies were donated by various businesses and organizations in the county. In case of an emergency, younger Boy Scouts, who were not members of the emergency service corps, handled messages and registration of refugees, as well as distributed clothing, food and notices.

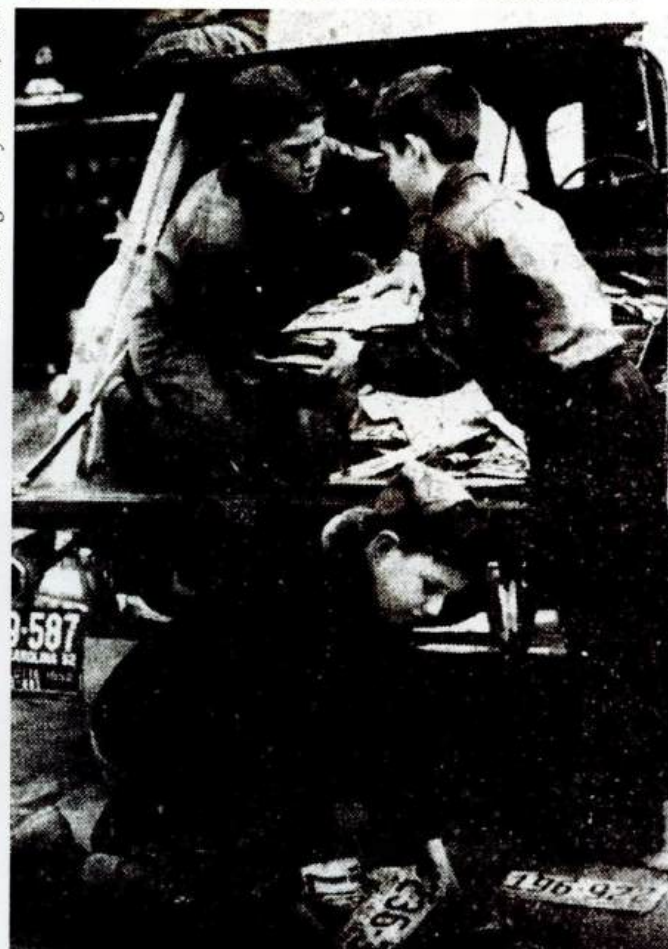
Civil defense would be a major theme throughout the 1950s. For example, in September 1958, the council delivered 66,000 Emergency Defense Booklets.

In May 1951, the council hired Gene Grimes a former

photos: Charlotte News &
Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

All phases of Scouting in the 1950s were represented in this picture (left to right): Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, Cub Scouts, Explorers and Air Scouts.

Right, Collecting out-of-date auto license plates are (left to right) David Welton, David B. Smith, Jr. (kneeling) and George E. Archer.



Charlotte Boy Scout to work with the Explorer Program in the council. Grimes would become the longest serving Scout professional for the Mecklenburg County Council. He served for more than 23 years, until his death in 1974.

But there was much more to the Explorer activities than civil defense. On August 25, 1951, the 16th Annual Pisgah Expedition for Explorer Scouts left Charlotte. Base camp would be set up on the Davidson River near Brevard. There was also a special week at the end of the regular camp season at Camp Steere especially for Explorers. Called the Explorer Experience, the week included overnight camping and an overnight canoe trip.

The Explorers set up first aid stations for the Carrousel parade in 1951.

As 1952 began, the Korean Conflict continued without an end in sight. H. P. Kirk, field secretary of the Carolina Motor Club in Charlotte, had an idea. Why not collect outdated 1951 auto license tags from service stations for scrap metal that could be used in the war effort. Kirk talked with Scout Executive Vantrease and a new Scouting good turn was underway.

The Scouts collected more than 3,000 license plates, about 1,500 pounds of tin-light iron. The idea then spread across the state. Officials from the American Motorists Association and the Boy Scouts of America expressed interest in the idea for a possible national project.

The quiet of Saturday night May 2, 1952, was shattered by three explosions in Dilworth. Residents were rocked about 9:30 p.m. and flooded the fire department with phone calls. There were the eerie sounds of sirens howling where the explosions had occurred. After the smoke cleared, the source turned out to be a mock disaster at the Scout-O-Rama. The sirens were to add realism.

During the 1952, 1956 and 1960 U. S. presidential election years, the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts distributed door hangers and posters (*upper right*) through their neighborhoods. The first batch of materials were distributed in the

Spring urging people to register to vote. Just prior to election day, the Scouts distributed more door hangers reminding people to vote. The 1952 effort was sponsored by the Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge.

Silver colored cardboard coins were presented to those Boy Scouts who participated in 1952. One Cub Scout den had a band that beat on cans and a drum while they marched around their neighborhood. Those not playing put the door hangers at each door.

When Dwight D. Eisenhower ("Ike") (*lower right*) won the presidency in the November elections, he received the request to become Honorary National President of the Boy Scouts of America.

Ike publicly told the Scouts that "I accept in all humility the honor which you proffer me, in full confidence that I can support the aims and principles of the Boy Scouts without reservations."

Creator of the containment theory for Soviet and Chinese Communism, State Department Diplomat George Kennan once acidly observed that President Eisenhower was "the nation's number one Boy Scout." Of course, he was.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



At the end of 1952, George W. Dowdy was elected council president, succeeding Harry McAllister, who had served since 1946 and had the longest tenure of any president.

1953 was a year of hope. Globally, the Korean Conflict showed signs of ending. Nationally, progress reportedly was being made against the scourge of polio. In Scouting, it was a national jamboree year and a full year of activities for the Mecklenburg County Council.

The 1953 jamboree was held at Irvine Ranch in California with an attendance of 45,501 Scouts. Thirty-five Boy Scouts from the council attended. F. J. Christensen

served as Scoutmaster along with two assistants. Council Scout Executive Fred Vantrease served on the national staff.

A basketball game was organized in 1953 featuring a local team and the Carolina Clowns. The proceeds went to the camp fund.

The Radio Center was the site for the 1953 Blue and Gold dinner for Cub Scouts and their parents. Over 2,500 attended the event where skits were presented and a number of Webelos Badges were presented.

Scout activities also included numerous good turns, e.g. helping to fund a medical research war waged against polio.

*Charlotte Scouts
attended the 1953
National Jamboree in
Irvine, California.*



photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Polio was a tragic virus, paralyzing and killing thousands of young people each year.

The Scouts and other groups conducted fundraising efforts to help support medical research into a cure.

Year of Change (1954)

Widespread polio immunization tests were begun on February 25, 1954, by Dr. Jonas A. Salk. Within a year, the nation had an effective polio vaccine, ending decades of fear and helplessness.

On May 17, 1954, the U. S. Supreme Court struck down laws segregating public schools. Within a decade, Jim Crow laws and segregation barriers would fall one by one.

McCarthyism would be exposed at the U. S. Army hearings during the Spring, and McCarthy condemned by the U. S. Senate by December 1954.

The phrase, "Under God," was added to the Pledge of Allegiance on June 14, when President Eisenhower signed a Congressional resolution.

In Mecklenburg County, the Scouting movement also was undergoing change.

The first annual swim meet was held and won by Troop 98 of Chalmers Presbyterian Church. Troop 9 of St. Patrick's Catholic Church placed second, and third was Troop 6 of Mulberry Presbyterian Church.

The first council Eagle Scout Banquet was held at the Barringer Hotel on February 11, 1954. The program listed thirty-eight Eagles, including one adult receiving the award. (Until 1965, adults could also earn the various Boy Scout awards.) The first banquet committee was made up of Chairman Grant Whitney and members Arthur Jones, Zack Thomas, Chester Wilson, Reggie Price and Hoyt Galvin.

The 1954 Anniversary Week plans included a special program on WBTV, cooking and camping demonstrations on the grounds of First Presbyterian Church, and Boy Scout Sunday services with a special convocation at Piedmont Junior High School with a special court of honor. Some civic

United Way & Finances

During its history, United Way has been known as Community Chest, the Red Feather Campaign and the United Appeal, among other appellations.

At the February 5, 1941, Executive Board meeting, the Mecklenburg County Council discussed whether to join the new Community Chest. The council believed that it could do a better fundraising job on its own and continued to conduct annual campaigns.

This decision was re-affirmed in 1952 when pressure to join the United Appeal was applied. The June Council Executive Board unanimously voted to go forward with its own campaign after a thorough discussion of the invitation to join the united community fund drive.

In early August of the same year, representatives of United Community Services pleaded with the council's Executive Board to join.

On August 19, the Scouts yielded to entreaties by the community fund to join the 1953 fund drive.

Newspapers noted that now only the American Heart Association, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross had not decided to join, although all three were considering it.

The 1953 United Appeal Goal was \$819,721 of which the council allocation was \$43,980.

The Mecklenburg County Council would be fully funded through the United Way until the mid-1980s, when the council began receiving only partial funding for its operations.

With strong community support for its fundraising efforts, the council's budget grew during the 1980s and 1990s.

Today, United Way funding accounts for less than 27% of the Mecklenburg County Council budget.



*George W. Dowdy
Council President
1952 - 1954*

clubs also had special Boy Scout related programs.

Annual fall and spring council camporees were held during the 1950s. Many of them were at Camp Steere. Nine hundred boys in 117 Boy Scout patrols and five crews of Sea Scouts were present at the 1954 Spring camporee. The theme was conservation. On Saturday morning there was judging of projects and a court of honor was held that night.

Scouts and leaders are shown at Camp Oak (below and upper far right). Some of the Camp Oak staff is shown opposite at lower right, as well as a Scout Show from the late 1950s (lower far right).

Minority Scouting

For decades, the local council had supported Scouting activities for minorities. But facilities weren't always equal.

In 1951 and 1952, the minority division held its own Merit Badge and Hobby Shows sponsored by the Klandovian Club. Second Ward High School was the location of the 1951 show. The March 1954 show was again sponsored by

the Klandovians. Bands from West Charlotte High School and Biddleville High School played and a dramatic skit was staged by Clear Creek School.

In January 1952, minority leaders of Section 2, Region 6, held a conference at Johnson C. Smith University. Seventy-five Scouters attended from the councils in North and South Carolina. Roy Liles, deputy regional executive, and Weaver Marr from the BSA Interracial Division spoke at the conference.

Camp Oak opened for three weeks in 1951 with new sanitation equipment and a new drinking water system. The Executive Board minutes of February 20, 1952, reported that a civic club was to help develop Camp Oak.

A camporee was held at Camp Oak on the weekend of April 18 - 19, 1952.

A Philmont contingent of black Boy Scouts was organized in 1953 under the leadership of B. T. Warren and Henry Dunn.

An embarrassing article appeared in the April 25, 1954 *Charlotte Observer*. It showed vandalism of the Camp Oak buildings and two submerged rowboats. Two weeks before the article appeared, vandals had broken showerheads and done other damage to the staff house and camp buildings. A requested \$35,000 allocation from United Community Services was designated for Camp Oak improvements.

There were two cabins under construction by Troop 67 of Ebenezer Baptist Church and Troop 71 of Little Rock AME Zion Church. They hoped to have them completed in time for summer camp. There were 315 Boy Scouts and 100 Cub Scouts in the minority division.

The profits from the 1955 Scout Exposition went to build a new dining hall for Camp Oak. In addition, a local Rotary Club had donated \$2,500 towards the new facility.

The March 21, 1956, *Charlotte Observer* pictured J. H. Gaither, Thomas Chiles, James Singleton, William H. Spivey, William Flack, B. T. Warren and M. L. Green working on the new dining hall at Camp Oak.



The Littlejohn Fund donated \$1,400 to Camp Oak for the building of two or three Adirondack cabins. The fund was established by Charlotte Police Chief Frank Littlejohn, who was active in Scouting.

In 1951, William Stoddard replaced S. P. Woodard who had replaced E. M. Luckey as the minority division professional. Stoddard was a native of Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated from Morehouse College.

Charlotte native James Norwood replaced Stoddard in 1952.

Booker T. Warren became the minority division professional in March 1954.

A new administration building was dedicated in September 1958 at Camp Oak.

In 1959, a contingent from the division was sent to Philmont Scout Reservation.

But while black and white Scouts participated in parades and other activities, such as the Scout Show, segregation of troops and packs continued into the early 1960s.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA





*George W. Thomason
Scout Executive
1958 - 1959*



*Dennis E. Myers
Council President
1954 - 1955*

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

George Thomason, Scout Executive (1958-1959)

The newspapers reported that George Walton Thomason was glad to be back working in the field and not from behind a desk. Considered one of the leaders in the southeast, Thomason arrived in Charlotte on September 1, 1958. He had a month-long orientation before becoming the Scout executive for the Mecklenburg County Council on October 1.

Born on August 2, 1915, in Toccoa, Georgia, Thomason was an Eagle Scout with extensive experience with the Boy Scouts. After graduating in 1937 from Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia, he attended the BSA National Training School and accepted a position in the East Carolina Council at Wilson, North Carolina.

When Central North Carolina Council split in 1941, the six counties outside Mecklenburg hired him to be their Scout executive. He had to organize the council as it had only a few members with council experience. In 1944, he left for a Scouting position in Greensboro.

In 1948, he left Scouting to be the operator/owner of radio station WHAP in Hopewell, Virginia. After two years, he sold the station and operated a dry cleaning business in Greensboro.

In 1953, he was appointed as deputy regional executive for BSA Region 6. He made the first public relations survey for the Boy Scouts of America at the council and district level. The Mecklenburg County Council took the lead in many of those projects. Due to the success of the survey, he was elevated to assistant regional executive and director of events and activities for Region 6.

He then became executive of the local council. After serving in Charlotte for less than a year, he was hired in May 1959 as the assistant director of public relations for the Boy Scouts of America's national office.

He retired to North Carolina. Thomason passed away on July 22, 1992.

While Scouting was grappling with providing programs to minority youngsters, the local council decided on September 22, 1954, to expand services by forming the first handicapped or disabled Boy Scout Troop, sponsored by the Jaycees.

Dennis E. Myers became the council president in December 1954.

In April 1955, Air Squadron 55 took a Southern Airways courtesy flight in April from Charlotte to Gastonia. Nineteen Air Explorers and leaders went. The top three Explorers were to receive free flying lessons.

A. W. "Jimmy" Greene was named council president in December 1955, followed by W. E. Phillips in 1957. Phillips served out the rest of the decade as council president.

The fourth National Jamboree was held once again at Valley Forge State Park with 50,100 Scouts attending.



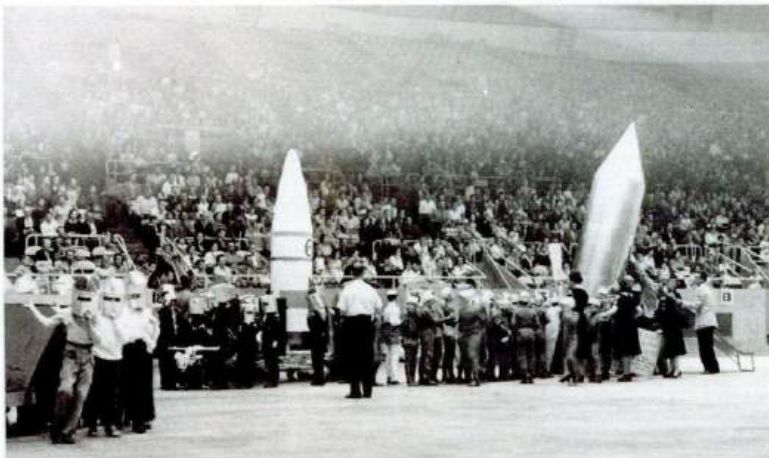
photo: Charlotte Observer

Explorer Scout Air Squadron 55 flew on a DC-3 courtesy flight by Southern Airways to Gastonia. Shown are Air Scouts Claude Plumlee, Larry Hays, Sammy Williams, Ken Rushin, Pat Hunter, Ronnie Hunter, Johnny Roberts, Dan Walker, Bill Knauff, Mac Mauldin, Tom Moore, Lee Kerlin. In addition there were Boy Scout Jimmy Trotter, Cub Scout Scotty Trotter, Squadron advisers Al Stone and Buck Boyette, and County Police Chief Stanhope Lineberry, who also was the chairman of the council activities committee.

Space, The Final Frontier

America was shocked. On October 4, 1957, Russia launched the Sputnik satellite. Within three months, America had launched its first satellite, Explorer I. The space race began in earnest.

Space became a big theme at the 1958 Scout Show. Pack 46 of Dilworth Methodist Church built a 35 foot long by 5-foot rocket that they carried into the show. It took them two months to build it. There were lots of rockets at the show. Scouts wore futuristic (for the time) space helmets.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

The Fifties Come To A Close

When the Boy Scouts started in 1910, there were 46 states in the nation. By the end of 1959, there were 50 stars on the American flag, reflecting the two newest states, Alaska and Hawaii.

The country had grown and so had Scouting. In Mecklenburg County, Scouting had increased from 3,890 Cubs, Boy Scouts and Explorers in 1950 to 6,440 such Scouts in 1960 — a 66 per cent increase over the decade.

New facilities and programs had been launched for minority and disabled Scouts. Much had changed.

When Fred Vantrease retired in 1958, the council had shown remarkable growth in membership and the total number of units during his tenure. Vantrease told the Executive Board in his final remarks that three things needed to happen for future growth —

- ★ an adequate and accessible Scout Service Center;
- ★ an increase in the clerical and professional staff to lighten the work load to normal levels;
- ★ a marked increase in the number of volunteers on the district and council operating committees.



W. E. Phillips
Council President
1957 - 1960

Wood Badge

The Wood Badge is considered the premier training course designed by Baden-Powell to allow Scout leaders to learn the skills and methods of Scouting.

Before 1948, a number of Americans traveled to Gilwell Park to take the British Scoutmaster version of Wood Badge. Most of these were national staff employees.

In July 1936, two pilot Wood Badge Courses were held at Schiff Scout Reservation in Mendham, New Jersey. The Scout leaders decided that the Wood Badge course was too British and needed to be changed. Before anything was revised, World War II interrupted the Scout training program.

In 1948, 29 American Scouters arrived at Schiff Scout Reservation to take part in U. S. Wood Badge Course #1. This course was written by Americans and for Americans with the blessings of the Gilwell Park Wood Badgers.

Among the first class was Reggie Price, then council vice president of Charlotte.

From this course evolved the symbols of the kudu horn, the patrol names using American animals and birds, patrol flags designed by the participants, the patrol totems and the Wood Badge feast among others.

From 1948 till the early 1970s, Wood Badge was held on the national level at Schiff and Philmont and on the regional level at council camps. A number of Mecklenburg County Council Scouters traveled to these courses.

Catawba Lodge 459 — The People of the River

In 1948, the National Council of the BSA approved the Order of the Arrow (OA) as a part of the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Since 1915, the OA had been an honor camping society in many councils throughout the country. In other councils, groups, such as the Pawnees, had served the same purpose to honor those Boy Scouts who gave service to their fellow Boy Scouts and exemplified the meaning of the Scout Oath and Law.

The members of the OA are elected by their fellow Boy Scouts. They had an ordeal of 24 hours, during which they did not talk and had little to eat. This was to show they could endure a hardship, reflect on life, and work on projects around the local Boy Scout camp.

Tradition in Catawba Lodge says that Fred Vantrease, John Holland and Gene Grimes were instrumental in getting the OA started in Mecklenburg County Council. All three were active in other lodges before coming to Charlotte.

The local lodge was chartered with the National Order of the Arrow as Catawba Lodge 459 on June 18, 1951, with a hornet's nest as its totem and the meaning of the name being "People of the River." The lodge was named after one of the local Indian tribes in the area, which had probably fished and hunted around Camp Steere.

The first Ordeal Ceremony was held in summer 1951. The Itibapishe Iti Hollo Lodge 188 from Central North Carolina Council conducted the ceremony and ordeal. In 1952, Bill Dean was elected the first Lodge Chief. W. Frank Phillips of Catawba Lodge served as Area 6B (known as the Dixie Conclave) Lead Advisor in 1954.

There are three honors in the OA. The first is the

Ordeal Ceremony followed by the Brotherhood Ceremony for those who stay active in the lodge and in their troop. After a period of time, an Ordeal Member can ask to receive the Brotherhood ordeal. The Brotherhood ceremony gives him more insight into the meaning of cheerful service.

If a member of the lodge is active in lodge functions and the member's troop, a special committee of Vigil members may agree that the member exemplifies the meaning of the Order of the Arrow and select the member to receive the Vigil Honor. Upon completion of the ceremony and ordeal, the new Vigil member is given an Indian name with special meaning for the individual. For some it relates to personality, for others to occupation or some service rendered.

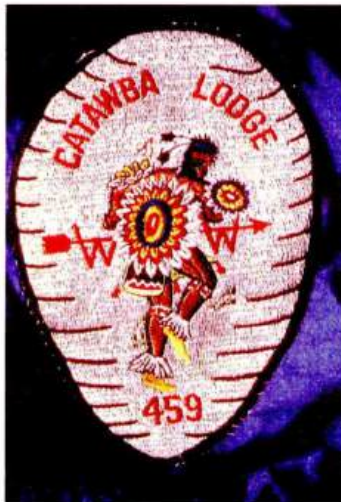
On April 7-9, 1953, Catawba Lodge hosted its first area conclave. John Molter of Charlotte was elected as Assistant Area Chief. There were 153 attendees from regional lodges. The Dixie Conclave is one of the more active conclaves in the country. By the 1980s, over 1,000 OA members would attend an annual meeting.

At the 1954 Dixie Conclave, Fred Vantrease, Gene Grimes and John Holland received their Vigil Honors and Fred Vantrease ended his term as Area Advisor.

Competitions are held among the lodges through Indian dance teams and Indian games. The Golden Arrow Award is given to the lodge that wins at these meetings or conclaves. These events have become a time to show off the host council camp.

In 2004, the Dixie Conclave is made up of four lodges from North Carolina, two from Georgia and five from South Carolina.

During the late 1960s, the OA changed its rules so anyone over the age of twenty-one could no longer vote in lodge elections or at lodge meetings.



Chapter Nine

“Catching Vision From A Mountaintop”

Considered a golden era in Scouting, membership and program activity in the 1960s were at then historic highs. The decade was crowned in 1967 with a World Jamboree in Idaho.

But a changing American society began to slow the Scouting movement during the late 1960s. The country's cultural divisions temporarily would halt the growth of Scouting by the early 1970s.

The Sixties were a kaleidoscope — the allure of Kennedy's Camelot; assassinations of political and social leaders; civil rights; folk music and acid rock; traditional values versus no rules; man landing on the moon; nations clashing over the Cuban missile crisis and Vietnam.

America was a republic of many minds going in many directions.

Scouting's direction was summed up by Dr. Gunnar Berg, a nationally known Scouter. Speaking at the council's annual meeting in 1965, Berg said; “Scouting is a boy catching vision from a mountaintop — because of what a man did for him. Boys need visions from mountaintops.”

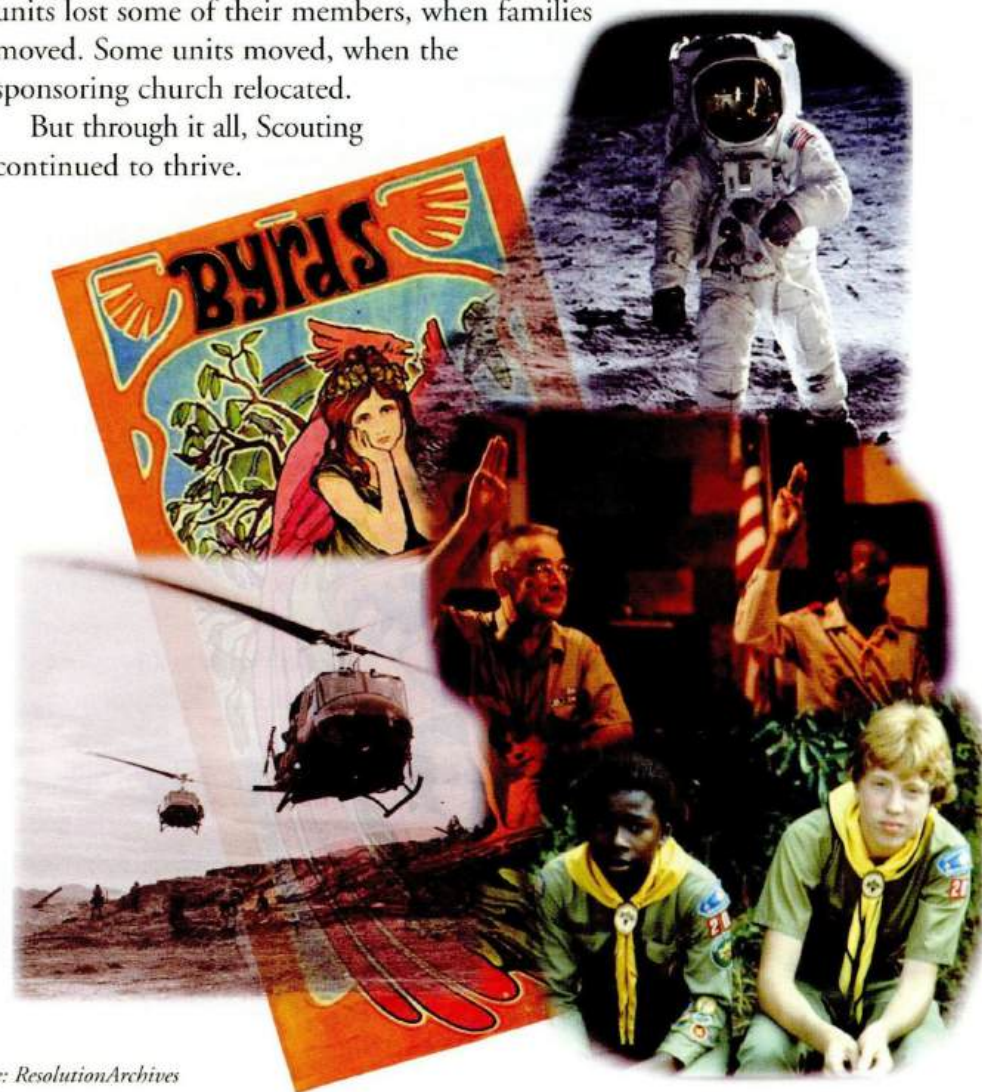
The population growth in Charlotte was reflected in the Mecklenburg County Council membership. Over the decade, local Scouting grew by 29 per cent, forcing the council to make changes to accommodate the growth, while still providing a quality program.

During this decade, the Scouting rules also changed. To earn the Eagle or other ranks, merit badges, and awards, a Scout had to be 18 years or younger. Any member older than 21 in the Order of the Arrow (OA) could not vote in OA elections.

The Executive Board minutes during this period and into the 1970s occasionally record school disruptions.

Sometimes, school nights for recruiting new members and other Boy Scout activities were cancelled or postponed due to problems in the schools. Some neighborhoods and communities had substantial change. Existing Scout units lost some of their members, when families moved. Some units moved, when the sponsoring church relocated.

But through it all, Scouting continued to thrive.



collage: ResolutionArchives



Thomas R. Warren, Jr.
Scout Executive
1959 - 1973

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Tom Warren, Scout Executive (1959 - 1973)

Thomas R. Warren, Jr. was born on November 4, 1914 in Durham, N. C. He earned the Eagle Scout Award in Greensboro and was a member of the Sea Scouts. In 1938, he was Skipper of a Sea Scout Ship in Durham and served on the Durham District Committee from 1941 - 1944.

He graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1936. Warren became the assistant bookkeeper of the Durham Gas Company, and then a manager-trainee for Sears Roebuck and Co.

In 1937, he went to work for Durham Realty and Insurance Company until 1939, when he went to work for Woodall's Sporting Goods Company of Durham. From 1941 to 1944, he worked for Vanstraten Clothiers of Durham.

Warren started as a Scouting professional in Charleston, S.C., in April 1944. He moved to Atlanta in July 1947 as assistant Scout executive.

In December 1948, he moved to Greensboro as Scout executive. In May 1959, he became the Scout executive for the Mecklenburg County Council.

He was married to the former Carolyn Strayhorn of Durham and they had one son Lewis. They were members of the Methodist Church.

At the January 1974 annual dinner, it was announced that Warren was going to be the Camp Development Director to coordinate the building of the new Scout camping reservation and would be succeeded by Doug Cofield as Scout executive. Warren had helped develop a Scout camp at Greensboro in 1954, when he was on staff there.

He retired from the Scouts on September 1, 1976, after Camp Grimes opened that summer. He then served as Secretary of the Charlotte Rotary Club (Downtown).

He died on March 23, 1999.

One of the top grossing movies in 1959 was Ben-Hur. A remake by Cecil B. DeMille of his 1924 silent movie, Ben Hur captured the imagination with its climatic chariot race.

Scouts also were entranced by the chariot race. For the 1960 Scout Circus, each troop built and raced their chariot. The Boy Scouts of the 1960s still talk about the chariot race as being the highlight of the Scout Circus.

1960 also was the 50th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. Grand events were planned on both the local and national levels.

On July 24, 1960, Revolution Park was the site of a council jamboree celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The 113th Artillery and the 105th Engineering Battalion of the National Guard staged a mock battle for the Boy Scouts. The Charlotte Fire Department put out a controlled fire.

At the same time, the 1960 National Jamboree was being held at the brand new United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Scoutmaster Low Walker and his assistants, James Therrell and Don Mills, took 40 Boy Scouts and headed west. They toured a number of scenic and historical sites on the way. According to the *Charlotte Observer* on August 4, the biggest excitement coming home was the toad races. Using a hotel hallway in Dallas, the Boy Scouts raced nine horned toads

down the hallway. The fastest toad was given as a gift to Low Walker's son Lolo, who did not get to go on the trip.

In December 1960, John M. Belk, president of Belk Stores, became the president of the council.

In 1961, Troop 48 of St. James United Methodist Church from the



Thomasboro community put out a forest fire near Camp Steere in July. The fire burned about a half acre. The Scouts were able to put it out using a bucket brigade and tree branches.

The Uwharrie National Forest near Troy, North Carolina, became the location for Operation Paul Bunyon for one weekend in April 1961. One hundred and twenty-five Explorers and twenty leaders learned hunting, camp games, native rocks and minerals, Indian artifacts and wildlife photography. The Wildlife Commission and the US Forest Service conducted the program.

Sponsored by the Douglas Aircraft Management Group, Explorer Post 10 built a 24- by 36-foot paddlewheel riverboat for use on the Catawba River. The cost was to be between \$3,000 and \$4,000. It was powered by a Chrysler Marine Engine and weighed 35,000 lbs. The plan was to use it for swimming, dancing, and



photos: Belk family



John Belk received his Eagle Award in 1948. Shown left to right are: Reginald Price, council vice president; John Belk; and his parents Mary Irwin Belk and William Henry Belk.

John M. Belk, National & Local Scout Leader

John Belk's Eagle Scout Award was presented to him at the 25th Anniversary Banquet for Troop 11 in May 1948.

An article in the 1953 Scout Scrapbook notes that Belk had earned the Weather Merit Badge. This would not be very newsworthy, except that Belk was serving as a First Lieutenant in Korea at the time. He had mailed the paperwork for the merit badge to the council office detailing atmospheric conditions and day-to-day weather in Korea. While there, he also organized some Boy Scout troops.

After his service with the U.S. Army, Belk became advisor to Explorer Post 55 for a few years, along with his assistant Leroy Robinson.

From 1954 - 1959, he was council vice president. During 1960 - 1961, he served as Council President. Since 1961, he has served on the Council Executive Board. In 1955, he was presented the Silver Beaver Award. In 1974, John received the first Distinguished Eagle Scout Award presented in the Mecklenburg County Council.

The Silver Antelope Award for service on the regional level was presented to him at the March 30, 1962, Region 6 Meeting in Atlanta. He later served as Southeast Region President from 1990 to 1992.

In 1984, he received the Silver Buffalo Award. At that time, Belk was serving on the BSA National Executive Board and was the Treasurer in 1979. In 1981, he served as national vice president and continues to serve on the National Advisory Board.

For Belk's 80th birthday, a party was held for him by the Boy Scouts in a large hall in uptown Charlotte. He was presented a Scout campaign hat to commemorate his long service to Scouting at the local, regional and national levels.



*John M. Belk
Council President
1960 - 1961*



Charles A. Hunter
Council President
1961 - 1964

moon light cruises. It could also be rented to adult groups. J. R. Jacumin was the post advisor.

In December 1961, Charles A. Hunter became the council president. A longtime Scouter, Hunter was president of Hunter Dairies and several other firms. He served for three years as council head.

In June 1962, Jim Jefferson led Troop 8 of Westerly Heights United Methodist Church on a hike that has been talked about for 40 years, but never duplicated. His troop of eight Boy Scouts and two leaders hiked 135 miles from the church to Asheville, crossing the country by orienteering methods. They crossed the Catawba River over the I-85 bridge. The interstate at this time was not completed. They spanned creeks by cutting down trees or using downed logs. Extra miles were added as they skirted around farmer's fields. At night, they camped where they could. The trip took seven days and was reported in the newspapers from Charlotte to Asheville.

Belk Department Store won the national award for the best window display in the country for Boy Scout Week in 1964.

The Boy Scouts conducted a council survival camporee in the Arrowood Area during April 3 - 4, 1964. The featured attraction was the demonstration by a 12-man special forces team from the Special Warfare Center of Ft. Bragg.

In 1964, the Scouts' national jamboree was held at the Valley Forge State Park in Pennsylvania. There were 75 Boy

Scouts from the council who attended in two troops. Troop 65 was led by Walter Richardson, Eric Ritzen, Al Selby and Herman Stone. Troop 66 was led by John DeLind and Dick Carter. The contingent visited Washington, D. C., and the 1964 New York World's Fair. On guitars, drums and a washboard, some local Scouts called themselves "The Rooters." The

band had a North Carolina style hootenanny. One of the troops also shared a campfire with a troop from Iceland.

In 1964, the Scout Circus became known as the Scout-O-Rama and was held under that title until the early 1970s.

Beau Whitton, a Rotarian and long time Scouter, recalled that the Order of the Arrow Indian Dancers were one of the things he remembered most of all about Scout Shows, especially one year when he saw the only Indian Dancer ever to appear complete with sunglasses.

Another Scouter told a Scout Show story of his troop doing Plumbing Merit Badge during the 1960s. Starting the first night, they worked to connect a functioning toilet to a water source by hooking up the pipes. The pipes snaked across the room's floor to a faucet where they connected into the water line. Near the end of the show, they turned on the water and flushed the toilet. Not being experts, water went everywhere from leaking connections.

Scouting for the Disabled

Although the first Scout troop for disabled children was launched in 1954, the effort dramatically expanded during the 1960s to make Scouting more accessible to those with disabilities.

The *Charlotte News* reported on June 20, 1963, that the Charlotte Sertoma Club had agreed to sponsor Troop 222 under Scoutmaster James Watterson. This would be a troop of physically disabled Boy Scouts. Troop 22 would become the longest tenured of the troops for the disabled with long-time Scoutmaster Ray Anderson. These Boy Scouts had such disabilities as muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy and permanent physical injuries. Most were confined to wheelchairs, but that did not stop them. The Scouts attended a camporee at Camp Easter in the Pines near Carthage, N.C.

In July 1964, the Charlotte Optimist Club sponsored Troop 102 for mentally impaired Boy Scouts, according to the *Charlotte News* of July 23, 1964.

In August 1964, the three patrols in Troop 222 won blue



ribbons at the camporee. They also attended Camp Steere in 1964, where all eight Boy Scouts earned Second Class. Along with adult assistance, the troop visited such cities as Washington, D. C., Atlanta, Boone and Charleston.

Change & Good Turns

On January 13, 1965, a number of well-known black businessmen and church pastors were recruited to join the Executive Board of the council. In June 1965 the council approved the resolution to "operate without racial discrimination."

The first troop to integrate was at the Duncan Memorial Church. Other troops in the council followed suit. These early black Scouters laid the groundwork for future leaders, such as Ken Alexander with Troop 127 of Memorial United Presbyterian Church and Henry Wallace of Troop 272 at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church.

During the expansion of Scout troops for the disabled and the full integration of Scouting, the council was ably led by Edward H. Thomas, who served as president from December 1964 to December 1966, and William A. Nichols, who served from December 1966 to December 1968.

In other council and troop activities, Scouts performed many good turns and experienced many adventures.

In July 1964, the US Navy took 59 Explorers and leaders from the council on a cruise out of the Norfolk Naval Base.

The Explorers, along with the Order of the Arrow, ushered the Shrine Bowl football game on December 5th, 1964.

In 1965, Troop 104 of St. Christopher Episcopal Church spent a night looking for a lost child in the neighborhood surrounding the church. They looked through wet tall grass, a swollen creek, back yards and a school yard only to learn hours later that the child had returned home and had hidden under his bed.

Project Free Enterprise was kicked off on April 20, 1965. Top business, professional and industrial leaders spent the day talking to older Boy Scouts and Explorers on how the



photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Troop 222 for those with disabilities has been one of the outstanding troops in the council. Shown here in the middle is long-time Scoutmaster Ray Anderson. Scouts are listed in the photo credits in the appendices.

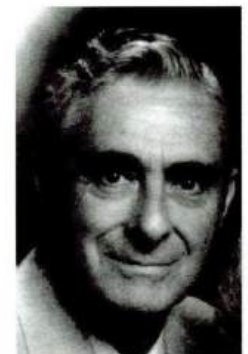
free enterprise system works in the United States.

In an interesting aside, Charles "Lefty" Dreisell was appointed district commissioner in the Northern District in 1965. Dreisell was head the basketball coach at Davidson and already making a name for himself. Later, he would gain more fame as the head coach at the University of Maryland.

In September 1965, the council launched a drive for one hundred new packs, troops and posts as part of the Breakthrough for Youth Campaign.



*Edward H. Thomas
Council President
1964 - 1966*



*William A. Nichols
Council President
1966 - 1968*



One of the large boats at Camp Steere.

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Camp Steere

In 1960, the "hot rod motor boat drivers" caused the council to rope in the swimming area at camp.

A new dry dock was built that same year. It could hold up to 50 tons. The Camp Steere "Navy" was now up to 32 vessels: 2 U. S. Navy picket boats owned by Ships 20 and 101, an inboard runabout owned by Ship 55, sailboat owned by Ship 20, and 12 rowboats and 16 canoes owned by the camp. The U. S. Navy picket boats were 38 feet long, 225 horsepower and had been donated by the US Coast Guard. The dry dock had a set of steel tracks running down into the water that allowed the picket boats to be pulled out of the water to be worked on. Then, the boats would slide down the tracks to be launched.

In 1962, Camp Steere opened six 5-mile hiking trails around the camp property. These trails were probably already existing trails but had not been marked. Earlier Boy Scouts had talked about hiking the trails around camp.

In May 1965, a huge work party was held to clean up Camp Steere. A lot of things needed to be accomplished and this seemed like a great way to get them all done.

On Saturday night racing movies were shown and Gene Grimes told stories. Grimes was a noted storyteller and every Sunday night campfire would end with Grimes telling ghost stories. Unless a Boy Scout had been in camp before, he would not know that in the back pocket of Grime's pants was a starter pistol. As Grimes got to the end of the story and the climax, he would fire the pistol to the surprise of all those sitting in the campfire circle. The real reason for telling ghost stories at the opening campfire on Sunday nights was to keep the boys in their tents that night. Anyone who has spent a week in camp knows that on Sunday night no one is tired enough to sleep and a lot of talking and mischief occurs.

In 1967, it had become quite obvious that Camp Steere was no longer adequate as a Boy Scout Camp. The buildings were getting older, the campsites were small and getting worn out, the dining hall was extremely crowded, and as

Daniel Boone would have said, "The neighbors were getting too close." The council formed long-range planning and a land-search committees to do the work needed to find a new camp. The committees visited some of the outstanding camps in the country and camping experts were consulted.

But it would be almost nine years before a new camp opened. As the main Scout camp changed, there also was a change as Sea Scouting phased out in Mecklenburg County.

There was a short-lived revival of Sea Exploring in 1974 when Ship 22 was formed at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church with a number of the older Boy Scouts and Eagles as members.

The Explorers were given a couple of boats. One was an old wooden one that had some leaks and was on a trailer. Someone told them that if they filled it with water the leaks would be sealed. So before a meeting, they filled the boat with water and went into the Scout Hut for the meeting. There was a loud noise outside and then a crash. The weight of the boat and water caused the trailer to collapse and the boat to hit the ground and break apart. The water rushed into the Scout Hut since it sat at ground level. It was a mess to clean up inside and out.

Erecting a Camp Steere sign and the Sea Scouts get a lesson (below).



Troop 55 & Dick Carter

The oldest continuously chartered troop in the Council today is Troop 55. Chartered on June 25, 1929, by James Steere, Troop 55 at Myers Park Presbyterian Church started with 23 boys. Seventy-five years later, Troop 55 has 80 Boy Scouts registered.

During the decades, more than 280 Boy Scouts have earned the Eagle badge since the first one was presented in June 1933. Recognizing the troop's outstanding leadership, 30 Scout leaders in the church have received the Silver Beaver Award since 1944.

Harry Bangle was the first Scoutmaster for Troop 55. He had been the Scoutmaster of Troop 20 from 1919 to 1923.

In the early years the troop met on Friday nights in the "Scout Hut," an old log cabin located behind the church (pictured below at far left). Many times the troop would hike down Queens Road to Sharon Road for a long hike. One of their earliest favorite camping spots was located near where the Mint Museum is located in 2004. The Boy

Scouts carried shelter halves which they snapped together to form "pup tents." A continuous history of playing "Capture the Flag" has been one of the hallmarks of the troop's camping trips.

The original patrols were Fox, Flying Eagle, Wolf and Raven. In 1933, the Wolf and Raven patrols changed their names and became the Panthers and Lions.

The troop has kept the tradition of always being in full uniform and always going to summer camp.

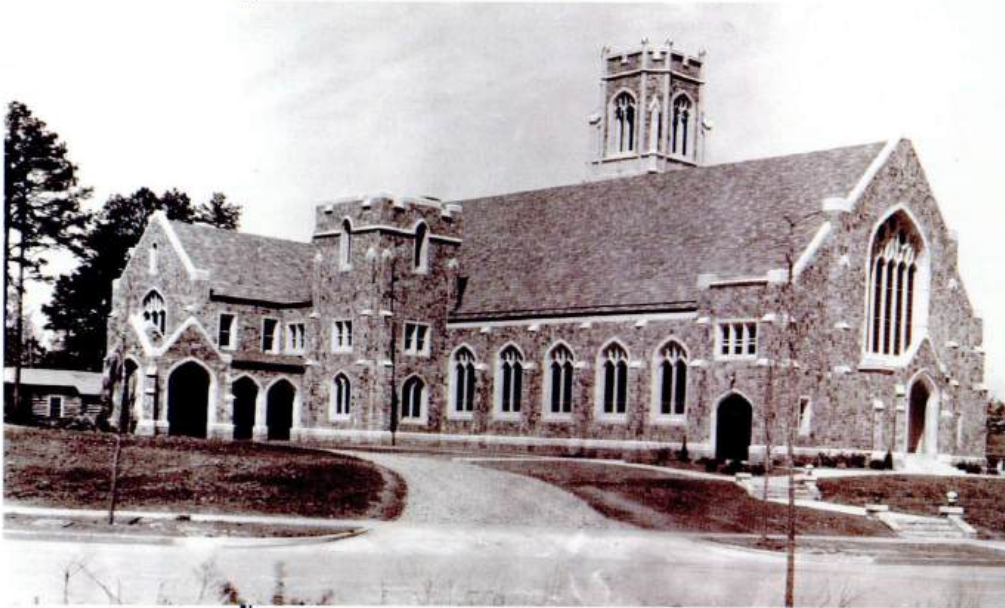
In 1964, Dick Carter became Scoutmaster. During his tenure as Scoutmaster from 1964 to 1986, 87 Boy Scouts earned the Eagle Award. Dick had earned his Eagle Award in 1953. The troop attended the 1973 National Jamboree as a troop and was constantly active at Camp Steere and Grimes, at camporees, Scout Shows and Circus's and other council activities. Carter over the years was honored with the Silver Beaver Award in 1972, the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow in 1976, the National Eagle Scout Association Scoutmaster Award in 1982, the Distinguished

Eagle Award in 1986 and the National Eagle Scout Association Silver Wreath Award in 1992.

The success of Troop 55 can be attributed to its adult volunteers and supportive parents, who assist with activities, provide transportation and raise funds.

Scout hut at back left of Myers Park Presbyterian Church in 1929 (below).

Scoutmaster Dick Carter and his sons, who were Troop 55 Scouts (at bottom right).



Famous Camping Experiences

North Wilkesboro was the site of the famous chicken cooking camporee in November 1965. Each patrol was presented a live chicken to cook that evening in some recipe, but very few were ever cooked. The Mecklenburg County Council apparently had become much more urban over the decades. The first problem was that the Boy Scouts could not wring the chicken's neck right to kill it. Some Boy Scouts did not have the heart to kill the chicken. Chickens escaped all over the camp. Many chickens went back to Mecklenburg County tied to a string led by a Boy Scout.

On January 24, 1966, eight leaders and boys were stranded by snow on Table Top Mountain ten miles north of Morganton. The snow had started Saturday when the members of Post 17 and Troop 17 arrived to setup camp. By Sunday, it had not stopped and the vehicles could not be driven out. Leaders Frank Headen of the Post and Joe Terrell of the Troop hiked out for help but took their gear in case they got stranded and needed to set-up camp. Their packs weighed about fifty pounds each and the two encountered 3-4 foot drifts of snow as they snow shod their way out. The Boy Scouts were left in the care of Herb Kincey, Jr., who taught mountaineering and survival skills in the Colorado Rockies. While the leaders went for help, Kincey taught the boys how to make shelters under the overhanging rocks and build beds of pine boughs to keep them off the wet snow covered ground. They spent a lot of time getting firewood to keep them warm that night if necessary. About 8 p.m. on Sunday, two men driving a surplus army cargo truck were able to get within 100 yards of their camp to rescued them. The cars were left until the snow melted.

The 1966 Explorer Rendezvous was held at Cape Canaveral, Fl. and five Explorers from Mecklenburg County Council attended the event. They were Jim Jacumin, advisor of Post 10, Samuel Funderburke of Ship 101, Jimmy Wesson of Post 26, Fred Kerr of Post 10, Allan Williams of Post 47,

and John Guy of Post 20.

Along with Council President William Nichols and District Executive John Preston, sixteen Explorers went to the Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base for a week of canoeing in June 1967. They traveled 135 miles by water and overland trails between the Glacier Lakes in Northern Minnesota and Canada. Explorers Randy Jones and Bill Proctor led the group.

Conservation

Environmental concerns leaped to the public's attention in 1962 when Rachael Carson published the book, "*Silent Spring*." The conservation/environmental movement was launched.

During 1960s, the council was involved in a number of conservation projects, usually under the leadership of Jim Jefferson of Troop 8 of Wesley Heights United Methodist Church. There were also camporees with conservation themes held at Camp Steere and Camp Oak. Troop 8 and Troop 6 of Mulberry Presbyterian Church cleared Riverview Girl Scout Camp of unwanted underbrush as a project. They also built a nature trail and labeled trees for identification.

The biggest conservation project of the decade, and part of the Charlotte's bi-centennial program, almost did not happen.

The Bicentennial Boy Scout Good Turn was scheduled for the weekend of April 5 and 6, 1968, with the Boy Scouts camping overnight. Two thousand Boy and Girl Scouts were lined up to clean the 35 acres in the Brooklyn Development Area. This area extended from Independence Blvd. to Third Street and from S. Morrow Street to S. Alexander Street.

Then with everything set to go, Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

There was trouble in some areas of Charlotte and the Charlotte Police Department wanted the Boy Scouts to call-off the project.

But 1,500 Boy Scouts went forward with the project. The

The Seventh Street Office

The 1958 Council Five-Year plan proposed a new office that was to be owned by the council and not rented or leased from someone else.

In March of 1959, William Barnhardt, the Long-Range Planning Committee chairman sent a letter advising Charles R. "Pete" Harris of United Community Services that the council wanted a new office. The letter advised them that the council would be raising money.

In May of 1960, John Belk gave the title to a lot on

Seventh Street to the council as an incentive to raise the funds to purchase a new office. Later, this property was sold to help buy the new office property.

In 1962, Troop 8 of Wesley Heights United Methodist started the fund for the new office by donating ten cents each. They sent it to District Executive Lewis Barnes.

On July 8, 1965, the Executive Board approved the purchase of a lot at 1410 E. 7th Street for \$18,000.

On November 21, 1967, the office was officially dedicated. The facility was 7,700 square feet and had cost \$140,000

to build. Scout officials and Mayor Stan Brookshire, Dr. James Martin, County Commissioners chairman and future governor of North Carolina, assisted in the dedication ceremonies. A Boy Scout bugler played as the flag was officially raised in the front of the building. Henderson Belk had served as chairman of the building committee.

In 1990, a major renovation of the council office was completed that included a large meeting room, a new main entrance and a larger sales area for a Scout Shop. A meeting room with a small kitchen added 3,000 square feet to the building. The room could seat 70 people for a catered meal.

After many years of a leaking roof, another major renovation was completed in 2002. The roof was peaked so that the water could run off properly. The work increased the total building space by 1500 square feet and allowed more offices.

Dedication of the Seventh Street headquarters of the Mecklenburg County Council.



Scouts hauled away tree limbs, rusted wire and all kinds of other debris. They were helped by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve who sent men and trucks to help out. Also Girl Scout Troop 226 served hot dogs along with drinks provided by Pepsi Cola to the hungry Boy Scouts. The city of Charlotte used its garbage trucks to haul away all of the items collected on Saturday.

On Sunday evening, many of these same Boy Scouts and leaders showed up at St. Paul Baptist Church for a memorial service for Dr. King.

A similar cleanup day was held in 1970 as part of Project SOAR.

From December 1968 through December 1970, S. R. "Stewart" DeWitt served as council president.

Membership & the 1969 National Jamboree

While Scouting was still growing, the rate seemed to be slowing each and every year during the late 1960s. There were many national and local efforts to boost membership numbers. For example, Peter Brown, star of two TV series, *Lawman* and *Laredo*, appeared at a Boy Scout rally on December 14, 1968, to help recruit Boy Scouts.

Despite the promotional efforts, membership in the Boy Scouts seemed to reach a plateau. It would become a serious issue in the 1970s.

But one of the attractions for Scouting remained its strong camping program, highlighted every four years by national jamborees.



*S. R. DeWitt
Council President
1968 - 1970*

The Mecklenburg Boy Scouts cleaned up the Brooklyn section of town (bottom left), while there was rioting in other cities following the assassination Martin Luther King, Jr. The Scouts were honored for their efforts. Charlotte Mayor Stan Brookshire (right) presents a certificate to Council President William A. Nichols (left).



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

The decade was capped by the 1969 National Jamboree, which was held at the Farragut State Park in Idaho.

Bill White was Scoutmaster of the Mecklenburg County Council contingent. The jamboree was attended by 35,000 Scouts, who got to watch the landing of the first men on the moon on wide screens set up in the campfire area.

Local Scout leaders also had achieved a successful transportation of their own to the far reaches of Idaho.

A long-time Scout volunteer, Al Selby got the idea of contacting Thomas Built Buses in Greensboro. He asked if the company had any new school buses that would need to be delivered to the west, especially in or near Idaho, before the new school year started. The company did.

So new school buses were driven out west — filled with Mecklenburg County Boy Scouts — on their way to deliver the new school buses and to get to the jamboree.

Eugene Grimes

"That man was a mess!" were the first words out of Jim Jefferson's mouth when he was interviewed about Gene Grimes. Grimes was the longest serving Scout professional in the council's history, as well as the most colorful.

Eugene Grimes was born September 4, 1920, in Rockingham, N. C., but was raised in Mecklenburg County. A graduate of Belmont Abbey College, he served as a district Scout executive in Wilson, N. C., and in Rock Hill, S. C. He was then hired as the Youth Director for Myers Park Presbyterian Church. In May 1951, he was hired as an assistant Scout executive with the council's Explorer program. In 1965, he became program director. Jefferson

described Grimes as "a Scouter's Scout." If Grimes did not know it, he knew someone who did.

Through the decades as a Scout and then council professional, Grimes also was known for his pranks and stories.

Some kind of a national or regional meeting was being held in Belmont. Grimes arrived at the door carrying a shoebox with holes in the sides. After entering, he walked around the lobby like he was searching for something. The lobby was full of people. After some time, a security guard stopped him and asked what he was doing.

Grimes announced rather loudly to the startled guests in the lobby that his rattlesnake had escaped and he was looking for it.

Charlie Hunter orchestrated probably the best prank to get even with Grimes that anyone can remember. Hunter, who owned Hunter Dairies, announced that he would supply a year's supply of milk to the winner of the raffle at the next Roundtable. The next month as each person arrived they put Gene Grimes' name on the raffle slip and put it in the fish bowl. Of course, Grimes won and rushed home to tell his wife. But when he got home she was furious. She wanted to know what he was going to do with the cow in the front yard that the dairy delivered.

The word spread quickly on Sunday September 15, 1974. Grimes had been found dead sitting in his favorite chair at home.

Within hours, North Star District leaders had started to lobby for the new main campsite at the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation to be called Camp Grimes. As a fitting tribute, it was.

A few days later, the pews, aisles, and grounds of the Church of the Holy Comforter on Park Road were full of Boy Scouts, leaders, freemasons, optimists, friends and the leaders of Charlotte.

They had come to pay their last respects to a man who had become "Mr. Scouting" in Mecklenburg County Council.



Gene Grimes
Council Program Director
1951 - 1974

photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Finding A Direction

Nationally, Scouting movement started to decline in the early 1970s from its membership highs of the 1960s. Even special programs designed to boost membership were ineffective, such as the “Boy Power 76” program.

This trend was true in Mecklenburg County.

Total Scouting membership in Mecklenburg County hit 8,308 young people in 1970, before declining to 7,307 in 1975. The remainder of the decade saw only a modest recovery to 7,455 by 1980.

Competition from increasing school activities, sports and other youth programs, as well as the public mood during the Vietnam War, all affected Scouting.

For the first time in 60 years, the Scouting movement was no longer growing. And proposed solutions floundered, one after another.

The Boy Power recruitment program did not work nationally or in Charlotte. In 1968, one of four boys belonged to the Scout program. The Boy Power Program was intended to increase membership to one in three by the United States Bicentennial in 1976. By 1974, the Boy Power program was cancelled as a dismal failure.

The national organization of the Boy Scouts of America sought to reorganize and reorient its program.

In 1972, the BSA changed from 12 Regions to 6 Regions.

That same year, BSA introduced “The Improved Scouting Program.” Geared to urban city Boy Scouts with a new handbook and a new philosophy, the program temporarily abolished the term “Boy Scout.” Everyone was a “Scout.”

This revolutionary program hoped that more minorities would join the program, especially those who had refrained from joining because they did not like the stigma of the word “Boy.” Skill Awards worn on a Scout's belt were intro-

duced as an advancement incentive. But the inner city Scouts still wanted to camp, and so did the other Scouts. By the end of the decade, a new handbook written by William Hillcourt, better known as “Green Bar Bill,” was published. It once again emphasized the outdoor program. Scouting returned to its more traditional programs and sought other ways to expand minority involvement.

Until the mid-1970s, the Boy Scouts of America had an all-male leadership tradition. Women had served as Den Mothers and some troops had Women's Auxiliaries. There were some exceptions, but these women were not registered nationally with the Boy Scouts of America. There were many Cub Scout packs where the nominal Cubmaster was a man, but one of the ladies associated with the Pack actually ran

Numerous campaigns were launched in the 1970s and early 1980s in attempts to increase membership in the Boy Scouting.

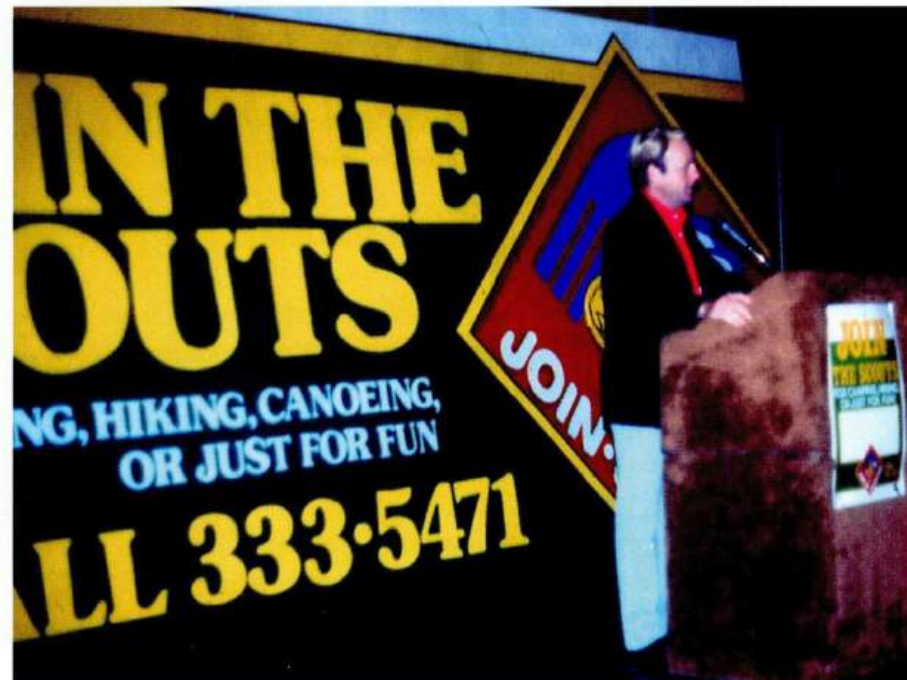


photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Exploring in the 1970s

In June 1971, Jim Terry was moved from his position as assistant district executive to director of the new Explorer Division. All the Explorer posts were moved into the division and out of the regular districts.

Grant Whitney became the first chairman of the Explorer Division. By 1974, the Explorer Division consisted of 60 posts and 1,200 Explorers from regular high adventure posts to those career oriented Posts in medicine, law enforcement, dentistry, truck transportation, etc. Along with their regular meetings, the Explorer Presidents Association organized Explorer Olympics, road rallies, ski trips and other activities.

In 1973, some of the Explorers took part in a mock airplane crash as victims in a training course. On September 11, 1974, a real airline crash occurred. Medical personnel agreed that the mock crash almost a year before had had been critical to the response.

In March 1973, a national gathering of Law Enforcement Explorers was held in Charlotte. Lectures and conferences were held by various national law enforcement agencies. There were also some speaking contests conducted on law enforcement issues.

In spring 1976, Jim Terry was promoted to Scout executive in High Point and from there moved to other councils, the Western Region office and finally in the 1990s to Scout executive in Kansas City.

The Explorers during this time period were also active in ski trips, Explorer Olympics, and a program called "After Dark" in which the Explorers went bowling, visited the airport, the county jail, WBTV, the Charlotte Observer and Krispy Kreme during the night and early morning. There were also the Area Explorer Conferences held in Boone each year and the National Explorer Presidents Conferences that the Explorers participated in at various locations around the country.



F. E. Bobo, Jr.
Council President
1970 - 1972

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

the Pack. In 1976, the BSA changed the rules and allowed women to register for any position except Webelos Leader and Scoutmaster. Even these exceptions were changed in the 1980's.

In 1978, the national office moved to Irving, Texas, while the Eastern Distribution Center of the BSA Supply Division moved to Westinghouse Boulevard in Charlotte, near Pineville.

Decade of Decisions

To commemorate the Bicentennial of the United States of America, the BSA initiated a Bicentennial Program of awards. This was a 5-year program and was broken down into theme areas of Gift, Be Prepared for Life, Horizons, Heritage, and Festival. Troops and councils came up with their own requirements. Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and leaders, when the requirements were completed, would earn a patch.

Mecklenburg County has a strong Explorer program, including its Law Enforcement Post (below from the late 1970s), which hosted a national meeting in 1973.



There were also mugs, bolo ties, coins and other items available with each separate theme logo on them. Some of the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts cleaned up parks, hiked historical areas, and did special service projects to earn the award.

F. E. Bobo, Jr., served as council president from December 1970 to December 1972.

To reach out to urban youth to join Scouting, the council received a Model Cities grant of \$22,000 per year to hire a professional and a paraprofessional to work with youth in public housing projects. Carl Springs was hired for this position in January 1972. In 1974 when the Model Cities grant ran out, he was hired to be the District Executive in Cherokee District.

W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Jr., of Branch Banking & Trust Company, served as council president from December 1972 to December 1974. During this critical time, he oversaw a changing of the council Scout executives and a major capital campaign to purchase and build the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation.



photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

1973 National Jamboree

The 1973 National Jamboree was unique in two ways — there were two split sites and individual troops could go to the jamboree, as well as a general council contingent. Troop 55 of Myers Park Presbyterian Church and Troop 33 of Sardis Presbyterian Church went.

The two simultaneous encampments were at Farragut State Park in Idaho and the other at Moraine State Park in Pennsylvania. Over 50,000 Boy Scouts attended the two locations, but stretched the BSA's logistical system almost to the breaking point. It was decided never to do a split jamboree again.



Scouting Activities

In the fall of 1973, the council leadership decided that there would be no fall camporees. A number of the better run troops in the county decided that they would have their own camporee and it would be by invitation only to those who ran the best programs in the council. The name of the activity was called the Elgixin Mechmauwikenk Metischishi or as some called it "Elgixin make my weekend." Competition was held by patrols and each patrol had its own camping site. The adult leaders camped in a separate area away from the Boy Scouts. This format was used by the Elgixin district for a number of years after that.

Those Scouters who had been in Scouting in other places and then had moved to Mecklenburg County noticed almost at once how well organized the dis-



W. Reynolds
Cuthbertson, Jr.
Council President
1972 - 1974

strict camporees were in the 1970s. Each event had its own guidebook with all the information that was needed by the Boy Scouts and the leaders. There was tough competition by patrol. In the case, of Elgixin District, the event was boy run. The adults sat back and watched from their lawn chairs.



J. Norman Pease, Jr.
Council President
1974 - 1976

With land becoming less available for camping in the county, more and more troops were going for weekend trips to the Uwharrie Mountains and especially to the Pisgah Area around Brevard. Backpacking was starting to become more of an activity due to the lighter weight tents and other gear. Also packs with hip belts and padded straps were now available making the trip more comfortable.

In 1974, Troop 33 of Sardis Presbyterian Church was invited to the Camporee held at the United States Military Academy at West Point. The activity is sponsored annually by the Scoutmasters' Council which is made up of Eagle Scouts at the academy. The troop came home with the awards for the Best Troop and Best Gateway. Steve Clardy, who was the Scoutmaster, said that up until then no troop had built a gateway as elaborate as theirs. In 1976, the Scoutmasters' Council invited Troop 33 to come back. They were to be accompanied by a reporter and photographer for Boys' Life magazine. In 2002, the camporee celebrated its 40th anniversary and as part of its celebration the Scoutmasters Council invited back some of the troops who were the best they had seen over the years including Troop 33.

1974 Brotherhood Camporee

One of the biggest council camporees in the council's history was held, if one can imagine it, on land now occupied by a shopping center, condominiums, and numerous office buildings next to and around Sharon United Methodist Church on Sharon Road across from South Park Mall. Over 1250 Boy Scouts and 200 leaders came for three days of competition, campfires, and just plain good Scouting.

The 108th Division (TNG) of the US Army Reserves hosted the Brotherhood Camporee under the leadership of Camporee Chief Bennett Smith. The military did check-in and campsite inspections and judged the events held on Saturday. The Explorer Division participated in security and other speciality areas where they could. A huge campfire was held on Saturday night. Traffic on Sharon Road slowed down to see what the Boy Scouts were doing. The whole point of the location of the camporee was for the public to see the Scout program in action.

At the following Monday morning professional staff meeting a special breakfast had been prepared for Gene Grimes by Doug Cofield. Lying in front of Grimes, at his usual place at the conference room table, on a place mat was a knife, fork, spoon and napkin along with salt and pepper shakers and a plate full of Brotherhood Camporee patches. The Army Reserve had ordered the patches and the council would pay for them. Seeing that they would be two cents each if they ordered 5,000, they had seen a bargain and acted. There were hundreds maybe even a thousand of patches left over after the camporee. For years, anyone wanting a patch could buy one for ten cents at the council office.

Architect J. Norman Pease, Jr., became the council president in December 1974 to December 1976.

Attacoa Reforestation

On January 25, 1975, under the leadership of Jim Jefferson, hundreds of Boy Scouts went to Dysartsville to camp and plant trees on the new Mecklenburg Scout Reservation in a program called the Attacoa Reforestation. The name came from the name of the development corporation that previously owned the land. For many, it was their first time seeing this magnificent property. During a very rainy day over 60,000 trees were planted in areas that would not be used for Scout activities. In January 1976, 10,000 additional trees were planted. Today those trees are over twenty feet tall and leaders and fathers come to camp and

show their sons and Boy Scouts the trees that they had planted in 1975 and 1976.

200th Anniversary —

Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

On May 19, 1975 over 800 Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts marched in a parade and rallied at the reproduction of the original Mecklenburg County Courthouse setup at its original location at the square. The celebration was to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, which historians continue to debate its actual existence.

As part of the celebration, guest speakers included Billy Graham, Charlotte's own hometown evangelist, and U. S. President Gerald Ford. An honor guard of 93 Eagle Boy Scouts met the President as he stepped out of his limousine and walked him to the Freedom Park bandstand for the ceremony. The Eagle honor guard included the newest Eagle Scout, as well as some who had not worn a Boy Scout uniform in 50 years, but bought one just so they could stand in line.



Pictured receiving their Silver Beaver Awards in 1976 are Bessie Hudson in her Cub Scout leader's uniform, along with (left to right) Bill L. Kemp, Donald H. Sterrett, Elvie Morris Turner and, John David Campbell.

All Out For Scouting

In 1976, the Council decided to use a training program started in Pittsburgh called "All Out for Scouting." The program consisted of a number of different parts. Operation Launch was a leader's meeting held during the winter to recruit the various troops to participate. The next part was a training session called "Triple T" or "Train the Trainer." This part trained the leaders who would do the training for the rest of the program. In August, Brownsea II, named in honor of Baden-Powell's original camps, was held at Camp Steere as a one-week training course for Senior Patrol Leaders. This program was almost a mini-Wood Badge. The Boy Scouts carried staves and patrol flags with the 1920's patrol logos on them. The conclusion of the course was a feast in which dozens of chickens were barbequed over charcoal fires by the Boy Scouts. That was followed in the fall with a one-day activity for patrol leaders and the other junior leaders of the troop. This was called "Operation Flying Start." Hundreds of Boy Scouts showed up at Camp Steere along with their Scoutmasters for the activity. A lot of enthusiasm for Scouting was generated by this program. The Brownsea II program was so successful that the council continued it through 1978.

Louise Goodwin of St. Paul Baptist received the Silver Fawn Award in 1973 for service to the council. The Silver Fawn Award was given to women leaders. It was discontinued by 1976 and all recipients were re-listed in the Silver Beaver awards.

In 1976, Bessie Hudson was honored as the first local African-American woman to receive the Silver Beaver Award. She had served as a den leader for 24 years at Pack 73 of Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church.

Scouting decided to eliminate the Silver Fawn Award and previous recipients are listed under the Silver Beaver Award in Appendix E.

Also in 1976, Rufus Washington received one of five National Young America Awards given to the some of the

photo: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

top students in the country.

R. P. Stephens Davis of Carolina Paper became the council president in December 1976 and served until December 1977.



R. P. Stephens Davis
Council President
1976 - 1977

Mean Green Roundup

In March of 1977, the UNCC 49'ers basketball team advanced to the Final Four in the NCAA Basketball Tournament and the city of Charlotte went crazy with college basketball fever. Using that enthusiasm, the following fall, the council picked the theme "Mean Green Roundup" for the recruitment campaign capitalizing on the public's enthusiasm for the 49'ers. Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts were rewarded with free basketball games and patches with the 49'ers logo on them for recruiting a new Cub Scout or Boy Scout. The council coordinated all kinds of publicity never before used during a roundup. A lot of it was donated by businesses in the community. The result was about 2,000 new members and the second largest growth increase among councils in the Southeast Region in 1977.

1977 National Jamboree

The 1977 National Jamboree was again held at Moraine State Park in Pennsylvania. The Boy Scouts now nicknamed it "More Rain State Park," since it rained heavily for a few days and closed the jamboree to visitors. Through it all the two troops from Charlotte under the leadership of Steve Clardy and Stewart DeWitt had a great time.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Scouting for the Disabled

A new emphasis on handicapped Scouting was begun in the council in June 1978 with the creation of a committee on Handicapped Scouting. The initial effort was to have school classrooms spend some time working on a Boy Scout-related program using a book entitled, *My Scout Badge*.

The Boy Scout worked in ten different areas and when successfully com-

pleting an area's requirements he earned a small patch segment that went around the regular BSA Tenderfoot patch. There also were troops for Boy Scouts with specific disabilities.

The first in-school unit was at the Metro Center and was organized in August 1978. They met each Wednesday afternoon by ability groups. Each group started learning the Scout Oath, Law, salute, handshake and Motto. "They want to do everything regular Boy Scouts do," their leader, Mrs. Pat Bostic, told the *Charlotte Observer* in November 1978, but they would take their time at doing it. They probably would camp on the school grounds first before going into the woods.

In 1979, a day was scheduled each spring for what became known as Handicapped Scouting Day at Camp



Wood Badge II

In the early 1970s, it was decided that there were now enough Wood Badgers in the U. S. that Wood Badge courses could be taught in local councils. These courses could be either a week long exercise or three weekend courses with patrol meetings between the weekends.

In fall 1974, a Methodist Church camp on the border of Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties, Camp Glenmere, was the site of the first Mecklenburg County Council Wood Badge course. The staff and participants were comprised of Scouters from Piedmont, Mecklenburg County and Central North Carolina councils. The course was very successful and the three councils proceeded to develop separate courses later.

Camp Edgefield, a piece of property on Edgefield Road near North Mecklenburg High School, was the location of a number of Wood Badge courses, beginning in August 1975 with SE-73.

In fall 1976, Wood Badge was opened up to Cub Scout leaders and female Scouters. It is believed that the Mecklenburg County Wood Badge course (SE-129) that fall may have been the first where women attended.

Every two years, Mecklenburg County Council has had a Wood Badge Course. Each has had its own personality and its own successes and problems. The 1989 course was interrupted by Hurricane Hugo and the course schedule was extended, becoming the longest of any conducted by the council.

Over the past 29 years, some great courses have been held with some great camaraderie that has helped inspire some volunteers to become even better leaders.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Local Wood Badge courses in 1975 expanded the availability of better training to Scoutmasters.





Doug Cofield
Scout Executive
1974 - 1984

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Doug Cofield, Scout Executive (1974 - 1984)

Doug Cofield was born in LaGrange, Georgia, on September 6, 1931. After graduating from LaGrange College, Cofield served as a Marine during the Korean War.

An Eagle Scout, Cofield served as Scoutmaster, assistant Explorer Advisor and unit commissioner. He then started his professional Scout career as a district executive in Greenville, S.C., in 1959. He then worked in Raleigh and Albemarle, N.C., as assistant Scout executive. In 1969, he moved to Tallahassee, Florida, to become the Scout executive.

On February 1, 1974, Cofield became the Scout executive for the Mecklenburg County Council. His first task was working with the previous Scout executive, Tom Warren, to raise funds for the new Mecklenburg Scout Reservation (MSR).

During the mid-1970s, Scouting faced challenges of stagnant membership and adequate fundraising to support operations. Cofield was well-known as a conservative fiscal manager. While some council around the country had problems meeting staff payroll, the Mecklenburg council had no such difficulties, thanks to Cofield's management.

In 1976, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Surgery and medical treatment were successful and he returned to work. In 1984, the tumor returned and he passed away on February 12, 1984.

Under his leadership, the council resumed its growth in membership, built the MSR (Camp Grimes), expanded its programs, increased the number of volunteers and created a strong financial footing. A key assistant was council Field Director Bob Bartlett.

He and his wife, Jeanne, had two children — Keith, an Eagle Scout, and Phyllis. They were members of the Myers Park United Methodist Church.

Steere. The various school classes using the Boy Scout program in the schoolroom would come to camp for a day of archery, nature, jumping on a giant airbag and for lunch. It was a day for wonderful surprises and smiles on the faces of both the kids and the volunteers. Volunteers at the camp were rewarded by the look on each child's face who had just accomplished something, such as hitting the archery target by just putting his hand on the bow with the aid of a helper.

Camp Steere and the Cub Scouts 1976-1987

Under the leadership of Tuscarora District Executive Jimmy Tant, District Executive Jim Griffith and volunteers, the first Cub Scout Day Camp was held at Park Road Park in summer 1975 for two weeks. This followed the BSA national plan for conducting camps at local parks. There were games, crafts, swimming and nature studies. But there was no storage area and anything erected during the day was taken down each night. A lot of time was used to setup and take down each day.

In 1976, the Boy Scouts moved resident camp to Camp Grimes, and the Cub Scouts moved day camp to Camp Steere. Each morning, Cub Scouts met at St. Martin's



Episcopal Church and sat on the parking lot curb until the bus arrived. Then it was off to camp for crafts in the Mole's Hole, swimming, nature studies, BB gun shooting, and archery. The camp grew from two weeks to six weeks with 100 Cub Scouts and 20 Webelos. The camp became known as Queen E. Roundtree Day Camp named after Queen E. Roundtree, a dedicated Cub Scout leader of Pack 68 sponsored by Gethsemane Baptist Church and a Silver Beaver recipient. Roundtree had served as a den leader and unregistered Cubmaster before women were allowed to hold that position.

The unofficial Cub Scout camp song was "Megalina Pegalina," a song about a fictional woman with feet as big as bathroom mats and two teeth — one pointing north and one pointing south. One morning, the boys arrived to find huge footprints across the Camp Steere beach made by some early arriving staff members under the guidance of Bruce

Ainslie, District Executive of Elgixin District, who had used a garbage can lid to make them. The Cub Scouts fell for the "Big Foot" prints. They were told that Megalina lived in a cabin up in the woods. Within days, she came to visit. One of the staff would get under a blanket, go to the end of one point of land overlooking the water front and cackle like a witch. The Cub Scouts at the waterfront immediately broke into the song. This became



Cub Scouts crossing rope bridge at Camp Steere

The Mecklenburg Eagle Scout Association

The first meeting of the Eagle Scouts in the county was held February 18, 1975, at Tabernacle ARP Church. Organized by Steve Dubay and Richard Shields, Jr., a few Eagles showed up and decided to organize a chapter of the National Eagle Scout Association and to call the group, the Mecklenburg Eagle Scout Association (MESA).

On May 20, 1975, Mecklenburg County celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The publicity from that gathering helped attendance at the first annual MESA meeting on May 30. Mayor and Eagle Scout John Belk was the guest speaker. He encouraged the Eagles to start a chapter and get lost Eagles involved again in Scouting.

The first officers were elected at a meeting at Camp Steere in July 1975. Steve Dubay served as advisor to the chapter, with Richard Shields, Jr., as the professional staff advisor. Joe Beard and Ray Craven were associate advisors.

Others on the MESA board were Martin Hughes, who was presented his Eagle by Daniel Carter Beard at the 1937 National Jamboree, Terry Putnam, Dan McManus, Ross Fizer, Jeff Miller, Bryan Vohs, Steve Davis and Loy Lentz. Each subcommittee was co-chaired by one youth and one adult.

The purpose of the MESA chapter is to coordinate the plans for the Eagle Recognition Banquet and find "lost" Eagle Scouts, who were in the community but not involved in Scouting.

MESA service to the council included purchase of a hot water heater for the staff showers at Camp Grimes a year or so after the camp opened. In September 1986 and 1987, the chapter held a Merit Badge Completion day at Thompson Children's Home for those Boy Scouts who had not completed their merit badges in camp.

An Eagle search was done by the National Eagle Scout Association and MESA in 1990. Hundreds of Eagles were invited to get involved in Scouting once more.

a tradition for many years.

After all the years of the water lapping up against the shoreline at Camp Steere, it was decided to improve the shoreline. To stop erosion over the years, tires, trees and other items had been thrown along the edge of the point, where the cabins and the campfire circle were located. It was a real eyesore. In 1984, the trash, logs, and other junk was removed and large stones were put in place. The sides of the bank also were graded. The point was now impressive look-

ing and erosion was controlled.

With the closing of Camp Steere, the day camps became district day camps at Clear Creek Scout Camp and other locations.

In 2000, the Charlotte Library buried a time capsule. In it were various articles donated from one of the Cub Scout Day camps in the county. The capsule is not to be opened until 2050. Hopefully, some of today's Cub Scouts will still be around when the capsule is opened.

Troop 49 and Chip Wampler

Chip Wampler is the longest serving active Scoutmaster in the Mecklenburg County Council in 2004. In 1972, a young Chip Wampler was recruited as Scoutmaster of Troop 49 Back Creek ARP Church.

Troop 49 of Back Creek ARP Church was started in 1968 under the leadership of Bill Harding and followed by Eugene Hodges, Avery Fender and Gerald Thompson. The church had an earlier troop in the 1950s and 60s but it had ceased meeting.

When Wampler became Scoutmaster, the troop owned one canvas tent. For the first few camping trips, they used their own or borrowed tents. A monthly camping program developed that eventually took them away from Mecklenburg County.

In the late 1970s they developed their high adventure program, which has taken them on a 50-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail and a 50-mile canoe trip on the New River where the troop was almost arrested for trespassing. In 1989,

the troop decided to take a "Super Trip" and headed to the Grand Canyon where it hiked from rim to rim to rim. More super trips have been to Philmont and to Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks. Even with all these special trips the troop has not missed a summer camp since 1973 and has not missed a summer at Camp Grimes since it opened.

They also consider themselves as a service troop, as they cleanup a three-mile section of Back Creek Church Road as part of the highway beautification program. They also conduct the annual Memorial Day services at the church cemetery and have provided color guards for many council, community and government events.

Fifty-six Boy Scouts have earned the Eagle Award in the troop. For most of Wampler's 32 years, the late Ellis Satterwhite was beside Wampler as his assistant.

*Chip Wampler with
Scouts from Troop 49
in 2004.*



Uniform Change

The Boy Scout uniform had remained basically the same from the early 1950s to 1971.

The uniform was completely changed in 1952 with the introduction of the overseas or flat hat and a khaki colored shirt and pants. Puttees were optional along with the campaign hat.

Over the years the insignia changed in color and how they were embroidered to match the uniform and adult position patches changed from knowing what position the colors represented to actually giving the total on the patch. In 1970, council shoulder patches were introduced that designated the council name and community strips were discontinued.

As part of the Improved Scouting Program introduced in 1972 berets (*at right*) were introduced, along with a baseball hat for Boy Scouts. The Leadership Corp made up of the older boy leaders was introduced and they would wear a dark green shirt.

In March of 1980, the BSA Supply Division announced on one of the morning TV news shows that there would be a new Boy Scout uniform for the boys and the leaders available in the fall of 1980 (*at lower right*). A tan shirt with dark khaki pants was now the official uniform for the Boy Scouts. Each shirt would also have shoulder loops in various colors to designate the level of leadership-Cubs, Boy Scouts, Explorers, District or National. Except for minor changes in the uniforms, they have not changed since 1980.

The introduction of Career Interest Exploring allowed each special interest post to develop its own uniform. Police Explorers often had a uniform similar to the police department sponsoring them. Medical Explorers would wear medical coats with Explorer patches on the front. Other specialties developed their own uniforms. The cur-

rent Ventures wear a gray colored pant and green shirt.

The Tiger Cub uniform has consisted of an orange t-shirt for the Tiger and the adult with him. Starting in the fall of 2004, the Tiger Cub uniform became the regular blue Cub Scout uniform.

In the 1990s, the BSA National By-laws were changed to allow council offices to have a trading post that sold uniforms and other Boy Scout supplies. Mecklenburg County Council were one of the first councils in the country to do so.



Scout Shows

In the 1970s, Scout Shows became the biggest event of the year for the council and the largest fundraiser. The Scout Show remained as the council's largest fundraiser until the popcorn sales started in the late 1980s.



*Dr. Barry Miller
Council President
1977 - 1978*

The 1974 show was held at the Merchandise Mart. One hundred and seventeen Packs, Troops and Posts participated. The ticket sales promotion was modeled after the national guidelines and those used by Atlanta Area Council for their Scout Show. Until the 1990s, Atlanta's Scout Show was the largest annual Scouting event in the country. There were some memorable booths in 1974, such as the Pedro Boy's Life Booth with Pedro himself in the booth, and the cow in the Troop 49 booth that attracted quite a crowd of city Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. There was also the problem of the rope monkey-bridge that would not stay in place. Because of the smooth floor, every time someone tried to cross it, the two ends would slide toward the middle until the person was left standing on the floor.

In 1975, the show moved to the Metrolina Fairgrounds. Now the show could have both indoor and outdoor booths set up by the troops and packs. One year, a troop cooked wild game on an open fire and passed out samples to the public. The samples were eaten as fast as the venison, wild turkey, and even possum came off the fire. For a number of years, as the forms came back from the units requesting booth space there would be a notation "Do not put us next to the band." A large-sized Cub Scout pack armed with a stereo, tin cans, spoons, and other homemade musical instruments would accompany the recorded music. It was an unbelievable racket. A Ferris wheel was built in 1975 by Troop 34 of Sharon Road Presbyterian. One of the highlights of the 1979 Scout Show was the appearance of Ric Flair, well known Charlotte wrestler, who signed autographs for boys, mothers, sisters and even, grandmothers.

The Explorers often came to the show with fire trucks, EMT displays, police cars and other displays representing



*Bill K. Kemp
Council President
1978 - 1980*

their career specialties. For a couple of years, the Fashion Design Post would put on a display of well-dressed teenage girls, who were living manikins and were not allowed to move except once every so many minutes. It became a gathering spot for those Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts who had nothing else to do but try to get these girls to laugh or move by making faces at them.

There also was the very dedicated Emergency Medical Explorer Post whose members were hanging around their booth at closing time during setup one Friday night. Jimmy Tant, Explorer Director at this time and running the show, could not get them to leave. Across from them was a female leader who was six months pregnant and who was busy trying to finish her Pack's booth. When asked by Jimmy why they were not leaving and just standing around, one replied: "We've never delivered a baby."

To put on this large show, planning started months ahead with the Rotarians, volunteers and professional Scouters meeting to plan their parts of the show. Rotarians and Scouters worked side by side with parking, setup, ticket sales, judging, layout and anything else that needed to be done to make the activity a success. Well over 30,000 tickets were usually sold and crowds of 3,000 - 5,000 people were not unusual for a Saturday in November.

Boy Scouts Resurgence

The decade ended with Scouting membership up slightly, but with a very vigorous program attracting a lot of public attention.

The work during the 1970s placed Scouting on a better footing to resume its growth and service to young people.

Dr. Barry Miller served as council president from December 1977 to December 1978, with Bill K. Kemp serving out the decade as president from December 1978 to December 1980.

“A Lot of Return for Such a Small Investment”

In 1974, the council held a major capital fund campaign and raised over \$1,500,000 for the purchase of 1,088 acres of land in McDowell County, which became Mecklenburg Scout Reservation. The funding also was used to convert Camp Steere into a training facility and short-term camp. The campaign involved hundreds of volunteers under the leadership of General Chairman William Barnhardt and Campaign Director Ivan Worrell for the short period of February to May.

As WSOC-TV editorialized on May 9, 1974: “There are 7,000 boys in this community who have an idea...but they’ll need your help to see it through to reality.... The local Scouts want to build a reservation. They want to set aside some of the great outdoors for a multitude of character building programs that only Scouts can offer. But they need your help....That investment guarantees a return of character development, self-reliance, citizenship training and personal fitness. That’s a lot of return for such a small investment.”

Funding for the new camp came from the capital campaign and from the sale of land owned by the council.

On March 19, 1971, the council originally acquired the Wilson Creek property, composed of 305 acres of land in Caldwell County, from Crescent Land & Timber in exchange for Pioneer Point and the other parts of Camp Steere that Duke Power had given to Mecklenburg County for a park.

The Wilson Creek property was used for weekend camping by troops. The troops loved the campsite, but some had trouble with some local “businessmen” who threatened them and after the word spread, very few used the site. The area was known for its moonshine stills and there must have been some nearby, if not on the property.

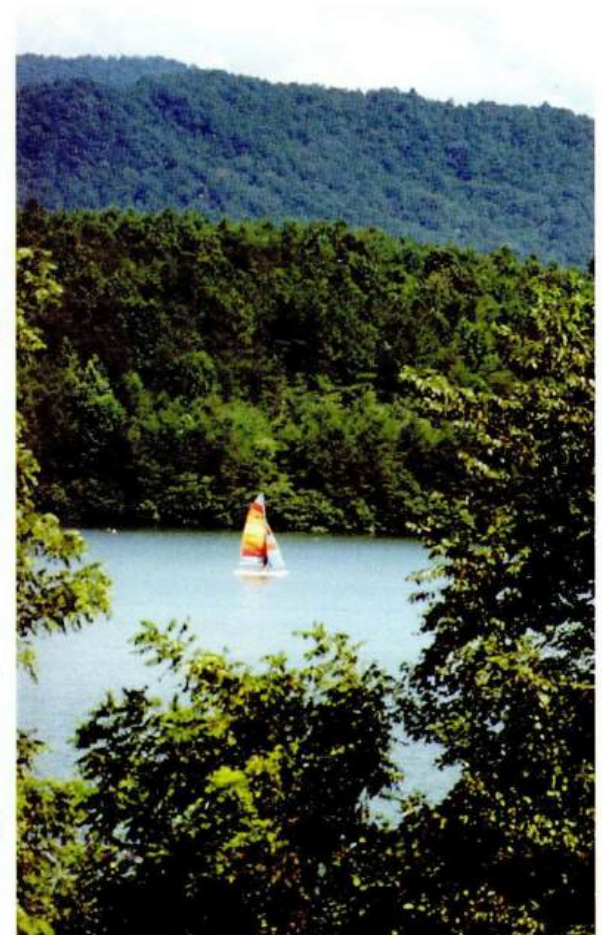
In December 1975, the council sold the Wilson Creek property to Mitchell Lumber Company of Spruce Pine, N. C. These proceeds were used in the purchase of the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation.

History of the Land

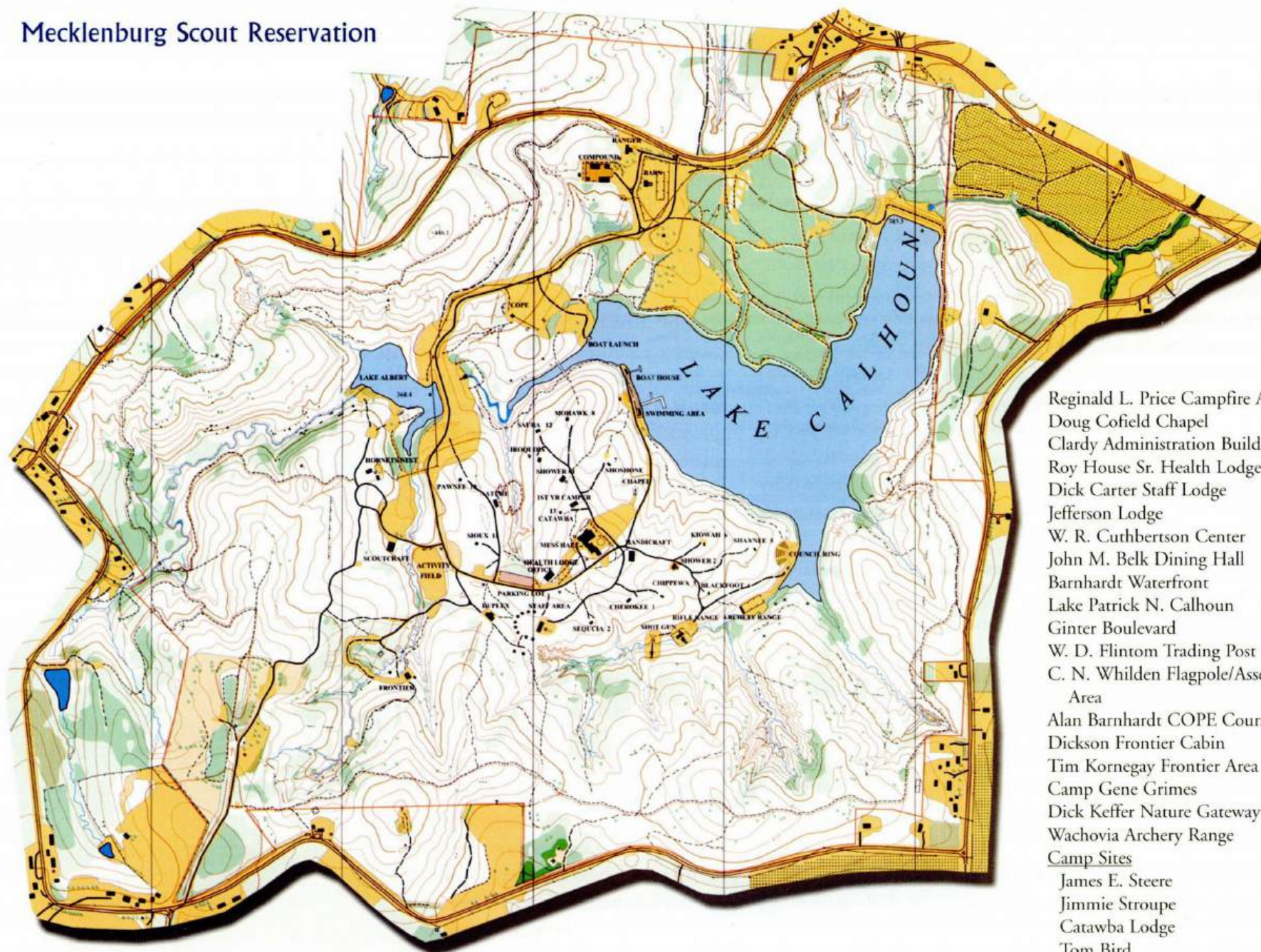
The Mecklenburg Scout Reservation also has an interesting history. Pre-historic indian settlements are located on the property, dating between 8,000 to 10,000 years old. Over the past 500 years, Indian tribes using the property would have included the Catawba and Cherokee.

Around 1780, frontier colonists stayed on the property on their way to King’s Mountain to defeat in battle British Colonel Patrick Ferguson and 900 British soldiers. The victory caused Lord Cornwallis to retreat from North Carolina, stifled Tory supporters in the South and re-invigorated the American army. Following the Battle of King’s Mountain, these citizen-soldiers were named the “Over Mountain Victory” men. To this day, the Over Mountain Victory Association re-enacts the match to King’s Mountain each October.

The Mecklenburg Scout Reservation is nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.



Mecklenburg Scout Reservation



Reginald L. Price Campfire Arena
 Doug Cofield Chapel
 Clardy Administration Building
 Roy House Sr. Health Lodge
 Dick Carter Staff Lodge
 Jefferson Lodge
 W. R. Cuthbertson Center
 John M. Belk Dining Hall
 Barnhardt Waterfront
 Lake Patrick N. Calhoun
 Ginter Boulevard
 W. D. Flintom Trading Post
 C. N. Whilden Flagpole/Assembly
 Area
 Alan Barnhardt COPE Course
 Dickson Frontier Cabin
 Tim Kornegay Frontier Area
 Camp Gene Grimes
 Dick Keffer Nature Gateway
 Wachovia Archery Range
Camp Sites
 James E. Steere
 Jimmie Stroupe
 Catawba Lodge
 Tom Bird
 Robert A. Miller
 Analysis International Inc.
 Cone Mills

Between the early 1800s and 1970, the reservation was sharecropped or had many small farm owners. During that time, Dysartville's post office and general store was located on the northeast corner of what is today's Scout reservation.

The land was consolidated by Rudolph Albert with the intention of building a resort. However, the Mecklenburg County Council purchased the property in 1974 for its use as a Boy Scout camping and outdoor facility.

In July 1973, after an extensive land search, the council found a piece of property described by experts as the finest piece of camp property in the south. The property was located twelve miles southeast of Marion, N. C., off state highway 226 and on Vein Mountain Road. The area is part of the Upper Golden Valley between the South Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the iso-thermal belt. The elevation of the camp ranged from 1,170 to 1,450 feet. There was a small seven-acre flood control lake already on the property, as well as a farmhouse and barn. There was a more modern house near the road, which eventually became the ranger's house. There was also an older building on the property that was believed to have dated from the American Revolution, when the troops traveling to Kings Mountain stayed on the property.

The property initially consisted of 1,061 acres and was owned by Attacoa Inc. One of the investors in Attacoa (an Indian word for Table Rock) was nationally known TV personality Art Linkletter, who was one of the investors planning to develop the property into a model community with golf courses, homes, condominiums and lakes.

The council faced a difficulty because the property was also being considered by Piedmont Council in Gastonia for their new camp. They had been considering the property for about ten years, but had never made a final decision or put a deposit down to purchase the land. Some meetings were held with leaders from both councils to consider if the councils could use the property together with one camp or with two separate camps. After some discussion and study, it was

decided that Mecklenburg County Council would buy the property and Piedmont Council would look further. A year or so later Piedmont Council developed a camp near Polkton.

Mecklenburg Scout Reservation (1976 to present)

On July 16, 1976, 1,000 people attended the dedication of the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation and its first operational camp, Camp Gene Grimes. It was also a day to recognize the retirement of former Scout Executive Tom Warren, who had been the key staffer heading the fundraising campaign to buy and develop the reservation.

An 88-acre lake was named for long-time Scouter Patrick Calhoun. The Central Complex was named after W. R. Cuthbertson Sr., the early Scouter and owner of City National Bank, who had helped with the loans to finance the building of the camp. Cuthbertson had loaned the council the money at four percent when the interest rate was double-digit. The trading post was named after W. D. Flintom. Troop sites were named after James E. Steere and R. A. Miller. Troop sites were given by Cone Mills and Analysis International Co. Inc. The dining hall was given in



Below is the Reginald L. Price Campfire Arena and the raising of the flag outside the W. R. Cuthbertson Center.

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



honor of John M. Belk and the flagpole and assembly area in honor of Carlton N. Whilden who had helped supervise the building of the camp. The former Boy Scouts of Reggie Price gave the Campfire Arena in honor of his service to Scouting.

As with all new camps, some things were left undone and some things were not finished until after camp opened. So, it was not unusual that a backhoe was kept at camp but what was unusual was seeing Keith Christopher, the Camp Director and the District Executive for Elgixin District, on many an afternoon in 1976, hopping on the backhoe and riding to the waterfront to take a quick dip and check up on the safety at the waterfront.

Even with state and county inspectors some things can be missed and can be a problem. The very first Sunday that Camp Grimes opened, a lady inquired about the ladies restroom. To the surprise of everyone, there was none in the camp even though building standards required one. Very quickly, the staff restroom in the dining hall was designated as the ladies room.

At least in 1978 and maybe for a few more years, Navy Reserve Seabees worked to build campsites and tent platforms.

In 1982 an Administration/Health Lodge was built for the camp. Prior to that, the offices were in the dining hall complex. Dick Keffer donated a mobile home for the camp director's residence in 1980. There was also a shotgun range completely separate from the rifle range.

On July 29, 1983, the Steve Clardy Administration building was dedicated along with the Roy House Health Lodge and the James Jefferson Nature Lodge. Jim Jefferson was long time Scouter and local Scouting conservationist.

In 1984, Beaver Days were established first as district activities and later as a one day council activity. Troops come to camp and help set up the camp for the summer and do special projects. The OA also holds its spring ordeal and helps with some of the logistics.

The Frontier area was developed at Camp Grimes in 1987 with a log house and other program features such as black powder rifles to give the Boy Scouts a feel of the frontier of a hundred years ago. This is a rare program available at Camp Grimes, Philmont and possibly a few other camps. The cabin which is 200 years old was moved to the camp in 1988. Also in 1988, the short-term camping area was opened for family camping.

The Doug Cofield Chapel was dedicated on July 15, 1985 at the camp. This was an appropriate memorial to a man who had kept such a positive attitude and a faith in God even when his health was at its darkest moments.

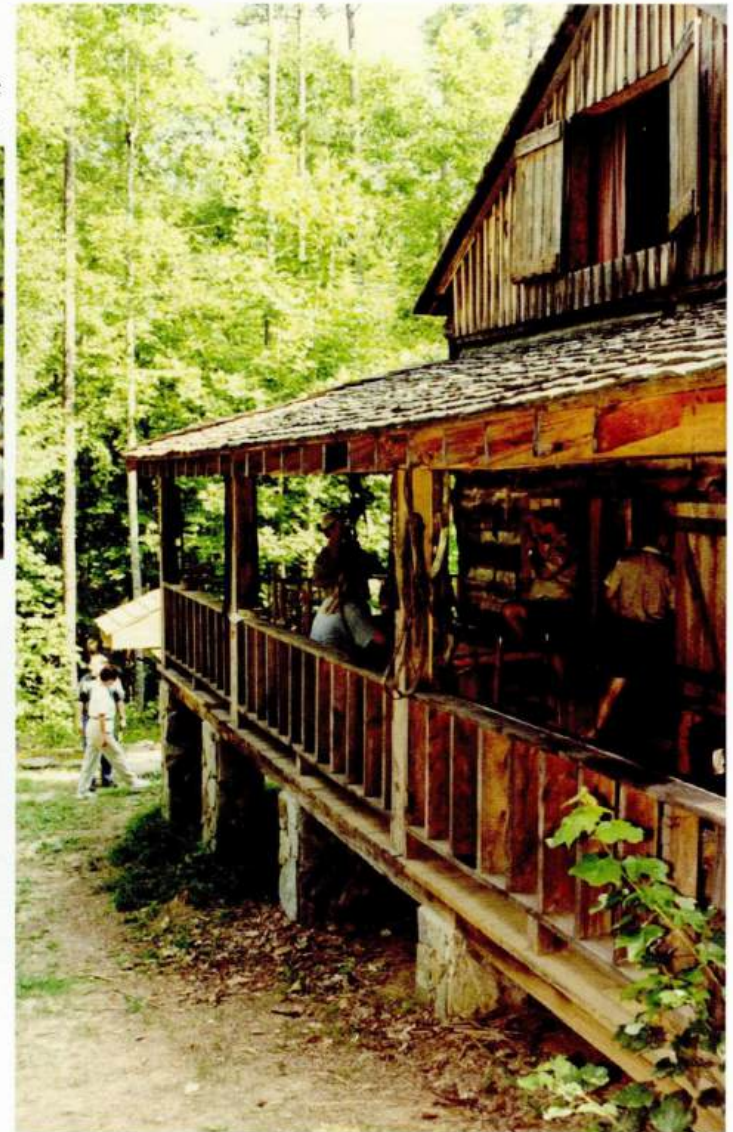
During the summer of 1986, the Dick Carter Lodge was dedicated. This was for the staff to use and was dedicated to the Scoutmaster of Troop 55. It had been donated by two families that asked to not be named. It included restrooms, recreation and study areas.

Alan Barnhardt designed a Challenging Outdoor Physical Encounter (COPE) Course for the older boys. It was designed to develop confidence and teamwork as Boy Scouts progress through a series of stations, including a 40-foot cargo net climb and a 70-foot high 300-foot long zip line.



Clockwise from below: the Dickson Frontier House with its crafts and history, the climbing wall as part of the Alan Barnhardt COPE course and the Doug Cofield Chapel at the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation.

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA





A full range of activities are offered at the reservation, including sailing, canoeing, mountain biking, rifle shooting, archery, climbing and much more!

photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



The waterfront was reconstructed and named the Barnhardt Waterfront. The improvements included two shelters, a new tower, 700 feet of split rail fence, 25 truckloads of sand, buddy boards and showers. The Barnhardts had provided the first waterfront when the camp opened.

The original property purchased in 1974 had included some land parcels that have been sold because they were not within the circle of roads surrounding the camp. Also, some property parcels not previously owned within that road circle have been purchased over the years.

A National Camp School was held at Camp Grimes in 1992. This was a week long training course for staff members of summer camps. Very few camps are ever chosen for this activity.

In the mid 1990s, Cub Scout Resident Camp was established at Camp Grimes. This allowed the Cub Scouts to spend a few days in camp.

The frontier program has become a very popular program. Over the last few years, there have been new activities added at the camp — water skiing, mountain biking and a horsemanship program.

Each year, the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation is host to thousands of Scouts and others who camp at these facilities.

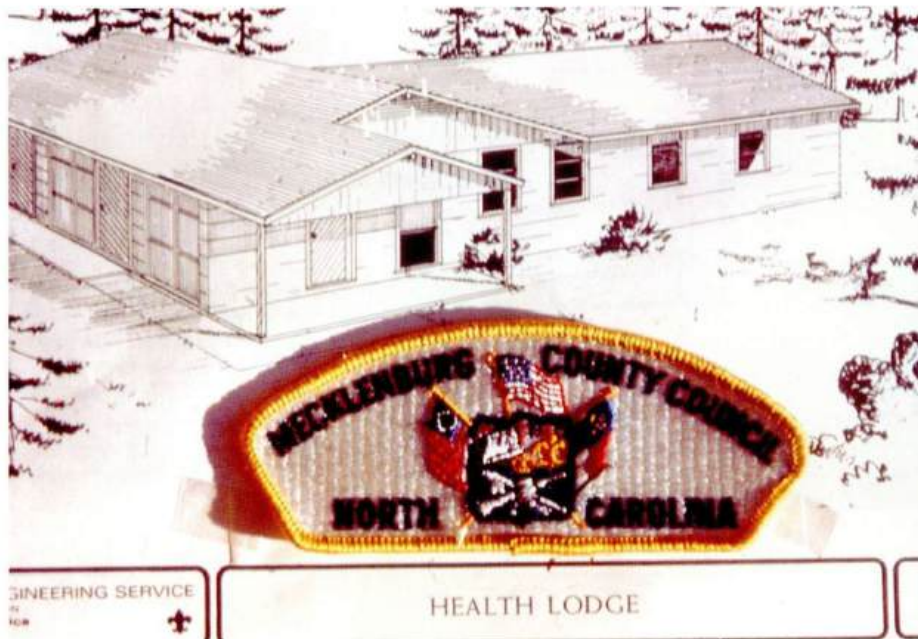
With the increasing demand on and use of the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation, the council will be launching a capital campaign and endowment drive. A part of this effort will be to maintain and continually improve the facilities offered at the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation.



Crafts and water sports are an important part of the Scout camping experience.



The Building of the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation



Growth & Renewal

The hard work of council volunteers and professional staff began paying off in the 1980s. New programs for in-classroom and reinvigorated Scouting activities caused membership to jump from 7,455 Scouts in 1970 to 11,457 boys and girls in various Scout programs by 1990.

Another change was made by the BSA National Executive Board, which revised registration rules to allow women to register for any adult volunteer position. Thus, the problem of finding a man to be the Scoutmaster or Webelos Leader disappeared for many units in low-income housing projects. By the 1990s, many women were registered as assistant Scoutmasters and attended camp with their troop.

In another change for greater accountability and protection, unit sponsors, now called the charter organizations, were expected to be responsible for the morality and reputation of any new leader. Some charter organizations, especially the PTAs, refused to recharter their units and considerable membership was lost in some councils with a large number of PTA charter partners. Mecklenburg County Council was not similarly affected, because the majority of its units are chartered by churches.

The Mecklenburg County Council was led during the beginning of the decade by President Mace Coleman from December 1980 to December 1982.

The National Executive Board created a four region management system consisting of Northeast, Southern, Central and Western regions. Mecklenburg County Council is in the Southern Region which is comprised of all of the southern states. In 1989, Regional President John Belk led an effort to build a regional office in Kennesaw, Georgia, just north of Atlanta.

In 1980, the council sponsored a recruiting booth and

display at the annual Festival in the Park in Freedom Park. Festival goers could walk across a monkey bridge that was built across one corner of the lake. The bridge became a popular attraction at the festival for a number of years.

The Charlotte Motor Speedway, beginning in the late 1970s, gave the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts complimentary tickets to its Saturday races. The Scouts loved it — right down front, next to the track where the noise, smells, and the dirt blown off the track is almost unbearable to anyone over the age of thirty. Hundreds of Scouts and leaders attended from all over the area.

A public speaking contest was held in the council for a number of years in the mid-1970s. At first they were sponsored by Reader's Digest Magazine. The winner received a trophy and made the council report for the "Report to the



*Mace T. Coleman
Council President
1980 - 1982*



Governor" each February in Raleigh. After winning the council contest in 1980, Jim Counts of Post 259, and an Eagle Scout from Troop 94 of Thomasboro Presbyterian Church, placed first in the Southeast Region and then fourth in the national contest. He spoke on "Meeting the Challenges of Tomorrow through Exploring."

Dick Carter, Scoutmaster of Troop 55 at Myers Park Presbyterian Church received the NESA Scoutmaster Award for service to Scouting. Since 1964, while under his leadership, 87 Boy Scouts have earned their Eagle Scout Awards.

F. Webb Maddux served as council president from December 1982 through December 1985. During the first five years of the 1980s, membership in the local council Scouting program jumped from 7,455 to 9,370 Scouts. The decade would see a more than 50% hike in the number of Scouts.

The Boy Scouts of America turned 75 years old in 1985 and the BSA created a number of ways to celebrate the birthday. One way was for the units to do a number of special programs and to participate in some activities with a patch available for each activity area. These activities included conducting a charter organization Good Turn, graduating Webelos, holding family camp, attending camporees and summer camp, doing an anniversary program, etc. Each pack or troop could set up their own requirements for doing the activities and what the activity would be.

During 1986 and 1987, the local council was led by E. K. Fretwell, Jr., chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. His father, E. K. Fretwell, Sr., was the second chief Scout executive for the national Scouting organization, succeeding James E. West when he retired.

1987 also was the year of the Glad Bag-a-thon. Glad Wrap and Bag Company sponsored a citywide cleanup on April 11th that had Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and others cleaning streets, parks, playgrounds and other public areas.

The Tiger Cubs program was introduced in 1982 for second graders. In 1988, the Webelos program in Cub Scouting

was changed to a two year program and first graders were now registered as Tiger Cubs. Also, instead of age, Cub Scouts were recruited and earned their ranks by their grade in school.

The College of Commissioner Science was developed in the 1980s to train commissioners. A joint effort between Central North Carolina, Piedmont and Mecklenburg County councils, the program rotated its location and planning among the three councils. It became an important day of sharing of ideas and building enthusiasm for the staffs of the councils. In 1987 Jeff Mullins, the UNCC basketball coach, was the keynote speaker.

BSA National Distribution Center

Jay Cassen, director of the BSA Supply Division, announced on August 9, 1979 that the Supply Division would move the Eastern Distribution Center to Charlotte in conjunction with the move of the National Office to Texas. The distribution center opened in February 1980 and employed about seventy-five people. The center shipped all



*F. Webb Maddux
Council President
1982 - 1985*



*E. K. Fretwell, Jr.
Council President
1985 - 1987*



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

uniforms, handbooks, equipment and other merchandise sold in the local Boy Scout distributorships and in council offices in the eastern U. S. The Transatlantic Council, serving the military bases and other Americans in Europe, also are serviced from this location, along with the councils in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone.

The warehouse in February 1980 was 60,000 square feet with another 6,000 feet of office space in the front of the building. The move sought to take advantage of the large number of trucking companies with terminals in Charlotte, as well as the city's central location for the east coast. The facility is located near the corner of York Road and Westinghouse Blvd.

In the late 1980s, the Supply Division made the decision to close the distribution centers in Irvine, California, and Melrose Park, Illinois. The distribution center in Charlotte became the BSA national distribution center and would service Scouting nationwide.



photo: Boy Scouts of America; patch: Richard Shields

1981 National Jamboree

The jamboree in 1981 moved to Fort A. P. Hill in Caroline County, Virginia, between Fredericksburg and Richmond. Many a Scouter remembered his days in the US Army training at the fort. After this jamboree, it was decided that this would be the permanent site for the jamboree. No longer would docks, restrooms, and other facilities need to be rebuilt every four years on a new jamboree site. But for this jamboree "jiffy johns" were used. Ray Tilley, former Scoutmaster of Troop 124 and a Mecklenburg County health inspector was on the Health and Safety Staff of the jamboree. He became concerned over the

condition of the "jiffy johns" and actually gave the BSA the order to clean them or he would have to close down the jamboree. They were cleaned in a hurry.

This was also the first jamboree to allow women to be on the staff. There were 29,765 Scouts who attended.

Mecklenburg was represented by two troops of 54 boys and six leaders, in Troop 552 led by Bill White and in Troop 551 led by Chip Wampler. One of the highlights of this jamboree was the visit of King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.



The 1981 Jamboree patch was worn proudly by Scouts attending the event, (at left).

1985 National Jamboree

The diamond jubilee jamboree was attended by 29,615 Scouts with the highlight being the visit of President Ronald Reagan. The local council once again sent a Scouting delegation.



*William M. Barnhardt
Council President
1987 - 1990*

Clear Creek Scout Reservation (1988 to present)

William M. Barnhardt served as council president from December 1987 through May 1990. During his tenure, he

Paul Moore, Scout Executive 1984-1989

Paul Moore came to Mecklenburg County Council from neighboring Piedmont Council, where many of the Mecklenburg leaders knew him from joint commissioner colleges and Camp Bud Schiele.



*Paul Moore
Scout Executive
1984 - 1989*

Moore had started his professional career at Hyde Park, N.Y., and had moved to Piedmont Council as field director (1976 - 1980) and then as director of field service (1980 - 1984). Moore came to Mecklenburg County Council in February 1984 as Scout executive after the death of Doug Cofield.

In 1989, he left for Oklahoma City. He was the Scout executive when the Oklahoma City bombing occurred that killed a number of council volunteers. In 2004, he became the first non-Mormon Scout executive in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Born on February 10, 1949, Moore was raised in Bergenfield, N.J. He became a Cub Scout and later achieved the Eagle Scout rank. He earned his Economics and Business Administration Degree from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. He and his wife Judy have two children, Brett and Kathy.

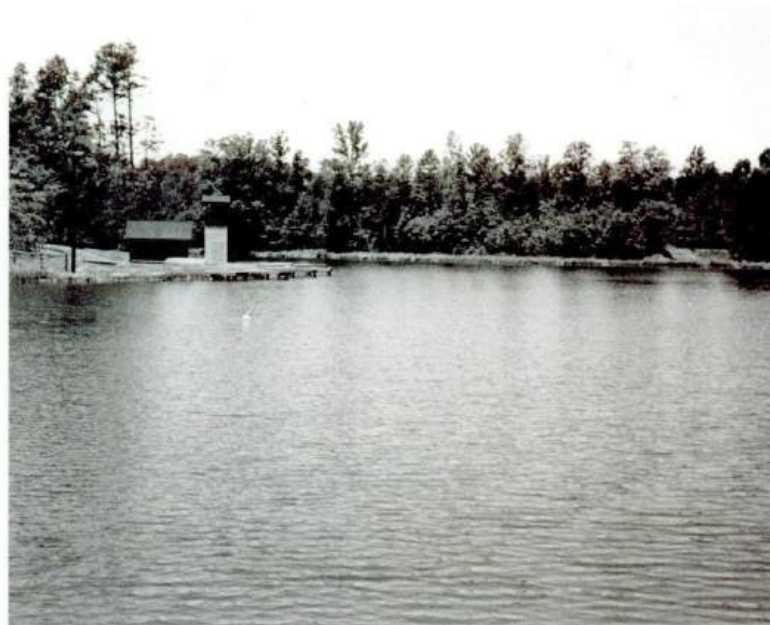
supervised the purchase and construction of a new camping facility for Cub Scouts.

After the sale of Camp Steere in the fall of 1987, Clear Creek Scout Reservation was purchased on May 5, 1988 and consisted of 231 acres in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus and Union counties. The property had been the farm of T. E. McManus. At purchase it was 60% wooded and 40% open land. Many Scouters were excited about the camp being in three counties, until building permits had to be obtained from all three governments raising the cost and complications of developing the camp. Building Inspectors from all three had to approve things also. After almost twenty years, its just part of the camp routine.

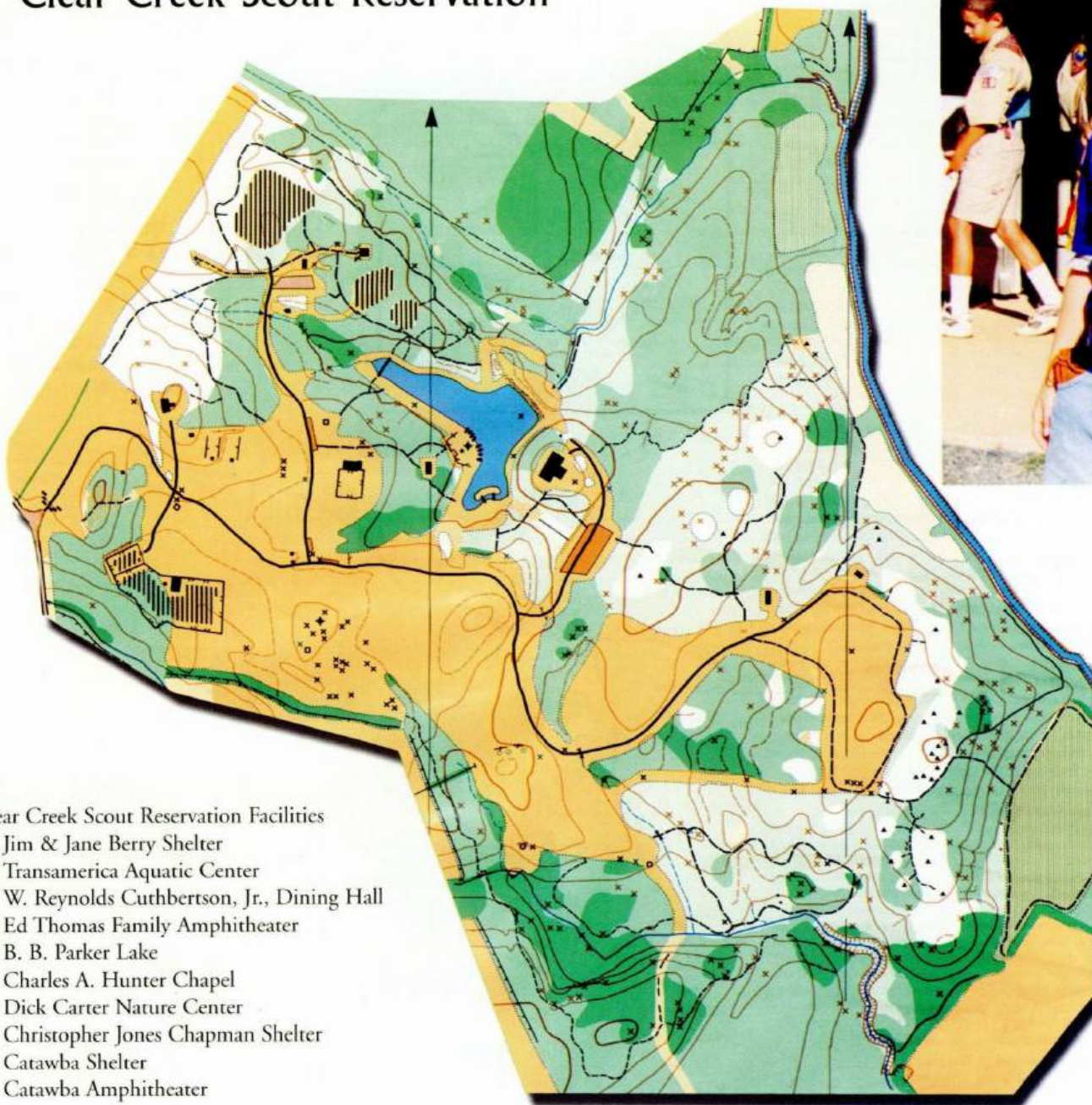
The camp was dedicated on July 13th, 1988.

On April 30, 1995, a beautiful dining hall, donated by C. D. Spangler, Jr., was dedicated in honor of W. Reynolds "Rennie" Cuthbertson, Jr., a former council president and long-time active executive board member.

By 2000, Clear Creek was handling as many Cub and Boy Scouts in one year as both Camp Grimes and Camp Steere combined in the mid-1980s.



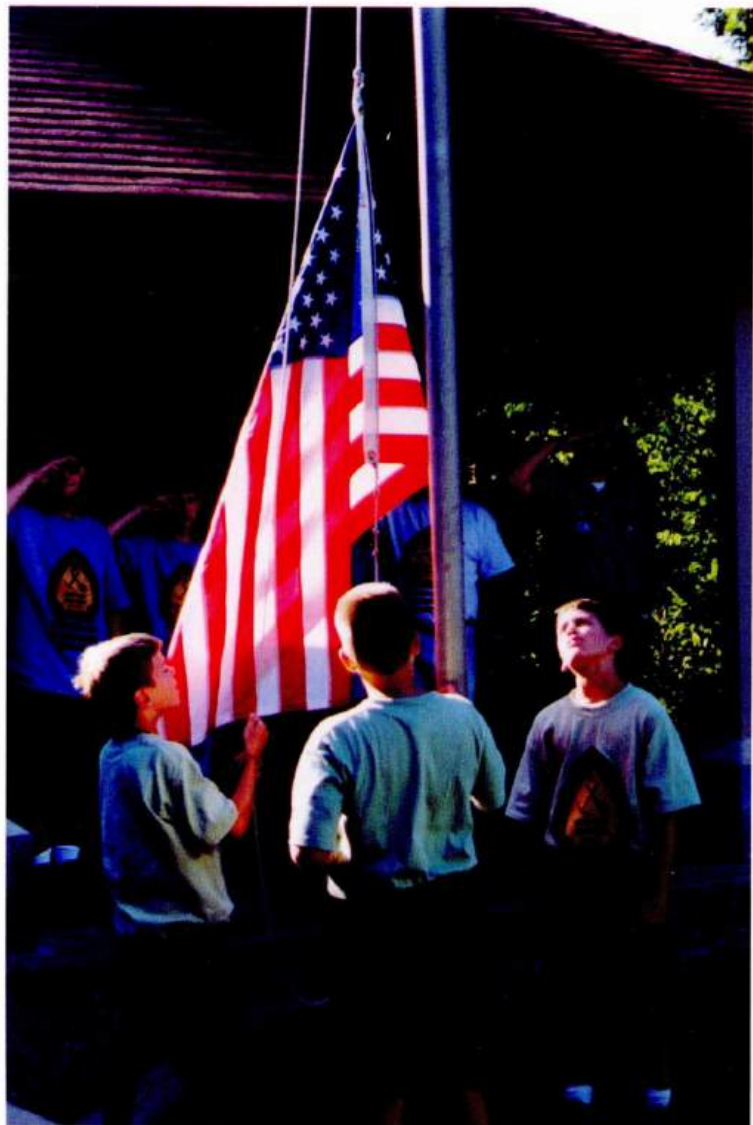
Clear Creek Scout Reservation



Clear Creek Scout Reservation Facilities

- Jim & Jane Berry Shelter
- Transamerica Aquatic Center
- W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Jr., Dining Hall
- Ed Thomas Family Amphitheater
- B. B. Parker Lake
- Charles A. Hunter Chapel
- Dick Carter Nature Center
- Christopher Jones Chapman Shelter
- Catawba Shelter
- Catawba Amphitheater





photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Clear Creek Scout Reservation offers modern facilities for Cub Scouts and a wide range of activities, including climbing, swimming and boat safety lessons, archery and more.



Scout Shows

During the 1980s, the Scout shows continued to be held at the Metrolina Fairgrounds until 1987 when it was moved to Memorial Stadium.

The 1987 Scout Show was held at Memorial Stadium and Park Center and was highlighted with a performance by The Hollanders of Lynchburg, Virginia, and a closing ceremony with fireworks sponsored by Pepsi-Cola of Charlotte. Attendance was estimated at 15,000 people.

The 1988 Scout Show was held in the spring in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of the North Carolina Air Guard and was held May 14-15 at the Air Guard Hangar area near Douglas Airport. It was also Armed Forces Day. The theme was "Raising the Spirit of America" and was organized by General Thomas Sadler. A number of unique military aircraft flew in for the show and were on display for the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and visitors to look into and in some cases walk into. The largest being the Lockheed C-5A Galaxy the world's largest aircraft at that time used by the New York National Guard. It could hold something like four Greyhound buses and the troops upstairs plus their equipment. The buses could drive in the back and out the front. The nose lifted up. Thousands of people showed up for this show.

The day before the show as part of a promotion for the show, a Blackhawk UH60 helicopter carrying Special Forces troops was to come down Morrison Blvd near South Park Mall and stop and let the members of Fort Bragg's 7th Special Forces Group descend on ropes to the ground carrying a letter of greetings from Gov. Jim Martin. As it reached the drop-off spot, it dropped about twenty feet and crashed into the lawn in front of the Equitable Building. Hundreds of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts watched as the rotors tore into trees and the ground sending splinters and dirt flying everywhere. Except for some minor cuts due to flying debris, no one was injured. Along with the military and Charlotte police guarding the wreckage were Explorer mili-

tary and police post members.

In 1989, the Scout show moved to Park Road Park with the various booths along the lake and sidewalks. Highlights included monkey bridges and the fire fighting equipment of the Charlotte Fire Department. The bucket truck used to fight fires in high-rise buildings would be brought out and set up. Periodically, a fireman would repel from the bucket to the ground generating oohs and aahs from the crowd.



Randy Pellisero with the 2001 popcorn sales winner and his mother.

On the opposite page are Scouting for Food pictures; left photo shows Scout Fernando Ruiz

Below, popcorn boxes are distributed by council staffer Gary Moore, and popcorn sales chairman Randy Pellisero.



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Popcorn Sales

Popcorn sales started in 1989 as a major Mecklenburg County Council fundraiser. The equivalent of the Girl Scout cookie sale, the popcorn sale has become the BSA's biggest fundraising product sale. Scout units make money for camping and other activities, while individual Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts earn prizes.

Barry Miller, a long time volunteer and former council president, chaired the first campaign in 1989 and the council netted \$26,000. Led by long-time popcorn sales chairman Randy Pellisero, council gross sales topped \$800,000 in 2003. Some Packs and Troops have sold over \$10,000 in one campaign that gave them considerable profits that they use for equipment, craft supplies, camp fees, super trips, etc. The popcorn sale now is the main or only fundraising project for many units.

Scouting for Food

The Boy Scouts in Mecklenburg County kicked off a new good turn for the community — Scouting for Food in 1988.

The first Scouting for Food was conducted in November 1988. It was the two large communitywide Good Turn being conducted by the Scouts at that time. For decades, Scouts had collected clothing and other ideas for Goodwill under the project, Bundle Day.

But with changes in the community and greater ease of donating items to Goodwill Industries through their many collection points, the need to continue the Bundle Day was coming to an end.

In the meantime, there was substantial national and local concern over the hungry, who often were elderly shut-ins and other persons needing assistance.

The first Scouting for Food drive collected 26,000 pounds of canned and otherwise, preserved food.

The Scouting for Food drive was conducted again in 1989 during the late winter. Each year, the Scouting for Food is held in February. About 50,000 pounds of food are

collected and distributed through local Charlotte food banks. While the distributor of the collected food has changed, the Scouts continue to support the project in large numbers.

From 1988 to 2004, Scouts collected over 1.5 million cans for local food banks. Most of the food is distributed through the Loaves & Fishes project in Charlotte.

“The more than 1.5 million cans and other food items

have made an appreciable difference to the hungry in Mecklenburg County over the last seventeen years,” noted local Scout Executive Leroy Mayne. “It is another example of the Scouts performing Good Turns for their community. It is a tradition that is approaching a 100 years and a tradition that the Mecklenburg County Council is delighted to carry into the 21st century.”



Hurricane Hugo

In late September 1989, Hurricane Hugo, one of the strongest hurricanes to ever hit the east coast came inland at Charleston, South Carolina, and made a path of destruction through both Carolinas and into Virginia. Trees and power lines came down, schools and businesses closed. Everything came to a halt and was a mess. Some people described the county as looking like a war zone.

The Boy Scouts and leaders immediately used their skills at home to cook on stoves and build fires if needed for heat and cooking. The council gathered clothing for those in the Charleston area that had lost everything. Food and water was also collected for the Charlotte area. The Boy Scouts also helped out with cleanups at their churches, neighbor's houses and anywhere else they were called to help.

The council properties were also hit with trees down and some leaning, posing as safety hazards. The estimated damage to council properties came to \$30,000. The COPE Course at Camp Grimes was damaged. The Executive Board

Meeting and the Wood Badge Course at Camp Clear Creek were postponed. Even though telephone lines were down and roads blocked by debris the day the storm passed, two thirds of the Wood Badge participants reported, as scheduled, for their second weekend. They had to be turned away since the camp facilities were not usable.

The School Night scheduled for the evening before Hugo hit was not as successful as in past years.

WBT radio one afternoon was fielding questions on how to survive when someone asked how to wash clothes without electricity and an automatic washer/dryer. Always prepared, a local Boy Scout was soon on the air explaining how to wash clothes just like they had at the jamboree that summer. Clear Creek Scout Reservation

Closing the Decade With Success

The close of the decade saw Scout membership jump again to 11,457 young people. The program had been revitalized. A long-time Good Turn, Goodwill Bundle Day, had

given way to an outstanding new project, Scouting for Food. A major new fundraiser, the popcorn sale, was getting underway to provide the council with needed resources to meet the expanding demand to join Scouting.

A new Scout executive, Leroy Mayne, had just joined the council in the middle of 1989. And the Scouting program

was poised to continue its trend of rapid growth into the 1990s and 2000s.



The Best of Times

Seventy-five years of the chartered local council was celebrated in 1990 with special council patches, special activities and a large council camporee with fireworks at a Saturday night campfire. Membership stood at an all-time high of 11,457 young boys and girls in various Boy Scout programs.

The 1990s and early 2000s would see the largest increase in membership for the local council in its history. The period also would see a tremendous expansion of the council's program for the inner-city, Hispanic, Asian and other minority communities within Mecklenburg County. Special needs programs for the disabled would expand beyond traditional Boy Scout troops into the Learning for Life non-traditional program for handicapped boys and girls. The council's budget also would increase to support the diversity of programs, supported by a major capital campaign and the start of critical endowment efforts.

And the council would continue its long-time service of Good Turns for the community.

The Nineties

At the beginning of the decade, George Shinn, owner of the Charlotte Hornets basketball team, served as council president from May 1990 to May 1992. During his term, Scouting reached out to boys in fragile, low-income neighborhoods and special fundraising campaigns were successfully implemented.

With public school students being transported all over the county, it was decided in the early 1980s to go to a coordinated School Night Program. Each school would be open with a coordinator and packs and troops waiting for interested parents and sons to show up. After a short program, those interested were recruited as leaders and the boys

registered for the Cub Scouts. The program proved one of the most successful efforts by the council in reaching potential members.

The sponsoring church organizations also helped to build the Scouting program. For example, Bishop L. Bevel Jones III of the United Methodist Church held a Together Dinner on February 11, 1990, to encourage United Methodist Churches to organize Scout units. In the 1990s, the United Methodist church placed an emphasis on having its churches sponsor the Scouting program. Other churches joined the Scouting effort.

Joyce Wright, an enthusiastic Cub Scout leader in the council for a number of years, was hired in November 1990 as the first paraprofessional to work with inner-city units.



*George I. Shinn
Council President
1990 - 1992*





*Leroy Mayne
Scout Executive
1989 - present*



*R. Bruce Jamieson
Council President
1992 - 1995*

Leroy Mayne, Scout Executive 1989-present

In August 1989, the Mecklenburg County Council hired a new Scout Executive, Leroy Mayne, who some of the professionals knew from the BSA Professional Development Center school in Irving, Texas.

Born on June 10, 1945, in Rockholds, KY, Mayne came up through the Scout program as a Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Explorer and worked on camp staff for five years while in high school and the University of Kentucky. He later served as a volunteer in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Exploring.

Mayne began his career in Ashland, Kentucky, in 1967 and then transferred to Findlay, Ohio, in 1971. He was promoted to Houston, Texas, where he served in the following positions — director of Scouting for the handicapped, Exploring executive, communications director and finance director during 1974 to 1981. In 1981, he moved to Sherman, Texas, as Scout executive and then on to be associate director of professional development for the national office in Irving from 1985 to 1989. In this last position, he was able to meet and train some of the finest professionals to be employed by councils throughout the BSA.

With his wife Annette, he has four daughters — Amy K. Clark, Alicia N. Jones, Jennifer C. Allen and Stephanie Mayne. An Eagle Scout son, Michael L., is deceased.

Mayne has also been active in the Charlotte Rotary Club, as an elder at Albemarle Road Presbyterian Church, community bible study and as a board member of Alexander Youth Network.

Council achievements during Mayne's tenure as Scout executive include the \$5 million Vision and Values capital campaign (1995), additions to Clear Creek Scout camp and the council service center, construction of the Cuthbertson dining hall at Clear Creek and development of the ScoutReach initiative.

By 2003, there were 15 part-time and full-time paraprofessionals who served as commissioners and unit leaders. There are special program aids for them and they run the meetings. They are part of the ScoutReach District that is primarily funded by the United Way. There are twelve paraprofessionals in low income areas, including three in the Hispanic community and one in the Special Needs. For many years, Deborah Hannah served as chair of the Urban Emphasis Committee, which spearheaded the group of members and services to what became the ScoutReach program.

New Ventures

Charlotte has been blessed many times over the years to have some well-known speakers come to annual banquets. The 1991 banquet featured James Lovell, commander of Apollo 13, as the main speaker.

In 1992, the council launched its Friends of Scouting Leadership Dinner, generally held in late winter. The dinner became an annual event to recognize distinguished Eagle Scouts or citizens making a significant contribution to their industry, the Mecklenburg County community and Scouting.



The dinner annually generates total revenues of more than a quarter million dollars for the council.

That same year, the Boy Scouts of America authorized its councils to begin selling uniforms and official Scouting supplies. The Mecklenburg County Council was one of several in the nation to open a trading post, which was later renamed the Scout Shop.

Endowments, Good Turns & Building A Future

During the three years that R. Bruce Jamieson served as council president from May 1992 to May 1995, Scouting conducted a small capital campaign to help expand the facilities at Clear Creek Scout Reservation. Plus, the Scouting For Food project to collect food for local foodbanks grew into a substantial Good Turn.

Scouting for Food became a national good turn program in 1988 and has been continued by Mecklenburg County Council ever since. The Cub Scouts and Scouts distribute empty bags in the community and/or their churches which are returned or collected. The food collected is given to the food pantries around the city. In 2004, the council collected more than 92 tons of food for the Loaves and Fishes Annual Charlotte Has Heart food drive.

The council launched its first major endowment drive, with the Scouting Heritage Society between 1990 -1992 and then the James E. West Fellowship Award in 1994. Both endowment programs still are active in 2004.

The Scouting Heritage Society kicked off on September 15, 1992, with BSA Chief Scout Executive Ben Love addressing the group. Rennie Cuthbertson was the endowment chair for the council. The endowment help benefit the Scout's initiative in its public housing community program and Scouting for the Disabled, as well as helping fund new camp facilities.

The endowment grew more with the James E. West Fellowship Award which recognizes individuals making endowment gifts of \$1,000. Bill Kelley received the first

James E. West Fellowship Award in March 1994.

In 1993, groundbreaking was held for the Cuthbertson Dining Hall for the Clear Creek Scout Reservation. Donated by C. D. Spangler, Jr., the new dining hall for Cub Scouts was completed in April 1995.

Thomas M. "Tim" Belk, Jr., became council president in May 1995 and served until May 1997. During this period, A major initiative was a \$5 million Visions & Values capital campaign that was successfully conducted in 1995.

The campaign provided for substantial expansion of both the Mecklenburg Scout and Clear Creek Scout reservations with new and renovated facilities to meet a strong increase in camping.

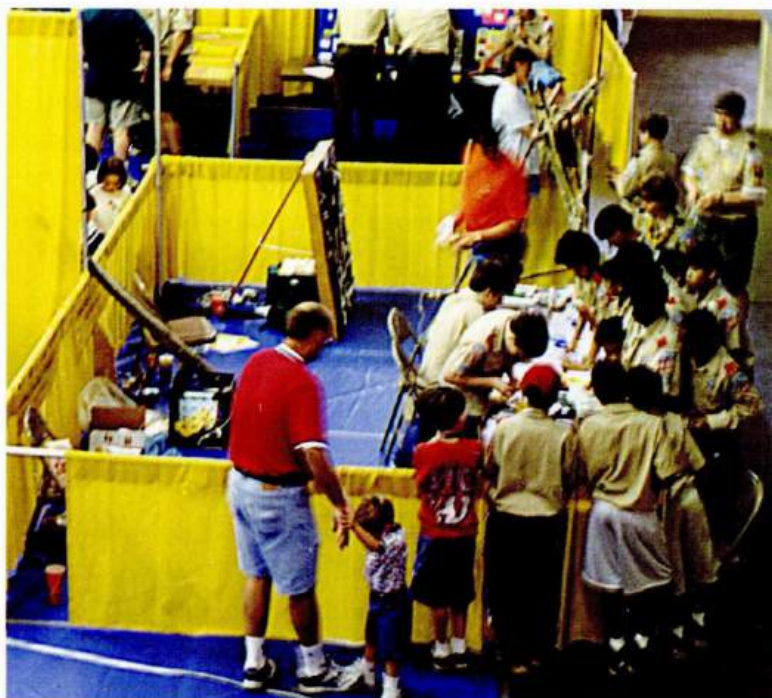
During this period, the non-traditional program Learning for Life was expanding by serving boys and girls, who were disabled or with special needs. The program also was designed for use in classrooms through character-building and values curriculum. Later, the career-oriented Exploring program would become part of Learning for Life. During the 1990s, the council's Explorer program involved more than 4,000 boys and girls in various posts. These groups were able



*Thomas M. "Tim"
Belk, Jr.
Council President
1995 - 1997*

*Fundraising during
the 1990s helped the
Council expand and
prepare its camps for
the future.*





Desert Storm

In February 1991, the council was stunned to learn that among the first twenty-five Americans to be killed in the Persian Gulf War was Eagle Scout and OA member Chris Chapman of Troop 49 at Back Creek ARP Church. Chapman, twenty-five years of age, was a member of the elite Night Stalkers of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. His Black Hawk helicopter crew had gone into Iraq to rescue some wounded Rangers and was shot down. His family was told his body was covering one of the wounded Rangers, when another helicopter landed to rescue them. He was buried in the cemetery at Back Creek Church near the meditation garden he had built as his Eagle project.

The Fourth of July of 1991 was declared National Uniform Day and the Boy Scouts were to wear their uniforms in honor of the troops in Operation Desert Storm.

to explore career interests while still in high school. The Mecklenburg County Council Explorer program was the largest in the south and ranked fifth largest in the entire country.

Scout Shows

The 1990 Council 75th Anniversary Scout Show was a huge success with over \$75,000 in ticket sales and 15,000 people attending the show in Freedom Park.

In 1994, to stimulate ticket sales, mystery houses were created. These were houses spread throughout the council that if a Cub Scout or Boy Scout approached to sell a ticket he would win a prize such as a football or basketball.

The shows were held at a variety of locations, including Freedom Park, Park Road Park, Independence Park, Memorial Stadium and the Grady Cole Center. But the



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA

Scout shows completed a 50-plus year run during the 1990s. Above is the raft demonstration at a Freedom Park show. Pictured above left and at far right is the last Scout Show, held in 1999, at Memorial Stadium and the Grady Cole Center. At near right on the opposite page are some of the Scouts participating in the first MetroRama event, where Scouts explored Charlotte and learned about the community and its institutions.

Scout Shows were taking time away from other key Scout spring activities. As a fundraiser for individual units, the shows lost ground to the widely popular popcorn annual sale.

After the 1999 show, the Rotarians and the council decided to discontinue the Scout show. Rotary had co-sponsored Scout shows with the council for more than 50 years. "From the beginning of Scouting in Mecklenburg County, Rotarians and other civic/business clubs have been important in promoting Scouting," noted Scout Executive Leroy Mayne. "Their support and the publicity generated by events, such as the Scout Show, have helped immeasurably to build the program and reputation of Scouting in this community."

A new activity developed in the past few years called MetroRama. The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts ride the public bus system from out in the county to downtown/uptown Charlotte. From there they tour companies, the hospital, the



photos: Mecklenburg County Council, BSA



jail, the banks, the Federal Reserve and other places of interest. In the last couple of years, some organizations in the city have asked if they could set up booths along the streets to promote their interests. Along with these exhibits, some of the packs, troops and posts also have started to set up booths.

Distinguished Leaders

The Mecklenburg County Council has recognized many individuals over the years who have been instrumental to the success of the Scouting program and of the local community.

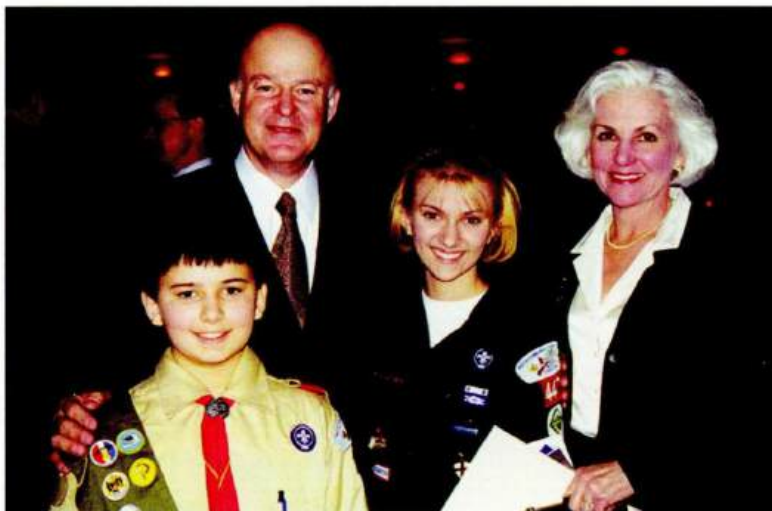
These individuals have been recognized through two honors — the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and the Distinguished Citizen Award.

A national Scouting award, the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award is presented in a local council to those Eagles who earned the Eagle rank at least twenty-five years before and who have been outstanding in their chosen profession and in community service.

The Distinguished Citizen Award is bestowed on individuals who have been leaders in their companies, their industry and in the local community.

Those who have received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in Mecklenburg County are: John Belk, Dick

The Priors with a Boy Scout and Venture Crew member at the Leadership dinner.



National Heroism Awards

There have been many local heroes among the Boy Scouts. A few Mecklenburg Scouts have received recognition from the national Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Their exploits were reported to Congress and in the media.

These recipients include —

Samuel O. Rush received the BSA Certificate for Heroism in 1925.

Frank C. Bernhardt was a recipient of the Certificate of Heroism in 1949.

In 1961, E. J. Hough, a 12-year old Tenderfoot Scout of Troop 26 sponsored by the Wilson Smith Bible Class of First Methodist Church, rescued three-month-old Ronald Lee Klutz, Jr. from burning to death. Hough received the BSA Honor Medal.

That same year, 12-year-old Ronnie Lee Young received the BSA Certificate for Heroism. The April 4, 1961, *Charlotte News* reported he had saved a Boy Scout's life in a swimming mishap in June 1960..

During the 1970s, a number of the Boy Scouts earned awards for Heroism.

Lyndon Maurice White, a 16-year-old Explorer Scout and president of Police Explorer Post 244, received the BSA Honor Medal with Crossed Palms for giving his life trying to save some of his neighbors during a flood in Charlotte. He had already saved an elderly lady and a young mother and her child, when he was swept off a bridge.

Eric Lasher of Troop 121, sponsored by Memorial United Methodist Church, received the BSA Medal of Merit in 1977 for saving his seven-year-old cousin who had slipped underwater and had not resurfaced.

Later in 1977, Charles Beachum of the same troop received the BSA Medal of Merit for saving the life of his

neighbor who had suffered a heart attack. Earlier in the year, Boy Scout Beachum had performed the Heimlich maneuver on a choking 8-year-old child at a church covered dish dinner.

The BSA Medal of Merit was presented to Mark R. Grant in July 1979 for saving the life of a drowning boy.

Francis "Chip" Cash received the BSA Medal of Merit for aiding a young person, who had severe bleeding from putting a hand through a pane of glass in March 1980.

Mike Saye and Charles Williams of Troop 81 received the BSA Meritorious Award for helping two ladies injured during a robbery.

Steven Poe of Troop 87, at First Union Presbyterian Church, received the BSA Meritorious Action Award for pulling a youngster from the bottom of a pool in April 1982.

Chris Mueller of Troop 35, Hickory United Methodist Church, was presented the BSA Medal of Merit.

Around 1994, Michael Swett of Troop 186, at Robinson Presbyterian Church, received the BSA Heroism Award for saving a child who had fallen off a deck and into a snow covered swimming pool.

In 2000, Michael Seymour of Troop 118, St. Stephen United Methodist Church, saved a 17-year-old girl trapped in her wrecked auto, which burst into flames. He received the BSA Heroism Award. *Boy's Life* magazine depicted his heroics in their November 2002 issue (*shown at right*).

In 2004, Harrison Tucker saved a fellow student's life by administering the Heimlich maneuver. He was awarded the BSA Meritorious Action Award.

A TRUE STORY OF SCOUTS IN ACTION

HE PUT OUT THE CAR FIRE!

As Michael Seymour, 17, drove home from his Charlotte, N.C., high school on Aug. 28, 2000, a car ahead of him entered an intersection - and got hit by a van.

The van knocked the car on the median. Michael parked his car and rushed to see if the drivers were injured.

He asked a woman to call 9-1-1.

Mike found Sara Ferguson, 17, unconscious. Her doors were locked, and flames flared from under the hood.

Mike retrieved the fire extinguisher he had in his car that he planned to use for a Safety merit badge project. He put out the fire with it.

Mike maintained order at the scene until emergency teams arrived and cut the car open, freeing Sara. An ambulance took her to a hospital for treatment of a broken pelvis and fractured shoulder.

Eagle Scout Michael D. Seymour, a member of Troop 118, chartered to the St. Stephen United Methodist Church, Charlotte, N.C., received a Heroism Award for the rescue.

Simpson, Dick Carter, Charlie Hunter, Ed Crutchfield, William States "Bill" Lee, C. D. "Dick" Spangler, Jr., Richard Vinroot and Bill Grigg.

Those who have received the Distinguished Citizen Award are: Hugh McColl, Jerry Richardson, Tom Belk, Stuart & Alan Dickson, Bill Holland, Rick Priory, Frank Harrison, III, and Russell Robinson.

During 1990s and 2000s, Ron Martin completed 25 years volunteering as the council treasurer. During his tenure the council budget went from \$250,000 to \$2,800,000.

In 2004, Gene Conder is the longest serving staff member, serving as council office manager and Scout executive assistant. She was a police Explorer in Post 237 as a teenager. She started in September 1976 in the print shop and four or five years later became the registrar. In 1984 with the arrival of Paul Moore as Scout executive, she became his assistant and was in charge of handling the SME program. In 1992, Scout Executive Leroy Mayne named her as the office manager.

At the turn of the millennium, Bank of America executive G. Patrick Phillips served as council president from May 1997 to May 1999, followed by Central Piedmont Community College President Tony Zeiss (May 1999 to May 2001). Their financial and educational expertise were valuable to the council as it prepared strategic plans for the 21st century.

While the world worried about the Y2K computer crisis, the local council was implementing a new networking and database system, called ScoutNet. The system allowed the local troop and council to be connected to the national BSA office computer. No longer would a local troop have to fill out paper forms to recharter. The process now is handled on the troop computer and sent by the internet to the council's computers.

And not all leaders are adults. In June 2003, the last of the four Brinson brothers, members of Troop 133 at Sardis Presbyterian Church, earned their Eagle Awards; a record for Mecklenburg County Council. Thomas earned his Eagle in

1999, Mark in 1998, Eric in 1995 and David in 2003.

In the 21st century, Scouting continued to have outstanding volunteer leadership. J. A. Jones CEO Charles Davidson, served as council president from May 2001 to May 2003. He was followed by Lance President & CEO Paul Stroup from May 2003 to May 2005.

In May 2005, long-time executive board member and general counsel for Belk Inc. Ralph Pitts will assume the council presidency.

ScoutReach

More than 15,000 young men and women participate in the traditional and non-traditional activities, ranging from Cub Scout Packs to Boy Scout Troops, to Venture Crews to Explorers to Learning for Life to special disability units.

One special initiative, ScoutReach is serving Scouts from the Hispanic, Asian, fragile urban communities and low-income areas in Charlotte/Mecklenburg.

In 1994, the Mecklenburg County Council of the Boy Scouts of America launched an initiative to offer Scouting programs in public housing and fragile urban neighborhoods. The program included hiring paraprofessionals.

ScoutReach now has grown through the addition of a coordinating executive working with the paraprofessionals, two 15-passenger vans, additional campership scholarships, uniforms, program books, equipment and activity fees.

ScoutReach expanded to 17 public housing communities and also other fragile Charlotte neighborhoods. An example



*G. Patrick Phillips
Council President
1997 - 1999*



*Anthony P. Zeiss
Council President
1999 - 2001*



of a ScoutReach unit, not in public housing, was established at the Greater Gethsemane Enrichment Center started by Bishop George Battle, Jr.

With the county's population growing more diverse, the council launched its Hispanic Emphasis program in 2000 with the hiring of a bilingual-bicultural executive and two Latino paraprofessionals. As with the urban program, the United Way of Central Carolinas was instrumental in providing some funding support for this initiative. Outreach to Asian communities were stepped up through its traditional district operations.

In 2002, the council created a new ScoutReach district position. The on-going success of the ScoutReach program reached a milestone that year. A member of Troop 394 chartered to Johnston YMCA, Ryhein Fielder became the first ScoutReach participant to reach the coveted Eagle rank. Fielder's troop was led by paraprofessional Nelson Rankin.

Through Scout full-time staff and part-time paraprofessionals, the Scout council offers consistent leadership and positive role models on a weekly basis in 21 urban communities, including Double Oaks, Savanna Woods, the Cambodian Mission, Southside Homes and Silverstone Apartments. These paraprofessional also lead monthly activities and camping trips for their Scouts.

The United Way of the Central Carolinas has partnered with the Scout council in providing Scout uniforms, handbooks and camping equipment for ScoutReach youth members. The ScoutReach program also is supported by a group of dedicated volunteers that assist the Scouting paraprofessionals through training, program support and unit service.

In 1999, the Scout council expanded its outreach efforts by meeting with Asian and Hispanic community leaders and launching Scouting units for young people from these ethnic communities.



*Charles T. Davidson
Council President
2001 - 2003*



*Paul A. Stroup, III
Council President
2003 - 2005*



Scouting in 2004

- **Tiger Cubs:** A school-year program for first-grade (or 7-year-old) boys and their adult partners that stresses simplicity, shared leadership, learning about the community and



family understanding. Each boy/adult team meets for family activities, then once or twice a month all the teams meet for Tiger Cub group activities. At the beginning of 2004, there were 839 Tiger Cubs in the Mecklenburg County Council.

- **Cub Scouting:** A family- and home-centered program for boys in the second through fifth grade (or 8-, 9-, and 10-year-olds). Cub Scouting's emphasis is on quality programming at the local level, where the most boys and families are involved. Fourth- and fifth-grade (or 10-year-old) boys are called Webelos (WE'll BE LOyal Scouts) and participate in more advanced activities that begin to prepare them to become Boy Scouts. There were 4,397 young people in the Cub Scouts and Webelos in 2004.

- **Boy Scouting:** A program for boys age 11 through 17 designed to achieve the aims of Scouting through a vigorous outdoor program and peer group leadership with the counsel of an adult Scoutmaster. (Boys also may become Boy Scouts if they have earned the Arrow of Light Award or have completed the fifth grade.)

- **Varsity Scouting:** An active, exciting program for young men 14 through 17 built around five program fields of emphasis: advancement, high adventure, personal development, service and special programs and events.

There were 3,236 young men in the Boy and Varsity Scouting activities during 2004.

- **Venturing:** Venture Crew is a new program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 through 20 years of age and have completed the eighth grade.

Based on unique and dynamic relationships between youths, adult advisers and organizations in their communities, venturing focuses on positive social interaction, leadership development, hands-on experience, refining problem-solving skills, service to others and action-oriented activities.

The program revolves around Venturing Crews, and groups of young adults are brought together because of common interests, such as biking, scuba diving, horseback riding,



backpacking – just to name a few. In 2004, there were nearly a 1,000 Venturers in the local council.

There are a large, home-schooled groups that are sponsoring Venturing and Scouting units. This is a rapidly growing area.

Learning for Life

- Special needs: Working primarily in partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, this initiative brings into the classroom Scouting for young people with disabilities, stressing life skills and personal development. Scouting offers young people with disabilities three fun and exciting elements of Scouting: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Learning for Life. Key people in this area include Karl Strohmenger from the council staff and Julia Sain, district chairman for special needs and executive director of Programs for Accessible Living.

- Exploring: The purpose of Exploring is to provide experiences to help young men and women mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Explorers are ready to explore the meaning of interdependence in their personal relationships and their communities.

Young men and women learn ethical decision-making through positive social interaction, leadership development, hands-on experience, refining problem-solving skills, service to others and career exploration activities. Exploring is part of the Learning for Life career education program for youths age 14 through 20. Carlton Crump is the Exploring director, working with Nicole Pane, senior Explorer executive, and Peter Gilchrist, vice president of Exploring and the Mecklenburg County District Attorney.

In-school Learning for Life programs also reach additional boys and girls in a character-based, ethics education program.

In 2004, there were about 2,000 boys and girls in the Learning for Life special needs; over 4,300 boys and girls in the Explorer program and another 1,000 in the in-school program.



National Legal Challenges

Over the past 30 years, more than 30 lawsuits have attacked the Boy Scouts of America over the organization's values. These cases challenged Scouting's right to set standards for membership and leadership.

The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled several times in favor of the Boy Scouts over the decades. The most well known case is *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*, 530 U.S.640(2000).

In 2000, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that "applying New Jersey's public accommodations law to require the Boy Scouts to admit Dale violates the Boy Scouts' First Amendment right of expressive association. Government actions that unconstitutionally burden that right may take many forms, one of which is intrusion into a group's internal affairs by forcing it to accept a member it does not desire."

The ruling noted that "Dale is an adult whose position as assistant scoutmaster of a New Jersey troop was revoked when the Boy Scouts learned that he is an avowed homosexual and gay rights activist."

In effect, the court ruling means "that Boy Scouts, and all private organizations, have the constitutionally protected right under the First Amendment of freedom of association to set membership standards," noted the Boy Scouts of America in its summary report on the case. "Furthermore, the Court ruled that:

- ★ An association is entitled to protection if it 'merely engage[s] in expressive activity that could be impaired.'
- ★ The presence of someone who may interfere is enough to impair First Amendment rights.
- ★ State anti-discrimination laws may not interfere with expressive rights."

However, there are continuing legal challenges on a variety of side issues at the local level, often filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Access to Schools

On January 8, 2002, the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7905 (2003), was passed. Legislators took action because in some places around "the country the Boy Scouts are under attack and being thrown out of public facilities that are open to other similarly situated groups. From Florida to California, the Boy Scouts are being removed, not because they support an illegal right, but as retribution for the Supreme Court's ruling in the Boy Scouts of America versus Dale." 147 Cong. Rec. H2618 (daily ed. May 23, 2001) (statement of Rep. Hilleary); see 147 Cong. Rec. S6249 (daily ed. June 14, 2001) (statement of Sen. Helms); 147 Cong. Rec. S4867 (daily ed. May 14, 2001) (memorandum from Congressional Research Service on actions by school districts against Boy Scouts); 147 Cong. Rec. S6256 (daily ed. June 14, 2001).

The Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act provides that, "no public elementary school, public secondary school, local educational agency, or State educational agency that has a designated open forum or a limited public forum and that receives funds made available through the Department shall deny equal access or a fair opportunity to meet to, or discriminate against, any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, or any other youth group listed in title 36 of the United States Code (as a patriotic society), that wishes to conduct a meeting within that designated open forum or limited public forum, including denying such access or opportunity or discriminating for reasons based on the membership or leadership criteria or oath of allegiance to God and country of the Boy Scouts of America or of the youth group listed in title 36 of the United States Code (as a patriotic society)."

The U.S. Secretary of Education enforces the statute and has ordered that: "If the public school or agency does not comply with the rules or orders, then . . . no funds made available through the Department shall be provided to a

school that fails to comply with such rules or orders or to any agency or school served by an agency that fails to comply with such rules or orders.”

Scouts have won many cases on this access, for example in *Boy Scouts of America v. Till*, 136 F. Supp. 2d 1295, 1308 (S.D. Fla. 2001). After the Dale decision, the Broward County School Board sought to exclude Boy Scouts as violating a Board nondiscrimination policy applying to age, race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation. No other groups—which included churches, a youth orchestra, a service agency for senior citizens, and an African-American sorority—were excluded. The District Court held that the School Board engaged in viewpoint discrimination against Boy Scouts’ views, and granted a preliminary injunction. The School Board ultimately agreed to a permanent injunction and agreed to pay Boy Scouts’ attorneys fees.

Duty to God

In the Scout Oath, a Scout promises to do his “duty to God,” as well as to be “reverent” in the Scout Law.

The Boy Scout Handbook (11th ed.) explains a Scout’s “duty to God” as “Your family and religious leaders teach you about God and the ways you can serve. You do your duty to God by following the wisdom of those teachings every day and by respecting and defending the rights of others to practice their own beliefs.” The book goes on to explain that “a Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.”

In *Randall v. Orange County Council, Boy Scouts of America*, 952 P.2d 261 (Cal. 1998), two atheist boys refused to recite the duty to God portion of the Cub Scout or Boy Scout Promise, or do their duty to God. The boys sued, and the Orange County Superior Court granted an injunction. On appeal, the California Supreme Court reversed, holding that Boy Scouts are not covered “business establishments” for purposes of the Unruh Civil Rights Act and could not be

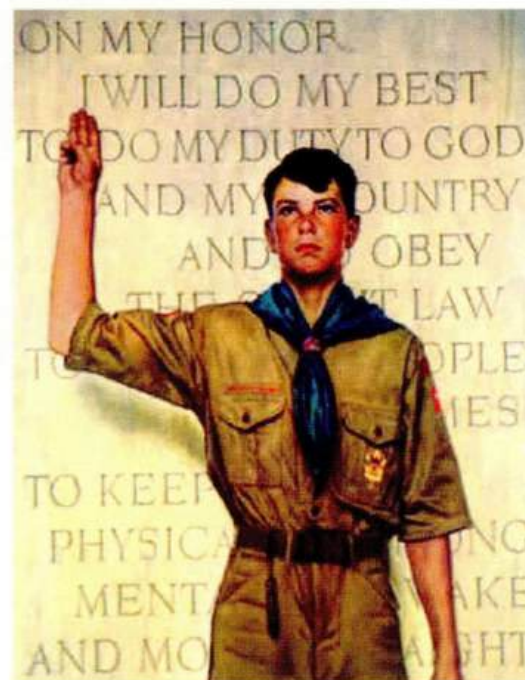
required under California law to change its duty to God requirements with respect to youth members.

There are many examples of court cases on this issue where Scouts have been upheld in state supreme courts or federal district or appellate courts, including: *Seabourn v. Coronado Area Council*, 891 P.2d 385 (Kan. 1995) and *Welsh v. Boy Scouts of America*, 787 F. Supp. 1511 (N.D. Ill. 1992), 993 F.2d 1267 (7th Cir.), cert. denied, 510 U.S. 1012 (1993).

Summary

Around the country, there are a few isolated suits over use of non-school government properties by Scouts, as well as some legal wrangling over state government employee charity fundraising campaigns.

In the Charlotte area, there had been no legal challenges to Scouting up to the printing of this book.



Good Turns

Good turns continue today in the hundreds and thousands of activities that Scouts undertake each year.

More than 100,000 cans of food were collected in 2004 by Scouts from across Mecklenburg County during the annual Scouting for Food program. The food is distributed through Loaves & Fishes to feed those in need.

The council provides extensive programs for the disabled, as well as for youth in fragile, economically depressed neigh-

borhoods.

Individual Scouts make a difference. In 2004, Scout Greg Gardner designed and build an amphitheater and seating at Providence Spring Elementary School for presentations and outdoor education program. Scout Sean Kelly provided needed remodeling and work at the University Adult Care Facility, a day center operation for the elderly.

As Scouting in Mecklenburg County nears its centennial, every day Scouts perform Good Turns.



Local artist Chuck Calhoun painted "Camp Grimes Sunrise on the Lake Calhoun", which was used in the 2004 Friends of Scouting campaign.

Epilogue — The Journey Continues

After a long and hard day's hike up a steep mountain trail a Scoutmaster pointed past the hills toward the distant beginning of the trek. He and the Scouts reflected on the joys and difficulties of their tiring adventure. They also discussed the known and the unknown challenges awaiting them and the preparation needed. A nearly exhausted young Scout fell on his knees and began to pray, "Heavenly Father, thank you for being with us, for we have come a long way. But, please stay with us tomorrow, for our journey continues."



A Good Turn For Generations has done a wonderful job of reflecting on the contributions made by the Boy Scouts of America to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina over the past 90 years. God has indeed blessed the Scouting program with outstanding leadership and community support. Just like the young Scout mentioned above, we pray that God will continue to be with this council and guide its future efforts.

The values instilled through Scouting in Mecklenburg County in the past 90 years will be equally important for future youth and families. Duty to God and Country, helping others and developing oneself should remain important, and so should being prepared, trustworthy, loyal . . . and reverent.

The skills and values taught youth through the programs of the Boy Scouts of America should continue to be critical to the development of future citizens of Mecklenburg County. Consider some of the basic categories of first aid, life saving, family living, citizenship, environmental science, and leadership. These skills will always be essential to strong

families and a caring community.

If Scouting is to continue as a good turn for generations, there are valuable lessons we should learn from Scouting's history in Mecklenburg County that are vital to meet future opportunities and challenges. The lessons learned will become more important as we look at some of the opportunities and challenges.

Most significantly will be the changing demographics — a larger population and a more diverse population will inhabit Mecklenburg County. In a few years, the growing Latin American, Asian American and African American populations have been projected to become the majority. Varied and blended cultures may become the norm in our area. A larger population is creating a more densely populated area.

And major challenges may come from people who do not share Scouting's traditional values. Unfortunately, there probably will be continued efforts to delete "duty to God" and "morally straight" from the Scout Oath by those who do not share Scouting's values.

The population growth alone will result in the need to expand council camps, increase the volunteer base, organize more Scout units and increase staff to support a growing program. The changes in culture will result in the need to develop innovative programs, and recruit volunteers from different populations and form partnerships with more community organizations.

The Scouting program in Mecklenburg County has greatly benefited from the legendary efforts of such people as Jim Steere, Gene Grimes and Charlie Hunter. Generations of Scouting volunteers have come from a number of families, including the Belks, Barnhardts, Carters, Clardys, Cuthbertsons, Lawings, and Nichols, to name just a few.

These volunteers have provided leadership for the continued growth of the council. The youngest generation of these families are becoming Eagle Scouts and will inherit the responsibility of joining with others of diverse backgrounds to lead the council. Some of the other future leaders will be from the Blair, Alvarez and Nguyn families. Their family origins may be from Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The next generation of our council's leaders will have the same challenges of funding Scouting, recruiting volunteers, and involving community organizations. They will have the

same responsibilities to uphold the principals and policies of the Boy Scouts of America.

And Scouting's future leaders will have many of the same opportunities to continue the Good Turn for Mecklenburg for generations.

Leroy Mayne
Council Scout Executive

December 2004



*"Our Scout Team" left to right
Hillary Rahe, Explorer Post 224;
ScoutMaster Henry Wallace,
Troop 172;
Cliff Gentry, Troop 39;
Reginald Brown, Pack 172;
Fernando Steele, Troop 172;
Colby Lemmond, Pack 186;
Brandon Hamby, Troop 186;
Jason Williams, Troop 186.*

Appendix A

2004 Council Officers, Executive Board & Staff

Council PresidentPaul A. Stroup, III
Council President-ElectRalph A. Pitts
Past Council PresidentCharles T. Davidson
Council CommissionerThomas J. LaBonte
Council TreasurerJ. Ronald Martin
Council Assistant Treasurer . . .David F. Brawley
Council AttorneyB. Palmer McArthur
VP AdministrationPeter Browning

VP ProgramRichard C. Carter, Jr.
VP District OperationsJohn Sequeira
VP FinanceEugene C. Pridgen
VP MembershipRichard F. Parker
VP PropertiesMax M. Cooper
VP ScoutReachJ. Wilfred Neal
VP ExploringPeter S. Gilchrist, III
VP PR/MarketingDavid Trusty
Scout ExecutiveLeroy Mayne

Executive Board

Fred Abbott
Claude R. Alexander
David Auger
Michael Baker
Alan Barnhardt
W. B. Barnhardt
N. Craig Bass
George E. Battle, Jr.
John M. Belk
Thomas M. Belk
Kristy L. Blackman
Staton E. Boyette, Jr.
Deon Bradley
David F. Brawley
Peter Browning
Rex Byers
Robert E. Carlson
Richard C. Carter, Jr.
Richard C. Carter, III
C. S. Clardy

C. S. Clardy, Jr.
Max M. Cooper
Dustin Counts
Steve Crump
Ron Curtis
Charles T. Davidson
German DeCastro
Stern Dixon
Jim Doyle
Richard Dunn
Carlos Evans
Peter S. Gilchrist, III
E. Blake Graeber
Paul Grube
Hilda H. Gurdian
Ben Hawfield
Thomas J. LaBonte
Marshall Larsen
Richard Latorre
J. Chandler Martin

J. Ronald Martin
Augustine Martinez
G. Dodson Mathias
Leroy Mayne
B. Palmer McArthur
David McDonnell
Michael J. Miller
Ivan Mothershead
J. Wilfred Neal
Thomas C. Nelson
William A. Nichols, Sr.
R. Stephen Pace
Richard F. Parker
G. Mack Patterson
Theodore W. Pearson
Randy Pellisero
Ralph A. Pitts
Clyde Preslar
Eugene C. Pridgen
F. C. Proctor

James L. Pughsley
Art Sabates
Julia Sain
John Schultze
John H. Sequeira
Frank Spencer
John B. Stedman
Paul A. Stroup, III
Mary Sturge
Steve Swetoha
David Trusty
Jim R. Weeden
Barry Weiss
Mauricio West
J. Allen Woodward
Norris R. Woody
Jeffrey M. Yoh
Anthony Zeiss

2004 Mecklenburg County Council Staff

Scout ExecutiveLeroy Mayne
Assistant Scout ExecutiveTony Morton
Field DirectorGary Moore
Program DirectorDennis McGarry
Exploring DirectorCarlton Crump
Endowment DirectorJohn Ashworth
District Director/ApacheTodd Bennett
District Director/EtowahDave Ritchie
District Director/ScoutReachJustin Lewter
District Director/Hornets NestAlan Keiger
Sr. Exploring Executive/In-SchoolNikcole Payne
District Executive/WunitaKarl Strohminger
Sr. District Executive/ApacheMike Rusho
Sr. District Executive/Hispanic OutreachAlicia Olmeda

Office Staff

Office Manager/Scout Executive AssistantGene Conder
Accounting SpecialistJackie Torrence
Finance AssistantTerrie Bailey
RegistrarJerry McCoy
Program AssistantNancy Hilal
Graphic SpecialistKristen Bailey
Word Processor/Tele ReceptionistCathy Drake
Scout Shop CoordinatorDonna Cox
Scout Shop AssistantNiti Ruiz
Paraprofessional/ScoutreachNelson Rankin
Paraprofessional ADD

Camp Rangers

Mecklenburg Scout ReservationCarl Curnutte
Clear Creek Scout CampMac McCullough

Appendix B

Council Presidents

Charlotte Council, created in 1913

Rev. Francis M. Oldham, president	March 1913 - June 1913
Gen. Arthur L. Smith, president	June 1913 - October 1915

Charlotte Council, Chartered by BSA, Nov. 24, 1915

Jesse M. Oldham	Nov. 1915 - Dec. 1920
William A. Reynolds	Dec. 1920 - Dec. 1921
Charles F. Dalton	Dec. 1921 - Dec. 1922
Dr. Baxter Springs Moore	Dec. 1922 - Dec. 1923
Edward E. Jones	Dec. 1923 - Dec. 1924
Frank R. McNinch	Dec. 1924 - Dec. 1925

Charlotte Area Council, April 1928

W. J. "Will" Edwards	Dec. 1926 - Dec. 1930
Keely A. Grice	Dec. 1930 - Dec. 1933
Herbert H. Baxter	Dec. 1934 - Dec. 1936

Central North Carolina Council, March 13, 1936

Earle J. Gluck	Dec. 1936 - Dec. 1937
Herbert H. Baxter	Dec. 1937 - April 1940

The Central North Carolina Council split in April 1940.

Mecklenburg County Council, 1940

Earle J. Gluck	April 1940 - Feb. 1941
W. H. Halliburton	Feb. 1941 - June 1943
Aubrey M. Elliott	June 1943 - Dec. 1944
Thomas W. Bird	Dec. 1944 - Dec. 1945
Joe L. Blythe	Dec. 1945 - Dec. 1946
Harry L. McAllister	Dec. 1946 - Dec. 1952
George W. Dowdy	Dec. 1952 - Dec. 1954
Dennis E. Myers	Dec. 1954 - Dec. 1955
A. W. "Jimmy" Greene	Dec. 1955 - Dec. 1957
W. F. Phillips	Dec. 1957 - Dec. 1960
John M. Belk	Dec. 1960 - Dec. 1961
Charles A. Hunter	Dec. 1961 - Dec. 1964
Edward H. Thomas	Dec. 1964 - Dec. 1966
William A. Nichols	Dec. 1966 - Dec. 1968
S. R. DeWitt	Dec. 1968 - Dec. 1970
F. E. Bobo, Jr.	Dec. 1970 - Dec. 1972
W. Reynolds Cuthbertson, Jr.	Dec. 1972 - Dec. 1974
J. Norman Pease, Jr.	Dec. 1974 - Dec. 1976
R. P. Stephens Davis	Dec. 1976 - Dec. 1978
Dr. Barry Miller	Dec. 1977 - Dec. 1978
Bill K. Kemp	Dec. 1978 - Dec. 1980
Mace T. Coleman	Dec. 1980 - Dec. 1982
F. Webb Maddux	Dec. 1982 - Dec. 1985
E. K. Fretwell, Jr.	Dec. 1985 - Dec. 1987
William M. Barnhardt	Dec. 1987 - May 1990
George I. Shinn	May 1990 - May 1992
R. Bruce Jamieson	May 1992 - May 1995
Thomas "Tim" M. Belk, Jr.	May 1995 - May 1997
G. Patrick Phillips	May 1997 - May 1999
P. Anthony Zeiss	May 1999 - May 2001
Charles T. Davidson	May 2001 - May 2003
Paul A. Stroup, III	May 2003 - May 2005
Ralph Pitts	May 2005 -

Appendix C

Scout Executives & Commissioners

Scout Executives

For the first two-and-a-half years, the Scout Executive was a volunteer post occupied by members of the Executive Council. In June 1918, council members sought to hire the first paid executive, Jim Steere.

Following are the 13 men who have held the position of Scout Executive for this local council:

Charlotte Council, Chartered by BSA, Nov. 24, 1915

Dr. J. H. Caldwell	1916	
Gilmer Horton	1917	
J. M. Samonds	Jan. 1918	- June 1918
James E. Steere	June 1918	- Dec. 1919
John B. Floyd	Jan. 1920	- Dec. 1922
James E. Steere	Jan. 1923	- Dec. 1940

Mecklenburg County Council, 1940

Charles F. Saffley	Jan. 1941	- Nov. 1942
John B. Hackney	1943	- Jan. 1945
J. Fred Vantrease	Mar. 1945	- Sept. 1958
George Thomason	Oct. 1958	- May 1959
Thomas R. Warren	May 1959	- Dec. 1973
Doug Cofield	Jan. 1974	- Feb. 1984
Paul Moore	Feb. 1984	- July 1989
Leroy Mayne	Aug. 1989	-

To date, the five longest serving local Scout Executives are:

Jim Steere	19 years, 6 months
Leroy Mayne	15 years, 3 months plus (current exec.)
Thomas R. Warren	14 years, 7 months
Fred Vantrease	13 years, 6 months
Doug Cofield	10 years, 1 month

Scout Commissioners

William A. Reynolds	March 1913	- 1913
Rev. Francis M. Osborne	1914	- Sept. 1915
Archie C. Shelton	Oct. 1915	
James E. Steere	Nov. 1915	- Dec. 1919
J. O. Walker	Jan. 1920	-
Karl W. Selden	1923	-
Keely A. Grice	1926	-
Dr. R. H. Lafferty	1932	- 1933
Reginald L. Price	1934	- 1940
George Houston	1941	- June 1943
Harry L. McAllister	Sept. 1943	- 1946
George Houston	1947	- 1949
W. J. L. McNeary	1950	- 1952
Harry L. McAllister	1952	-
Lambert Schwartz	1958	- 1959
F. B. Johns	1960	- 1961
Grant Whitney	1962	
E. H. Thomas	1963	
George Sinnicks	1964	- 1966
Barry Miller	1967	- 1968
W. R. Cuthbertson, Jr.	1969	- 1970
Royce Angel	1971	
Eric Ritzen	1972	
McDaniel Jackson	1973	- 1974
Bill Kemp	1975	- 1976
Shem Blackley	1977	
Dudley Wellman	1978	
Don Hoover	1979	- 1980
Joel Moser	1981	- 1982
Dennis Guthrie	1983	- 1984
Dusty Sparks	1985	
George Westerfeld	1986	- 1988
Richard C. Carter	1989	- 1993
Craig Bass	1994	- 1996
John Young	1997	- 2000
Tom LaBonte	2001	- 2005
Henry Harkey	2005	- present

Appendix D

Membership & Other Information

Year	Annual Participants in Council Scouting Program	Community Strips & Council Shoulder Patches			
		<i>Community Strips</i>			
		<i>Letters</i>	<i>Background</i>	<i>Dates Used</i>	<i>Type of Unit</i>
1915	200 est.				
1920	320 est.	Red	Tan	1928 - 1945	Boy Scouts
1925	395	Red	Kahki/Olive	1946 - 1952	Boy Scouts
1930	825*	White	Red	1952 - 1972	Boy Scouts
1935	1,234*	Gold	Dark Blue	1930s -	Cub Scouts
1940	791	White	Dark Blue	1928 - 1972	Sea Scouts
1945	2,495	Black Blue	White	1928 - 1972	Sea Scouts
1950	3,890	Brown	Dark Green	1949 - 1952	Explorer
1955	5,175	Dark Blue	Light Blue	1942 - 1952	Air Scouts
1960	6,440	Red & Whites — Council, city and state on same cloth; Council Name on same cloth: worn by			
1965	7,838	Scout professionals only. Dates: pre-1972			
1970	8,308				
1975	7,307	<i>Council Shoulder Patches</i>			
1980	7,455	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	
1985	9,370	S1	1972	White background, council shield, MCC Charlotte NC BSA	
1990	11,457	S2	1973	White background, council shield, MCC North Carolina	
1995	12,904	S3	1977	Light blue background, dark gray border, purple letters, thinner lines in hornet's nest	
2000	15,782	S4	late 1970s	similar to S3, light gray border, purple letters, thinner lines in hornet's nest	
2003	16,673	S5a	1990	75th anniversary, green background, dark yellow letters, crown & fleur-de-lis	
2004	17,139	S6a	1990	75th anniversary, green background, gold mylar letters, silver crown & fleur-de-lis	
		S7a	1990	75th anniversary, green background, gold mylar letters, gold crown & fleur-de-lis	
			2001	2001 Friends of Scouting "Do your Best"	
			2002	2002 Friends of Scouting "Be Prepared"	
			2003	2003 Friends of Scouting "Go Venturing"	
			2004	2004 Friends of Scouting "Friends of Scouting"	
			2004	2004 Friends of Scouting "Presenter" "Friends of Scouting"	

*In these years, the council consisted of multi-counties in the North Carolina Piedmont region. All other years reflect only Mecklenburg County totals.

Adult Recognition Awards

There are many awards presented by the Boy Scouts of America. The top three awards for leadership are the Silver Buffalo (national service), Silver Antelope (regional service) and Silver Beaver (council service).

In addition, Scouting previously awarded a Silver Fawn award for women, who had not been eligible for the Silver Beaver award. When women became eligible for the Silver Beaver, the award was presented to all Silver Fawn winners. Only one woman refused the Silver Beaver award and retained the Silver Fawn.

The council recognizes the top Scout trainer each year through the Earle J. Gluck award presented by the Charlotte Kiwanis Club.

The BSA also authorized the local council to present Distinguished Eagle Scout Awards. The Mecklenburg County Council also presents a Distinguished Citizen Award.

This appendix lists all such winners in the council.

Silver Buffalo Award

Awarded by the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, the Silver Buffalo Award is given to a volunteer for outstanding service to youth on the national level. This award was created in 1925.

Honoree

1984 John M. Belk



Silver Antelope Award

Created in 1942, the Silver Antelope Award is granted for outstanding service to youth within a region by the National Court of Honor. A recipient must be a registered adult member of the Boy Scouts of America.

Honorees

1946 Dr. Russell C. Long

1949 William H. Barnhardt



1962 John M. Belk



1986 Herbert H. Sparks, Jr.



1995 Carlton "Chip" S. Clardy, Jr.



1998 G. Dodson Mathias



Silver Beaver Award

The Silver Beaver Award is the highest recognition in a local council that may be awarded by the National Court of Honor. Based on nomination by a local council, the award is made for noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by Scout leaders.

Honorees

1931

Keely Grice
Jesse M. Oldham

1932

William H. Willard
W. J. Edwards

1938

Reginald L. Price

1939

J. N. Van
J. J. Barnhardt

1940

A. K. Winger
H. P. Canton, Jr.
Dr. G. R. Combs
J. I. Padgett
E. J. Gluck

1941

A. W. Lawing

1942

W. H. Halliburton
V. S. Westmoreland

1944

R. P. Alexander
Herbert H. Baxter
J. L. Blythe
H. L. McAllister

1945

T. W. Bird
W. I. Bullard
R. E. Roberts

1946

George T. Carey, Sr.
A. N. Greene

1947

William H. Barnhardt
Dr. R. A. Moore

1948

Dr. W. F. Medearis
Aubrey M. Elliot
George N. Scranton

1949

George P. Houston
H. J. Kennedy
Francis J. Beatty
George W. Dowdy

1950

A. B. Banks
Dr. C. G. McClure
Rev. M. B. Prince
Claude Wells
W. D. Flinton

1951

J. K. Brown
J. R. Raye
Dr. W. L. Hall
Dennis Myers
L. M. Walker

1952

James E. Steere
W. F. Phillips
W. D. Dean
P. L. Harrington

1953

E. E. Wayland
Otis Dowdy
Ralph Cato

1954

Calvin McGeehee
Stanhope Lineberry
T. C. McKinney

1955

John M. Belk
George Sinnicks
Everett Turner
William H. Coffey

1956

J. W. Beckham
W. P. Vause
A. Grant Whitney
C. E. Reneau
Ernest Duren

1957

L. S. Pierce
Donald E. Mills

1958

Ernest Sifford
F. B. Johns
Stanley Hubbard
Dr. McCord Williams
M. L. Green

1959

Dr. Roy Bigham, Jr.
H. C. Hewson
Dr. R. S. Dicks
H. Watson Stewart

1960

Ralph Bouligny
Dr. W. K. Goodson
Rev. Sam H. Zealy
Charles A. Hunter
Dr. Roy S. Wynn

1962

Otto Haas, Jr.
C. N. Whilden
Worth Helms

1963

J. C. Barnhardt
George W. Blades
O. A. Crenshaw
James G. Therrell
A. Stokes King

1964

Robert Girard, Sr.
E. F. JKumm
Dr. Ralph Reid
Robert Williams

1965

William Reynolds Cuthbertson, Jr.
R. N. Cunningham
J. Lambert Schwartz
J. B. Whittington, Jr.
J. F. Vantrease
Eric W. Ritzen

1966

W. M. Barnhardt
J. L. Jefferson
Henderson Belk
Royce Angel
Dwight L. Phillips

1968

Dr. Herbert Spaugh
Dr. Barry G. Miller
Stewart R. deWitt
Frank Short
Cecil E. Bullard

1969

T. R. Lawing, Sr.
Matthew Lyle, Jr.
William A. Nichols, Sr.
W. S. Stewart, III
Herman G. Stone

1970

A. A. Selby, Jr.
Rev. Russell M. Kerr
Joseph L. Taylor

1971

C. C. Johnson
R. Lee Bass
Earl Yarborough
Dr. James Fogartie

1972

Isaac L. Falkner
Frank Watson
James P. Hancock
Richard C. Carter, Jr.

1973

Furman D. Bridges
McDaniel Jackson
Samuel S. McNinch, III
William E. White
Hugh K. Reid
Louise G. Goodman

1974

Roy W. House, Sr.
Richard W. Simpson
Robert V. Sisk
Martin D. Ward
B. B. Parkers

1975

R. P. Stephen Davis
Patrick N. Calhoun
William David Price
Hampton Belton

1976

John David Campbell
E. Bessie Hudson
Bill L. Kemp
Donald H. Sterrett
Elvie Morris Turner

1977

Shirley F. Fugerson
Raeford E. Hartis
William E. Poe
Perry Read
Frank L. Winecoff

1978

Joseph C. Champion
Carlton Steven Clardy
William J. Cochran
Beaumert H. Whitton

1979

John R. Anderson
Henry L. Sam Denton
Mamie E. Metz
Malcolm S. Rhyne, Jr.

1980

Dean R. Bess
Oreatha Bridges
George L. Gettier
R. M. "Pat" Morgan
J. Norman Pease, Jr.

1981

Carl R. Chapman
Jesse L. Everidge, Jr.
Joseph W. Grier, Jr.
Joel L. Moser
Betty J. "Patsy" Patterson

1982

Roy M. Hester
M. Homer Monson
Harold C. Patterson
James Y. Robinson, Jr.

1983

Stewart F. deWitt
Dennis L. Guthrie
H. H. "Dusty" Sparks, Jr.
Ray L. Tilley

1984

Eugene B. Crain, Jr.
Jack E. Eulitt
Wilbur C. "Bill" McKenzie
Louise Y. Fair
Stephen N. Dubay
Kenneth D. Alexander
Dr. Jay M. Robinson

1985
Robert C. Boyd
Robert B. Dula
Harry L. "Bud" Rosenbaum
Frank E. Wampler, Jr.
Glen Mowery

1986
N. Craig Bass
Don Blackmon
Mace T. Coleman
Don Hoover
George E. Meier
Buddy Morgan
Alice Springs
George Sweet

1987
Howard J. Campbell
Henry A. Harkey
Solomon S. Hellinger
Roy W. House, Jr.
John F. Jolly
William S. Lee
William J. McCallum
John F. Simon
Willie J. Stratford, Sr.

1988
Shem K. Blackley, Jr.
Don E. Irwin
Henry M. Wallace
Richard Stavrakas
Joel B. Tigler
Joyce M. Wright

1989
Elbert K. Fretwell
Charles H. Harris
Willis Joseph
Richard W. Keffer
Charles J. Parker
Jonnie J. Philyaw

1990
R. Alan Barnhardt
William B. Barnhardt
James William Bogan
Thomas B. Knox, III
Francis C. "Bo" Proctor, Jr.
Henry M. Springer

1991
Carlton S. Clardy, Jr.
Frank O. Crenshaw
David Stanley Marquis
Prentiss C. Pentecost
Willie Pride

1992
Joseph W. Grier, III
James Horne
Bruce Jamieson
Susanne Miles
R. Stephen Pace
Ray Spangler
Williamson Wallace

1993
John A. Ashworth, III
Barbara B. Bogan
Max M. Cooper
Walter Jack Crumpler
Mary Elizabeth Horne
George L. Maillet
C. Daniel Watts
Jim Wilson

1994
William H. Fox, Jr.
Richard L. Griffin
Robert E. Issacs
Peggy Sue Maillet
H. L. "Bo" Moorefield
Lillie Taylor
Max E. Treece
Robert C. Warner

1995
Peter D. Bogguss
Frederick E. Dabney
Julian Love
J. Ronald Martin
Juanita G. Samuels
Ellis Satterwhite
A. Lynn Snuggs
William H. Tyler
Charles W. Wooten

1996
Lawrence W. Banks, Jr.
Amy Cone Blackwell
William S. Cowden, Jr.
S. Vance Elstrom
Richard R. Getz
Richard A. Heckle
Stan D. Nester
Emily Pentecost

1997
Richard P. Alter
Thomas M. Belk, Jr.
David E. Hampton
Vernon A. Brewer
William M. Kennedy, IV
Donald E. Taylor
Dean W. Jones
Kayleen W. Hicks
William L. Maine

1998
Thomas L. Burgess
H. Jack Davis
John W. Fairley, Jr.
Keith W. Faulkner
J. Wayne Inman
Beverly G. Logan
W. Barry Miller
William P. Schwab
Frederick G. Stees

1999
 Staton E. Boyette
 William L. Brown
 Emily Davis
 Henry "Hank" Donaghy
 Virginia Morrison
 Ted Pearson
 G. Patrick Phillips
 Beth A. Suerdieck

2000
 Marvin A. Bethune
 Kenneth Bullock
 Robert M. Cochran
 Alfred Ferrell
 Bruce Fowler
 Thad Everette Gantt
 Roland E. Newsome
 Frank Thompson
 Tamara Williams

2001
 Raymond Coulter
 Charles F. Knight
 William A. Harmon
 Louis McClendon
 John K. Loveless
 James K. Secunda
 Luke Snyder
 H. Earl Wheeler, Jr.

2002
 Richard G. Dunn
 Roger N. McFadyen
 Richard F. Parker
 David C. Royster
 Thomas M. Sadler
 Joy L. Tyler
 Delbert G. Whittaker, Jr.
 Jeffrey L. Worboys
 Gary W. Workman

2003
 Pamela M. Campbell
 Keith Harris Cross
 Mary Ann Greene
 Gus Mandrapilias
 Dwight McKinght, Jr.
 William T. Womack

2004
 Nancy E. Carroll
 Trainor A. Critz
 Charles T. Davidson
 Thomas J. LaBonte
 William A. Nichols
 C. Thomas Sumner

The Earle J. Gluck Award

The Charlotte Kiwanis Club sponsors the Earle J. Gluck Award at the annual dinner to recognize the outstanding Scout trainer(s) of the previous year.

Earle Gluck (see page 59) twice served as president of the local council, including acting as the first council president of the newly named Mecklenburg County Council in 1940. He also was the president of WSOC Radio for a number of years.

Year	Recipient
1975	Mike Elliotte
1976	Shirley Ferguson
1977	Roy Segee
1978	Julius Pinkston
1979	Joel Moser
1980	Jim Hancock
1981	Al Selby
1982	Susan Wampler
1983	Louise Fair
1984	Harold Patterson
1985	Phil Briggs
1986	Patsy Patterson
1987	Charles Knight
1988	Willis Joseph
1989	Barbara Bogan Zeke Clark

1990	JoAnn Lee Dave Marquis
1991	Susanne Miles Dave Campbell
1992	Maria Lemke John Ashworth III
1993	Peggy Maillet George Maillet
1994	Mary Horne Steve Pace
1995	Don Whitehead Max Treece
1996	Bill Tyler Joy Tyler
1997	Al Ferrell
1998	Marvin Bethune
1999	Emily Pentecost
2000	David Keller Staton Boyette
2001	Jeff Worboys Bruce Fowler
2002	Kenn Bullock Dwight McKnight Bill Womack
2003	Del Whittaker Larry Banks Dick Parks
2004	Tanya Hartje David Royster Stan Nester

Distinguished Eagle Scout & Citizen Awards

There are two recognition awards made to local residents by the Mecklenburg County Council. One is the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, which is authorized by the Boy Scouts of America. This designation is made to Eagle Scouts who earned their Eagle

Award at least 25 years earlier and have been outstanding in their chosen profession and in community service.

The second award is the Distinguished Citizen Award for those individuals who were not Eagle Scouts but who have made

outstanding contribution to their company, their industry and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community.

Beginning in 1992, the Mecklenburg County Council decided to annually honor individuals with either the Distinguished Eagle Scout or

Distinguished Citizen Award. Distinguished Eagles are identified by an asterisk (*) in the list below.

Prior to 1992, Distinguished Eagle Scout Awards were presented at the annual council banquet. Beginning in 1992, these awards were presented at an annual Friends of Scouting Leadership Dinner.

Year	Honoree	Guest Speaker	Dinner Chair
1974	John Belk*		
1986	Richard Carter*		
1988	Dick Simpson*		
1990	Charles Hunter*		
1992	Ed Crutchfield*	Tommy Lasorda	Tony Renaud
1993	William States "Bill" Lee*	Jerry Richardson	Chuck Grace
1994	C. D. "Dick" Spangler, Jr.*	Bill Simms	Bill Holland
1995	Richard Vinroot*	Billy Payne	Charlie Davidson
1996	Hugh McColl	Dom Capers	Tom Moser
1997	Bill Grigg*	Jim Martin	Ken Lewis
1998	Jerry Richardson	Donald Keough	Isaiah Tidwell
1999	John* & Tom Belk	Erskine Bowles	Ken Thompson
2000	Stuart & Alan Dickson	Bart Connor	Paul Chapman
2001	Bill Holland	Rick Priory	Marshall Larsen
2002	Rick Priory	Jeffrey Immelt	Thomas M. "Tim" Belk
2003	Frank Harrison, III	Tom Coughlin	Peter Browning
2004	Russell Robinson	James Lovell	Michael Baker

* Distinguished Eagle Scout

Appendix F

Eagle Scouts — Mecklenburg County Council

The following Scouts and Scouters served on a committee to prepare a list of all who received the rank of Eagle Scout and Silver Award from the Mecklenburg County Council since 1927. This group reviewed all paper records in the Council office, as well as the ScoutNet, MESA and NESA records. Should the name of a Mecklenburg County Council Eagle Scout/Silver Award recipient not be on this list, please notify the council (704-333-5471) so that the list may be updated.

Larry Banks
Max Cooper
Chip Wampler
Del Whittaker
Jamie Whittaker
Bill Womack
Jeff Womack
Marvin Bethune
Tanya Hartje
Ryan Tinchler
Chris Lloyd
Lee Robertson
Dustin Counts
Kevin Dills

Abbreviations for units —

T — Troop
P — Post
S — Ship
A — Air Squadron
C — Venture Crew
LS — Lone Scout

EAGLE AWARDS

Abernathy, Charles Trey, T 150, 2/21/1995
Abernathy, Paul H., T 33, 8/18/1981
Abernathy, Richard P., T 101, 10/1/1973
Abernathy, Rob, T 155, 9/28/1954
Abernathy, Brian Thomas, T 72, 8/23/1994
Abernathy, Robert K., T 101, 11/13/1972
Adams, Frank Civil, T 116, 11/11/2003
Adams, George R., T 166, 11/7/1977

Adams, James, T 40, 8/14/1990
Adelman, David A., T 34, 8/16/1984
Aderholdt, David W., T 24, 10/20/1947
Aderholdt, John W., T 24, 10/20/1947
Agnew, William Gilbert, S 91, 2/13/1958
Ahern, Don, T 11, 10/19/1942
Ahrendt, Matthew A., T 34, 11/21/1978
Aiken, James Mitchell, T 355, 12/18/2001
Albergotti, Julian S., T 116, 3/18/1974
Albergotti, Thomas M., T 116, 12/18/1978
Albert, Edward Vernon, III, 1/1/1961
Albert, Edward Vernon, IV, T 79, 5/22/1989
Albrecht, Bradley Scott, T 153, 7/12/1994
Albright, Harold D., III, T 55, 7/12/1971
Aldred, Christopher W., T 3, 4/2/1987
Aldridge, James Richard, T 5, 1/7/1963
Aldridge, Michael T., T 5, 5/12/1969
Aldridge, Robert A., T 5, 2/26/1977
Alexander, Ben B., T 17, 6/22/1963
Alexander, Brandon L., T 23, 3/20/1997
Alexander, Brian Cameron, T 65, 4/26/1999
Alexander, David William, T 116, 2/6/1989
Alexander, Frank B., T 116, 7/25/1979
Alexander, James E., T 155, 1/13/1953
Alexander, James Washington, T 113, 7/7/1998
Alexander, John, T 17, 9/25/1957
Alexander, Leon G., T 1, 2/9/1931
Alexander, Scott L., T 121, 1/15/1973
Alfaro, Christopher Michael, T 8, 4/29/2003
Alfaro, Robert Stephen, T 8, 4/29/2003
Allen, Bobby, T 97, 12/22/1955
Allen, Brian T., T 3, 5/15/1984
Allen, Christopher Robert, T 15, 9/9/2002
Allen, Craig, T 158, 6/29/1987
Allen, Darrick, T 935, 3/14/1988
Allen, Ernest, T 26, 1/18/1943
Allen, Gregory G., T 35, 3/3/1976
Allen, Harry, Jr., T 26, 11/26/1956
Allen, Jarvis, IV, T 155, 8/14/1985
Allen, John Marshall, T 3, 11/11/1958
Allen, Jonathan A., T 153, 8/28/1990
Allen, Larry, T 97, 12/22/1955
Allen, Marcus, Jr., P 440, 6/30/1966

Allen, Mark Aaron, T 20, 3/10/1992
Allen, Matthew Elam, T 34, 8/31/1998
Allen, Michael D., T 153, 5/18/1986
Allen, Michael G., Jr., T 255, 1/11/1971
Allen, Thomas C., T 158, 6/29/1987
Allen, William Banks, T 256, 4/21/2003
Alley, Charles T., Jr., T 34, 1/11/1971
Alley, Jonathan Wade, T 11, 7/11/1995
Allison, Al, T 3, 1/7/1963
Allison, Benjamin Gerald, T 162, 7/14/1999
Allison, Charles, III, T 17, 6/5/1963
Allison, Graham, T 3, 3/27/1953
Allison, Henry, T 5, 11/30/1932
Allison, James Walter, T 3, 11/1/1958
Allison, John L., Jr., T 134, 7/7/1981
Allred, James Christopher, T 15, 8/2/2004
Alphin, Robert J., T 133, 11/14/1980
Alsop, James R., III, T 73, 10/5/1987
Alston, John M., T 33, 3/28/1977
Alter, Derek Michael, T 39, 11/16/1999
Ambrose, Steven Michael, T 150, 12/20/1994
Anastes, Robert Dean, T 256, 8/16/1993
Anderson, Brian Keith, T 39, 4/8/2002
Anderson, Carmel B., T 70, 3/11/1974
Anderson, David S., T 116, 6/7/1976
Anderson, David Scott, T 34, 11/26/1991
Anderson, Esley, T 11, 7/1/1929
Anderson, Lewis T., T 36, 9/18/1979
Anderson, Markham Hilton, V 157, 3/8/2000
Anderson, Wayne, T 21, 6/28/1957
Andresen, Christian Clark, T 3, 9/20/1990
Andrews, Justin Aaron, T 147, 8/15/1994
Andrews, Michael T., T 116, 4/7/1986
Andrews, Steven T., T 104, 5/10/1972
Ange, Jason Kelly, V 115, 9/7/1989
Angstadt, Richard, T 70, 9/27/1951
Annas, Johnny R., T 15, 11/20/1975
Anthony, Gregory, T 203, 9/7/1988
Anthony, Randy L., T 81, 9/15/1976
Arbel, Aran Citron, T 79, 5/1/1995
Archer, George, T 2, 10/21/1954
Arey, John G., T 14, 2/11/1981
Arey, Timothy M., T 14, 3/21/1983

Armstrong, Charles S., T 158, 12/16/1985
Armstrong, Edward William, T 33, 7/12/1971
Armstrong, Robert, T 17, 5/24/1960
Armstrong, Robert, Jr., T 18, 12/14/1970
Arneson, Nicholas Paul, T 34, 8/9/1993
Arnett, David G., T 116, 4/11/1988
Arnold, Billy, T 4, 12/11/1936
Arnold, David Ryan, T 49, 12/8/1998
Arnwine, Matthew Steven, T 115, 11/8/2002
Arthur, Don, T 29, 7/16/1946
Ashcraft, Bradley James, T 153, 9/3/1996
Ashcraft, Hayes Wesley, T 55, 10/15/2002
Ashford, Gary, Jr., T 14, 11/6/1959
Ashworth, John Alfred, IV, T 133, 11/19/1990
Askey, William Arthur, T 49, 8/1/2002
Atkins, Leland G., Jr., T 3, 9/3/1957
Atkins, Matthew Cole, T 55, 3/5/2002
Atkins, Robert, T 157, 10/29/1995
Atkinson, Jeffrey Lansing, T 39, 7/14/2003
Ausbon, Douglas H., Jr., T 99, 7/12/1971
Austell, Dan, Jr., T 931, 4/1/1965
Austin, Adam Douglas, T 186, 4/13/2004
Austin, Kenneth J., T 140, 1/29/1964
Austin, Parks, T 11, 11/5/1929
Austin, Stephen M., T 101, 2/24/1975
Austin, William E., T 55, 12/27/1984
Autry, David, Jr., T 339, 11/10/1990
Averill, Kevin J., T 159, 10/22/1984
Avery, Michael Keith, T 121, 6/16/2004
Ayer, Ara Thad, T 33, 3/23/1987
Ayers, Bryan Sanford, T 39, 8/11/1992
Babcock, William E., Jr., T 33, 7/12/1971
Bachman, John Andrew, T 55, 7/15/1942
Back, Alan Joseph, T 164, 1/4/1991
Bacon, Mark L., T 39, 4/16/1984
Bacon, Robert D., Jr., T 39, 3/29/1979
Badawi, Steven Michael, T 165, 1/16/2002
Badger, Michael Scott, V 4, 6/1/1999
Bagley, Brandon Michael, T 200, 7/10/2002
Bagwell, Landrum Earle, IV, T 315, 1/11/2004
Baigas, Phillip Eugene, T 116, 5/25/1999
Bailey, Brian D., T 34, 10/12/1984
Bailey, David Paul, T 33, 11/11/2002

- Bailey, Jon C., Jr., T 55, 9/21/1982
 Bailey, Michael Frederick, T 33, 10/2/2002
 Baines, Arthur P., T 162, 5/26/1983
 Baines, Daniel J., T 162, 9/11/1985
 Baird, Daniel Thomas "Bubba", T 144, 8/11/1999
 Baird, Philip L., T 33, 1/5/1982
 Baker, Ben, T 5, 9/25/1944
 Baker, Brian Andrew, T 65, 10/22/1990
 Baker, Charles E., Jr., T 12, 10/21/1959
 Baker, Christopher Michael, T 256, 5/11/2004
 Baker, David G., T 26, 5/2/1966
 Baker, Gregory Hampton, C 115, 3/18/2003
 Baker, Harry S., III, T 53, 10/9/1961
 Baker, Ian Charles, T 256, 11/13/1995
 Baker, James K., T 383, 7/20/1965
 Baker, Judd W., T 15, 3/21/1994
 Baker, Scott Anthony, T 65, 6/6/1988
 Ball, Robert, T 28, 1/15/1973
 Ball, Stephen S., T 99, 9/8/1987
 Ballantine, Kevin Marshall, T 288, 12/4/1994
 Ballard, Jay M., T 35, 12/3/1984
 Ballard, Matthew Russell, T 153, 1/13/2004
 Bandieramonte, Matthew Brian, T 72, 12/10/2001
 Bandieramonte, Michael Patrick, T 72, 7/22/1998
 Banks, Alan C., T 118, 9/18/1978
 Banks, Lawrence W., Jr., T 77, 1/4/1980
 Banks, Michael Anthony, T 77, 9/29/1993
 Baranowski, David Xavier, T 8, 2/18/2004
 Barbe, Stephen R., T 158, 4/12/1988
 Barbee, Eugene E., T 88, 11/22/1950
 Barbee, Frank S., T 14, 12/13/1974
 Barbee, Guerry Newton, T 72, 8/15/1996
 Barbee, Paul, T 61, 2/25/1949
 Barbee, Timothy K., T 14, 3/21/1977
 Barber, Houghton, T 13, 2/2/1928
 Barber, Lewis, Jr., T 70, 9/15/1958
 Barger, Bradley Stephen, T 157, 6/18/1997
 Barger, Gary, T 127, 8/3/1955
 Barger, Hugh Jack, III, T 200, 7/7/1987
 Barger, Karl Samuel, T 58, 9/10/1996
 Barham, Mason Andrew, T 10, 8/20/2003
 Barker, Andrew, T 6, 5/6/1941
 Barkley, Jack, T 55, 3/3/1947
 Barlowe, Byron, T 118, 3/14/1980
 Barnes, Alexander Ballantyne, T 116, 4/22/2004
 Barnes, Kevin S., T 6, 5/23/1984
 Barnes, Kyle W., T 83, 1/9/1986
 Barnes, Phillip M., T 82, 3/13/1972
 Barnes, Richard H., T 99, 9/15/1987
 Barnette, James M., T 116, 8/29/1973
 Barnette, Jonathan Chase, T 72, 9/8/2003
 Barnette, Nathaniel Thomas, T 72, 8/2/1994
 Barnhardt, Jake, T 20, 12/31/1952
 Barnhardt, James H., T 20, 1/21/1959
 Barnhardt, James, Jr., T 172, 11/21/2001
 Barnhardt, Julius, T 20, 11/9/1955
 Barnhardt, Richard A., T 55, 1/12/1970
 Barnhardt, Stephen F., T 55, 1/15/1973
 Barnhardt, William B., T 55, 11/11/1968
 Barnhart, Edmund W., T 116, 10/6/1973
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Photo Identification:

Not all individuals in group photos can be identified. Where not already noted in the accompanying photo captions, here is additional information on selected photos.

Page 5 — Historic American Sheet Music, "The Boy Scouts Dream," Music A-6026, Duke University Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library

Page 10 — Lower right photo shows the New York Police Commissioner and New York Boy Scouts at the opening of the 1915 movie: "The Adventures of a Boy Scout." Scouts are not identified.

Page 12 — Troop 3 from St. Martin's Episcopal Church;

Page 17 — 1917 Third Liberty Bond Campaign poster, National Archives & Records Administration, NWDNS-4-P-160 (ARC ID 512598)

Page 19 — Top photo, 1917 Boy Scouts honored for selling Liberty Bonds. Front

row, left to right: W. Speight Adams, Reginald L. Price, Vivian R. Core, Parks Dalton, Olin Nisbet, Richard Cannon, Lewis Watts, J. W. McClung, Morgan Reynolds, George Stephens, Jr., Jack London, George Wilkinson, Thomass Whitted, and Brook Todd.

Lower photo pages 18-19, Scouts not identified, Troop 3, St. Martin's Episcopal Church. Back row, left to right: Whitman Neal, Dan Mallory, two Scouts not identified.

Page 60 — SSS Donald McKay crew, left to right: George Smith, A. K. Haynes and Dandridge Isom.

Page 77 — Jan. 31, 1941; Cub Scout Pack 55, Myers Park Presbyterian Church.

On left is Cubmaster Harry L. McAllister, and on far right is Assistant Cubmaster Harold Bursley. Den chiefs are John Wilson, Hilton Neal and Dick Glasgow. Cub Scouts in the pack are Tommy McAllister, Stuart Dickson, Alan Dickson, Cooper Taylor, Buddy Carver, Douglas Stampley, Bill Atkinson, Harold Davis, Joe Pritchard, Jack Hobson, Aubrey Waddell, Jesse Page, Bobby Beyers, Bill Parker, David Gossett, Bill Jackson, Richard Brownlee, Gene Kendall, Preston Cotten, Mack Jones, Clarence Gilbert, Grimes Thomas, Thomas Bachman, Sut Bostick and Jimmy Sherrill. Also Lu Middleton, Jimmy Scott, Henry Massey, Julian Albergotti, Russell Teeley, Travis Page, King Maxwell, Jack Harkey, Malcolm McLean, Bobby Douglas, Bill Bradford, Russell Holder, Bob Boyer, Eli Springs, Jimmy Ray, Ralph Deal, Bill White and Henry Curtis.

Page 82 (Civitan Lodge) — front row (l. to r.), Sam Strawn (3rd), E. B. Stone (7th), Algie W. Lawing (8th), Fred McIntyre (10th), I. D. "Dick" Blumenthal (12th); second row (l. to r.), Guy Byerly (3rd), Zeb Strawn (4th), John W. Dwelle (11th), John M. Dunlap (12th); third row (including one partially hidden member, l. to r.), Henry Benoit (12th), M. O. Dulin (14th)

Page 108 (Dedication of Seventh Street Office) — (left to right) Gene Grimes (second adult standing in background), Tom Warren making the announcement, John Belk, 2 not identified, Earle Gluck, Bill Sain, Fred Vantrease, Grant Whitfield, not identified, Bill Poe

Page 118 (l. to r.), Bob Bartlett, Doug Cofield, Gene Kobel.

Page 129 (Troop 49) — first row (left to right): Austin Albers, Jonathan Hickson, Josh Blong, Alex Fowler, Alex Stone, Dillon Bostic, Scoutmaster Chip Wampler, Danny Kinneer, Corey Hyland, Tory Kiss. Second row (left to right): Adam Brown, Richie Bingler, Cameron Yow, Lee Ringer, Steve Young, Byron McKoy, Andrew Cash, Austin D'Jali, Caleb Miner.

Standing (left to right): Nathaniel Bish, Mike Murray, Nirav Lakhani, Leonard Kilgo-Stockton, Will Abernathy (partially hidden), Ben Kinneer, Marcus Douthitt, Alex Darnell, Matt Robertson, Jerney Dulin, Charlie Kimball, Zack McRae, Kevin Rindone, Colby Torrence, Jordon Worboys and Clay Dillon.

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About the Author

Richard E. Shields Jr. is a native of York, Pennsylvania. A 1973 Political Science major from Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina, he spent the next eleven-and-a-half years working for the Boy Scouts of America as a District Executive with Mecklenburg County Council and with the BSA Supply Division in Pineville.



An Eagle Scout and Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow, Shields is still active with the Boy Scouts as an adult leader where he has served in various positions and received a number of awards for his service. In 1996, he visited with the Boy Scouts of Crimea to share ideas and assess their Scouting program.

He has served as a deacon and elder in his church. He is a Freemason and Past Master and Past Secretary of Waxhaw Lodge #562 in Waxhaw, North Carolina and is a charter member of the Civil War Research Lodge #1865 of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

He resides in Monroe, NC, with his wife Esther and step-son Jonathan. He owns American Historical Trails, which promotes hiking trails through historical areas on the east coast of the United States. He also promotes a number of military collector shows and sells Boy Scout memorabilia through catalogs and on the internet using the name The Carolina Trader.

His other literary efforts include: *Befriend and Relieve Every Brother*, a collection of stories of Freemasons saving the lives and homes of others on the battlefield during wartime; *The Memoirs of Private Matedequin Mouse* (Mosby's Command); and *Devotions for Around the Campfire*.



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