

An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Waukegan and North Chicago, Illinois Part One: 1910 to 1929

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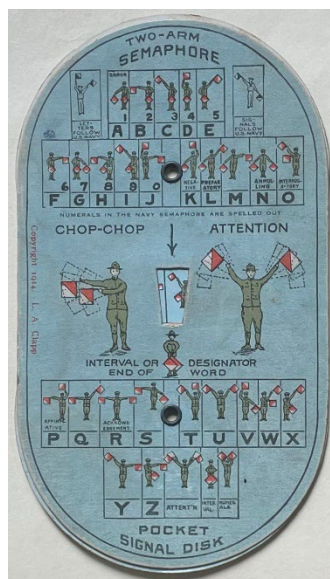
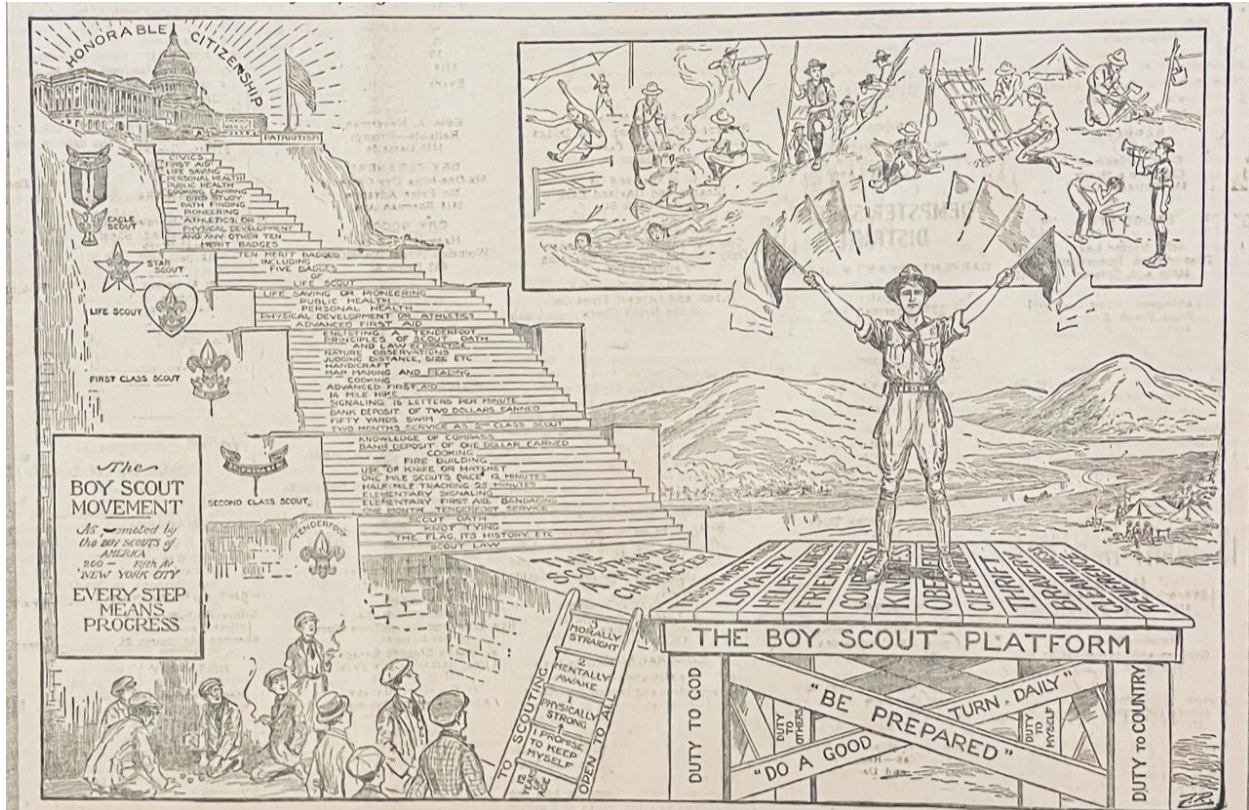


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List of Abbreviations Used

ABS	American Boy Scouts
BSA	Boy Scouts of America (Scouting America as of 2025)
LCC	Lake County Council, BSA
NEIC	Northeast Illinois Council, BSA
NSAC	North Shore Area Council, BSA
OPC	Oak Plain Council, BSA
OA	Order of the Arrow
WNCC	Waukegan-North Chicago Council, BSA
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

¹ Available at <https://archive.org/details/@osrarchives>.

Sources

The primary source of information for this history is Waukegan's newspapers. Other papers and sources have been consulted as indicated in the footnotes. Waukegan had two six-day-a-week daily papers for the years 1910 to 1920, when the *Waukegan Gazette* was merged into the *Waukegan Sun*. The Sun continued to use the *Gazette*'s name on its masthead for the next ten years. Both have been reviewed for those years. The *Waukegan News* began publishing as a six-day-a-week paper in 1922 until it merged with the *Sun* in 1930 to form the *Waukegan News-Sun*. The *Sun* and *News-Sun* have been reviewed through 1945 and, due to the author's time constraints, for half years from 1946 to 1958. Also due to time constraints, the *News* has not been reviewed, with the hope that it largely duplicated what was in the *Sun*. All of the papers were reviewed on hundreds of rolls microfilm at the Waukegan Public Library until the author discovered that the *Sun* and the *News-Sun* have been digitized through 1935 on www.newspapers.com. The author then reviewed the digitized version from 1910 through 1935 to augment his database.

Coded newspaper source citations show publication, date, and page number if available. If there is more than one section, the section and page numbers are shown thus: 2:1.

ANT – *Antioch News*

EVI – *Evanston Index* and *Evanston News-Index*

GCS – *Glencoe News*

HPS – *Highland Park Press*

LCC – *Highland Park Press*

LCR – *Lake County Register* (Libertyville)

LFF – *Lake Forester*

LVS – *Libertyville Independent* to 1929, then *Libertyville Independent-Register*

WKG – *Waukegan Gazette*

WKS – *Waukegan Sun* to 1930, then *Waukegan News-Sun*

WLS – *Wilmette Life*

WNT – *Winnetka Talk*

ZCI – *Zion City Independent*

Introduction to Part One

The history of Scouting in the Waukegan-North Chicago area reflects the many changes that Scouting has gone through in this country since it began in 1910. The chronological divisions of this history are somewhat arbitrary since various themes lack clear starting and ending points and many activities took place at the same time. Several acronyms are used to make the text less prolix. Part One of this history concludes in 1929, and the story continues in Part Two.

As discussed below, many troops were started but frequently disappeared shortly thereafter in both the earliest years and subsequently. Troops were also revived at times after disbanding. The formation of the Waukegan Council in 1919, later renamed the Waukegan-North Chicago Council (“WNCC”), brought some stability with an organizational structure to support the local troops in the two neighboring towns, but funding the council was a perpetual problem. The WNCC expanded beyond the lakefront communities to cover much of rural Lake County in 1928, changing its name to the Lake County Council (“LCC”), but its financial problems continued through the Depression. This led the LCC to merge into the better-supported North Shore Area Council (“NSAC”), headquartered at the south end of the county in Highland Park, in 1935. Five years later in 1940, the Scouting units in Waukegan and some nearby towns in the northeast section of the county seceded to form the Oak Plain Council (“OPC”) for reasons that remain murky in the historical record.

Subsequently, the Evanston Council merged with the NSAC in 1969 under the cumbersome name of the Evanston North Shore Area Council. The council then renamed itself as the Northeast Illinois Council (“NEIC”), anticipating that the OPC would merge with it. The OPC did so in 1971 to form today’s organization. The Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”) renamed itself as Scouting America in 2025 to reflect that it had both male and female members.

I. The Beginning of Boy Scouting in Waukegan

The U.S. “Boy Scout movement,” as it was called in its early years (Frontispiece), began in earnest in 1910 when two competing “Boy Scout” organizations were formed. Both were inspired by the work of Lt. Gen. Robert S.S. Baden-Powell in England, who rewrote his 1903 book, *Aids to Scouting*, which was based on his long experience in the military, as *Scouting for Boys*, published in 1908 after he held an experimental summer camp for boys on Brownsea Island near Poole, England. Baden-Powell was influenced by American naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton, who founded a youth program, the Woodcraft Indians, in 1901 and met Baden-Powell in 1906.²

William D. Boyce of Chicago, the wealthy head of a newspaper empire, heard about Scouting in London on the way to a safari in Africa in 1909. Boyce picked up literature at the office of the British Scouts. He was helped across the street by a Boy Scout who refused to take a tip for his good turn, an incident that became the subject of an urban legend after some embellishment. After he got home, Boyce and others incorporated the BSA in February 1910 and applied for a congressional charter, which was eventually granted in 1916. Seton’s Woodcraft

² Robert Baden-Powell, *1st Baron Baden-Powell*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Baden-Powell,_1st_Baron_Baden-Powell; *Woodcraft Indians*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodcraft_Indians.

Indians, the Boy Pioneers of Daniel Carter Beard, and other youth organizations merged into the BSA as it set up a national office in New York City in June 1910 and then a National Council that fall.³

By the end of 1910, the BSA's temporary executive secretary, who had come from the Philadelphia Young Men's Christian Association ("YMCA"), was replaced by attorney James E. West, who became Chief Scout Executive for the next 35 years. After clashing with the strong-willed West, Boyce left the BSA and formed the Lone Scouts of America for isolated rural boys in 1915. The 45,000 Lone Scouts merged into the BSA in March 1924. The Boyce Building at Illinois and Dearborn Streets in Chicago bears a plaque with the Lone Scout emblem (Figure 1).⁴



Figure 1

An even wealthier newspaper magnate, William Randolph Hearst, incorporated his own Scouting organization, the American Boy Scouts ("ABS"), in New York in June 1910. Seton and others urged Hearst to merge the ABS with the BSA, but he refused to do so. The ABS formed several regional departments, including a Department of the Middle West in Chicago. Hearst

³ *History of the Boy Scouts of America*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Boy_Scouts_of_America; *William D. Boyce*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_D._Boyce; *James E. West (Scouting)*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_E._West_\(Scouting\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_E._West_(Scouting)); *Lone Scouts of America*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lone_Scouts_of_America.

⁴ EVI3221 (2/7/1925 – 5), WKS0661 (2/10/1925 – 9); *American Boy Scouts*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Boy_Scouts.

resigned from the ABS in December 1910 after disputes about the use of his name to raise money and the use of professional fundraisers who kept 40% of the proceeds. The ABS troop formed in Evanston in 1910 joined the BSA in 1911 while the ABS troop formed in Waukegan in 1910 apparently dissolved shortly afterwards. The ABS changed its name to the United States Boy Scouts in 1913 because of confusion between the ABS and the BSA. After the BSA got its congressional charter in 1916, it initiated litigation in a New York court to enjoin the ABS from using the term “Boy Scout,” which resulted in a permanent injunction in June 1919 and the eventual demise of the organization. An earlier order in November 1918 also ordered it to “account for funds raised from public appeals . . . during various war fund campaign activities” under the Boy Scout name.⁵

After the BSA was founded, groups all over the country began to start Boy Scout troops after hearing about the new Scouting movement. However, organization at the local level tended to be informal and fluid, with many Scout troops not bothering to pay the fees needed to register with the BSA in New York City and many disbanding in a year or two after being formed by an enthusiastic local clergyman or other local citizen. For example, the earliest mention of the Boy Scouts in the *Lake County Independent* reported a February 1911 statement by BSA Field Secretary Preston G. Orwig on the occasion of the first anniversary of the founding of the BSA:

Since the opening of the national headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America on June 2, 1910, the movement has spread with wonderful rapidity. Today there are 4,000 scout masters actively at work in every state in the Union, more than 2,000 of whom have already registered with the national headquarters.

* * *

While the growth has been remarkable, care has been taken to insure permanency of the work by insisting on the highest type of leaders and adult supervisors. The men who act as scout masters, must furnish the strongest kind of references before they are permitted to organize their boys and be recognized by the national headquarters.

The statement also noted that to provide Scoutmaster training, “schools for scout masters are being set up by local councils all over the country.”⁶

While Orwig envisioned the existence of local councils created to provide quality assurance through the training of adult leaders, the reality of the situation is shown by his concession that half of the 4,000 Scoutmasters known to be operating during Scouting’s first year

⁵ WKG0001 (5/10/1910 – 1), WKG0004A (9/25/1910 – 1), WKG0005 (9/25/1910 – 7), WKS0015 (10/17/1910 – 1), WKS0016 (10/18/1910 – 2), WKG0125 (11/5/1918 – 2), WKG0144 (6/3/1919 – 5), EVI3217 (1/27/1925 – 1), EVI1224 (12/31/1931 – 3); John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Evanston, Illinois, Part One: 1910 to 1924* (2023), at 6-8.

⁶ LVS001 (2/24/1911 – 7).

with an estimated 200,000 boys had not yet been registered with the BSA. The task of setting up local councils to support the work of local Scoutmasters took many years to accomplish. Indeed, the BSA sent out five traveling field secretaries in the summer of 1911 at a cost of \$25,000 supplied by philanthropists to form and supervise local councils around the country. “Permanency of the work” was also difficult to accomplish.⁷

The new Scouting movement was presented by both the *Gazette* and the *Sun* to their readers in 1910. The *Gazette* reported in mid-May that “[t]he American boy scout movement was formally inaugurated this afternoon at a meeting of representatives held at the Waldorf-Astoria [in New York City] at the request of William Randolph Hearst.” The movement was to start in the New York schools, then cover the entire country. Its ambitious purpose was summarized as:

The desire of the movement is to discipline the American boy, mentally, morally and physically, basing the work upon the boy’s innate love of nature through outdoor and other exercises and motivating in him a high mortality and honor, through love of country, obedience to his superiors, and fealty to the Constitution and the flag.⁸

A week later, the *Gazette* reported that Maj. Gen. Frederick D. Grant, the son of President Grant and a “frequent visitor” to Fort Sheridan, inaugurated the movement in New York with “co-operative movements” in Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Hearst was donating \$1,000 to support the movement in each of the five cities. Echoing Baden-Powell’s comments about city boys being unprepared for military service, Grant was quoted as stating that “[i]n many of the large cities boys have no idea of military methods, and in time of war are not familiar with military tactics. Every citizen should have some military training and the only way most of them get it is to start in when they are boys.”⁹

In August, the *Gazette* observed that interest in the movement had spread to Waukegan and that the paper had clippings and letters available from other papers about Scouting. Secretary Hugh Miller of the ABS Department of the Middle West in Chicago was ready to assist “the formation of patrols consisting of 11 members” aged 10 to 15 to work on “military drill, athletic development, first aid to injured and a number of other activities in which development of character and wits is paramount.” It listed nine points in the Boy Scout code that translate into the familiar terms trustworthy, loyal, helpful, courteous, friendly, obedient, cheerful, and thrifty, plus being a friend or brother to all. The list was recast as ten points later. The *Sun* also endorsed the movement and its “comprehensive” training program “under the big national organization headed by Col.

⁷ LVS001 (2/24/1911 – 7), WKS0020A (7/15/1911 – 4).

⁸ WKG0001 (5/10/1910 – 1).

⁹ WKG0002 (5/17/1910 – 3).

Bonus of New York.” The paper encouraged boys to write to Bonus and enroll in the movement, promising to “keep you informed as to what to do next.”¹⁰

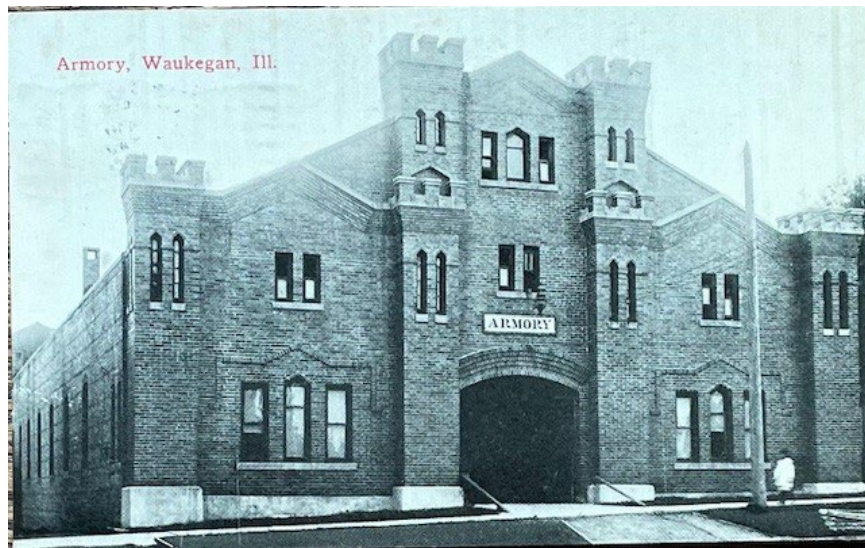


Figure 2



Figure 3

The organization of a Waukegan Boy Scout troop began at the end of September 1910 when it was reported somewhat cryptically that a “commissioned officer of Battery C Illinois National Guard,” which was stationed at the Waukegan Armory, would act as “drillmaster for the boys.” Battery C was an artillery unit organized in 1904. It kept its equipment in a building on Grand Avenue until it finished its own building on Spring Street. The receipt of additional

¹⁰ WKG0003 (8/19/1910 – 1), WKG0004 (8/19/1910 – 2), WKS0001A (9/15/1910 – 4), WKG0004A (9/25/1910 – 1), WKG0005 (9/25/1910 – 7), WKS0006 (10/1/1910 – 5).

equipment in the form of field artillery required it to build a larger armory. This was achieved by the creation of a joint stock company to fund its construction, which was completed in 1907 (Figure 2). The building, now a church, still stands on North County Street (Figure 3). It was predicted that the Waukegan organization would have 120 boys in a month, apparently based on the 127 boys in the YMCA boys club at the parish house of Christ Episcopal Church during the previous school year. The *Sun* followed up with a series of articles that laid out what Scouts wore as a “rough and ready” uniform, how to build a fire and use it, how to get ready for a hike, and how to make a learning opportunity out of it.¹¹



Figure 4



Figure 5

A recruitment meeting was held by the YMCA boys club at the Parish House on October 6 (Figure 4). It was announced that a new feature of the club was the addition of a Boy Scout troop. To broaden membership, club members were given an alternative to the requirement of attending Sunday school by attending a Bible study class. A full report of the meeting was front page news the next day. Seventy-five boys “appeared and signified their willingness to join the American Boy Scouts.” The drillmaster was revealed to be Lt. Fred Morey of Battery C, with an ABS title of Colonel (Figure 5). He was described as “an industrious and studious military man whose hard and conscientious work on behalf of Battery C has attracted statewide attention. No one in this state knows the military manual better than he and no one takes a greater interest in the

¹¹ WKS0002 (9/24/1910 – 1), WKS0003 (9/26/1910 – 1), WKS0004 (9/26/1910 – 3), WKS0004A (9/26/1910 – 8), WKS0006 (10/1/1910 – 5), WKS0007 (10/4/1910 – 1), WKS0008 (10/4/1910 – 6), WKS0009 (10/5/1910 – 1), WKS0010 (10/5/1910 – 5), WKS0046 (4/30/1913 – 2:1), WKS0047 (4/30/1913 – 2:2).

work.” Furthermore, Morey “knows the necessity of the militia to the soldiery of the country, for national defense . . . and regards the boy scouts as feeders for the militia and army and a future part of the national defense.”¹²

The report of the meeting went on to tell about “[s]ome of the things scouts do” like “Talk with each other by flags. ‘Take cover’ like Indians. Camp out.” and much more. An adjacent article reported on Gen. Leonard Wood’s remarks to a national guard officers convention in St. Louis advocating to “out-German the Germans” by requiring military training for all high school age boys in riflanship, military drill, and “rudiments of military science” like throwing up earthworks and planning scientific lines of defense to “teach them the initiative in battle that modern warfare requires.”¹³

The military element of the ABS was approvingly described, although in somewhat forbidding terms, in a column in the *Evanston Index* entitled “Children Need Discipline,” quoting from an ABS booklet:

The form of education that this movement gives the boys is first of all disciplinary. For this purpose he is drilled in the school of a soldier. He is made to understand that nature is ordered, that all things move in response to some command. He is taught to observe that commerce, politics, art, science and even success itself is ordered – that it moves along certain definite lines in response to definite purpose, definite plans and definite lines. To teach the boys these things there are provided trained disciplinarians – retired army and navy officers, men of the national guard and military schools. When the boy has fitted himself in this school of the scout and shows his ability to obey orders promptly and unquestioningly he is put in the hands of competent teachers, called scout masters, who then begin the more attractive education of the boy.¹⁴

Morey took 50 Scouts on their first outing to Waukegan’s “new city park,” the wooded Haines tract on North Sheridan Road at Greenwood, a week and a half later. He split them into two groups of two patrols each under him and his assistant, Cpl. Morey. One group hid and the other group “hunted them down.” They also did much advancement work and all of them earned the Tenderfoot rank that day. It was noted that it was “not quite settled yet” whether the Waukegan troop would be part of the BSA, described as an offshoot of Baden-Powell’s English movement, or Hearst’s ABS. A second outing was held the following Saturday. The Haines tract ended up being sold to Mrs. J.T. Bowen when the voters rejected it for use as a city park a year later. She donated it to Jane Addams’ Hull House in memory of her late husband as a summer club for poor children. The plans for the 72 acre tract were complete with the construction of a cottage donated

¹² WKS0004A (9/26/1910 – 8), WKS0013 (10/7/1910 – 1).

¹³ WKS0013 (10/7/1910 – 1)

¹⁴ EVI0005A (11/5/10 – 6); *Boy Scouting in Evanston, Part One*, supra note 5, at 10-11.

by Highland Park philanthropist Julius Rosenwald in October 1913. Bowen Country Club became Bowen Park many years later.¹⁵

Left Page:

Name Percy Okl
 Residence Lake Forest, Ill.
 Troop No. 1 Lake Forest Boy Scouts
 Patrol No. 1
 Admitted as Tenderfoot November 12, 1910
 Law OK Sign OK Salute OK Badge OK
 Knots Flag OK Oath OK

Right Page:

SECOND CLASS SCOUT

First Aid 9.5 Bandage 9.5 Signal 9.0
 Track 2.0 Run 9.0 Knife A Fire 0.11
 Cook OK Bank OK Compass 1.00
 Admitted Second Class Scout July 20, 1911

FIRST CLASS SCOUT

Swim Bank OK Signal Hike
 First Aid 1.5 Cook Map Mnl. Trng
 Judge Observation Oath and Law New
 Scout
 Admitted First Class Scout 1911
 Scoutmaster

Figure 6

After the initial burst of enthusiasm and publicity for the Waukegan Scouts in the fall of 1910, the papers were silent about them until the summer of 1912, although there were occasional Boy Scout items of general interest like an article about the BSA's campaign to teach about good and bad mushrooms in September 1911. Although Scouting seems to have become dormant in Waukegan, it did continue actively elsewhere in Lake County. In Highland Park, Elm Place School principal Jesse Lowe Smith recorded trips to Chicago in his diary to buy Scout record books and meetings with parents to start a Scout troop beginning in March 1911. In May 1911, Lake Forest Troop 1 Scoutmaster William Wier spoke about the Scouting movement and his troop at a Chicago Commons meeting. Lake Forest Scout Percy Okl's record book signed by Wier in November 1910 (Figure 6), likely the kind of record book that Smith bought for prospective Scouts in Highland Park, survives from that era. In July 1911, civil engineer Arthur Brooks (1887-1963) organized a troop of almost 100 Scouts (according to the *Sun*) or, more likely, 15 Scouts (according to *the Zion*

¹⁵ WKS0015 (10/17/1910 – 1), WKS0017 (10/17/1910 – 7), WKG0007 (10/17/1910 – 1), WKG0008 (10/17/1910 – 7), WKS0018 (10/22/1910 – 6), WKG0009 (10/27/1910 – 4), WKS0028 (12/11/1911 – 1), WKS0029 (12/11/1911 – 6), WKG0022 (12/11/1911 – 1), WKG0023 (12/11/1911 – 6), WKG0024 (12/14/1911 – 1), WKS0060 (10/30/1913 – 1).

City Independent) in Zion City (changed to Zion by the U.S. Post Office in February 1919) to learn woodcraft and appreciate “the beauties of nature” rather than for military drill.¹⁶

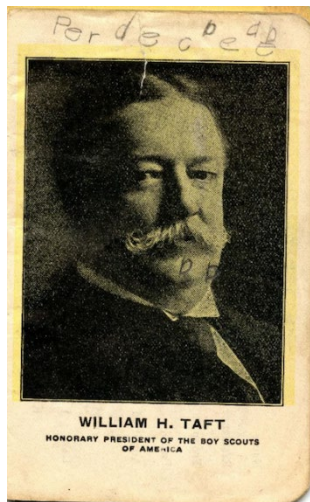


Figure 7



Figure 8

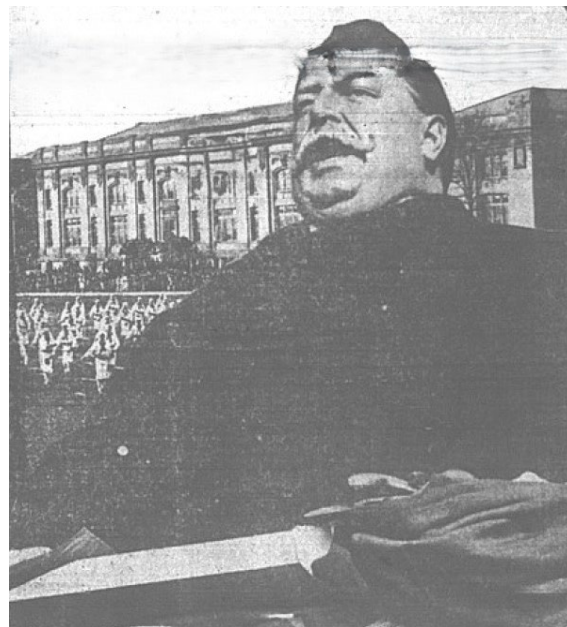


Figure 9

Scouts from Lake County, the North Shore, and Chicago turned out in force when President Taft, the BSA’s Honorary President (Figure 7), came to dedicate the new Great Lakes Naval Training Station in October 1911 (Figure 8). In addition to a contingent of 100 Scouts from ten

¹⁶ WKS0019B (5/1/1911 – 7), WKS0020 (7/8/1911 – 5), ZCI001 (7/7/1911 – 4), ZCI002 (7/14/1911 – 5), WKG0018 (9/27/1911 – 3), WKS0024 (9/19/1911 – 3), WKS0172 (2/1/1919 – 1); John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Highland Park and Highwood, Illinois, Part One: 1911 to 1945* (2020), at 6-7; records from www.ancestry.com.

troops brought from Chicago by BSA Field Secretary H.H. Simmons, another 200 Scouts came from troops in Zion City, Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, Highland Park, Glencoe, Winnetka, Wilmette, and Evanston. The *Sun*'s extensive report did not mention any Waukegan Scouts being present, probably because the troop had been disbanded by then. The *Lake County Independent* told the story of one young Evanston Scout drummer aged ten to twelve, "discovered in tears by a naval recruit" because he had broken his drum. The recruit called for help and a sailor promptly repaired the drum so the Scout could rejoin his corps. The Wilmette column of the *Evanston Index* grumbled that the President's late arrival "made it impossible to carry out all of the program that had been arranged," including "the review of the Scouts by the president." The station's officers also failed to position the Scouts in front of the speaker's stand, a big problem given the crowd of fifteen to twenty thousand people present (Figure 9).¹⁷



Figure 10

The Waukegan Boy Scouts, identified as Troop 1, resurfaced in June 1912 in an announcement that the troop would "give a fine entertainment in the Congregational church" on July 9 consisting of a couple from Chicago who "will present two great hours of magic and mirth." They also appeared in the line of march behind the Great Lakes buglers for Waukegan's "biggest in history" Fourth of July parade, led by Rev. J.B. Richardson, who came to the First Congregational Church (Figure 10) across Utica Street (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave.) from Christ Church from Pennsylvania the previous August.¹⁸

¹⁷ WKS0027 (10/20/1911 – 5), ZCI005 (10/20/1911 – 3), LVS006 (11/3/1911 – 1), LVS007 (11/3/1911 – 6), EVI0075 (11/13/1911 – 3).

¹⁸ WKS0021 (7/18/1911 – 7), WKS0035 (6/27/1912 – 1), WKS0036 (7/5/1912 – 1), WKS0037 (7/5/1912 – 7), LVS009 (7/5/1912 – 9), LVS0010 (7/5/1912 – 12).

Rev. Richardson then took 11 Scouts to the Chicago Council's new summer camp, Camp White, at Crystal Lake, Michigan for two weeks at the end of July. The camp had "[n]ew tents for sleeping, large dining tents and a fleet of rowboats and competent cooks to feed the boys." The *Sun* printed a letter from camp at the halfway point of the stay that described the camp in glowing terms, particularly the nightly campfires featuring Lt. Simmons, the camp director, telling his "life story in the American army" and "stirring talks" by Rev. Richardson and others. The Waukegan Scouts "carried off the honors in swimming, in bandaging and the fourteen mile hike." Contemporary photographs show the new tents (Figures 11-12), the waterfront with rowboats (Figure 13), first aid instruction in artificial respiration (Figure 14), and camp retreat ceremonies (Figures 15-16).¹⁹



Figure 11



Figure 12

¹⁹ WKS0039 (7/27/1912 – 4), WKS0040 (8/6/1912 – 5).



Figure 13



Figure 14

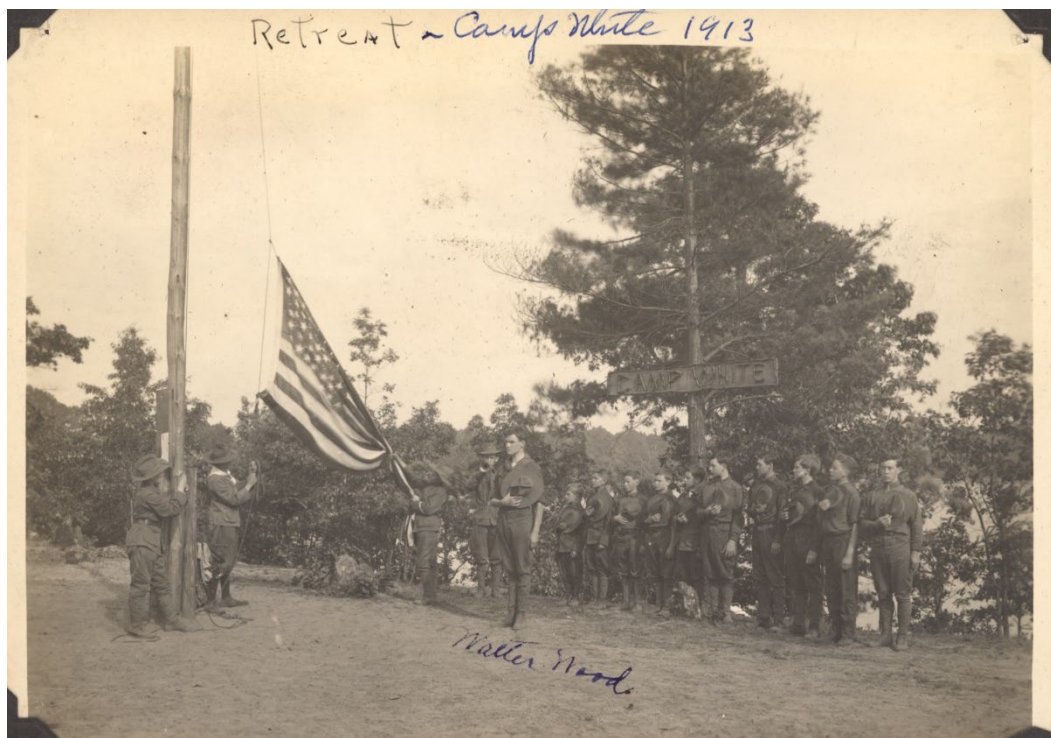


Figure 15



Figure 16

Rev. Richardson took 10 Scouts to Camp White (renamed Camp Owasippe in 1915, now Owasippe Scout Reservation) in August 1913 after he was re-elected Scoutmaster of Troop 1 in March. One of his two patrol leaders, Alpha Griffin, joined Morey as an adult leader of a revived

Troop 1 a few years later. However, the Richardson era ended when he left the ministry on September 1 to make more money for his family in the sales department of Cyclone Fence Co. (Figure 17).²⁰

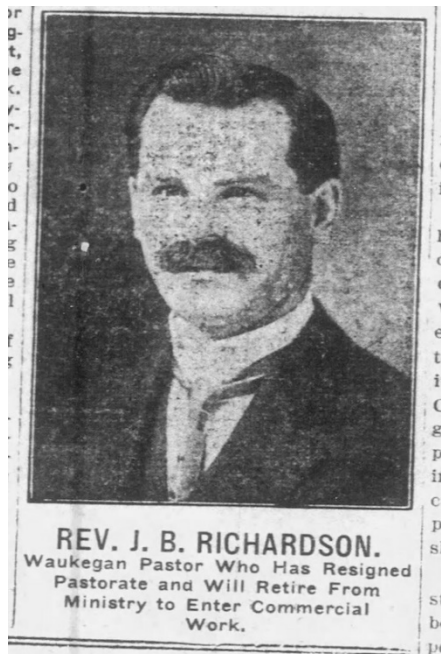


Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 20

An article on the front page of the *Gazette* in early October 1913 announced that a young man from Kenosha whose name was not yet known was attempting to reorganize the Waukegan Scouts in conjunction with the YMCA's new physical director, Herald A. Brewer (Figure 18). The article observed:

The Boy Scouts association fell through here because of the difficulty in getting capable persons to accept the leadership. The membership of the Boy Scout body in Waukegan was more than 100 and it seemed as though it would continue to grow until one of the largest and best Boy Scouts organization in the state of the country would be boasted.

Physical director Brewer puts his stamp of approval on the reorganization project.²¹

This was a curious report because an article had already appeared in the *Sun* about a visit by 18 year old Clarence Dodson (1895-1966), an Assistant Scoutmaster in Kenosha who was living with his parents in Benton Township. Dodson first visited North School in North Chicago "where

²⁰ WKG0039 (3/22/1913 – 8), WKS0044 (3/22/1913 – 8), WKS0050 (7/29/1913 – 1), WKS0051 (7/29/1913 – 8), WKS0053 (8/11/1913 – 8); *Boy Scouting in Evanston, Part One*, supra note 5, at 23-24 (reporting on Evanston and Wilmette troops at Camp White in 1912).

²¹ WKS0054 (9/4/1913 – 1), WKG0042 (10/12/1913 – 1).

he organized the boys of the school between the ages of 12 and 18, into a company” as “twenty-six enthusiastic youngsters expressed themselves desirous of becoming members” of a Boy Scout club. He took them on a hike that day. Dodson reported two weeks later that he had organized 32 Scouts in North Chicago and planned to organize several more companies in Waukegan. The first article indicated that Troop 1 survived Rev. Richardson’s departure, because Dodson remarked that “[t]he company of boy scouts already in existence in Waukegan [apparently Troop 1] has become quite a strong aggregation and the members say they would welcome other companies here as it would still further strengthen the organization.”²²

Dodson was also active with the Zion City troop. In December 1911, he was elected to the troop office of chairman of the finance committee after also being nominated for the offices of marshal, judge, and jury member. The troop’s announcements in the Zion paper showed it meeting at the Brooks home and then at the Methodist church between 1911 and 1913 under Scoutmaster Arthur Brooks and his brother Gale (1890-1975) as Assistant Scoutmaster. In 1915, with the title of Assistant Scoutmaster, Dodson wrote three items about Scouting and the Zion troop in the Zion paper.²³

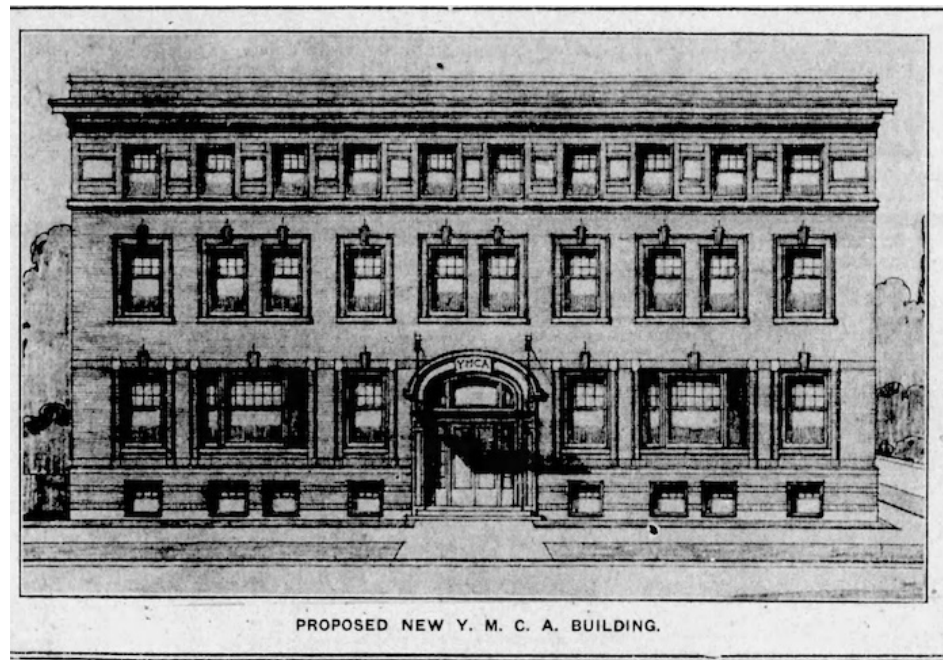


Figure 19

The Waukegan YMCA’s new building at Genessee and Clayton (Figure 19) was open for business in June 1913. Its boys club, which had over 100 members when Morey’s Scout troop

²² WKS0057 (10/4/1913 – 7), WKS0059 (10/17/1913 – 6); records from www.ancestry.com.

²³ ZCI006 (12/8/1911 – 4), ZCI007 (12/15/1911 – 1), ZCI008 (1/26/1912 – 1), ZCI013 (5/10/1912 – 3), ZCI018 (2/7/1913 – 4), ZCI020 (3/14/1913 – 2), ZCI023 (8/8/1913 – 1), ZCI0024 (8/15/1913 – 4), ZCI025 (3/5/1915 – 2), ZCI026 (3/12/1915 – 2), ZCI027 (4/9/1915 – 4); records from www.ancestry.com.

started, moved out of the Christ Church Parish House at that point. At the start of the school year in October 1912, before the move, the club announced that it planned a “busy winter for the boys” with “several parties for boys and girls” like those the previous year. The club was open to all boys age 10 and over and they no longer had to belong to a Sunday school “just as long as they behave and are clean and gentlemanly.” The new building had a swimming pool, a two-story gymnasium, a boys club room with a fireplace, meeting rooms, and 28 dormitory rooms.²⁴



Figure 21



Figure 22

Under physical director Brewer and for many years afterwards, the YMCA offered an alternate program for boys in competition with what the Waukegan Boy Scouts had to offer. Its character-building athletics program (Figure 21) also complemented what the Scouts aimed to do for the improvement of the nation’s youth (Figure 22). At the new building, the boys club had 80 members at the time of its school year end banquet in May 1914 and averaged 40 boys at each weekly meeting. Brewer took the Junior A and B and Newsboy classes on a day hike up the lake shore a few days later as the boys followed “scout signs” left by an advance party to a cookout in the woods, then a swim in the pool when they got back. In June, the YMCA held its “first annual” one-week summer camp at Gage’s Lake in Warren Township with “just enough restrictions being placed on [each boy] to keep him safe from harm.” The daily schedule resembled one for a typical Scout camp. The camp may have been held where Evanston Boy Scout Troops 1 and 2 had their summer camp at Gage’s Lake in July 1911.²⁵

Another competitor for Waukegan boys’ interest was the choir of Christ Church, whose new pastor, Rev. Howard E. Ganster (1879-1956) (Figure 20), also arrived in September 1913.

²⁴ WKS0031 (3/27/1912 – 1), WKS0041 (10/5/1912 – 5), WKS0048 (6/6/1913 – 2), WKS0065 (5/20/1914 – 5).

²⁵ WKS0065 (5/20/1914 – 5), WKS0066 (5/25/1914 – 4), WKS0067 (6/9/1914 – 6); *Boy Scouting in Evanston, Part One*, supra note 5, at 13.

The choir had a well-publicized annual ten-day encampment at Druce's Lake in July 1914 featuring swimming, games, a mock trial, campfire entertainment, and pulling Rev. Ganster out of bed and throwing him in the lake as he pulled three of his four assailants in after him. Of the 50 choir members at camp, the girls and women slept in a cottage and the boys and men slept in a bunkhouse.²⁶

II. Local Scouting During the World War

After the outbreak of hostilities in Europe in August 1914, the *Gazette* reported that Chicago clubwomen started a move “to abolish the Boy Scout organization or take the military aspect from their activities.” They also demanded that the “Rough Rider suit be done away with.” They were disturbed by “[t]he actions of the German armies in calling on the Boy Scout organization there to carry messages and to guard bridges.” The paper pointed out that the move “will have little affect [sic] here . . . owing to the fact that the main aim of the local organization is not so much the military as the moral and intellectual.” The paper quoted Rev. Waterbury of the Congregational Church on the contrast between the BSA and the ABS:

There are two organizations in the United States: one the Boy Scouts of America which is the one we have here, and the United States Boy Scouts We believe that there should be military discipline but not so much as to make the boys mind to become enthused with the thought that there is no other reason for joining the organization. The other body however are strongly military and work to make that end altogether. We have just enough of it to make the work have its touch of romance and excitement for the youth.²⁷

On the same day, both the *Gazette* and the *Sun* reported on the Scouts' first meeting after returning from Camp White. George Pardee (1892-1977), a paymaster at the American Steel and Wire mill and later a chief yeoman at Great Lakes, started as Scoutmaster. He was described as a man who was “well qualified to promote the interest for this work” as “the boys show new enthusiasm in planning for development.” The article noted that the Scouts did more than merely have “an opportunity to wear a khaki suit and take ‘hikes,’” it was “training for a citizenship that will go far toward correcting present day evil and weaknesses.” In that era, stories about “boy bandits” were frequently in the news at both papers. The article stated that the BSA was different from the United States Boy Scouts, “which is primarily a military organization.” It was expected that the YMCA “will soon become the center of this movement.”²⁸

²⁶ WKS0055 (9/9/1913 – 1), WKS0056 (9/13/1913 – 1), WKG0043 (6/9/1914 – 6), WKS0068 (7/13/1914 – 3), WKS0069 (7/15/1914 – 6), WKS0070 (7/16/1914 – 4), WKS0071 (7/17/1914 – 4), WKS0072 (7/18/1914 – 4), WKG0044 (7/18/1914 – 8); records from www.ancestry.com.

²⁷ WKG0045 (8/27/1914 – 1).

²⁸ WKG0046 (8/27/1914 – 8), WKS0073 (4/26/1917 – 4); records from www.ancestry.com, including *Waukegan Sun* (9/10/1917 – 1).



Figure 23

The Waukegan YMCA had splashy publicity in early November 1914 when it put on a 10-act “indoor circus” plus sideshows and a grand aftershow and concert. “Hiraldo Alphonso Brewerski” was the director of the extravaganza and Judge Perry L. Persons (Figure 21) earned plaudits as ringmaster of the “Jingling Brothers” circus. Scoutmaster Pardee was one of the trapeze artists. The circus was well attended, selling out all seats, and was deemed a “howling success” because it could be heard half a mile away. Brewer also got publicity for a series of hikes and bicycle trips in the fall of 1914 and the spring of 1915, including leading a group of 50 juniors on a hike to Great Lakes, before he left for a position at the Jacksonville, Illinois YMCA in June 1915.²⁹

Waukegan Troop 2 was organized at the Swedish Methodist Church in early December 1914 under Rev. Rudolph Ericson as Scoutmaster. The troop had three patrols of eight Scouts each, three junior officers, and an Assistant Scoutmaster. Troop 2 Scribe Alex Niemi wrote two items for Troop 1 in May and June 1915, about a town cleanup and a planned ten-day summer camp at Gage’s Lake, while there was an announcement in May to join the Congregational Church troop under newly elected Scoutmaster Young and junior officers without any further information in either paper. The Swedish Methodist troop made an appearance in the *Sun* in late June for a ten-day encampment at Gage’s Lake with the Lake Bluff Scouts. The Lake Bluff Scouts under

²⁹ WKG0048 (11/5/1914 – 5), WKG0049 (11/6/1914 – 1), WKG0050 (11/6/1914 – 6), WKS0074 (9/11/1914 – 1), WKS0075 (10/2/1914 – 7), WKS0076 (4/1/1915 – 3), WKS0078 (6/24/1915 – 5).

Rev. L.H. Sweetland of the Methodist Church as Scoutmaster spent the month of August collecting subscriptions to pay for the construction of a village bath house at the beach.³⁰

Troop 1 reorganized itself at the end of July 1915 at a meeting at the courthouse. A “permanent organization” was to replace “the scout organization that has existed up to the present time” which “was composed mostly of small boys.” The new organization would be limited to boys aged 15 to 18. The 8 Scouts who came up with the plan were each tasked with recruiting 5 more. Instead, each had lined up at least 10. Each Scout in the new Troop 1 would contribute 25 cents per month to defray expenses. They planned to clean up alleys and ravines all over the city and “[o]ther campaigns of a similar nature” because of their “more mature age.” The troop elected temporary officers a week later from the 20 Scouts signed up. Alpha Griffin (1896-1970), a janitor at the courthouse as of 1920, “who has taken a prominent and leading part in the organization,” was chosen as Assistant Scoutmaster while the troop looked for a “competent” Scoutmaster. Scribe Alex Niemi was to receive the monthly contributions. Fred Morey spoke to the group on how Scouts should respect and obey their Scoutmaster. Unsurprisingly, Morey was chosen as Scoutmaster at the next meeting.³¹

Next came the sensational news that Lake Forest Troop 1’s Scoutmaster, William Wier, had vanished from town without accounting for the money that the Scouts had deposited with him to pay for a trip to summer camp at the Chicago Scout camp in Michigan. L.L. McDonald, head of the Lake Forest Scout committee, said that the group was “‘holding off’ in its plans to send an officer in search of Weir in the hope that his failure to make an accounting could be attributed to ‘a disposition to be lax in taking care of his financial affairs,’” and because “he had paid up when he was in trouble before,” declining to state what the previous problem was. McDonald denied being part of a coverup: “We are not going to cover up anything if we become convinced that Weir has been ‘crooked’ with us. ... We are engaged in setting up high ideals for boys, and if we were to shield a man we believed to be willfully dishonest, we would be setting a bad example for the boys.” There was no later report on whether Wier was apprehended or the money was recovered and the troop disbanded after this incident.³²

The senior Scouts of Troop 1 got plenty of publicity for their good turns over the next year. After their eight “specialists,” perhaps the original troop organizers, went on an instructional hike in October led by junior officer Arthur Schooley, they kicked off their fall program by organizing a football team to play a schedule of four home and away games against a Highland Park team and a Kenosha Boy Scout team. In December, they “adopted a commendable plan” to become self-supporting instead of relying on donations by selling magazine subscriptions. They also collected items for at least five Christmas baskets for needy families designated by the city’s humane officer. They also worked with the *Sun* to set up a service to

³⁰ WKG0051 (12/4/1914 – 3), WKG0052 (5/20/1915 – 5), WKG0053 (5/4/1915 – 8), WKG0054 (6/3/1915 – 2), WKS0078A (6/26/1915 – 8), WKS0084 (8/10/1915 – 6), WKS0103 (9/16/1916 – 7).

³¹ WKS0080 (7/29/1915 – 1), WKS0081 (7/29/1915 – 5), WKS0082 (8/2/1915 – 4), WKS0083 (8/9/1915 – 7), WKS0085 (8/14/1915 – 6); records from www.ancestry.com.

³² WKS0086 (8/18/1915 – 5), LVS015-1 (8/20/1915 – 15); John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Libertyville, Illinois 1913 to 1935* (2021), at 7-8.

deliver carloads of gifts of clothing and other articles that people wanted to donate to the Lake Bluff Orphanage. A *Sun* editorial lauding their work stated that this “called the bluff” of many persons who had said that they would be glad to help the orphanage” if only they had a way to get things there. By January 1916, Troop 1 had two patrols of 8 Scouts each and added Leslie Griffin (1893-1972), Alpha’s brother, as an Assistant Scoutmaster. For Boy Scout Week in February, Scoutmaster Morey offered the services of Troop 1’s 21 Scouts to the city health commissioner “for inspection of back yards” to kill flies and mosquito eggs “or any other duty which will make for more healthful conditions” during the coming year. The Scouts also distributed literature for the city’s cleanup week in May.³³

A new YMCA Troop 3 was formed in December 1915 with physical director A.A. Gould as Scoutmaster, with the expectation that “soon it will be the largest troop in the city.” The new Scouts were busy selling post card calendars to raise funds. The Troop 3 Scouts were sworn in by Troop 2 Scoutmaster Ericson from the Swedish Methodist Church on the south side of town, when Troop 3 hosted Troop 2 for an inter-troop contest and games at the YMCA gym that month. Another troop made its first appearance in the papers in March 1916 when the North Chicago Scouts led by Rev. Newlin of the Presbyterian Church gave a program at the church. It consisted of “wand drills, military formations, signal work, first aid work and camp fire scene with songs and yells” under the direction of Lt. Morey, a “master of the art” of drill work. The 16 Scouts present included Bernard Decker (1904-1993) (Figure 24), not quite 12 years old, a future Lake County circuit court judge and federal district court judge after he graduated from Harvard Law School.³⁴



Figure 24



Figure 25

A foreshadowing of the nation’s participation in the European war was made by a great preparedness celebration parade held at Fort Sheridan on Memorial Day in 1916 with “[o]rganizations of every kind and description representing every city, town and hamlet in Lake County and the North Shore.”

³³ WKS0086A (10/16/1915 – 5), WKS0087 (12/4/1915 – 5), WKS0089 (12/17/1915 – 1), WKS0089A (12/17/1915 – 2), WKS0090 (12/17/1915 – 6), WKS0091 (12/22/1915 – 1), WKS0091A (12/24/1915 – 1), WKG0055 (1/21/1916 – 5), WKG0057 (2/7/1916 – 4), WKS0092 (2/9/1916 – 1), WKS0092B (5/3/1916 – 5); records from www.ancestry.com.

³⁴ WKS0088 (12/8/1915 – 1), WKS0091B (12/30/1915 – 8); WKS0092A (3/11/1916 – 6), LVS018 (3/17/1916 – 14); *Bernard Martin Decker*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_Martin_Decker.

Among them were the cadets from the Waukegan High School opened in 1911 (Figure 25), which is still part of the Waukegan East campus today (Figure 26), and Waukegan's "three troops of boy scouts." The city's few remaining Civil War veterans hoped to be there if they were not too enfeebled to make the trip, along with the Spanish War veterans.³⁵



Figure 26

Summer activities in 1916 were much like those in 1915. The YMCA juniors had overnight hikes in July that included swimming in the Des Plaines River after hiking there in advance of a planned one-week camp at Gage's Lake. The trip to Gage's Lake at the end of August was made by a party of 36 including the cooks, a number that was "much larger than had been expected," led by Scoutmaster Gould and Assistant Scoutmaster Shepard. Three weeks earlier, Gould led 12 Scouts to the Chicago Boy Scout camp at Crystal Lake where they joined 200 Chicago Scouts for a week.³⁶

Troop 1 had a separate one-week outing in mid-August that was not a stationary camp like the YMCA Scouts' camp at Gage's Lake. Scoutmaster Fred Morey and Senior Patrol Leader Arthur Schooley were both unavailable, so Assistant Scoutmaster Alpha Griffin and substitute Senior Patrol Leader Clement Cole took over. The 9 Scouts in the group went on a seven-day hike from Waukegan to Des Plaines, a "record trip" of 27 miles in two days each way, presumably along the Des Plaines River, pitching their tents and sleeping "by the side of the road" each night. The Troop 1 Scouts were expected to "get a great deal of experience in . . . woodcraft, map making, pathfinding, cooking and also to learn to endure hardships which every boy learns if he stays in the scout's service long enough."³⁷

However, Troop 1's record journey was eclipsed by a group of 30 Chicago Scouts led by C.L. Alling who went on a 300 mile hike into Wisconsin. They showed up in Waukegan at the end of August on their way back, claiming that "they are making the longest hike any boy scout of Chicago has undertaken." They used "a two wheel cart which they dragged after them and in which they carried their camping outfits." They hiked 15 to 30 miles a day, including a day's hike from Lake Villa to Waukegan, camping overnight

³⁵ WKG0060 (5/29/1916 – 1).

³⁶ WKG0062 (7/13/1916 – 1), WKS0099 (7/19/1916 – 3), WKS0099A (8/7/1916 – 8), WKG0063 (8/28/1916 – 1).

³⁷ WKG0065 (8/11/1916 – 1), WKS0100 (8/11/1916 – 6), WKS0101 (8/16/1916 – 4).

on the lake shore before pushing on to Fort Sheridan. Alling became Waukegan's first Scout Executive in 1919 as discussed below. He preserved a clipping from a Chicago paper showing the Scouts' trek cart in a record book that many years later came into the possession of the NEIC (Figure 27).³⁸

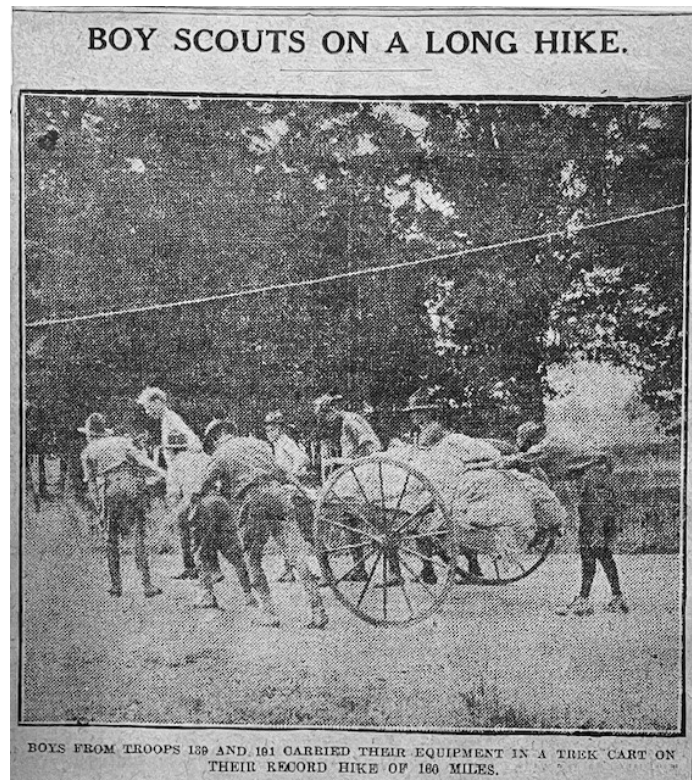


Figure 27

Troop 1 under Fred Morey and Alpha Griffin kept busy over the next several months as they announced a rather grandiose plan in November 1916 to erect a clubhouse on the Des Plaines River and enlarge the membership of the Waukegan Boy Scouts. They first planned “to open a campaign to raise the funds that will bring about the construction of the building.” They expected the other troops in town to help out with the project, stating that the “home for the youths . . . will be one of the few of its type now existent in the country.” It would provide a goal for hikers and “a home for the youths that will assure them plenty of fresh air and sports during the day and a shelter at night.” They also planned to open “a recruitment office in the city, with the intention of interesting several hundred boys in joining the scouts. . . . It is hoped to swell the membership to at least 300 here.”³⁹

In December, Griffin reported that applications to join the Scouts were “pouring in” as “[s]cores of boys have applied for admission into the troops” while the clubhouse campaign progressed. A “legislative committee of the local scouts, comprising E.T. Sargent, Ray Fowler, and the Rev. H.G. High” of the Baptist Church promised funds for the clubhouse project “if a

³⁸ WKS0102 (8/31/1916 – 7).

³⁹ WKG0067 (11/10/1916 – 7).

sufficient number of members are secured.” Morey and Griffin also planned to acquire a wireless station to be operated in a room downtown as they enlarged the troop and built the clubhouse on the river so that “the members of Troop No. 1 may learn the wireless code as it crashes against the receiver.”⁴⁰

The last mention of the planned clubhouse came in February 1917. It was described as a log cabin “of good size and will be fully equipped with fixtures so that the members of the troop can spend vacations of a week or more at the camp during the year.” One catch was that an unnamed businessman promised to “finance the home, providing the troop secures thirty-two members.” Despite the applications flooding in, the troop only had 22 Scouts at that point. Another construction project that may actually have taken place was to build a scissors bridge in a ravine under Morey’s direction.⁴¹

The YMCA troop got less publicity during this period. It awarded a dozen rank advancements in September 1916 at the troop’s first fall meeting when it was nine months old. It set up a Christmas parcel delivery service in December for a “small charge” to benefit its treasury and pay for equipment. The troop asked Waukeganites to call ahead to avoid interference with its delivery of Christmas baskets for the poor.⁴²

The country’s entry into the war on April 6, 1917 upended the Waukegan Scouts’ plans. Before the end of the month, Fred Morey started drilling 67 local men to get them ready to fight for their country. He and Griffin “secured a plot of ground on West Washington street that they are planning to place under cultivation. Soon the entire product will be turned over to the soldiers fighting for the good old U.S.A. in some manner.” This would enable their Scouts to “‘do their bit’ in the war.”⁴³

The Waukegan Scouts got a formal request for help from the government in May 1917. Fifty Scouts were requested to assist the Officer Training Camp at Fort Sheridan by being “used in a dozen different ways, but the principal use to which they will be put in the first service week will be to run errands.” All of them would be from Waukegan if 50 of its Scouts responded to the call. If only 25 responded, the rest would come from Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, and Highland Park. The Scouts would be trained “during their stay at the garrison” and would receive a small wage plus meals and lodging. It was reported that “[m]any mothers are raising objections” but the response was that the Scouts would get “training which will equal that they could get at the most

⁴⁰ WKS0103 (9/16/1916 – 7), WKG0069 (12/4/1916 – 3), WKG0068 (12/28/1916 – 8).

⁴¹ WKG0071 (2/9/1917 – 7), WKS0106 (3/31/1917 – 8).

⁴² WKS0103 (9/16/1916 – 7), WKS0104 (12/19/1916 – 6), LCC005 (12/21/1916 – 1).

⁴³ WKS0107 (4/15/1917 – 6), WKG0073 (4/26/1917 – 4); *American entry into World War I*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_entry_into_World_War_I.

expensive military academies in the country,” while “[t]he Boy Scouts of Waukegan have already declared their intention to do their bit in America’s war with Germany.”⁴⁴

However, the Waukegan Boy Scouts did not answer the call. The Scouts “did ask to be ‘carried along’ in their studies until such time as they could return to school,” but Superintendent of Schools William C. Knoelk did not believe that “the boys should neglect their studies to serve as errand boys at Fort Sheridan during the camp season.” It was observed that Scouts from Lake Forest, Highland Park, and other North Shore towns were serving at Fort Sheridan and that the Waukegan YMCA “was asked to co-operate in the work of getting the Boy Scouts to serve their country.” In August, a Lake Bluff Scout who did answer the call got a silver medal and a watch for his service after being on duty from May 21 to August 1 except for a week off for graduation, with an honorable discharge from his duty as a “scout orderly for the third battery, tenth P.T.R.”⁴⁵



Figure 28



Figure 29

At the end of May, the Waukegan Scouts were ready to join in what was billed as the city’s biggest Memorial Day parade ever, but it was rained out. Instead, veterans groups assembled at the Soldiers and Sailors monument in the courthouse square (Figures 28-29) to hear speakers. It

⁴⁴ LVS026 (5/10/1917 – 6), LVS026.01 (5/10/1917 – 2:14), LFF0005 (5/12/1917 – 7), WKS0108 (5/18/1917 – 4), WKG0085 (8/20/17 – 3).

⁴⁵ WKS0111 (5/28/1917 – 1), WKS0112 (5/28/1917 – 7), WG0075 (5/29/1917 – 4), WKS0113 (5/31/1917 – 1), WKS0114 (5/3/1917 – 4).

was noted in the *Sun*'s North Chicago column that "the rain kept all with the exception of the Boy Scouts from joining in the parade in Waukegan."⁴⁶

The Boy Scouts' next task was to sell war bonds in response to the request of Treasury Secretary William McAdoo for help from the BSA in Waukegan's Liberty Bond sales campaign that started right after Memorial Day. Troop 1 Assistant Scoutmaster Alpha Griffin promised "to make as thorough a canvass as possible . . . to carry to everyone the message that they should buy at least one liberty bond." YMCA Troop 3 also began selling bonds, and two of its Scouts qualified for the War Service Emblem by securing 10 bond applications each in the first week of the campaign. Scouts Theodore Strang and Earl Olson were presented with their medals (Figure 30) at a special troop meeting in October.⁴⁷



Figure 30

The country's entry into the war sparked a couple of other initiatives. Troop 1 successfully concluded its drive to reach a full troop membership of 36 in June, although the goal of promised funding from local businessmen changed from building a riverside cabin to outfitting the whole troop in uniforms. The troop stored its uniforms and equipment at its "drill hall" on the second floor of Griffin's garage. Troop 3's Scouts got special first aid training from Dr. Ambrose and

⁴⁶ WKS0115 (6/14/1917 – 7), WKS0116 (6/19/1917 – 5), WKG0088 (10/17/1917 – 2), WKS0127 (10/20/1917 – 5).

⁴⁷ WKS0126 (5/25/1917 – 1), LVS027 (6/14/1917 – 1), WKG0088 (10/20/1917 – 2), WKS0127 (10/20/1917 – 5).

formed two squads to respond to “a catastrophe or accident of any kind” where first aid might be needed. The troop’s farewell dinner for Scoutmaster Gould in June when he left to work at a YMCA in New York drew 80 parents of its presumably 40 Scouts and had to be moved to a larger space at the Presbyterian church.⁴⁸

Troop 1’s plan for the summer was to have a “permanent” camp on the Des Plaines River at the Belvedere bridge so that the Scouts could spend all summer there under canvas or go back to town for their jobs during the week while at least two Scouts would be “stationed on guard duty at the camp.” After Griffin marched 32 Scouts to the site to set up camp in late June, they made two trek carts for a planned hike of 25 miles to Bangs Lake at Wauconda to camp there for a two-week period after they made several hikes to prepare themselves for the trip. The carts had a long pole and a rope that several Scouts could use to pull it. The wheels were removable and the cart could be turned over for use as a utility table.⁴⁹

YMCA physical director Brewer and two other men formed a committee to select a summer camp site for Troop 3 in early August. They set up a one-week camp at the Allen Resort farm at Gage’s Lake at the end of the month with a planned capacity of 50 boys. The troop scribe sent back reports to both papers detailing each day’s events, including setting up camp, a snipe hunt, camp visitors, evening campfire programs, and the return home.⁵⁰

Both the *Gazette* and the *Sun* reported that after the country’s Boy Scouts sold \$22 million worth of bonds for the first Liberty Loan campaign and the BSA set a campaign for the Second Liberty Loan (Figure 31) for October 20-25, 1917, “the Waukegan Scouts will do their share of the work.” Surprisingly, however, there was no followup reporting about the local Scouts’ participation in the Second Liberty Loan campaign until a late report in May 1918, after the Third Liberty Loan campaign was over, that Scout Theodore Jensen had gotten a medal for his sales during that campaign. The YMCA did liven things up by presenting another circus in November (Figure 32). Things were quiet through the end of the year except for Alpha Griffin’s announcement in December that he became the Troop 1 Scoutmaster upon Morey’s departure for the war and that the Scouts voted to provide Christmas baskets for three needy families.⁵¹

⁴⁸ WKG0077 (6/15/1917 – 3), WKS0116 (6/19/1917 – 5), WKG0078 (6/22/1917 – 3), WKS0118 (6/26/1917 – 7).

⁴⁹ WKS0119 (7/7/1917 – 3), LVS029 (7/12/1917 – 8), WKS0120A (8/8/1917 – 5).

⁵⁰ WKS0120 (8/4/1917 – 5), WKG0086 (8/17/1917 – 3), WKS0121 (8/17/1917 – 3), WKG0084 (8/28/1917 – 5), WKS0122 (8/28/1917 – 6), WKG0083 (8/29/1917 – 3), WKS0123 (8/29/1917 – 5), WKG0082 (8/30/1917 – 2), WKG0081 (8/31/1917 – 6), WKS0124 (8/31/1917 – 7), WKG0087 (9/4/1917 – 2), WKS0125 (9/7/1917 – 8).

⁵¹ WKG0088 (10/20/1917 – 2), WKS0127 (10/20/1917 – 5), WKS0130 (11/7/1917 – 7), WKS0130A (12/18/1917 – 8), LVS031 (12/20/1917 – 13), WKG0104 (5/11/1918 – 8).

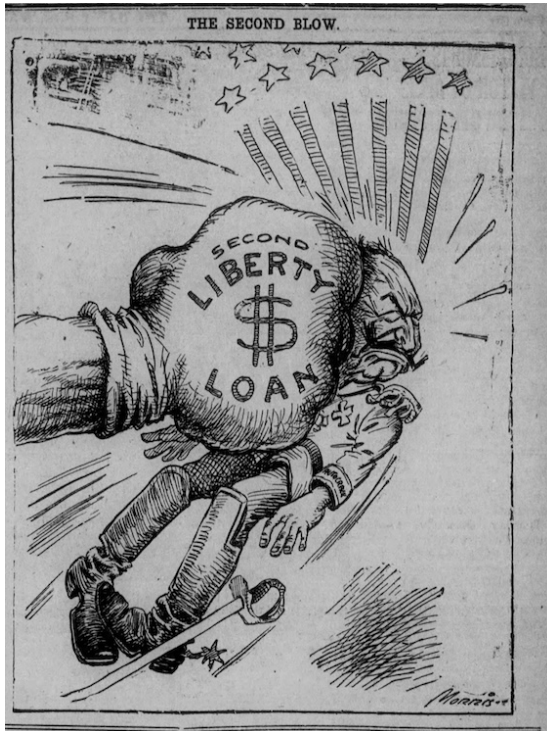


Figure 31

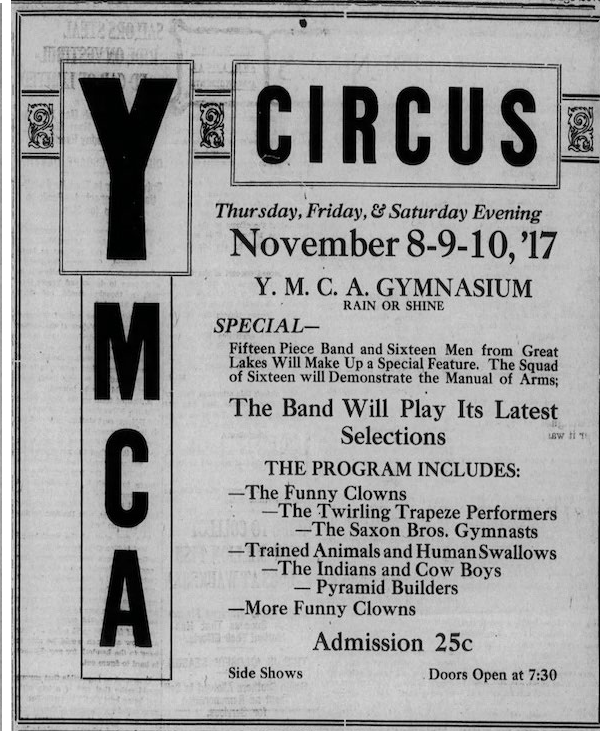


Figure 32



Figure 33



Figure 34

The Waukegan Scouts played an active, well-publicized role in the Third Liberty Loan campaign (Figure 33) set to start on April 6, 1918, one year after the country entered the war. One hundred Scouts from Troop 1, Troop 3, and newly formed Troop 4 met two weeks later to launch their own bond sales drive and elect a new local Scout council after listening to remarks from Rev. E.H. Rompel of the First Methodist Episcopal Church (Figure 34), who was also a BSA national field commissioner and an Eagle Scout. It was observed that this was the first time that all of the

Scout troops in Waukegan had been together. A local council of 14 prominent men was announced the next day, including Dr. C.S. Ambrose, future mayor Theodore H. Durst, Rev. Howard Ganster, schools superintendent Knoelk, and E.T. Sargent.⁵²

The Lake County bond sales got off to a good start towards its \$2.1 million quota with \$150,000 worth of bonds sold the first day. After their mid-April meeting, the Waukegan Scouts, “attired in their natty khaki suits,” set out to conduct a “gleaning campaign” to reach residents overlooked in the house to house canvass by the woman’s club based on the lists of people that the Scouts had compiled. It was noted that although it was well into the campaign, Waukegan was “a long way from its quota of \$615,400.” While no final Waukegan tabulation has been found, Scoutmaster Arthur Wrigley (1896-1918) and 11 Scouts from Troop 4 earned medals. The Troop 1 Scouts earned 9 medals and a Troop 3 Scout earned a medal.⁵³

Troop 4 was organized in April 1918 at the First Congregational Church by Wrigley, a yeoman at Great Lakes, Assistant Scoutmaster George Groal, and 12 Scouts. The troop got attention in the *Gazette* for first aid rendered to a man injured in a fire in May and for letters by the Scouts complaining about lack of respect to the flag during parades. Troop 4 got more favorable publicity for arranging to serve lunch to 200 members of six bands who came to town to march in the July 4 parade. Items praising Wrigley’s work with the Troop 4 Scouts in arranging the lunch noted that he was not yet 21.⁵⁴

Rev. Rompel convened the Waukegan Scouts at the Methodist Church at the end of September to “explain the Boy Scouts’ plan in the Fourth Liberty loan . . . whereby the Boy Scouts may be in line and receive the same acknowledgement and awards as during the first, second and third loans.” He then exhorted them to take pledge cards and go out and get pledges to buy bonds with “every boy on the job.” Although the Scouts’ contribution to the bond drive was not reported, Waukegan Township went over the top of its \$768,150 quota by \$183,700 (Figure 35). The Scouts of Troop 4 earned 35 Treasury Department emblems (Figure 36).⁵⁵

⁵² WKG0093 (3/13/1918 – 5), WKG0097 (4/23/1918 – 5), WKG0098 (4/24/1918 – 1), LVS033 (4/25/1918 – 10), WKS0152 (9/14/1918 – 4), WKS0690 (8/22/1925 – 11).

⁵³ WKS0131 (4/8/1918 – 1), WKS0134 (4/24/1918 – 6), WKS0135 (4/27/1918 – 5), WKS0152 (9/14/1918 – 4), WKS0180 (4/21/1919 – 6), WKS0182 (4/22/1919 – 3); records from www.ancestry.com.

⁵⁴ WKG0095 (4/6/1918 – 6), WKS0100 (5/4/1918 – 1), WKG0104 (5/11/1918 – 8), WKG0107 (6/10/1918 – 6), WKG0110 (6/22/1918 – 2), WKS0144 (6/28/1918 – 3), WKG0111 (6/29/1918 – 5), WKG0112 (7/2/1918 – 1), WKS0145 (7/1/1918 – 7), (7/2/1918 – 1), WKS0149 (7/5/1918 – 8), WKG0117 (7/6/1918 – 3), WKS0150 (7/6/1918 – 2).

⁵⁵ WKG0122 (9/21/1918 – 5), WKS0155 (9/21/1918 – 1), WKG0124 (9/27/1918 – 4), WKS0161 (10/21/1918 – 1), WKS0180 (4/21/1919 – 6), WKS0182 (4/22/1919 – 3), WKS0181 (4/22/1919 – 1), WKS0182 (4/22/1919 – 3).

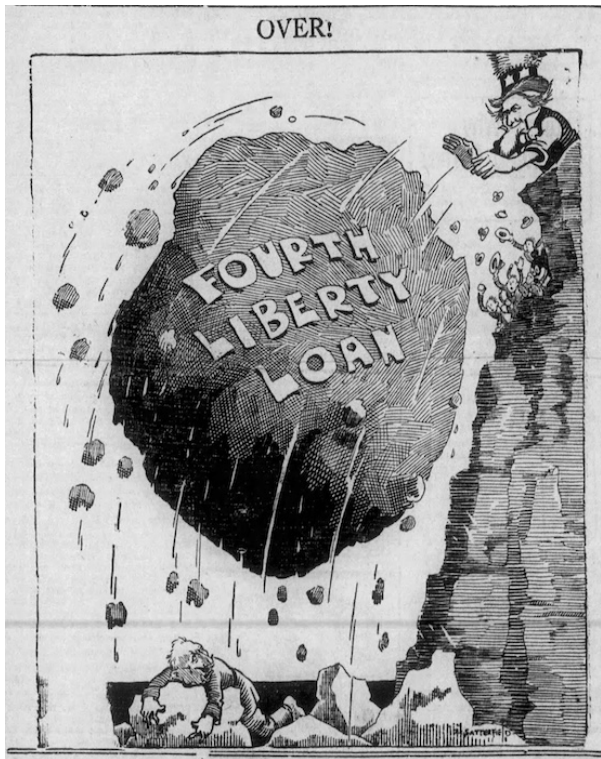


Figure 35



Figure 36

The awards included a posthumous award for Scoutmaster Wrigley. He committed suicide by taking poison in an upper room at the Congregational Church in November 1918 as he was about to be arrested and tried by his superiors at Great Lakes after the Waukegan humane officer informed them that Wrigley “had been mistreating the boys of his troop.” The Great Lakes provost guard investigated and “obtained confessions from boys at a local school . . . [who] confessed their relations with Wrigley.” He left a suicide note printed in the paper stating that he had been wronged at the age of 12 and “this terrible thing has hung on me.” Nevertheless, the 40 Scouts in Troop 4 “all respected him greatly.” His body was discovered by Rev. J.R. Scotford, who ironically had gone up to the room to write a sermon on “the future punishment of sin.” An accompanying article observed that “working like a Trojan,” Wrigley “was the one person who helped greatly to lift the debt of the Congregational church” during his previous year with the church by acting as an unpaid janitor, playing the church organ, and planning successful church fundraisers. A month later, Scotford took over as Scoutmaster of Troop 4 and the troop decided to sell Illinois centennial half dollars (Figure 37) for one dollar, the extra 50 cents to go to the Lake County historical society for a planned war memorial.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ WKS0163 (11/22/1918 – 1), WKS0164 (11/22/1918 – 10), WKS0165 (11/23/1918 – 1), WKS0165A (11/23/1918 – 6), LVS037 (11/28/1918 – 6), WKG0126 (12/7/1918 – 6).



Figure 37

Apart from selling bonds, the Waukegan Scouts' only reported summer and fall activities were Troop 1's two-week stay at Gage's Lake in August under Scoutmaster Leslie Griffin and Assistant Scoutmaster Alec Niemi and the troop's football team. The Troop 1 team had a roster of 11 Scouts including Niemi and an average weight between 135 and 145 pounds. The only reported score was a 20-0 loss to Moffet Park despite Troop 1 having a 15 pound per player weight advantage. Although nothing was said in the papers about Scouts distributing Christmas baskets to the needy, the North Chicago troop was reported to be planning to do so in the BSA's *Scouting* magazine.⁵⁷

In his capacity as a Special Field Commissioner, Rev. Rompel announced the formation of a new troop at the Methodist Church in January 1919. To entice unaffiliated boys, he promised to show stereopticon slides and "give views of some of the constructive work that the scouts may engage in." He also invited "all scouts and cubs interested in the scout work connected with the troop at the Methodist church," which became Troop 7, to attend "Preparedness Day" there to kick off Boy Scout Week activities in February.⁵⁸

New Troop 6 also made its initial appearance in the papers in January when its Scoutmaster, Rev. Howard Ganster, placed a notice in the *Sun* for a memorial service at Christ Church (Figure 38) for Col. Theodore Roosevelt, the BSA's Honorary Vice President. In February, the six month old troop was presented with its troop colors, four by six foot American and regulation troop flags,

⁵⁷ WKS0150A (8/13/1918 – 8), WKG0119 (8/15/191 – 2), WKS0151 (9/12/1918 – 1), WKS0153 (9/16/1918 – 4), WKS0159 (10/8/1918 – 4); *Scouting* (12/12/1918 – 2).

⁵⁸ WKG0130 (1/29/1919 – 1), WKG0133 (2/6/1919 – 5).

at an impressive service at the church before a “very large congregation.” After “a phenomenal growth,” Troop 6 had 64 Scouts and 5 Assistant Scoutmasters.⁵⁹



Figure 38

III. The Founding of the Waukegan Council

A Waukegan council to support its “six lively and energetic troops” was formed at the Chamber of Commerce in March 1919. Rev. Rompel “explained the workings of the Local Council” to the 25 men present. Its purpose was stated to be “to place the Boy Scout movement on the map in Waukegan.” E.T. Sargent was elected council president along with three vice presidents and other officers. Judge Perry L. Persons, Rev. Ganster, and others formed the executive committee. Rev. Rompel was elected council commissioner. It was hoped “that Waukegan can and should have 1,000 to 1,500 boys enrolled in this work.” The council planned to raise \$2,000 to build a permanent summer camp on one of the lakes in the area, noting that one troop had “permission to establish a camp on the Aux Plaines at the end of Belvidere Street.”⁶⁰

Fundraising was put to one side while the Waukegan Scouts worked on the fifth and final bond drive, for the Victory Liberty Loan (Figure 39). The campaign opened on April 21 with a quota for Waukegan of \$576,150. Victory Liberty Loan medals made from captured German cannon (Figure 40) were made available to all who sold the bonds, not just Boy Scouts. Scouts

⁵⁹ WKS0170A (1/11/1919 – 2), WKS0171 (1/18/1919 – 4), WKS0175 (2/6/1919 – 2), WKS0176 (2/10/1919 – 1), WKS0176.1 (2/10/1919 – 6).

⁶⁰ WKG0135 (3/1/1919 – 3), WKG0136 (3/22/1919 – 1), WKS0176D (3/22/1919 – 11), LVS048 (3/27/1919 – 4).

who sold 10 or more bonds were to receive a medal or a bar to go with their previous awards from past drives. Waukegan went over the top by May 12. The Scouts acted as salesmen for only six days, from May 5 to May 10, and their \$40,000 in sales helped “to put Waukegan over the top and to assist Uncle Sam in finishing the job.” Nine Waukegan Scouts earned bars for their medals and 12 earned medals. President Wilson declared an additional Boy Scout Week for June 8 to 14, Flag Day, to strengthen the BSA organization.⁶¹



Figure 39



Figure 40

⁶¹ WKS0178 (4/19/1919 – 1), WKS0179 (4/21/1919 – 1), WKS0180 (4/21/1919 – 6), WKS0185 (5/1/1919 – 6), WKG0141 (5/15/1919 – 3), WKG0142 (5/17/1919 – 1), WKS0195 (5/17/1919 – 5), WKG0143 (5/17/1919 – 8)

A significant feature of the June Boy Scout Week was to obtain one million “associate members” for the BSA who would pay annual dues of \$1 to fund its operations (Figure 41). In Waukegan, the chairman of the local committee to attain this goal was banker Theodore H. Durst, who had 48 men on his committee pounding the pavement to solicit memberships with a goal of 4,500 new associate members for the BSA. The committee tacked onto this effort their local goal of raising funds for the local council’s operations in addition to the dollars they collected for the BSA. Their press releases were careful to point out that the \$1 for an associate membership went to the BSA in New York while the local funds stayed in town for the local Scouts. The local funding would enable the council to reach its goal “of having a permanent Boy Scout executive,” by employing an “executive scout master.” The drive started on June 12 and went over the top by June 14. However, an open letter from Durst revealed that while they reached their quota for BSA associate memberships, they still needed “additional funds” to get the local council going “to give leadership and direction to the local scout activities.”⁶²



Figure 41

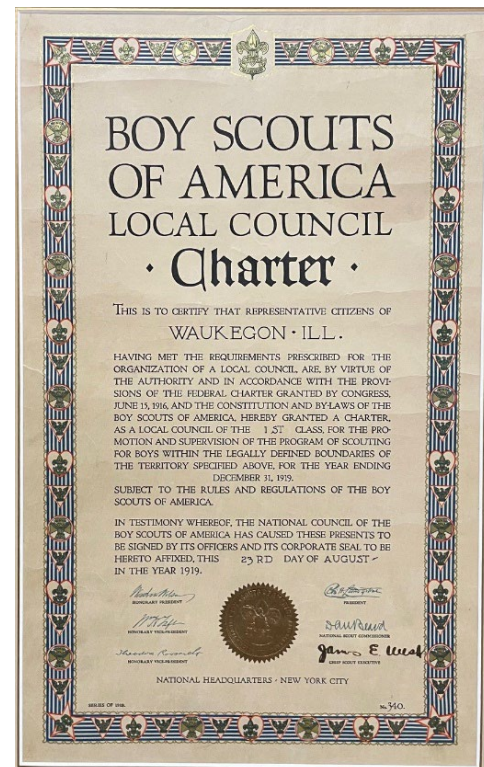


Figure 42

At a meeting at the end of July, the Waukegan Council elected Durst as president and other new officers. The council reported that it was communicating with C.L. Alling of Keokuk,

⁶² WKG0142 (5/17/1919 – 1), WKG0143 (5/17/1919 – 8), WKG0146 (6/5/1919 – 6), WKG0148 (6/10/1919 – 4), WKG0149 (6/11/1919 – 8), WKG0150 (6/12/1919 – 3), WKG0151, (6/12/1919 – 4) WKG0152 (6/14.1919 – 1), WKS0198 (6/9/1919 – 1), WKS0199 (6/9/1919 – 4), WKS0201 (6/11/1919 – 3), WKS0202 (6/12/1919 – 4), WKS0202A (6/13/1919 – 1), WKG0157 (7/26/1919 – 1).

Iowa “concerning the position of Scout executive.” He was described as a “returned soldier and has extensive experience in scout work.” He was hired by August 8. The council received a charter from the BSA that was issued on August 23 (Figure 42). The new council’s goal was to go from seven troops with 200 Scouts to 50 troops with 1,500 Scouts.⁶³

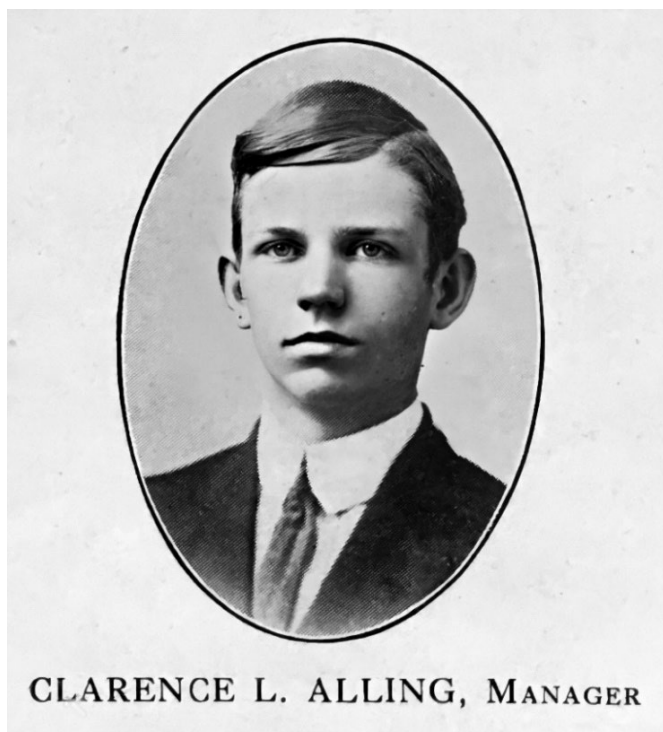


Figure 43

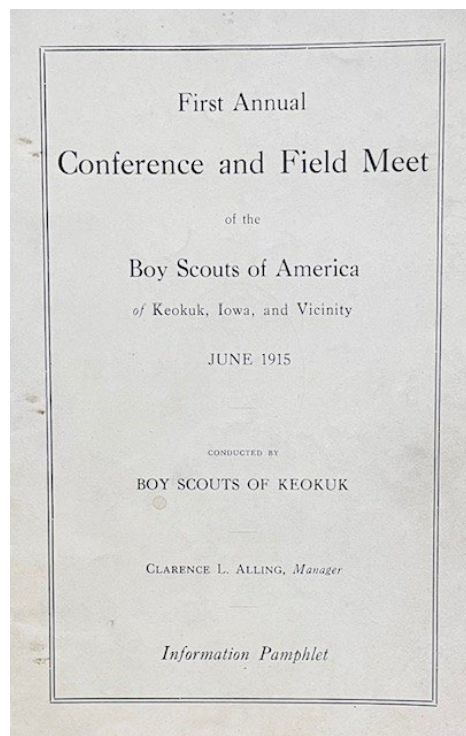


Figure 44

Clarence L. Alling (1896-1987) (Figure 43) was a remarkable young man. According to his record book of newspaper clippings from the Keokuk newspapers, now in the possession of the NEIC, he took over Scouting in Keokuk in January 1915 at age 18. He organized a council to support Keokuk’s two troops in February and proceeded to plan an event in June for 200 Scouts from the tri-state area with a big parade afterwards. He organized a third Keokuk troop in April, when he turned 19. He made a 400 mile bicycle trip in May to personally visit local troops in hamlets in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois to drum up participation in what he billed as the “First Annual Conference and Field Meet of the Boy Scouts of America of Keokuk, Iowa, and Vicinity” on the surviving program (Figure 44). He arranged a dinner for 250 at the Keokuk Masonic Temple as part of the program in June and had 400 Scouts in the parade. Rain hurt attendance, with expenses of \$310.87 and revenue of \$90.35, leaving a balance due of \$91.97 after the initial round of contributions. In September, after he paid off the deficit, the Scouts gave Alling a sendoff banquet when he left for Chicago for a year to get Scouting training at the YMCA college, planning to come back to Keokuk when the course concluded. While in Chicago, he found time to spend two weeks at the Chicago Council’s summer camp in Michigan and to lead nine Chicago Scouts

⁶³ WKG0157 (7/26/1919 – 1), WKS0206 (7/26/1919 – 6), WKG0158 (7/30/1919 – 2), WKS0207 (7/30/1919 – 1), WKS0209 (8/6/1919 – 1), WKS0211 (8/8/1919 – 2).

on a 300 mile hike into Wisconsin using a trek cart, as mentioned above (Figure 27). He then had military service from February 1918 to July 1919.⁶⁴



Figure 45

Twenty-three year old Scout Executive Alling hit the ground running when he got to Waukegan after his military service ended. He organized his first two new troops for 100 boys at Holy Rosary Church in North Chicago five days after he was hired, and recruited three Scoutmasters for them. He published his first weekly column in the *Sun* on August 16, a week after he was hired (Figure 45). After he attended a conference for 100 Scout Executives at Camp Kiwanis in Flint, Michigan at the end of August, he returned “full of ideas and enthusiasm for the future program of scouting” and went to work implementing changes.⁶⁵

Summer camp was not neglected in the summer of 1919 amid the council’s plans for changes centered on employing a full-time Scout Executive. Troop 4 published a narrative about a 14 mile hike back from Deep Lake to Waukegan over the Belvidere Road bridge in June, then another narrative about their campout on the river in July. When they got to the river, their experience was subpar:

They found their usual camping place occupied by an evil-looking outfit with fishing poles, a private stock [of booze], and a vocabulary which silenced even Billy Mast. The boys continued down the river past Belvidere and pitched camp on the top of a bluff. Camping was good, but the swimming was poor and the wading awful as there were enough rocks in the river to scuffle all the cats in Chicago.

After a good campfire and an encounter with an overly friendly cow, the troop planned to return to the old campsite a week later “[a]s the private stock seems to be exhausted.”⁶⁶

⁶⁴ WKS0102 (8/11/1916 – 6); newspaper clippings in Alling record book; records from www.ancestry.com.

⁶⁵ WKG0161 (8/13/1919 – 6), WKS0213 (8/16/1919 – 5), WKS0221 (8/29/1919 – 5), WKS0224 (9/6/1919 – 7).

⁶⁶ WKG0153 (6/24/1919 – 2), WKG0156 (7/23/1919 – 8).

The YMCA under returned physical director Brewer led a better organized outing for 36 boys, presumably including the Scouts of Troop 3, for a week in August at Gage's Lake. He even published a list of camp nicknames for all 36 campers before camp started. The camp was named Camp Hanna for the Waukegan YMCA's president, Leslie P. Hanna. An auto caravan with Hanna, Judge Persons, and several other drivers took the campers to the lake as a big truck with "everything that goes to make a real camp" brought all of their equipment. Detailed daily reports from camp in both papers kept parents informed of their sons' good times at camp. On the fourth day of camp, as the campers became "brown Indians," several guests joined them in the evening, including new Scout Executive Alling and Rev. Ganster, no doubt visiting his Scouts from Troop 6. Alling stayed overnight to play baseball with the campers after breakfast.⁶⁷

Alling left for the big Scout Executive meeting in Michigan a few days after Camp Hanna closed, but not before joining "a most important business meeting" with Troop 6 at the Parish House to supervise "[a]n entire reorganization" of the troop to prepare it for re-registering after completing its first year. After he got back in town, one of Alling's columns mentioned that a returned sailor from a submarine chaser, Mr. Conzelman, was made Scoutmaster of one of the three divisions of Troop 6 in September. Alling expressed the desire to start a Sea Scout troop with him after the end of the year and obtain a 26 foot schooner from the Navy for travel through Chicago and down the Mississippi. He also announced an eight-session training program, six sessions indoors and two outdoors, to start in October.⁶⁸

Alling's one-month progress report to the council in mid-September "was surprising in the amount that had been accomplished in such a short time." He had organized "a good Court of Honor" to take place in Judge Persons' courtroom with several prominent men "whose business is to maintain the educational and moral standards of the work in the city." He had reorganized headquarters Troop 1 for boys aged 16 to 20 with five adult leaders, including Morey and Griffin, and with plans to build a Scout cabin in a city park before year end. He had organized two new troops, was organizing five more, and expressed "an urgent demand for three other troops."⁶⁹

Alling played up his headliner for the opening session of the leader training, which he hoped would attract 50 to 100 men in or out of Scouting, Professor Norman E. Richardson of Northwestern University (1878-1945) (Figure 46), "author of one of the best books ever written on Scouting." Alling was "very anxious to have as many men as possible hear Dr. Richardson because of the inspiration he will be able to give the men." Richardson was active in Scouting in Evanston for many years, becoming the Evanston Council's executive vice president in 1920, then

⁶⁷ WKG0155 (7/18/1919 – 8), WKS0212 (8/12/1919 – 4), WKG0163 (8/18/1919 – 5), WKS0216 (8/20/1919 – 7), WKG0168 (8/21/1919 – 8), WKS0217 (8/21/1919 – 4), WKS0219 (8/22/1919 – 7), WKG0169 (8/23/1919 – 2), WKG0170 (8/23/1919 – 8), WKS0220 (8/23/1919 – 6).

⁶⁸ WKS0221 (8/29/1919 – 5), WKS0221A (8/29/1919 – 6), WKS0226 (9/15/1919 – 7), WKS0227 (9/19/1919 – 9), WKS0228 (9/22/1919 – 5).

⁶⁹ WKG0167 (8/20/1919 – 8), WKG0175 (9/13/1919 – 2), WKG0177 (9/18/1919 – 2), WKG0178 (9/22/1919 – 8), WKS0228 (9/22/1919 – 5).

its president. The 37 men who heard Richardson were “strongly impressed by the forcefulness of the address and many saw the Boy Scout Work in a new light.”⁷⁰



Figure 46

Another speaker Alling promoted was Rev. Earl C. Morgan (1889-1974) of the First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville, “a great woodsman” who started Libertyville Troop 1 in 1918 and whose Scouts built a log cabin in Casey’s Woods along the Des Plaines River north of town in the summer of 1918. Morgan hosted both of the outdoor sessions at the cabin, in October and November. The October session was the site of a “memorable evening” campfire enjoyed by 14 carloads of adult leaders after they cooked their dinners at the end of the training day. Morgan was appointed as judge of the participants in a donkey song at the final campfire, in which the final round included “an imitation of a donkey, wiggling the hands at the forehead for the ears.” The three semi-finalist donkeys were Rev. Ganster, Father Azbe of the Mother of God Church in North Chicago, and a troop committeeman from the Winthrop Harbor troop, with Father Azbe winning the final round. Fred Morey and Alpha Griffin took some “flashlight” photos which they hoped would “be suitable for publication at a later date.” One car that went off the road in dense fog on the way home in the dark was successfully pulled out of a ditch. Morgan ran the second training overnight at the cabin before Thanksgiving for the first 15 Scouts and Scoutmasters who signed up for the 15 available bunkbed spaces.⁷¹

⁷⁰ WKS0227 (9/19/1919 – 9), WKG0180, (9/27/1919 – 6), WKS0234 (10/3/1919 – 4), WKG0182 (10/4/1919 – 4), WKG0186 (10/10/1919 – 8); *Boy Scouting in Evanston, Part One*, supra note 5, at 78; *Boy Scouting in Libertyville*, supra note 32, at 10-11; records from www.ancestry.com.

⁷¹ WKG0182 (10/4/1919 – 4), LVS058 (10/16/1919 – 5), LVS060 (10/30/1919 – 1), WKS0258 (11/25/1919 – 7), LVS065 (11/27/1919 – 12); records from www.ancestry.com. Morgan and

The cabin had earlier been front page news in November 1918 when four named delinquent Libertyville boys, “sons of well known families, ... ‘shot up’ the cabin occupied by the Boy Scout troop of Libertyville.” Judge Persons threatened to hold some of their parents in contempt for missing a court hearing in Waukegan. The paper gave the following account of the hearing:

The evidence showed that the boys with shotguns in their possession fired several shots at the cabin in which members of the Boy Scout troop were resting. Several shot, it was testified, penetrated the walls of the building. The four boys on trial asserted that the boys in the cabin also fired shots but it was admitted that these shots were fired into the air. The authorities felt that the affair was too serious to pass over lightly and for that reason it was called to the attention of the state’s attorney.⁷²

In addition to running his leader training sessions in October and November, each of which was publicized in the *Sun* and the *Gazette*, Alling kept Scouting in the limelight with his other organizational activities. He paid special attention to the headquarters Troop 1 for older boys. The cabin that Morey and Griffin planned for the banks of the river continued to be a big goal, although moved into town. Plans for the cabin were “near completion” in mid-October, to be built “probably in the rear of the old Besley Brewery property,” except for raising the \$1,500 it would cost. It was stated that:

The boys, under proper supervision, will do the work. The cabin will be equipped with a wireless outfit, a photography dark room for the development of pictures, a small laboratory, electrical apparatus, etc. There will be a big fireplace and everything will be done to make the place cozy.⁷³

A week and a half later, 40 boys and 15 men were registered by Morey and Griffin to complete the troop’s organization at the Chamber of Commerce rooms. They next planned a banquet with a prominent speaker and the YMCA orchestra to “debut this organization as a vital factor in the civic life of Waukegan.” Alling’s publicity about the headquarters troop was echoed by an article in the high school’s *Kewaugan Sentinel* that was reprinted in the *Sun*. It repeated the glowing description of the cabin with some embellishment, concluding that it would “give all the fellows a chance to follow out whatever vocation they are interested in,” along with a long list of outdoor activities they could participate in. Morey, “commander of an ammunition train in France,” was lauded as the ideal chief for leading the effort to recruit and manage 100 older boys for the troop:

two of his Scouts became Libertyville’s first Eagle Scouts in 1921. NEIC records.

⁷² WKS0166 (11/30/1918 – 1), LVS038 (12/5/1918 – 1). It is not known if they were the same group who chased Troop 4 away from their favored campsite the following summer.

⁷³ WKS0237 (10/11/1919 – 4).

He understands men and is a rough and ready sort of fellow that everyone likes. He hates sissies and mollicoddles and he knows from experience how to handle an organization and have everybody happy.⁷⁴



Figure 47

Several new troops appeared in the paper in quick succession through December as Scout Executive Alling seemed to be ubiquitous:

- A troop of 13 boys led by newly installed Rev. Marsolf of the North Chicago Presbyterian Church, who had Boy Scout experience in Iowa, was announced on November 13. A second troop at the church was announced in December as Luther Henry became the Scoutmaster of both troops. North Chicago troops at Central School, South School, and Holy Family Church were also in the works at that time.⁷⁵
- Troop 12 for Jewish boys at Congregation Am Echod was announced on November 4. Its 18 boys and Scoutmaster Alfred LeBow constituted the council's tenth troop, with some troop numbers being reserved for other new troops.⁷⁶
- A Slovenian Catholic troop at Mother of God Church (Figure 47) on Tenth Street between Waukegan and North Chicago led by Father Francis Azbe was announced on November

⁷⁴ WKS0240 (10/21/1919 – 6), WKS0243 (10/25/1919 – 9), WKS0246 (10/30/1919 – 3), WKS0269 (12/23/1919 – 11).

⁷⁵ WKS0252 (11/13/1919 – 6), LVS066 (12/4/1919 – 14), WKS0265 (12/6/1919 – 7).

⁷⁶ WKS0254 (11/14/1919 – 4), WKS0263 (12/5/1919 – 4).

15. Azbe had three men lined up as Scoutmasters and 20 boys ready to start the first of three planned troops at the church.⁷⁷

- Troop 11 at St. John's Reformed Church was announced on November 18, with Garret DeVolk as Scoutmaster.⁷⁸
- Troop 14 for colored boys at the African Methodist Episcopal Church was announced on November 19. Clifford Chatfield, "a man of splendid physique and high ideals who has recently returned from France" was to be Scoutmaster.⁷⁹
- On December 5, Alling made the rounds of the North Chicago schools to promote Scouting, telling students that "if they desired to enjoy the advantages of the Scout camp next summer, it would be necessary to join a boy scout troop immediately." He also gave a promotional talk at the Women's City Club that day after spreading his message among the Waukegan schools. The council projected a membership of 1,000 boys by the end of 1920.⁸⁰

One last new troop, Troop 10 at St. Joseph's School, with Scoutmaster Lester Stackman and 23 Scouts, was announced on January 19.⁸¹

Alling also planned a big promotional powwow open to everyone at the North Beach across from the coal docks on the day after Thanksgiving (Figure 48). It was hoped that the 200 Waukegan and North Chicago Scouts would be joined by several hundred more boys and men. A good time like powwow at the Libertyville cabin for Scoutmasters was promised. Ample driftwood on the beach was available to make the "mammoth campfire." Cherokee Indian Scott Peters, one of the speakers at the leader training sessions, was enlisted to get the Troop 3 Scouts ready for the event by "drill[ing] them like a tribe" and then leading everyone in an Indian war dance around the fire. Winthrop Harbor residents, whose Scout troop under Scoutmaster C.C. Post

⁷⁷ WKS0255 (11/15/1919 – 6); *Mother of God School & Parish*, <https://www.facebook.com/MOGSchoolParish/>; https://archives.archchicago.org/documents/1004501/1006361/Mother+of+God+Parish+Photographs.pdf/5ab7edd1-8daf-40d9-b4ac-cb3e092aa8af?fbclid=IwY2xjawSPwcRleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFjY2xwdnJrb3VGSIRjZTR4c3J0YwZhchHBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHoi147Ar1VaBZYWhTrgURSIIjLnvTkkw7TLAFg9uZkDuid8monYS5QqJU2o__aem_WQ4eHdjRyJZp7OelMwoQNw.

⁷⁸ WKS0256 (11/18/1919 – 8).

⁷⁹ WKS0257 (11/19/1919 – 7).

⁸⁰ WKS0262 (12/5/1919 – 3), WKS0264 (12/5/1919 – 7), WKS0267 (12/12/1919 – 8).

⁸¹ WKS0280 (1/19/1920 – 4).

was expected to finish building their Scout cabin by then after the Waukegan Scouts were encouraged to help them finish it, were also invited to come to the powwow.⁸²

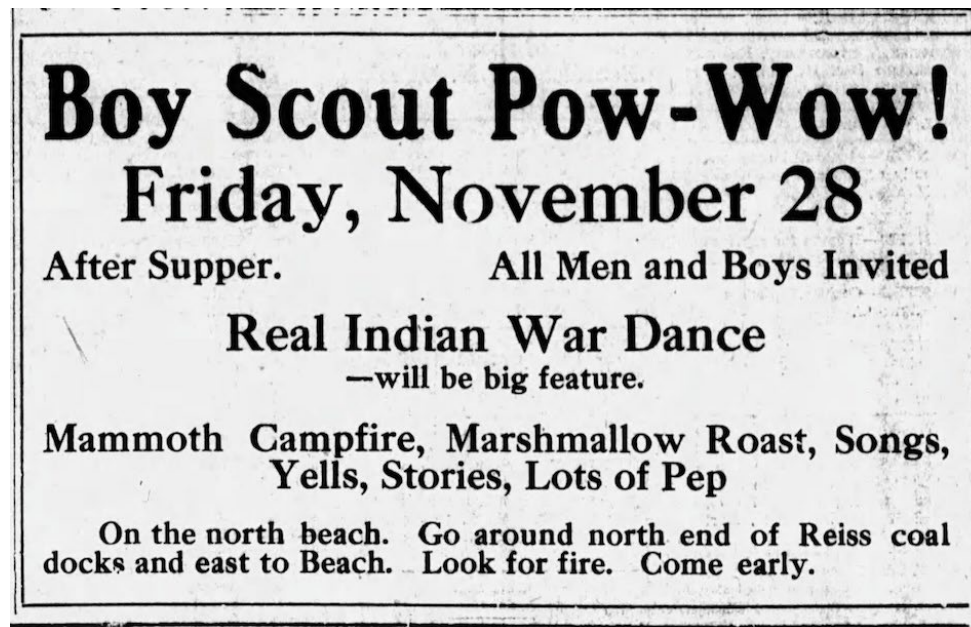


Figure 48

IV. Scouting During the 1920s

A. The Waukegan Council Gets Underway in the New Decade

The Waukegan Council elected new officers for the new year in December 1919. Dr. C.S. Ambrose succeeded T.H. Durst as president. The members of the council, including C.C. Post of Winthrop Harbor, were pleased by Scout Executive Alling's progress report, particularly since they had only spent a little over \$1,000 for his first five months' work. They "planned to establish a camp for the boys next summer the like of which has never been attempted in Waukegan before as well as weekend camps for use during the rest of the year." Somehow in the midst of his whirlwind of activity during the fall, Alling had found the time to become engaged to Miss Eva Edwards, secretary to E.R. Gobert, the general secretary of the Waukegan YMCA and former deaconess assisting Rev. Rompel at the Methodist Church. They were married in June.⁸³

The council's next order of business was to launch "a short snappy campaign" for three days in January, later moved to February, to raise \$6,000 to fund the council's activities for 1920. This would take care of an expected doubling of the council's headcount of 250 Scouts, including supporting "the Headquarters troops of older boys . . . on a larger scale" and organizing Sea Scouts.

⁸² WKS0252 (11/13/1919 – 6), WKS0253 (11/14/1919 – 3), WKS0258 (11/25/1919 – 7), LVS065 (11/27/1919 – 12).

⁸³ WKS0268 (12/15/1919 – 12), WKS0269.01 (1/2/1920 – 10), WKS0313.01 (5/24/1920 – 5), WKS0317.03 (6/5/1920 – 1).

Mayor Bidinger was named campaign manager, “a fact which assures success in the undertaking.”⁸⁴

The Waukegan Council could certainly use the money. It published its first annual report at the end of Boy Scout Week. The report from Treasurer Durst for six months ending February 1, 1920 showed of expenses of \$1,442.98, funds received from a fund drive in June 1919 in the amount of \$1,496.74, and a balance on hand of \$2.76. “Supervision expense” to pay the Scout Executive was \$800. The estimated budget of \$6,000 for 1920 showed a supervision cost of \$2,100 and office help and other office expense of \$1,400. Leader training was budgeted for \$100 and the camping program for \$1,000. The council planned to “establish an intensive training camp for Scouts during the summer” and a camp “not far from the city for all-year-round use.”⁸⁵

In the remarks section of the report, Troop 12’s committee chairman J. Blumberg stated that the Scouts would have their own room in the new synagogue in the Masonic Hall the congregation had just purchased. It was also stated that Headquarters Troop 1 “will soon be organized” and would build “an imitation log cabin” with a wireless station and other accouterments. A Sea Scout crew “may be developed during the year.”⁸⁶



Figure 49



Figure 50

⁸⁴ WKS0272 (1/5/1920 – 6), WKS0274 (1/9/1920 – 8), WKS0282 (1/20/1920 – 4), WKS0284 (2/4/1920 – 4).

⁸⁵ WKS0287 (2/9/1920 – 5).

⁸⁶ WKS0284 (2/4/1920 – 4), WKS0287 (2/9/1920 – 5).

The annual report also gave a recap of the troops in the Waukegan Council, totaling 257 Scouts:

- Headquarters Troop 1, being organized
- Troop 2 inactive, may be reorganized
- Troop 3 at YMCA, Scoutmaster Brewer, 17 Scouts
- Troop 4 an experimental troop at Congregational Church (Figure 10), Scoutmaster Alling, 24 Scouts
- Troop 5 inactive, to be reorganized at York House
- Troop 6 at Episcopal Church (Figure 38), Scoutmaster Rev. Ganster, 40 Scouts
- Troop 7 at Methodist Church (Figure 34), Scoutmaster Dr. Messick, 25 Scouts
- Troop 8 at Mother of God Church, Scoutmaster Rev. Azbe, 25 Scouts
- Troop 9 to be organized at Mother God Church, Scoutmaster Istok
- Troop 10 at German Catholic Church, Scoutmaster Stackman, 25 Scouts
- Troop 11 at St. John's Reformed Church, Scoutmaster Hatton, 15 Scouts
- Troop 12 at Jewish Synagogue, Scoutmaster Miller, 18 Scouts
- Troop 13 being organized at Baptist Church (Figure 49), Scoutmaster Reutlinger
- Troop 14 at African Methodist Episcopal Church (Figure 50), Scoutmaster Chatfield, 15 Scouts
- Troop 15 being organized at Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church by Rev. Swanberg
- North Chicago Troop 1 at Presbyterian Church, Scoutmaster Henry, 25 Scouts, 14 on waiting list
- North Chicago Troop 2 being organized at Holy Rosary Church by Scoutmaster Kaptain
- North Chicago Troop 3 being organized at Methodist Church
- Winthrop Harbor Troop 1, Scoutmaster Post, 14 Scouts⁸⁷

In preparation for the fund drive, the Waukegan and North Chicago Scouts were to distribute window hangers to be displayed during the course of the campaign and the "Greatest of All Boy Scout Pictures," the four-reel *The Knights of the Square Table* (Figure 51), had benefit showings at the Auditorium in North Chicago, the New Majestic in Waukegan, and Slana Hall on 10th Street. The movie was based on a story by Scouting pioneer James "Kimo" Wilder (1868-1934), who founded the first Scout troop in Hawaii, which was adopted by Queen Liliuokalani as the "Queen's Own." He also organized the famous Pine Tree Patrol, "the most efficient Scouting unit ever formed," and the subject of his 1919 book, whose system the Waukegan Council planned to develop for its troops. Wilder was also a friend of Dr. Earle D. Kelly, who was Scout Executive of the Evanston Council for many years starting in 1918. The movie drew large audiences as "[t]he Scouts showed much enthusiasm in the selling of tickets."⁸⁸

⁸⁷ WKS0287 (2/9/1920 – 5).

⁸⁸ WKS0272 (1/5/1920 – 6), WKS0276.02 (1/13/1920 – 6), WKS0277.03 (1/16/1920 – 4), WKS0279.01 (1/19/1920 – 3); *Boy Scouting in Evanston, Part One*, supra note 5, at 53; John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Evanston, Illinois, Part Two: 1915 to 1940*



Figure 51

The *Sun* also helped prepare the ground for the fundraising campaign by printing BSA pieces about the Scouts' exceptional war work. One article described the Scouts' work in collecting over a hundred carloads of peach pits, "enough for half a million [gas] masks," and that they had distributed 20 million pieces of government information and propaganda. Another article recited that the Scouts had sold \$352 million worth of Liberty bonds in five campaigns and \$43 million worth of War Saving Stamps to four million people. The Scouts also conducted a defense survey of the country's coast for the armed forces and located 21 million board feet of walnut, enough for all war needs, in another survey.⁸⁹

During Boy Scout Week, Council Commissioner William I. Lyon got the Scouts involved in the fund drive by instructing all of the troops "in the art of making paper knives from rustic sticks of wood. These knives are very neat and will be an unusual souvenir." The knives would be given to contributors who gave \$10 or more. When he visited Troop 3 to show the Scouts how to do it, "[a] great deal of enthusiasm was shown and some good knives may be expected." Samples of the knives in "various stages of construction" were part of an extensive scoutcraft

(2023), at 109-10; *James Austin Wilder*, <https://www.scouter.com/topic/23893-james-austin-wilder/>; *James A. Wilder*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_A._Wilder; *The History of Sea Scouting in the United States*, <https://seascout.org/about/history/>; *Aloha Council/Maui County*, <https://www.scoutinghawaii.org/maui>.

⁸⁹ WKS0276 (1/12/1920 – 7), WKS0278 (1/17/1920 – 4).

display at a downtown store display the following week “to show Waukegan people a few of the reasons why they should subscribe to a \$6,000 fund.” At the end of February as the fundraising campaign was about to start, 28 Scouts from Troop 7 were ready to show 50 whittled knives to their parents in a contest to determine the best knife. The winner had made 11 knives. Troop 4 held a similar contest. Altogether, Scouts from nine different troops made knives for the campaign, including a knife presented to the *Sun* in appreciation for its publicity.⁹⁰

On March 1, Council President Ambrose, Commissioner Lyon, and Deputy Commissioner Sargent tendered their resignations at a special council meeting to test their support. The 29 council members present rejected the resignations as the members “spoke in no uncertain terms of what was termed the almost phenomenal work accomplished by the three men.” Scout Executive Alling reported that Mayor Bidinger’s finance committee had secured 2,000 subscriptions pledging \$5,000, “either on hand or immediately in prospect.” Bidinger gave the same \$5,000 figure a few days later as he acknowledged some of the larger pledges, including a leadership gift of \$500 from American Steel & Wire Company.⁹¹

At the council’s second annual meeting in December, however, it was reported that “[o]wing to competition to other big drives at the time,” notably a drive to build a new hospital, and “the interference from the flu epidemic, less than \$4,000 was provided.” This left an operating income deficit of \$1,000, the only saving grace being that the deficit would have been \$2,000 if the council had spent the \$6,000 originally budgeted. Bidinger’s finance committee was to “begin work at once to raise the necessary funds to put the work on a sound basis.” It was predicted that “this will be comparatively easy” given the previous “wide publicity” the council had received.⁹²

A week before the December meeting, being aware of the council’s precarious financial position, Alling announced his resignation as Scout Executive and, for “a larger salary,” left to become Scout Executive in Freeport, Illinois, where he had organized 14 new troops three months later. Fred Morey was appointed as the new Scout Executive, apparently as a volunteer rather than as a paid employee, given the council’s financial straits. Morey was to “devote his time to intensive activities with the [16] troops already organized rather than building up additional troops” as the council planned “to put the Boy Scout movement on a sound basis for the next year.” One year later, Alling did not seek reappointment as the Freeport Council’s Scout Executive “as he had already accepted a more remunerative position” as local manager of a distributor of

⁹⁰ WKS0283 (1/29/1920 – 7), WKS0286 (2/7/1920 – 3), WKS0289 (2/10/1920 – 6), WKS0291.06 (2/25/1920 – 12), WKS0316 (6/1/1920 – 5), WKS0317.04 (6/5/1920 – 8).

⁹¹ WKS0294 (3/1/1920 – 6), WKS0295.03 (3/11/1920 – 1).

⁹² WKS0373 (12/9/1920 – 3).

Pennsylvania oils, although “he would be glad to help the council or any of the Scoutmasters” as time permitted.⁹³

Much more than starting new troops took place before Alling left. He planned and conducted another eight-session leader training course for April and May 1920 that he introduced at a well-attended spring fellowship dinner. He described the course as “a school for the science of leadership and the principles and practice of Scouting.” Both adult and junior leaders could earn a certificate if they attended at least six of the eight sessions and passed an examination at the June 1 Court of Honor. The first session with 65 men and boys present was such a success that the attendance at the second session swelled to 40 adults and 80 boys. The fourth session involved hiking from the Scout headquarters to the ravine at Jackson St. for games and scoutcraft, including tracking a Spiffleproof, “a very rare animal . . . [that] consists of a log with large nails driven in all sides and dragged along by a rope” by two Scouts. Commissioner Lyon conducted a nature study tour while Morey gave fire-making instruction and a group of “Indians” in costume from Troop 7 “put on an Indian initiation ceremony.”⁹⁴

By the sixth session, an average of 87 participants had attended, with a high of 112 attending a session. The seventh session was an overnight campout at the Bachelors Club at Third Lake with a schedule of activities like a summer camp. At the eighth session back at the Chamber of Commerce rooms, 82 members of the class had fulfilled the attendance requirement and were eligible for a certificate if they passed the examination. The Scoutmasters met with Commissioner Lyon and “formed a temporary organization of a scoutmaster association” that would hold monthly meetings. The patrol leaders also formed their own organization. The examination at the Court of Honor must have been tough, because only 17 adults and 21 patrol leaders were awarded certificates. The men included Fred Morey, E.T. Sargent, Minard Hulse, later a long-time Lake County Circuit Court judge and supporter of Scouting, and George Fischer, discussed further below.⁹⁵

At Alling’s spring fellowship dinner in April, the “roll call” of the Scoutmasters produced remarks that “a large number of the troops are constructing trek carts to be used on a hundred mile cross-country hike this summer.” Perhaps inspired by Alling’s experience with Chicago Scouts four years earlier, this was a hot topic. A month earlier, Troop 7’s Scoutmaster gave out plans to his Scouts for making trek carts “to use on a long hike the troop is going to make this summer.” Each of the four patrols would make its own cart. At a Troop 6 inspection meeting that month, all of the Scouts were expected to be present “in full uniform, faces clean behind the ears, necks washed below the collar, hair combed, and finger-nails clean, shoes shined and wearing a smile”

⁹³ WKS0372 (12/3/1920 – 1), WKS0376 (12/15/1920 – 6), WKS0381.01 (3/21/1921 – 3); *Freeport Journal-Standard* (1/13/1922 – 6).

⁹⁴ WKS0302 (4/2/1920 – 6), WKS0305.01 (4/14/1920 – 8), WKS0327 (7/8/1920 – 5).

⁹⁵ WKS0310 (5/12/1920 – 8), WKS0311 (5/17/1920 – 40), LVS069 (5/20/1920 – 6), WKS0315 (5/27/1920 – 7), WKS0317.01 (6/2/1920 – 1), WKS0317.011 (6/2/1920 – 5).

as Trek-Cart Captains reported on their progress of manufacture for their trek carts “for the hike to Lake Geneva.” At this meeting, one of the five patrols displayed “a splendid running gear for a trek cart” (Figure 52).⁹⁶



Figure 52

The first use of a trek cart came in mid-July when the Scouts at the council’s summer camp at Third Lake led by Alling used a cart made by Troop 4 on a two-day “Gypsy hike” to Fox Lake, leaving two or three Scouts in charge of the camp. The hike was described as “one of the special features of the two-week period,” suggesting that it may have been repeated in later periods. The 42-mile round trip had outbound stops at the Lehmann family’s Lindenhurst Farm, now the Village of Lindenhurst; Lake Villa; Allendale Farm; and Pistakee Bay; then rowing across Fox Lake to spend the night on that side of the lake. The return trip went via Long Lake.⁹⁷

The Gypsy hike was overshadowed by Troop 6’s 100-mile hike to Lake Geneva and back in August, which had extensive newspaper coverage. Labeled “the longest hike ever taken by a Waukegan troop of Boy Scouts,” the itinerary was Waukegan to Druce Lake, Loon Lake, Wilmot on the Fox River, Powers Lake, and Lake Geneva. Rev. Ganster led 12 Scouts using a single cart rather than the individual patrol carts originally planned to carry 500 pounds of all of their food, “excepting meat and milk they expect to get along the route,” and their camping equipment. On

⁹⁶ WKS0296 (3/11/1920 – 5), WKS0297.01 (3/16/1920 – 8), WKS0302 (4/2/1920 – 6).

⁹⁷ WKS0330 (7/14/1920 – 9), WKS0332 (7/20/1920 – 6); *Lindenhurst, Illinois*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindenhurst,_Illinois.

the first day, they stopped for lunch at Gurnee, where a farmer generously gave them half a bushel of apples.⁹⁸

When they reached Powers Lake at the end of the third day, Rev. Ganster tried to buy six quarts of milk for 20 cents a quart for the next day's breakfast from the local Borden dairy. The manager refused, telling Ganster that company policy prohibited selling milk to anyone, even to protect the Scouts' health. Local farmers hauling milk to the dairy also felt forced to refuse to sell him milk for the boys because "the Borden Co. maintained a very rigid rule which prevents farmers selling milk to anybody in that territory" The *Sun*'s reporter wrote that "[a]n attitude of this sort assumed toward a scout troop admittedly is one of the things which is tending to create a feeling of Bolshevism throughout the nation. A big corporation which would assume this position cannot expect the rising generation to feel kindly toward it." This caused quite a stir, being carried in both the *Sun* and the *Libertyville* paper.⁹⁹

A later article reported that after some investigation, "the Borden Co. has been very generous in support of Boy Scouts," and had recently donated \$1,000 to the Chicago Council, as well as donating milk to a fresh air camp in Algonquin free of charge. Borden sent a representative to visit Rev. Ganster in Waukegan to apologize and "to immediately resent the inexplicable attitude assumed by a minor employee . . . who it has since been discovered was 'called on the mat' because of his unpardonable treatment of the Waukegan boys." Ganster's letter published with the article showed his forgiveness of the company.¹⁰⁰

Troop 6's hike was otherwise uneventful except that one Scout had to be sent home from Loon Lake suffering from appendicitis and another Scout became sick and had to be sent home on the fifth day out. Frequent progress reports appeared in the paper. At the end, Ganster boasted that it did not make a difference to the Scouts whether the bugler blew reveille at 3:30 a.m. for forced marches or 5:00 a.m. for their regular schedule, the Scouts would be ready to go in an hour and a half. He was just as proud of their behavior with "[n]ot a single act of destructiveness of private property committed" along the way and every campsite left in good condition.¹⁰¹

Of the 12 Scouts on the hike, seven were pallbearers at Rev. Ganster's funeral at Christ Church in July 1956: Ray E. Cole, Lester Forsythe, George Harding, Harold Palmer, Gordon Zoehler, Raymond Strang, and Charles Thomas. Four others predeceased him and one more was

⁹⁸ WKS0347 (8/16/1926 – 10), WKS0348 (8/17/1920 – 5), WKS0351 (8/18/1920 – 9), LVS073 (8/19/1920 – 6).

⁹⁹ WKS0352 (8/20/1920 – 3). Microfilm for the *Libertyville Independent* article published on August 26 referred to in the September 2 article has not been found.

¹⁰⁰ WKS0358.01 (8/31/1920 – 9), LVS074 (9/2/1920 – 6).

¹⁰¹ WKS0352 (8/20/1920 – 3), WKS0352.01 (8/20/1920 – 3), WKS0355.01 (8/21/1920 – 10), WKS0356 (8/23/1920 – 6), WKS0356.01 (8/25/1920 – 3), WKS0356.02 (8/25/1920 – 16), WKS0356.03 (8/26/1920 – 8), WKS0357 (8/27/1920 – 1).

believed to still be alive but “moved away long ago.” All were said to be members of the troop when it was founded in 1918.¹⁰²



Figure 53

Interspersed among the reports of the long hikes were regular reports about the Waukegan Council’s summer camp at the Bachelors Club on Third Lake (Figure 53). A full description of the camp was given at the end of June before the three two-week periods started in July. A fifty-yard wide swimming area was staked out from depths of three feet to ten feet with a diving raft. A ten foot high scaling wall was erected. Scouts would do their semaphore signaling across the three quarter mile wide lake. The 120 foot wide porch of the club was screened against stormy weather for a sleeping area with cots and mattresses provided “for the comfort of the Scouts.” Sunday visitors were welcomed, but not picnickers. Commissioner Lyon and Scout Executive Alling urged the Rotary and Kiwanis Club members to visit to “become better acquainted with what the Boy Scout Movement does for the boys.”¹⁰³

As camp director, Alling had charge of 27 Scouts for the first period with other adult leaders and a bugler. A list of all of the campers’ nicknames was published. At the first campfire, “Old Man Grouch” was tried and convicted of the murder of “Joy.” After the jury convicted him, he was “burned in effigy at the stake.” A big dinner under Morey’s management for the campers was planned for the end of the period with a charge of \$1.25 apiece for the one hundred visitors. The visitors got to see demonstrations of wall scaling, semaphore signaling, and lashing logs together to make a bridge “entirely without the use of any hardware” like nails, screws, or bolts.

¹⁰² WKS0357 (8/27/1920 – 1), WKN56041 (7/24/1956 – 1), WKN56042 (7/24/1956 – 10).

¹⁰³ WKS0322 (6/26/1920 – 6), WKS0324 (7/2/1920 – 10).

They were entertained by a stunt night that included pantomime and “black-faced comedian acts.”¹⁰⁴

At the end of the third period, “Old Man Grouch” was tried again, this time for drunk driving down the street at 89 to 90 miles per hour and killing “Baby Camp Spirit.” The testimony from one witness was that Grouch drank up his supply of 90 proof alcohol and became irate when he was offered 89 proof alcohol, then got kicked out of the place. The full cast was listed including Abraham Zelechower as the defense attorney, “a poor, struggling lawyer with a reputation.” A guilty verdict was again returned by the jury and Old Man Grouch met the same fate. After camp ended, the Bachelors Club’s members decided to let the council use the property on a year-round basis.¹⁰⁵

The BSA sent an invitation to Scout Executive Alling in March 1920 to “partake in the national competition to select two hundred ‘kids in khaki’ to represent the United States “ in the first world jamboree to be held in London the next summer. Seventeen year old Troop 10 Assistant Scoutmaster George Fischer (often spelled Fisher in the *Sun*) (1903-1964) was selected for the trip. He left Waukegan on June 30 to join the U.S. contingent in New York and sail to England on July 5. He was to “take notes of everything that happens and lots of pictures.” Three of his letters home were printed in the *Sun* in mid-August that gave his impressions of the ocean trip to England, the busy daily schedule when the jamboree started, and introducing American-style campfires to the Scottish Scouts “because they never have campfires in any of those countries over here.”¹⁰⁶

When Fischer got back on September 6, 22 Scouts from Troop 10 and Scoutmaster Lester Stackman greeted him at the train station. The Waukegan Council arranged for him to talk about his trip at a mass meeting at the Armory four days later. Fischer gave “an absolutely interesting story of his experiences” as the representative of the 142 Waukegan Scouts present. The 300 Scouts in the U.S. contingent had 14 Tenderfoot and 11 Second Class Scouts, the rest all being Eagle and Life Scouts with many merit badges, including one Hawaiian Eagle Scout who had 53 merit badges. As a Tenderfoot himself after a year and a half as a Scout, Fischer resolved that the boys of his troop should start to do serious work on their advancement. The group was “on the water” for 10 days for the crossing, then had a sightseeing tour of the English countryside and

¹⁰⁴ WKS0326 (7/7/1920 – 5), WKS0328 (7/13/1920 – 3), WKS0339 (7/27/1920 – 1), WKS0340 (7/27/1920 – 8).

¹⁰⁵ WKS0343.01 (8/6/1920 – 13), WKS0346 (8/16/1920 – 8).

¹⁰⁶ WKS0300 (3/30/1920 – 3), WKS0323 (6/30/1920 – 2), WKS0353 (8/21/1920 – 1), WKS0354 (8/21/1920 – 9); records from www.ancestry.com.

London before reaching the two-block long Olympia Centre that could hold the 44,000 Scouts from 32 countries plus 10,000 Wolf Cubs aged 9 to 12 attending the jamboree.¹⁰⁷

After the jamboree was over, the contingent went to France for more sightseeing in Paris and visits to several World War battlefields. They went to Brussels, Fischer's favorite place on the tour, and saw the Olympic games at Antwerp. After a side visit to Holland, the Scouts went to the ports of Brest and St. Nazaire in France to pick up 1,250 bodies of American soldiers to transport home. They paraded down Fifth Avenue in New York after a stormy 19-day return crossing. As the finale of the program, recently appointed Field Executive Fred Morey told the audience of Scouts about the big Scout circus to be held at the Armory that had been in the planning stage since May.¹⁰⁸

B. The Boy Scout Circus

The Waukegan Council's Boy Scout Circus in November 1920 turned out to be Scout Executive Alling's last hurrah since he left Waukegan the next month, but its planning and execution was a very impressive effort that outshone anything the YMCA had put on. The publicity for the extravaganza began with the announcement after Labor Day that veteran Scoutmaster Fred Morey, who was also one of the first Waukegan men to volunteer for service after the war was declared, was appointed to the "high position" of Field Executive. One of his "first big tasks . . . is that of making arrangements for a big demonstration of the scout work, to be known as the scout circus." After Morey told the Scouts about the circus at the Fischer mass meeting, Alling's publicity machine was cranked up as he got every Scout in the council engaged in the big show. Two hundred Scouts were assembled at Pearce's grove at the beginning of October to rehearse the campfire scene for the show as they heard a "forceful" talk on loyalty from a Chicago clergyman that he illustrated by magic tricks to hold their attention. At a convention of 2,000 Boy Scouts in Milwaukee, the Waukegan wall climbing team participated in a competition, losing to the Milwaukee team by half a second.¹⁰⁹

Then it was reported that a committee of Mayor Bidinger, Dr. Ambrose, Judge Persons, and Rev. Slaughter of the First Christian Church finalized the arrangements using the Armory to hold an audience of 1,100 persons for each of three shows on two days in mid-November. To stage such a "mammoth display," every square inch of the Armory floor had to be "pressed into use." After placing 1,100 circus seats, the show would fill a 90 by 28 foot arena for the 14 acts and 300 Scout performers, "including 30 clever, well trained clowns." The various exhibitions would "show the people of Waukegan what Boy Scout training is doing for the boys of this city." The introductory article ended with a theatrical flourish:

¹⁰⁷ WKS0315 (5/27/1920 – 7), WKS0359 (9/8/1920 – 3), WKS0359.01 (9/8/1920 – 6), WKS0360 (9/13/1920 – 6), LVS075 (9/16/1920 – 2).

¹⁰⁸ WKS0360 (9/13/1920 – 6), LVS075 (9/16/1920 – 2).

¹⁰⁹ WKS0359 (9/8/1920 – 3), WKS0360 (9/13/1920 – 6), WKS0361 (10/2/1920 – 10).

This will undoubtedly be the most unique show ever presented in Waukegan, as the exhibitions performed by these Boy Scouts border somewhat on the impossible and cannot fail to excite wonder in the minds of all who witness them.¹¹⁰



Figure 54

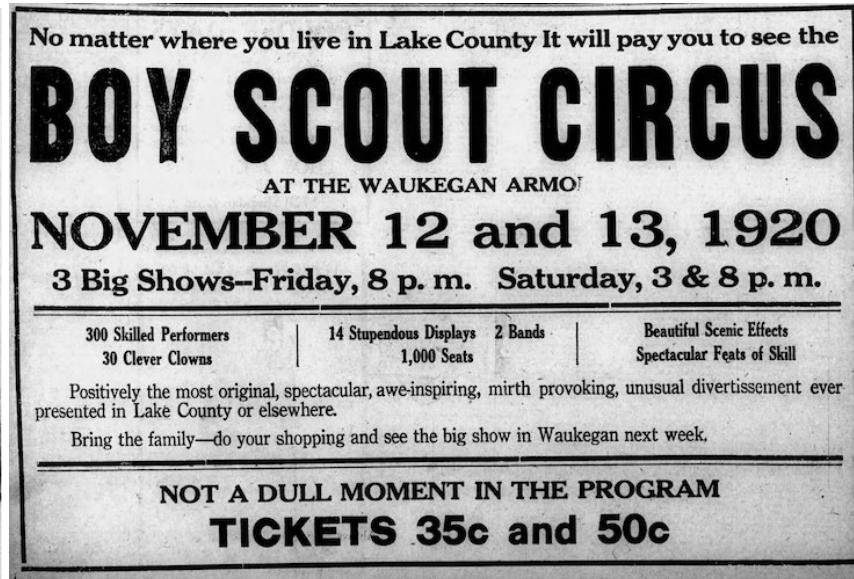


Figure 55

A preview of the show given to 35 men connected to Scouting was recounted in detail in mid-October. They saw a tableau on the three parts of the Scout law presented by Billy Mast of Troop 4, one of 15 tableaux to be presented at the show. The Boy Scout Crazy Quartet from Troop 12 led by Abraham Zelechower, “chief of the clowns,” was a big hit. Alling introduced several “heads of departments” for the displays and Morey made “a very forceful talk.” Alling tied the success of the show to “the future success or failure of the scout work in this city,” in part by needing to sell at least 2,000 tickets. The bronze statuettes to be awarded as prizes (Figure 54) were pictured on the front page of the *Sun* the following week.¹¹¹

In further publicity, Alling reported visiting the Libertyville Scouts, with the expectation that 100 people would come to the show from there. The automobile bridge to be built at the Armory in 30 minutes would use 24 cedar poles loaned by a local lumber company. The Chicago Telephone Company would loan two telephone poles and the North Shore Line would loan 40 railroad ties. He also told the public that the Scouts had reserved the Armory for a full week and a half before the show to practice. The famed Kenosha drum and fife corps would supply the

¹¹⁰ WKS0362 (10/11/1920 – 7), WKS0367 (11/10/1920 – 4).

¹¹¹ WKS0363 (10/16/1920 – 5), WKS0364 (10/22/1920 – 1).

music. Alling also visited all of the schools in Waukegan, “making short addresses to the pupils in an effort to interest them in the coming Boy Scout circus.”¹¹²



Figure 56

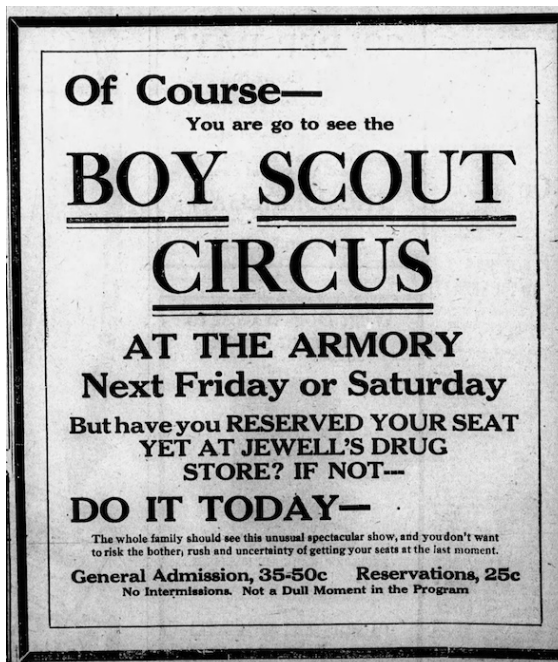


Figure 57

The publicity was slightly spoiled or possibly, anticipation was heightened, when Alling and Morey took the Waukegan wall climbing team to Racine to compete with teams from Evanston, Kenosha, Racine, and Sheboygan a week before the show as part of a ten-event inter-city competition. The Waukegan team was supposed to scale a wall, “running from 50 feet on one side of the wall, over the 10 foot wall, and run 50 feet on the other side of the wall,” in 30 seconds. At the competition, however, the Waukegan team did it in 45 seconds, coming in third to Evanston in 32 seconds and Racine in 40 seconds. This article came out after two ads promoting the circus had been run (Figures 55 and 56). The Evanston and Kenosha Scouts at least promised to bring guests to the circus. About 2,000 tickets had been sold by then. Another ad was run just before the show went on (Figure 57).¹¹³

The souvenir program for the circus (Figure 58), now in the possession of the NEIC, called it the “first annual circus” in the inside page headers, showed fifteen “Displays” with descriptions of each of them, and listed multiple participants for many of them. The wall scaling competition pitted a Troop 6 team against a Troop 12 team and an “All Waukegan” team with time results to be posted on a blackboard. Troop 12 would also make a human pyramid of 11 of its Scouts immediately after the competition. The knot tying display promised “63 knots and splices . . . arranged in a superbly artistic design, completed in 2 minutes.” Photos of the knot display

¹¹² WKS0364.01 (10/28/1920 – 3), WKS0364.02 (10/30/1920 – 7), WKS0365 (11/4/1920 – 6).

¹¹³ WSK0365.02 (11/6/1920 – 4), WKS0365.03 (11/8/1920 – 6), WKS0366 (11/9/1920 – 10).

appeared in *Scouting* magazine's December 23 issue (Figure 59), stating that the display was made on the backs of the three 10 by 10 foot wall-scaling walls for 300 square feet of knots made with "1½" rope – tug of war material!" The Headquarters Troop's bridge building demonstration (Figure 60), by "[t]he most remarkable ensemble of field engineers ever collected," would construct "a bridge 40 ft. long and 8 ft. wide without hardware in 20 minutes."¹¹⁴

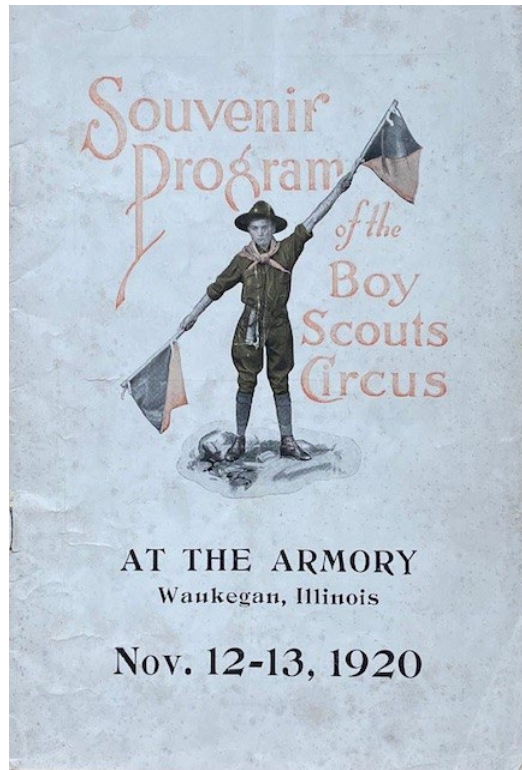


Figure 58

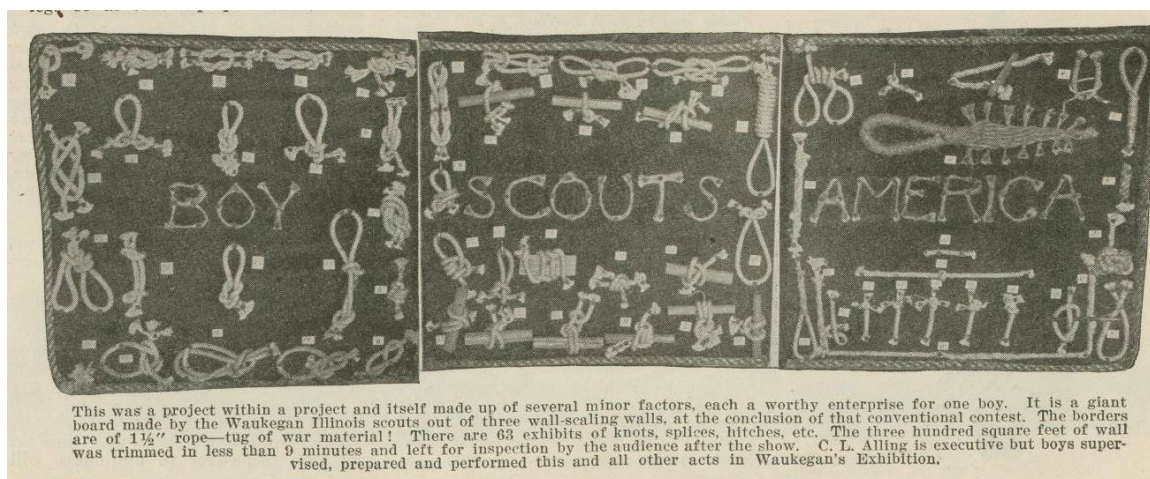


Figure 59

¹¹⁴ Boy Scout Circus Souvenir Program, at 9, 11.

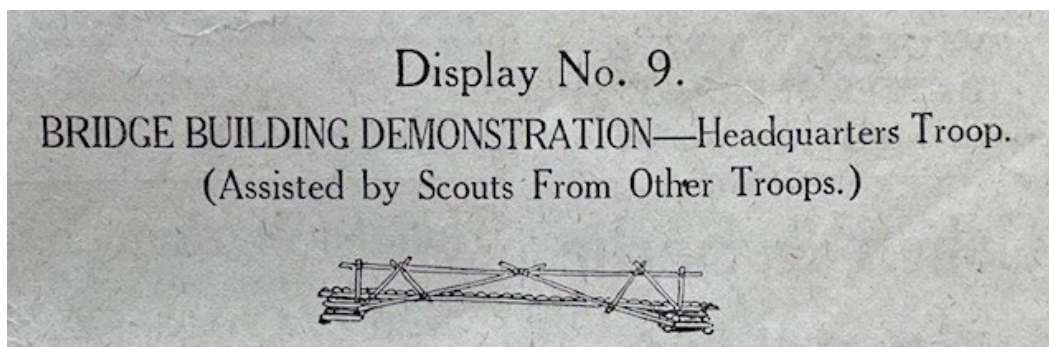


Figure 60

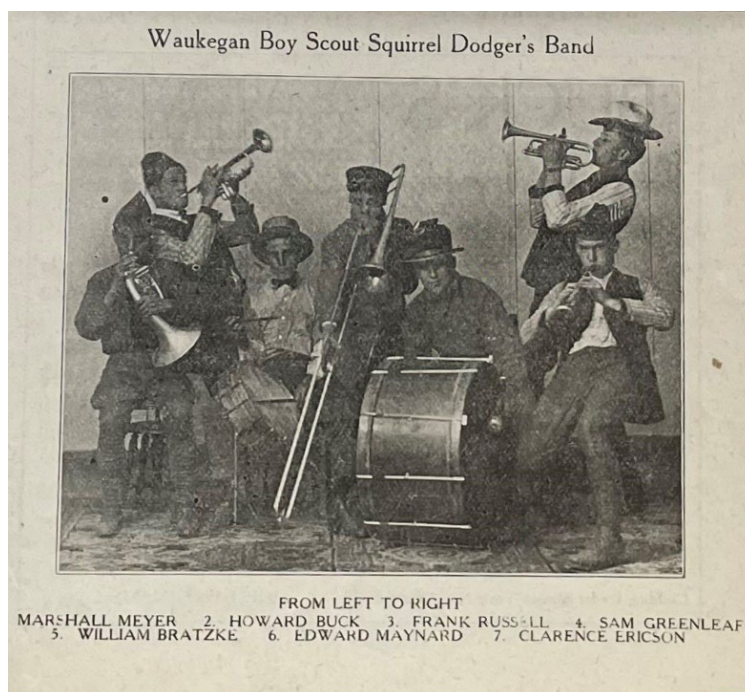


Figure 61

The troop roster in the program showed some changes from the listing in the Waukegan Council's annual report at the start of the year. Headquarters Troop 1 had a new Scoutmaster to replace Morey, and 25 Scouts registered. New Troop 9 at Mother of God Church had a Scoutmaster and 16 Scouts. New Troop 13 at the Baptist Church had a Scoutmaster and 16 Scouts. New Troop 15 was a second troop at the Methodist Church with 24 Scouts. North Chicago Troop 2 became the North Chicago Methodist Church's troop, with no successor Troop 3. Troops 2 and 5 remained "not organized." The total headcount was 327 after a year's worth of activities and publicity, up 70 from the earlier total.¹¹⁵

A lengthy review of the Friday night performance of the Boy Scout Circus appeared in the *Sun* on Saturday. The Kenosha drum and fife corps was joined by the previously unpublicized Waukegan Boy Scout Squirrel Dodger's Band (Figure 61). Display no. 2, a seven-horse Roman

¹¹⁵ Boy Scout Circus Souvenir Program, at 22-23.

chariot race, was inexplicably missing from the show. Instead, there was “a dog cart drawn by a big black dog about the arena with no competition whatsoever.” It was explained in the next article after the Saturday performances that the chariot race “was found impossible in the available space.” Likewise, the “museum of models,” handicrafts, and nature exhibits made by the Scouts as a sideshow was not shown “owing to the overwhelming crowd of people” as attendance at the three shows topped 3,000.¹¹⁶

The show otherwise lived up to its billing. The day in camp display, starting with unpacking the trek carts, went as planned. The knot tying display impressed. The “Fools’ Reunion” of clowns was hilarious. The “Indian style” fire by friction display was awesome. The winner of the wall-climbing event, who made it in 35 seconds, was Troop 9 rather than Troop 6 as originally reported. The “big event of the evening” was the bridge-building display. After hauling in all of the “posts, telephone poles, etc.,” the Scouts had “a real substantial-looking bridge and to prove it was such a small automobile was pushed over it and made the trip in safety.” The final tableau worked better on Saturday than on Friday after the spotlight was fixed so that the main lights did not have to be turned off and on.¹¹⁷

Overall, the *Sun* reviewer’s impression was that “[e]verybody who attended was very much interested in what they saw, and now understand what is being done with the Boy Scout movement,” as Alling surely intended. He was commended on a “very marked success” for getting “a bunch of boys together” to put on a circus “as well as it was done last night.” Troop 12 won a “big trophy shield” for the highest group score, which was based on “averaging points earned by individual members.”¹¹⁸

C. Rebuilding Waukegan Scouting

After Alling left, the Waukegan Council went through a rough time. Alling’s copious output of press releases dwindled to just a few items in the *Waukegan Sun* during the first half of 1921, mostly generic items supplied by the BSA, and not about the local Scouts. Fred Morey was promoted to Scout Executive upon Alling’s departure, apparently still as a volunteer rather than as a paid employee given the council’s financial straits. The only group activity before summer camp was a five-day winter camp that Morey planned for the Bachelors Club at Third Lake in mid-December 1920. He was going to take 20 older Scouts, presumably from the Headquarters Troop, and “throw them on their own resources to a great extent . . . to show how much they have benefitted by their training.” One example was to build a bridge after they “scurry about and dig up the materials” instead of having it donated for assembly as was the case at the circus. Morey was also going to “put the boys through a series of ‘stunts’ as if they were acting before a movie

¹¹⁶ WKS0368 (11/13/1920 – 3), WKS0369 (11/15/1920 – 5).

¹¹⁷ WKS0368 (11/13/1920 – 3), WKS0369 (11/15/1920 – 5), WKS0369.01 (11/15/1920 – 8).

¹¹⁸ WKS0368 (11/13/1920 – 3), WKS0370 (11/24/1920 – 4).

camera” and might film them “if the rehearsal shows up sufficiently good.” There was no followup report on how the winter camp experiment turned out.¹¹⁹

The council reported having 275 Scouts during Boy Scout Week in February 1921 after re-registration was complete, up 50 Scouts from February 1920 but down from the 327 Scouts listed in the circus program. Morey promoted home gardens in April and the Scouts also joined the city’s annual battle against mosquitos. The Waukegan and North Chicago Scouts joined the Civic Safety Organization starting in June. This took concrete form in September when Morey announced a “plan of using Boy Scouts as junior traffic patrolmen at the various schools in the city to see to it that small children are not run down by automobiles.” The first Boy Scout junior patrolmen were stationed at Belvidere and McAllister in October, then and now a busy corner near Andrew Cooke School. Troop 11’s Scouts were commended for their work there.¹²⁰

Morey and Assistant Scoutmaster Harry Hill set up and staffed a three-period summer camp in July and August 1921 back at the Bachelors Club at a cost of \$12 per two-week period. Morey’s terse reports stated that during periods 1, 2, and 3, the camp served 16, 20, and 26 of the council’s Scouts, respectively, but offered little additional detail. His final report summed up the summer succinctly: “The encampment has been very instructive and has been free of all accidents.” The drowning of a North Chicago Scout in the lake at Foss Park at a National Envelope Co. picnic in July and his funeral got much more space in the *Sun* than Morey’s six weeks of summer camp. Morey put out even terser messages about the Scouts’ holiday good turns. He issued a couple of calls for toy collection in cooperation with the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, stating that the Scouts would repair broken toys for distribution to poor children. The Scouts also assisted the Salvation Army in distributing over 200 Christmas baskets to 119 needy families in Waukegan and North Chicago.¹²¹

Apart from these announcements from Morey, most Scouting news during the year came from individual units. For example, the North Chicago Scouts planned a hares and hounds cross country run from their meeting place at the Auditorium in October that had to be postponed because of the weather and they were set to supervise children’s roller skating races in November that were snowed out. They also held a drive to sign up people for membership in the Red Cross that fall, with a prize for the top salesman. The North Chicago Scout basketball team also beat the Waukegan Scout team 14 to 11 in January 1922. One curiosity during this period was the appearance of the Black Partridge tribe of Lone Scouts in October independent of the council that

¹¹⁹ WKS0376 (12/15/1920 – 6), WKS0378 (12/24/1920 – 8).

¹²⁰ WKS0379 (2/5/1921 – 10), WKS0381.04 (4/9/1921 – 1), WKS0381.05 (4/12/1921 – 1), WKS0381.06 (4/12/1921 – 5), WKS0381.09 (4/28/1921 – 10), WKS0389.03 (9/10/1921 – 7), WKS0392 (10/13/1921 – 1), WKS0394 (10/14/1921 – 12), WKS0394.04 (10/22/1921 – 6).

¹²¹ WKS0382 (6/28/1921 – 5), WKS0383 (7/6/1921 – 9), WKS0383.03 (7/18/1921 – 5), WKS0383.04 (7/23/1921 – 5), WKS0395 (11/19/1921 – 9), WKS0396 (12/8/1921 – 12), WKS0396.03 (12/21/1921 – 12), WKS0396.14 (12/24/1921 – 8).

had a meeting room on Prescott St. on the south side of town that they remodeled in early 1922 before they disappeared from view.¹²²

The council appeared under a new name as the Waukegan-North Chicago Council (“WNCC”) in mid-October 1921 when it met “to discuss matters of vital interest,” namely, “to devise ways and means to raise funds to pay off the present indebtedness and continue the Boy Scout work in the work throughout 1922.” The campaign was to start on November 15, but nothing further was heard about the subject until February.¹²³

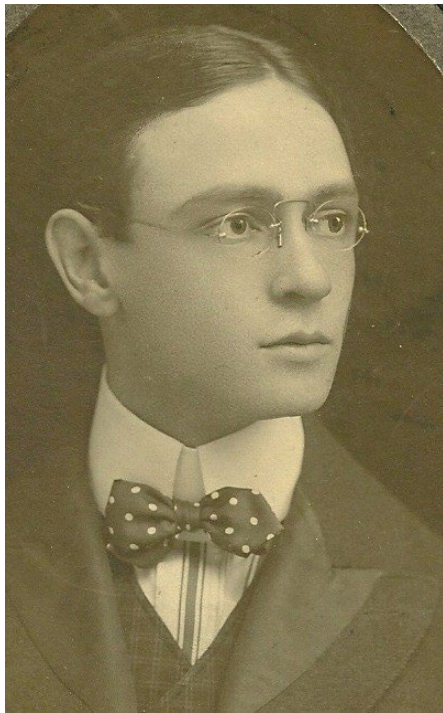


Figure 62



Figure 63

The WNCC held a free mass meeting with “fine, free entertainment” at the Armory during the February Boy Scout Week in 1922 to “promote interest in the work of the Boy Scouts.” The notice stressed that “no admission will be charged at this meeting and no pledges will be taken,” although “a drive for funds” would occur later. The dynamic Evanston Scout Executive Dr. E.D. Kelly (Figure 62) headlined the meeting to try to pump up enthusiasm for the fund drive and support for local Scouting, after which “it will be decided whether or not to go ahead with a campaign” for “maintenance funds.” Kelly was joined by Walter M. Kiplinger (1893-1984),

¹²² WKS0394.04 (10/22/1921 – 6), WKS0394.07 (10/28/1921 – 14), WKS0394.11 (11/1/1921 – 9), WKS0394.12 (11/4/1921 – 2), WKS0394.13 (11/5/1921 – 3), WKS0394.16 (11/9/1921 – 3), WKS0394.17 (11/11/1921 – 13), WKS0394.18 (11/12/1921 – 8), WKS0395.02 (11/29/1921 – 6), WKS0395.06 (12/3/1921 – 5), WKS0396A.14 (1/22/1922 – 9), WKS0396A.17 (1/24/1922 – 10), WKS0396A.23 (2/6/1922 – 9).

¹²³ WKS0392 (10/13/1921 – 1).

Region 7 Scout Executive for the four states surrounding Chicago. The entertainment was provided by a magician and Scouts doing first aid demonstrations. After the “small but enthusiastic” meeting, “the meeting decided that it was advisable to go thru with the proposed drive for funds in order to maintain the local scouts.” The goal was set at \$7,000. At a Kiwanis Club meeting to promote the fund drive, Scout Executive Morey emphasized that there were many things in the creed and by-laws of the Boy Scout organization “which the public does not know” about good citizenship and “uplifting their morals and ambition.”¹²⁴

The goal of the effort was raised to \$8,000 in early March when Dr. Otto Thompson officially proclaimed a one-week drive to obtain the money with a 32-man committee of fundraisers that was ready to go. A couple of days later, the WNCC raised the tantalizing prospect that “if the local council . . . is maintained and enough new recruits to the ranks secured,” the council could work with the Illinois Naval Reserve to give “an opportunity to take up sea scouting.” One hurdle was that Sea Scouts would have to reach the rank of First Class to qualify for membership and the council was then down to 225 Scouts, “only a few of which” had reached that rank.¹²⁵

After various endorsing statements from prominent citizens were published, the drive reached the \$2,500 mark in two weeks after its official opening. An editorial in the *Sun* urged residents to give “a generous response” during the following week to make the fund drive a success. This was augmented by a planned Boy Scout parade to the Armory with the Great Lakes band, the high school cadets and band, the American Legion drum and bugle corps, and nine speakers, including the Great Lakes commandant. The *Sun* gave further support with a series of guest editorials. After some weather-related delays, the parade finally happened on April 1 along with a Boy Scout tag day sale. A second parade was scheduled a few days later. Thompson then discontinued the drive on April 10 as he awaited “the receipt of checks from several industrial plants . . . within the next few days” that would reach the planned goal.¹²⁶

At that point, the Scout drive boosters felt ready to “reorganize” the WNCC and choose a new paid Scout Executive as Morey resigned from that position, no doubt with a sigh of relief. Thirty of the boosters formed a new council committee as a “permanent organization.” A temporary Scout Executive, Boyde F. Edgar (Figure 63), was sent by the Region 7 office in Chicago to replace Morey. Edgar was then confirmed at a meeting of the reorganized council on April 24. At that meeting, the funds raised were “believed to be a bit under the \$8,000 quota as

¹²⁴ WKS0397 (2/7/1922 – 1), WKS0399 (2/10/1922 – 5), WKS0400 (2/10/1922 – 16), WKS0400.02 (2/11/1922 – 2), WKS0402 (2/25/1922 – 4); records from www.ancestry.com.

¹²⁵ WKS0406 (3/4/1922 – 1), WKS0407 (3/6/1922 – 7), WKS0408 (3/11/1922 – 10).

¹²⁶ WKS0417.08 (3/24/1922 – 16), WKS0417.10 (3/25/1922 – 4), WKS0417.12 (3/27/1922 – 1), WKS0417.14 (3/27/1922 – 6), WKS0417.30 (4/1/1922 – 1), WKS0417.34 (4/1/1922 – 10), WKS0417.38 (4/4/1922 – 12), WKS0417.46 (4/10/1922 – 16).

originally planned.” The new officers “have promised to be active and to put scouting on the map in Waukegan.”¹²⁷

The committee’s activities report a month later in May painted a less upbeat picture. It was revealed that: the office donated to serve as council headquarters was not available after May 1; the loaned office furniture had been recalled; the council’s charter had expired on December 31, 1921; most of the troops had “disintegrated” as only 4 to 6 Scouts attended meetings, “with these discouraged”; Scoutmasters “were not aggressively active”; and troop committees “were not functioning.” The WNCC’s goals were (1) to reregister the council “with all possible speed” and (2) to recharter eight troops with a total of 100 Scouts by June 1. Cash on hand increased from \$4.54 on March 1 to \$1,089.13 on May 17. Both goals were achieved in June when Edgar reported that 8 troops were formed for 100 Scouts and the WNCC received its new charter. Individual troop charters followed.¹²⁸

New Scout Executive Edgar (1884-1924) started in Scouting in 1911 in Washington and Idaho schools. He joined the American Expeditionary Force in France as a YMCA worker, was captured by the Germans, and was released at the end of the war. He then formed several Scout troops in France before he returned to Scout work in Iowa and Chicago. Upon arrival in Waukegan, he was “ready to open his program of activities shortly . . . as soon as the new quarters are found and headquarters located permanently the Boy Scout[s] will be placed prominently on the map of Waukegan activities.”¹²⁹

Despite his background and experience, Edgar’s tenure was not the success that Alling’s had been, in large part because the council continued to have financial difficulties despite new troops being formed and summer camps being set up in 1922 and 1923. At a meeting in June 1922 as Edgar arrived, the report began by stating that “[f]inances still bother the Boy Scouts and their plans for the future.” The subject of finances was “passed over” at the meeting and referred to the finance committee. The meeting then turned to planning a summer camp, named Camp Waunochico, at Loon Lake for three two-week periods. One innovation that summer was a radio broadcast by Edgar and several Waukegan and North Chicago Scouts in August over the new radio transmitter at Great Lakes arranged with the commandant by Dr. Thompson.¹³⁰

Camp Waunochico was scaled back to two periods since it only lasted for the month of August. Twenty-nine Scouts attended the first period, which started on July 31, staffed by Edgar and Scoutmaster Harry Hill. There was a potential distraction when the Naval Reserve offered

¹²⁷ WKS0417.48 (4/11/1922 – 11), WKS0417.50 (4/12/1922 – 7), WKS0417.53 (4/14/1922 – 1), WKS0420 (4/22/1922 – 12).

¹²⁸ WKS0426 (5/24/1922 – 4), WKS0435 (6/20/1922 – 11), WKS0437 (6/23/1920 – 13).

¹²⁹ WKS0421 (4/26/1922 – 5); records from www.ancestry.com.

¹³⁰ WKS0435 (6/20/1922 – 11), WKS0438 (9/29/1922 – 1), WKS0445 (7/31/1922 – 3), WKS0453 (8/16/1922 – 3), WKS0454 (8/30/1922 – 4).

trips to Municipal Pier (now Navy Pier) in Chicago on their sub-chaser to see the Pageant of Progress exhibition, which conflicted with the camp schedule, but the Scouts chose to go to camp instead. There was one jarring note when a rather stuffy open letter appeared on the front page of the paper. The writer, evidently a *Sun* editor, took six Waukegan Scouts to Chicago and was appalled to hear some of them “preface every remark with ‘O Jesus ___!’ ‘O Christ ___!’ or ‘for Christ’s sake!’” This apparently was not the first time that this had happened in his hearing. The Waukegan Scouts and their executives were directed to make sure that the Scouts have “a CLEAN MOUTH” and not take the Lord’s name in vain. The first period was otherwise uneventful as many Kiwanis Club members visited the camp.¹³¹

The second period started off with a bang as one of the 14 North Chicago Scouts who went to camp with their Scoutmaster, Virgil Smith, managed to break both arms falling off of the parallel bars. He survived, with both arms in slings at the end of the period. Up to 75 visitors a day came to camp to spend time with the Waukegan and North Chicago Scouts there.¹³²

The next big WNCC effort was to mount a 12-act show at the Armory at the end of November. The show was first announced to the public at the beginning of the month as “[a]n all star vaudeville program involving various members of the troops and other local talent.” Acting as the impresario, Troop 4 Scoutmaster Coral Heydecker promised “a rare opportunity to hear a number of locally famous choirs and groups of singers that rarely if ever sing in public.” Among the acts were the St. Bartholomew’s forty-voice choir singing Lithuanian folk songs in costume, the eight girls of the St. Joseph’s Joan of Arc Club giving “character recitations,” and readings by Miss Rosenthal of the Hattie Barwell Club. The Scouts were to display handicrafts and later were to do intricate drills, while 16 members of the YWCA Girl Reserves opened the program with a flag drill. Heydecker confidently predicted a full house on both nights. All 12 acts were listed in the paper on the day of the first performance, with some substitutions listed for the second day. It was pronounced a “great success” in the *Sun*.¹³³

Council finances were in the paper again in November. While Edgar was “doing very fine work with the boys,” it was reported that the fund drive earlier in the year was only enough to “carry the work for half a year, besides cancelling debts.” Another tag day sale was set for the end of the month to keep things going. However, although Edgar reported that tag sales raised a “very gratifying” \$516.68, it still left the WNCC \$1,000 “behind” of overhead expenses due to Edgar’s \$250 a month salary, secretarial help, rent, and other costs of running an office. This was the subject of discussion at a Kiwanis meeting in early December with the consensus of the club members and WNCC executive committee members present that “the public has not responded to

¹³¹ WKS0443.01 (7/27/1922 – 8), WKS0445 (7/31/1922 – 3,4), WKS0449 (8/9/1922 – 7), WKS0451 (8/10/1922 – 10), WKS0451.02 (8/12/1922 – 1), WKS0452 (8/12/1922 – 7).

¹³² WKS0453 (8/16/1922 – 3), WKS0453.01 (8/18/1922 – 15), WKS0454 (8/30/1922 – 4), WKS0454.02 (9/1/1922 – 16).

¹³³ WKS0464 (11/6/1922 – 7), WKS0473 (11/13/1922 – 4), WKS0475 (11/24/1922 – 12), WKS0475.04 (11/27/1922 – 3), WKS0477 (11/28/1922 – 12).

any degree which would indicate that it was keenly interested in carrying on the movement in an extensive way.” It was noted that ticket sales at the vaudeville show at the Armory were disappointing, as Heydecker told them that Scouts who were given 25 to 30 tickets to sell only sold one or two of them. Rev. Ganster floated a proposal to do without a paid Scout Executive to save the expense, which the *Sun* found meritorious.¹³⁴

At the WNCC’s quarterly meeting at the end of December when Edgar reported that the council had gone from zero Scouts registered in June to 134 on December 1, the group decided that a cost estimate from a fundraising company was “prohibitive” and that they would do their own fund drive in January. Edgar’s six-month report to the public at the start of January observed that the council’s work since the reorganization in June “has been stabilizing, adjusting and standardizing in Waukegan and North Chicago.” This included installing “some system of records as there were no records of the boys advancement, or of our standing with headquarters [at the BSA in New York].” The work was handicapped by lack of adult leaders, since they started with only two Scoutmasters in June.¹³⁵



Figure 64



Figure 65

Under a headline of “What’s Happened in Boy Scout Movement Here?”, the *Sun* expressed puzzlement when Dr. Otto Thompson (Figure 64) “‘laid down’ on the job” by resigning as WNCC president on the eve of the fund drive in February 1923, set to start during Boy Scout Week, since he dropped other commitments “so he could devote more to Boy Scout work and his efforts have

¹³⁴ WKS0471 (11/18/1922 – 8), WKS0476 (11/27/1922 – 11), WKS0478 (12/5/1922 – 1), WKS0479 (12/5/1922 – 7), WKS0480 (12/5/1922 – 5).

¹³⁵ WKS0484 (12/26/1922 – 4), WKS0485 (1/2/1923 – 11).

brought remarkable results.” This led to Scout Executive Edgar also being elected chairman of the WNCC. Thompson told the fund drive campaign committee that he would continue to help, but under a different leader.¹³⁶

The formal fund drive kickoff announcement sought to assure the public that any contribution would be wisely spent, and that “a community investment” in Scouting was one that Waukegan and North Chicago could not afford not to make. Several dollar figures were published, including a final total of \$5,278.70 on the \$8,000 goal for the 1922 drive, against only \$4,027.20 in 1922 expenses. This resulted in the carryover deficit from 1920 and 1921 being reduced to a more manageable \$1,169.20. Supportive editorials in the *Sun* remarked on the “ups and downs” that Scouting had encountered in Waukegan “when it has been so difficult to raise funds,” but pointed to the “much good” that it had accomplished to justify contributing to the \$8,000 drive for 1923. The *Sun* encouraged the people of Waukegan to be like good farmers and recognize the value of “the annual crop of boys” after the weeding out done by Scout leaders.¹³⁷

Thompson’s publicized retirement seemed to be temporary because he appeared at the kickoff luncheon for the fund drive at the Plaza Hotel as president of the WNCC and spoke to the Rotary Club about the drive the next day. He was also re-elected as president of the council in April. However, the drive was paused after the first week to avoid a conflict with the YMCA drive and was paused again to avoid a conflict with the Chamber of Commerce drive, with \$4,000 to go to reach its \$8,000 goal. The WNCC executive board met in mid-March to plan ahead for the drive, which “has been delayed somewhat,” but nothing more was said about it in the paper.¹³⁸

The spring and summer of 1923 appeared to proceed normally after that. A four-act Boy Scout play written by Thompson that lost its audience to a February blizzard (Figure 65) was repeated in April. Thompson replaced Judge Persons as the judge in the courtroom act for the April performance. Edgar was chosen to run the Kiwanis Club’s boy roundup in June, a field day athletic event for 1,000 Waukegan boys including the Scouts. The Scouts were asked to help provide Scout uniforms for war orphans in the Near East in April and to raise \$3,000 for Japanese earthquake victims in August. A big promotional parade, a rally, and a powwow complete with bonfire and Indian dancing were held in July.¹³⁹

¹³⁶ WKS0493 (2/2/1923 – 1), WKS0493.01 (2/2/1923 – 2), WKS0494 (2/3/1923 – 5).

¹³⁷ WKS0499 (2/12/1923 – 7), WKS0499.02 (2/13/1923 – 6), WKS0501 (2/14/1923 – 6).

¹³⁸ WKS0502 (2/14/1923 – 12), WKS0502.01 (2/15/1923 – 5), WKS0505.02 (2/19/1923 – 6), WKS0509 (3/6/1923 – 7), WKS0526.01 (4/28/1923 – 5).

¹³⁹ WKS0491 (1/29/1923 – 9), WKS0492 (1/32/1923 – 2), WKS0500.02 (2/14/1923 – 4), WKS0517 (4/2/1923 – 2), WKS0520 (5/6/1923 – 5), WKS0533.06 (6/4/1923 – 3), WKS0534.01 (6/7/1923 – 2), WKS0536 (6/28/1923 – 4), WKS0539 (7/10/1923 – 8), WKS0543.01 (8/10/1923 – 4), WKS0545.02 (9/6/1923 – 1), WKS0545.05 (9/10/1923 – 5).

Camp Waunochico II, an “agglomeration” of the council’s name, found a new venue at Diamond Lake southwest of Libertyville. A radio transmitter and receiver borrowed from Great Lakes was a new camp feature. Camp director Edgar took 31 Scouts to the camp for the first period at the end of July in a large bus donated by the North Shore Line. At the same time, the Gurnee Scout troop, which had been organized in 1913, got its very first mention in the *Sun*, when an item about the new addition to the Gurnee Church of Christ mentioned that the troop would have its headquarters in the basement. At the camp’s closing a month later, 30 Scouts left in volunteered automobiles after some were awarded honor badges. A WNCC membership campaign was highlighted in mid-September by a large half-page ad (Figure 66).¹⁴⁰

Chicago Daily Tribune of August 29th Last Says:

“Mother Shoots Her Son to Keep Him From Crime.”

“Boy, 19, Who Threatens To Steal Gets Bullet”

“I am sorry now, so sorry,” moaned the mother, Mrs. Rose Simiz. Tears welled in her eyes and she buried her face.

And the grief stricken mother went over again the story how she shot her son “To save his soul.” He wouldn’t work, loafed all the time, because he could not get a job at his profession as a Civil Engineer after graduating from the Crane Technical High School. He would not do anything else and chose the easy way of stealing.

HE WAS NOT A BOY SCOUT

Judge B. Lindsey Has Said:

“After fifteen years of juvenile work, I say without question that if you give the Boy Scout movement the moral and financial support it rightfully demands, the juvenile court will no longer be needed.”

There Are Nearly 500,000 Boy Scouts In the United States

President Coolidge is Honorary National President of the Boy Scouts. Both of his sons are Boy Scouts.

The Scout “learns by doing” to “Be Prepared” and to accept responsibility. He can save life, fight fire, control crowds, give first aid. In times of flood and disaster, he can do for himself and others in the out-of-doors. The Scout pledges to keep himself “Physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.” He does at least one “Good Turn” daily to some one.

Scouting is for all boys of all races, classes, or creeds. While non-sectarian, it is fundamentally religious. Indeed its Twelfth Law affirms: “A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.”

In every civilized country on the planet, there is Scouting. It speaks the universal language of world boyhood. It is the great melting pot of American youth.

President Harding says: “I wish every boy in our America could have the advantage and honor of being in the Scout organization.”

In giving Waukegan citizens a chance to help boys build character, workers need offer no apology.

Scouting is no charity—it is an investment. It is not reformatory but formative. Any man is honored by having a chance to contribute to making it easier for boys to live and build right!

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN NOW ON

Figure 66

Although Scout Executive Edgar had received nothing but good press during the year, financial matters came to a head on September 24, 1923, when “[i]t was announced today that after October 1, B.F. Edgar, executive of the Boy Scouts of Waukegan for the past two or three years, will not be connected with the local organization.” The announcement recited that “the finances of the organization do not warrant . . . spending \$350 a month for an executive” and, echoing Rev. Ganster’s proposal from a year earlier, that the organization would simply do without one. Total

¹⁴⁰ WKS0541.01 (7/30/1923 – 4), WKS0542 (7/30/1923 – 6), WKS0545 (8/25/1923 – 7), WKS0545.01 (8/27/1923 – 9).

expenses had been running at the “very high” level of \$450 a month and debts were at the \$2,000 level.¹⁴¹

Edgar did not take this well. An item in the paper five days later stated that “although members of the council had received reports that Mr. Edgar would resign, beginning October 1, no resignation was received. The executive stated today that he has no intention of resigning.” Two weeks later, the council held a special meeting “to formally notify Executive Edgar that he will no longer be kept in that position, due to the fact that the financial condition of the organization necessitates to curtailment of expenses,” in particular his \$250 a month salary.¹⁴²

D. The Reorganization of Scouting in Lake County in the 1920s

At the end of April 1924, Waukegan did something innovative that had been discussed for the past several months, starting a community chest campaign for eleven organizations instead of each of them having to conduct its own competing and overlapping fund drives or tag day sales. At last report in mid-May, the campaign was \$5,000 short of its \$68,700 goal, with the hope that more would come in. As was done in Wilmette and Evanston when they adopted the community chest model in subsequent years, the Waukegan community chest included funding for the local Boy Scouts through the WNCC, although the allocations for the different organizations were not given.¹⁴³

One week after the final report for the 1924 campaign, feeling that adequate funding was finally in hand, the WNCC was “getting ready for their larger program,” with plans “for securing a new executive” and to select a new site for a summer camp. A new Troop 7 was organized at the Hattie Barwell Settlement House (Figures 67-68) on the south side of Waukegan with 18 Scouts. A new troop in Lake Bluff with 35 Scouts also made its first appearance in the *Sun*.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴¹ WKS0547 (9/24/1923 – 1).

¹⁴² WKS0548 (9/29/1923 – 7), WKS0550 (10/13/1923 – 9).

¹⁴³ WKS0555 (12/6/1923 – 9), WKS0569 (4/10/1924 – 1), WKS0601 (4/29/1924 – 1), WKS0602 (4/29/1924 – 7), WKS0606 (5/2/1924 – 1), WKS0616 (5/16/1924 – 10); *Boy Scouting in Evanston, Part Two*, supra note 88, at 97-99 (community chest started in 1932); John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Wilmette, Illinois 1910 to 1939* (2020), at 42-43 (community chest started in 1928).

¹⁴⁴ WKS0618 (5/24/1924 – 3), WKS0618.01 (5/26/1924 – 16), WKS0618.02 (5/27/1924 – 12); John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff, Illinois 1910 to 1944* (2020), at 35.



Figure 67



Figure 68

In June, Dr. Thompson resigned from the Kiwanis Club's Boy Scout committee, stating that his work was done. The committee had put Scouting in Waukegan and North Chicago "on a solid foundation" after two and a half years of work. He expected that its \$4,000 budget, apparently the amount it got from the Community Chest campaign, would "take care of the Scouts for one year" and allow the council to hire a Scout Executive. One dissenting letter writer responded by urging the Kiwanis to continue their support of Scouting, noting that the club had "taken over a debt of more than \$3,000, kept Scouting going and cleared off the deficit" during the past two years. The WNCC then hired Warren E. Blodgett (1896-1954) (Figure 69), Scout Executive in Merrill, Wisconsin and director of its Camp Sam-o-set, to start effective August 1, and announced that Camp Waunochico III would be held at Gage's Lake. It was noted in passing that Edgar had moved to Detroit, where he died in July after a short illness.¹⁴⁵

Before camp started, the Rotary Club pledged to send 37 underprivileged boys to the YMCA's Camp Wyboca and find employment for 11 boys in the new Troop 7 at the settlement house "so that they can attend a scout camp." The YMCA camp was set up at Lily Lake in Kenosha County. Although the WNCC's camp was planned to be at Gage's Lake, it moved back to Diamond Lake just before it began in mid-August and just after Blodgett arrived from Wisconsin to run it. He had 41 Scouts in camp for a single two-week period. The Scouts held a memorial service there for former Scout Executive Edgar.¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁵ WKS0622 (6/24/1924 – 12), WKS0623 (6/30/1924 – 10), WKS0624 (7/2/1924 – 5), WKS0626 (7/7/1924 – 1), WKS0633 (8/12/1924 – 11), WKS0633.02 (8/25/1924 – 9); records from www.ancestry.com.

¹⁴⁶ WKS0619.02 (6/5/1924 – 7), WKS0628 (7/11/1924 – 15), WKS0629 (7/16/1924 – 4), WKS0629.02 (7/21/1924 – 2), WKS0631 (8/11/1924 – 5), WKS0633 (8/12/1924 – 1), WKS0633.01 (8/18/1924 – 3), WKS0633.02 (8/25/1924 – 9).



Figure 69

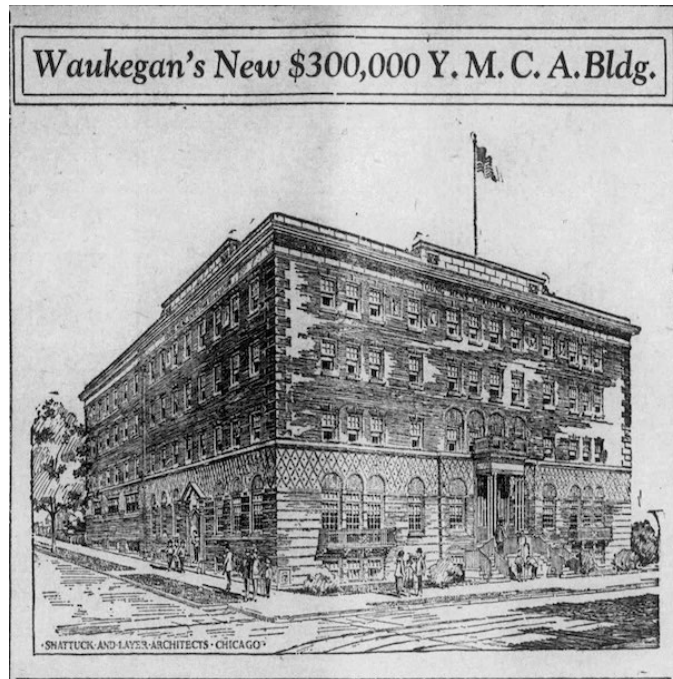


Figure 70

The WNCC held an annual meeting in September at which its new Scout Executive was presented with his commission. At the end of a long list of council officers, committeemen, court of honor members, and expert examiners in the report of the meeting, five Scoutmasters for Troops 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9 and three Assistant Scoutmasters were named. This apparently was all that was left of the program. Notably, North Chicago had gone from three troops two years earlier to none. Blodgett had quite a task ahead of him to build up Scouting again.¹⁴⁷

The opening salvo in this effort was what was billed as “[o]ne of the biggest meetings on boys’ work that has ever been held in Lake County,” a dinner meeting at the Hotel Clayton at the end of November. The Waukegan Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary Clubs were joined by the Lake Forest and Libertyville Kiwanis and motivational speakers. A leader training school funded by the Knights of Columbus was announced that was scheduled for two nights a week for five weeks in January and February.¹⁴⁸

Hinting at the WNCC’s ambition to cover more than just the immediate Waukegan area, the council expressed the hope that registrants for the training course would come “from all the organized communities of the county,” from Antioch to Zion and from Barrington to Highland Park. Twenty-seven of the 39 registrants attended the opening session and were assigned to four patrols in a fashion similar to the author’s experience with leader training by the NEIC in 1998.

¹⁴⁷ WKS0469 (11/13/1922 – 7), WKS0636 (9/22/1924 – 7).

¹⁴⁸ WKS0644 (11/28/1924 – 15), WKS0645 (12/2/1924 – 14).

The appeal reached Antioch for the first time, since one of the men registered was Rev. E. Lester Stanton, Scoutmaster of Antioch Troop 1. He was elected patrol leader of the Eagle Patrol. Region 7 Scout Executive Kiplinger was one of the speakers at the first session of the leader training course.¹⁴⁹



Figure 71

Blodgett's leader training course coincided with the opening of the YMCA's large new \$300,000 building at North County and Clayton Streets (Figure 70), where it still stands today (Figure 71). When the building was dedicated in January 1925, there was a brief item about Camp Wyboca. It was stated that it was "the hope of the Waukegan Y.M.C.A. to have a permanent camp site of its own, instead of having to change locations so frequently." The camp served 107 boys the previous summer, two and a half times as many as Camp Waunochico III.¹⁵⁰

At the time that the WNCC moved into its new office at 10 N. Genesee St. in January 1925 and invited Scout leaders and other interested men from all of Lake County to come to Waukegan to attend its training course, Scouting in Lake County was quite fragmented as troops appeared and disappeared with little connection to each other or between towns. In the northern part of the county outside of Waukegan and North Chicago, nothing was heard about the Zion Scouts after 1915 except as noted below at the end of 1925 or about the Winthrop Harbor Scouts after 1920. Although Gurnee had a troop continuously from 1913 onward, it had no connection to the WNCC one township over until it appeared to welcome the new Hattie Barwell Settlement House Troop 7 with the Waukegan and North Chicago troops in 1924. Rev. Stanton's Antioch troop was organized in 1917, then was disbanded in 1921 and reorganized in 1923 as the local Methodist pastor led the troop or not, with no connection to Scouting elsewhere until Stanton came to the training course. The Libertyville troop organized in 1917 and a Libertyville council to support it

¹⁴⁹ WKS0653 (1/5/1925 – 3), WKS0654 (1/15/1925 – 5), WKS0658 (1/20/1925 – 6); John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Antioch, Illinois 1914 to 2008* (2025), at 30.

¹⁵⁰ WKS0649 (1/29/1924 – 1), WKS0655 (1/17/1925 – 1), WKS0657 (1/17/1925 – 6).

that had a brief existence in 1922 had no connection with troops in other towns after Alling left Waukegan.¹⁵¹

In the southern part of the county, Deerfield had a troop that started in 1914 and was mentioned sporadically in the Libertyville paper. A new Lake Bluff troop was organized in 1924, soon joined by a second troop at the orphanage. In Lake Forest, a troop that started in 1910 disbanded after 1915. A new troop was organized in 1917 followed by two more, but they consolidated into one troop in 1922, which then fell from view. The Lake Forest Scouts formed a council to support three newly organized troops in 1924.¹⁵²

Highland Park had a troop in 1911 that disappeared after 1912. A new troop was started in 1916, then was joined by four more in 1924. The five troops organized a Highland Park Council in 1925 as a first class council with a Scout Executive to serve their 125 Scouts, to organize more troops, and to set up a summer camp. After its 1925 summer camp, the council had expansion plans. It incorporated the Deerfield troop and a new Highwood troop and then renamed itself the North Shore Council in the fall of 1925 because it covered more than Highland Park. The North Shore Council then had 7 troops and 210 Scouts.¹⁵³

The BSA was organized in twelve regions in addition to the national headquarters in New York City. Region 7, covering the four states around Chicago (Figure 72), had an office in Chicago where Regional Scout Executive Kiplinger and his staff worked to promote and strengthen Scouting in the region. This included the formation of councils served by a paid professional Scout Executive as the WNCC had, when it had the funds to pay him, and the Evanston Council. As early as August 1924, Region 7 started to promote the concept of a council for the North Shore communities that would extend north of the Evanston Council from Wilmette to Lake Bluff (or Lake Bluff to Wilmette, depending on your point of view) when Region 7 Field Executive Francis D. Chadwick made such a proposal at a meeting of the Wilmette Rotary Club. Chadwick noted the success of the WNCC and councils in Evanston and the western suburbs centered on Oak Park “of placing Boy Scout work . . . on an efficient business-like basis.” Although it was reported in September after Chadwick made his proposal that “all the north shore Scout organizations have given sanction” to the proposal and a meeting in Chicago was scheduled in October for further

¹⁵¹ WKS0611 (5/7/1924 – 5), WKS0660 (2/4/1925 – 12), WKN49002 (5/6/1949 – 6); *Boy Scouting in Antioch*, supra note 149, at 12-18; *Boy Scouting in Libertyville*, supra note 32, at 8-15.

¹⁵² John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Deerfield, Illinois 1914 to 1945* (2021), at 8-18; *Boy Scouting in Libertyville*, supra note 32, at 16-17.

¹⁵³ WKS0695.02 (11/24/1925 – 12); *Boy Scouting in Highland Park, Part One*, supra note 16, at 7-14.

discussion among the local Scouting groups, nothing further was heard in the papers about such a plan for the next two years.¹⁵⁴



Figure 72

Scout Executive Blodgett worked on establishing a relationship with the Highland Park Council after summer camp was over in 1925. Several Scout leaders from Highland Park, Deerfield, and Lake Forest were guests at the WNCC's court of honor, of which Blodgett was a member, on August 31. Highland Park Council Commissioner H. Ame Babcock "expressed a hope that a Highland Park district, a Lake Forest district and a Waukegan district might unite with the other parts of Lake county in forming a County Council of Boy Scouts." The report of the court of honor went on to say that "[t]he fine spirit of unity manifested at the gathering made those who were present hopeful of seeing the formation of a County Council at some not far distant point." Blodgett was also present when Babcock emceed a dedication ceremony for the Highland Park Council's new Camp Millard on the Des Plaines River in the river woods west of Deerfield north of County Line Road on September 13 and announced the council's own plans for growth.¹⁵⁵

In November 1925, the WNCC proposed the formation of a Lake County Council ("LCC") that would include all of the troops in Lake County in one organization. The proposal was made on the basis of a year's planning by the council and its extension committee "in keeping with projects of the field department of the National Boy Scout Council, which hopes to organize every square foot of territory in the United States under local councils by the end of 1928." The proposed LCC would easily meet the BSA's minimum requirement of 20,000 population by including

¹⁵⁴ GCS1078A-B (8/29/1924 – 1), WLS132 (9/26/1924 – 10), WLS137 (10/24/1924 – 1).

¹⁵⁵ WKS0689.03 (9/1/1925 – 4), HPS007 (9/17/1925 – 1), HPS008 (9/17/1925 – 6).

75,000 to 100,000 people. The WNCC did “the pioneer work in laying out the plans for a county council, maps showing the logical Scouting districts and division of territory in the county.” There would be Northeast, Central, Western, and Southeast Districts. The Northeast District, for Waukegan, North Chicago, Zion, and Winthrop Harbor, began the process by adopting bylaws and electing officers. The WNCC planned organizational meetings for the other three districts at which the attending troop representatives would do the same. Then the executive committees for the four groups would meet together as a council and elect council officers. It was expected that such a gathering would be hosted by the Northeast District in early December 1925.¹⁵⁶

Things did not go as planned by the leaders of the WNCC. A meeting for the Central District was to take place at the Lake Forest Young Men’s Club at the end of November, with the other two districts to meet separately later. Blodgett did hold meetings in Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Grayslake “to organize district committees,” although there was no report on what happened at the meetings. This was in preparation for a meeting in Waukegan in early December attended by Chadwick for Region 7 with representatives of the county’s other organized council, the North Shore Council, for the troops in Deerfield, Highland Park, Highwood, Ft. Sheridan, and Ravinia. Also at the meeting were representatives of troops from Antioch, Lake Zurich, Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, Libertyville, Gurnee, and Zion. This covered every town in the county that then had an active Boy Scout troop in a single meeting, for the first time. The meeting was adjourned until the North Shore Council met to take action on the WNCC proposal. It was agreed that both councils would recharter for 1926 and “if a later merger is made a charter for the larger organization will be requested from the National Council.”¹⁵⁷

Shortly after the meeting with the WNCC, the North Shore Council formally rejected the proposal to join with the WNCC to form the LCC, possibly due to concerns about the WNCC’s shaky financial history (the council’s president, Gen. Robert E. Wood, also president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., was a staunch fiscal conservative). This concern appeared in later merger discussions, as discussed in Part Two. After considering the WNCC proposal, the Lake Forest council voted to join the Highland Park-based North Shore Council, which by then also included the troops in the former Glencoe Council, at a meeting in January 1926. Neither rejection was reported in the *Sun*. The WNCC then simply renewed its charter from the BSA for another year as previously agreed. The two councils agreed to cooperate in March “in playing host to the hordes of visitors that will attend” a Region 7 patrol leaders meeting at the Moraine Hotel in Highland Park later in the year. Highland Park had won out over Elgin because the region wanted the conference to be held largely outdoors and the hotel was a summer resort “located some distance from the city and along the lake.”¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁶ WKS0695 (11/17/1925 – 12), LCR072 (11/21/1925 – 11), LCC001 (11/26/1925 – 7).

¹⁵⁷ WKS0695.07 (12/16/1925 – 15), LCC002 (12/17/1925 – 12), LFF0190 (12/18/1925 – 2:8).

¹⁵⁸ LVS124 (1/14/1926 – 2:1), LFF0194 (1/22/1926 – 1), LFF0197 (1/29/1926 – 9), WKS0695.029 (3/3/1926 – 3); *Robert E. Wood*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_E._Wood.

While Region 7's 1924 trial balloon for a combined council for the towns north of Evanston had no immediate impact, the idea of consolidating the different North Shore troops under a larger organizational umbrella gradually gained favor. With no publicized advance discussions, the formation of an expanded North Shore Area Council ("NSAC") that included the troops in Wilmette and Kenilworth was announced in the local papers in mid-November 1926 (Figure 73) with the NSAC's first press release stating that "[t]he hope of years that the towns of the North Shore area [would] have a first class Boy Scout council . . . is at last being realized." Gen. Wood became the NSAC's honorary president for many years.¹⁵⁹

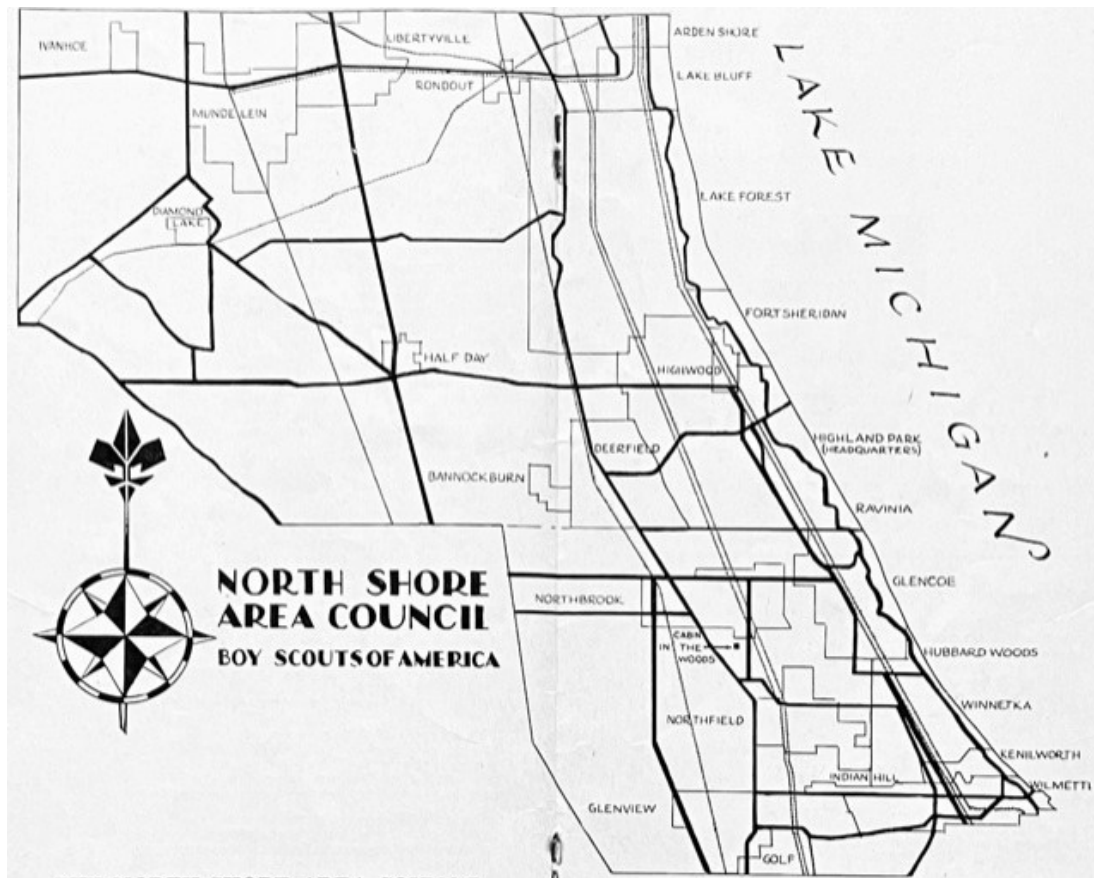


Figure 73

One of the first orders of business for the NSAC was to reorganize the troop numbering system. Prior to the NSAC being formed, each town's first troop became its Troop 1 and a second troop, if any, became Troop 2. In February 1927, a council-wide numbering system that allowed for future expansion for new troops assigned numbers 1 to 12 to Wilmette, 13 to Kenilworth, 21 to 25 to Glencoe and Hubbard Woods, 31 to 35 to Highland Park, 36 and 37 to Highwood, 41 and 42 to Lake Bluff, 45 and 46 to Lake Forest, 51 and 52 to Deerfield, and 71 to Libertyville. Numbers

¹⁵⁹ GCS018 (11/20/1926 – 1), HPS032 (11/25/1926 – 1).

14 to 20 were reserved for Winnetka with the expectation that its troops would join the NSAC at some point. They did so in June 1928.¹⁶⁰

When the WNCC expanded to cover all of Lake County “not now under the supervision of a first class scout council” under the banner of a new LCC in February 1928, it excluded the five townships in the southeast part of the county covered by the NSAC headquartered in Highland Park. This indicates that as far as the WNCC was concerned, the NSAC had jurisdiction over Libertyville Township as well as Deerfield, West Deerfield, and Vernon Townships, and the south two-thirds of Shields Township (North Chicago occupies the north third of the township) even though the NSAC appeared to have little or no interaction with the Libertyville troop up to that time. The NSAC’s extensive reporting in the *Highland Park Press* and other papers starting in November 1926 made no mention of Libertyville at all until February 1928, when it listed Paul Ray of Libertyville and Rev. C. Arthur Jevne of Mundelein, previously the Scoutmaster of the Ivanhoe troop, as local council representatives. Libertyville also made no financial contribution to it in its first fiscal year ending November 1927. During 1928, the Libertyville troop became actively involved in the NSAC after outreach from the council to the Libertyville Scouts, keeping them out of the LCC’s orbit. Scout Executive Blodgett had previously listed the Libertyville troop as part of the WNCC in a report in August 1925. The troop also started to identify itself as Troop 71 in June 1928. On the other hand, despite being nominally part of the NSAC when it was organized in 1926, accepting the NSAC’s troop renumbering in 1927, and participating in NSAC activities, the Lake Bluff Scouts were an active part of the LCC for the next several years, as discussed below and in Part Two. Indeed, after Libertyville was brought into the fold, the masthead for the NSAC’s weekly news columns listed all of the North Shore and West North Shore towns and hamlets that were part of the council, but omitted Lake Bluff (Figure 74)¹⁶¹

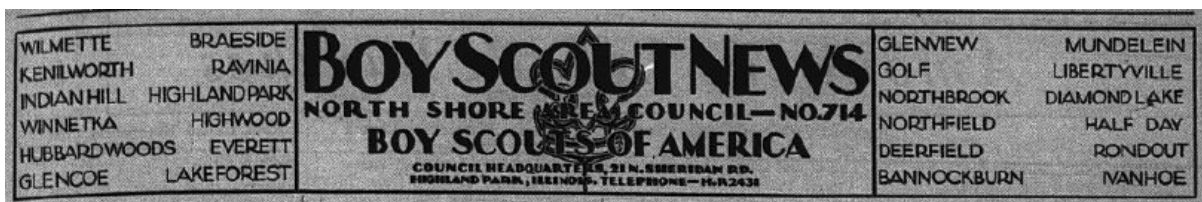


Figure 74

E. Scouting in the Late 1920s

For the rest of the decade of the 1920s, after its effort to grow by merger with the North Shore troops was shot down, the WNCC, renamed as the LCC, continued in a rebuilding mode under Scout Executive Blodgett’s leadership. This involved finding the funding needed to maintain operations of the troops because the Scouts did not have to pay dues, adding more units, and taking steps to provide a program that would keep the Scouts involved.

¹⁶⁰ WNT427 (6/30/1928 – 1), WNT428 (6/30/1928 – 6).

¹⁶¹ WKS0779 (2/8/1928 – 1), WKS0780 (2/8/1928 – 5), LVS132 (2/9/1928 – 2:2), WKS0688 (8/11/1925 – 8); <https://maps.lakecountyil.gov/Output/DistrictMaps/twp/ShieldsTownship.pdf>; *Boy Scouting in Lake Forest*, supra note 144, at 39-47; *Boy Scouting in Libertyville*, supra note 32, at 24-26.

1. Funding Operations

The formation of the Waukegan Community Chest did not prove to be a financial panacea for the WNCC or for the other member agencies whose operations depended on Community Chest funding. After the disappointing results from the 1924 fundraising campaign netted the council just \$4,000, half of the \$8,000 goal of its independent 1922 campaign under Dr. Thompson's leadership and less than the \$5,278.70 the campaign realized, the Community Chest increased its goal for 1925 from \$68,700 to \$86,000, with \$6,650 allocated to the Boy Scouts. The Community Chest's officers pointed out that "financial depressions of 1924 forced the chest to operate on far less than was thought possible, as budgets were slashed twice during the year." They calculated that the combined campaign for the member organizations would save "at least \$25,000 over the old fashioned way of doing things, with a drive every month or so and innumerable tag days nicking the pocket book at every turn."¹⁶²

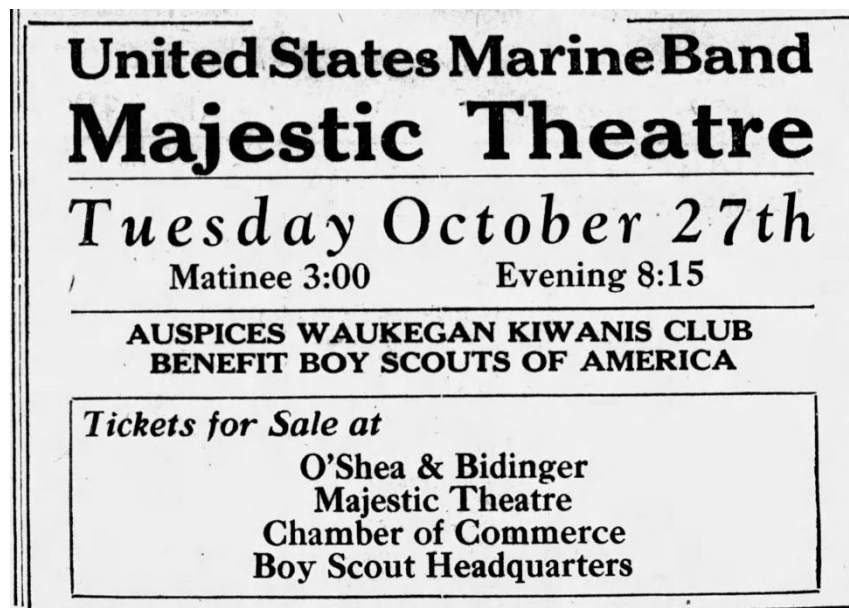


Figure 75

At last report in May 1925, the campaign had reached \$51,704. Allocations were slashed and net of the Chest's administrative expense and \$5,000 to pay off its 1924 deficit, the WNCC got only \$3,700, little more than half of what it budgeted for. In June, after this report came out, the Kiwanis Club arranged for the U.S. Marine Band "to play a benefit performance" in October because "[t]he Boy Scouts are crippled in funds since the failure of the Community Chest to bring the funds they expected." The fifty-piece band played at the Majestic Theatre (Figure 75), but ticket sales lagged despite heroic last-minute work by club members to fill the seats. The \$1,600 minimum fee that the club guaranteed was offset by only \$1,555 in sales. The *Sun* lamented "the lack of interest manifested by the so-called best people of Waukegan" towards "a rare musical

¹⁶² WKS0569 (4/10/1924 – 1), WKS0671 (4/10/1925 – 1), WKS0672 (4/10/1925 – 13).

treat” and speculated that “if a famous jazz band . . . had been brought here the Majestic would have been packed to the doors.”¹⁶³

The 1926 Community Chest goal was set at a more realistic \$57,337, again based on the budgets set by the member agencies. The Chest remarked that this was much less than the 1925 goal, but that “the total amount desired in the campaign was not secured and in reality less than fifty thousand was collected by the Chest.” The hope was expressed that “the entire amount will be raised this year [and] that the various agencies may continue to grow as the community grows.” After an interim report two weeks into the one-week campaign that \$22,000 had been raised and some publicity was put out about the Chest beneficiaries, including “the Lincoln Center for the colored people of Waukegan and North Chicago” and the Lake Bluff Orphanage, no further reports were made.¹⁶⁴

At the kickoff dinner for 150 people for the 1927 Community Chest campaign, it was said that contributions the previous year from the larger donors of \$100 and up totaled \$12,777, “about one-third of what should be given by this class of subscribers in a community of this size.” The 1927 goal was set at \$65,000. After some progress reports were published, a later accounting showed that the WNCC got \$3,083.30 of the \$28,586 distributed from the Chest’s \$30,000 proceeds. The last report in May put pledges at the \$56,000 level, “very pleasing and as proof of the willingness of the average resident of Waukegan and North Chicago to rally to the aid of the less fortunate,” but no final recap was published.¹⁶⁵

The Community Chest set a goal of \$65,000 for the next fund drive in March 1928. The committee in charge of the drive promised “the most extensive and intensive financial campaign in the history of the organization.” The last report at the beginning of May showed pledges totaling only \$45,078 with \$5,000 more expected to come in. However, in March 1929, it was reported in the *Sun* that there was “a deficit of more than half of the pledged resources” and that a proposed closing of the Chest “was kept secret until today when it became known that funds for the chest to the benefitting organizations have not been forthcoming since December.” Among them, disbursements from the Chest to both the Boy Scouts and the Lincoln Center were \$1,200 to \$1,300 short. A correction was issued a couple of days later stating that the Chest had received \$31,000 of the \$42,000 pledged, and that it was not \$19,000 short. A month later, the disheartened

¹⁶³ WKS0678 (5/8/1925 – 11), WKS0678.07 (5/29/1925 – 9), WKS0679 (6/3/1925 – 7), WLS0692.02 (10/21/1925 – 12), LFF0183 (10/23/1925 – 13), WKS0692.08 (10/28/1925 – 10).

¹⁶⁴ WKS0696 (4/19/1926 – 11), WKS0700 (5/5/1926 – 9), WKS0713 (8/27/1926 – 1), WKS0714 (8/27/1926 – 7).

¹⁶⁵ WKS0739 (4/6/1927 – 1), WKS0740 (4/6/1927 – 16), WKS0743 (4/23/1927 – 2), WKS0749 (5/14/1927 – 1).

Community Chest members voted to wind up its affairs and close it, with none of them being interested in reviving the Chest at a later date.¹⁶⁶

One week later, the council's finance committee sprang into action, making "the final plans for the campaign for funds for 1929." In an interview a few days after that, Scout Executive Blodgett was asked whether each of the 403 Scouts in the council really did do a good turn daily, to which he replied "that they certainly did." He cited the example of Scouts who extinguished a grass and brush fire set by a smoldering campfire left by careless campers in the new state park north of town. He also managed to mention to the interviewer that the council's \$5,000 fund drive was starting and that its 23 troops only needed that "surprisingly low" amount because "the Scout committee lend every effort in reducing overhead."¹⁶⁷

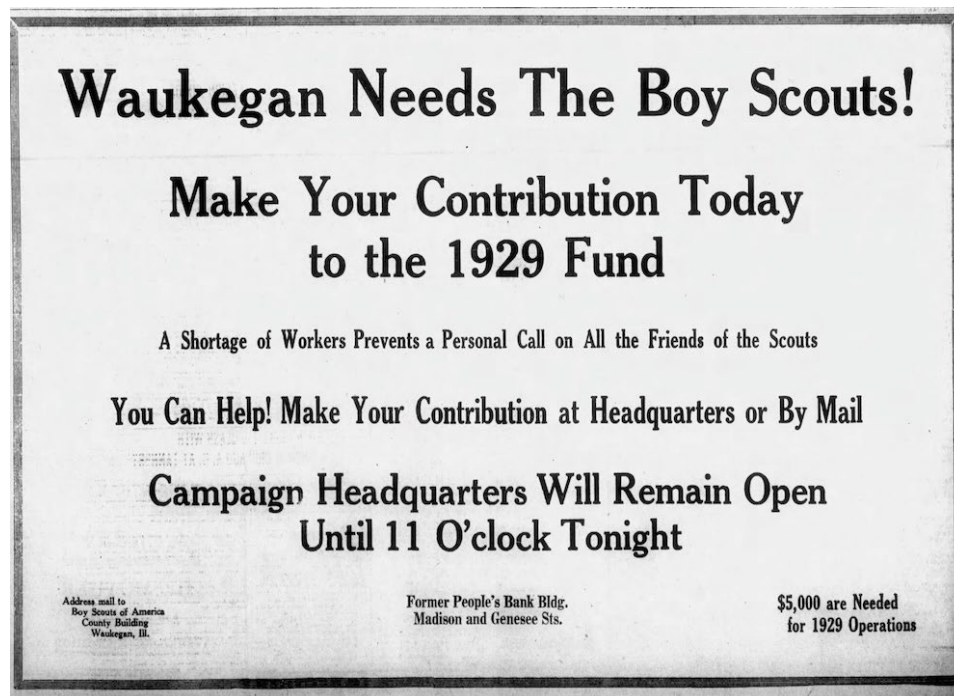


Figure 76

Fund drive chairman Minard Hulse gave frequent progress reports during the month of May. One of them reported that Public Service Co., the gas and electric utility, would be sponsoring a new troop, and that "practically all" of its local employees had contributed to the fund drive. A half page ad (Figure 76) at the one-week mark led to a thank you letter to the *Sun* for its "cooperation and advertising and publicity service during our campaign for funds . . . in

¹⁶⁶ WKS0786 (3/29/1928 – 1), WKS0792 (5/3/1928 – 9), WKS0864 (3/16/1929 – 1), WKS0865 (3/16/1929 – 2), WKS0868 (3/18/1929 – 1), WKS0890.01 (4/1/1929 – 1), WKS0891 (4/18/1929 – 2).

¹⁶⁷ WKS0899 (5/2/1929 – 2), WKS0904 (5/6/1929 – 5), WKS0907 (5/8/1929 – 4), WKS0908 (5/9/1929 – 9), WKS0911 (5/11/1929 – 9), WKS0915 (5/18/1929 – 2), WKS0926 (6/8/1929 – 2).

collecting the amount we have been able to obtain, which is still under our required quota.” At the council’s annual meeting in November, it was proudly announced that the fund drive was oversubscribed by \$100. With only \$150 in unpaid pledges, “the amount left is enabling the scout council to complete the year 1929 with all current and back bills paid. This is the finest record ever made by the council in a financial way.” This happy result naturally led the council to raise its goal for 1930 to \$5,250.¹⁶⁸

2. Adding Troops

New and revived troops were organized during the latter part of the decade, although tracking the WNCC’s progress from the sketchy information in the paper is challenging. In particular, while there were many items that reflected that a new troop was being or had been organized, there were none that marked a troop’s disbandment, except for occasional retrospective remarks. One helpful item is a press release that Scout Executive Blodgett issued in August 1925 before the start of the school year. It recited that the WNCC had six troops in Waukegan and that “the Libertyville troop comes under the Waukegan jurisdiction.” This presumably included Troop 5, which was reorganized at West School with 23 Scouts in March 1925. Blodgett placed the council’s membership at 140 Scouts, a figure that may have included the Libertyville Scouts. New troops were expected to be organized by the American Legion, the Congregational Church, the Mother of God Church, Jackson School, and St. Joseph’s Church.¹⁶⁹

Three new units emerged from this plan during the school year. A meeting at Minard Hulse’s law office in October at which the American Legion’s Homer Dahringer Post “took over” Troop 1 was labeled “[o]ne of the most significant steps taken locally in the Boy Scout movement in recent years.” Troop 1’s “interesting history” was that it was “first organized in Waukegan in 1911 and continued in existence until 1921, a period of ten years” before it lapsed for four years. The new Troop 1 was open to “all boys of Scouting age who live in the downtown district, or for boys who work down town.”¹⁷⁰

The second new unit was a revived Troop 8 at Mother of God School on 10th Street between Waukegan and North Chicago with Father Francis Azbe as chairman of the troop committee. The 38 Scouts who responded to Father Azbe’s call started meeting in January 1926 and a charter was to be applied for when enough of them qualified for Tenderfoot. It was noted that the troop was originally chartered in March 1920, six years earlier. It was expected that the next new unit would be Troop 14, sponsored by a committee of high school faculty members for

¹⁶⁸ WKS0979 (11/20/1929 – 5), WKS1001 (1/21/1930 – 2).

¹⁶⁹ WKS0666 (3/14/1925 – 3), WKS0667 (3/20/1925 – 12), WKS0688 (8/11/1925 – 8).

¹⁷⁰ WKS0692 (10/20/1925 – 11).

a group of “Scouts of former Waukegan, North Chicago and Winthrop Harbor troops” that had been meeting at the high school gym.¹⁷¹

Troop 14 was announced as a new unit in May 1926, but not for former Scouts at the high school. Instead, the new troop was sponsored by the Lincoln Center for colored boys and met at the Hattie Barwell Fellowship Club at the settlement house. It was noted that Troop 14 was originally chartered in December 1920, was rechartered for 1922, and then lapsed. Without giving a figure for the total number of Scouts registered in the WNCC, the article stated that the new troops placed Scout membership at “the highest mark since 1922.”¹⁷²

Troop 6 with 18 Scouts under Rev. Ganster as Scoutmaster was rechartered in March 1926, its charter apparently having lapsed since it was not listed as one of the six Waukegan troops mentioned at the start of the 1925-26 school year. It was also not listed among the eight troops that were “already organized” even though it had been rechartered when the WNCC announced the creation of an adult troop “for the purpose of training in scoutcraft” in September 1926, with sessions to be held in October, November, and January through March of 1927, and the process of organizing the adult troop as a new Troop 10. The list of existing WNCC troops at the start of the 1926-27 school year omitted both Troop 6 and the Libertyville troop:

- Troop 1, American Legion Post, Waukegan
- Troop 2, First Baptist Church, Waukegan
- Troop 3, First M.E. Church, Waukegan
- Troop 5, West School, Waukegan
- Troop 8, Mother of God Parish, Waukegan-North Chicago
- Troop 9, Knights of Columbus, Waukegan
- Troop 14, Lincoln Center, Waukegan-North Chicago
- Troop 21, Polish Community, North Chicago¹⁷³

A progress report for the Community Chest the next month stated that the council’s eight active troops had 163 Scouts and that the council’s growth, “though not being extremely rapid, is a healthy growth and gives promise of a much larger and finer organization than we have ever had before.” The September report from the council also had a wishlist of twelve more troops that were “yet to be organized”:

- Troop 4, North School district
- Troop 7, Glen Flora School district
- Troop 11, Jackson School district
- Troop 12, McAlister School district

¹⁷¹ WKS0695.16 (1/9/1926 – 5).

¹⁷² WKS0704 (5/11/1926 – 11).

¹⁷³ WKS0695.31 (3/6/1926 – 12), WKS0717 (9/17/1926 – 11).

- Troop 13, Andrew Cooke School district
- Troop 15, Armenian Scouts
- Troop 16, Lithuanian Scouts
- Troop 17, Central School district
- Troop 18, Commonwealth School district
- Troop 19, South School district
- Troop 20, North School district
- Troop 22, Holy Family Church¹⁷⁴

How to keep older boys engaged in Scouting has been a perennial question from the very beginning of Scouting to the present day. This problem was addressed by Fred Morey and his twenty-something assistant Alpha Griffin with their often mentioned but never implemented plan to build a log cabin as Troop 1's headquarters, later to be outfitted with state of the art wireless telegraphy equipment, a photography darkroom, and other equipment for them to putter with. Another stab at this problem under Scout Executive Alling, himself in his early 20s, and Morey was to reserve Troop 1 for Scouts aged 15 and up, likely with the thought that they would be able to find activities that interested them without being encumbered with younger boys.



Figure 77

¹⁷⁴ WKS0695.31 (3/6/1926 – 12).

One solution to this problem, which Alling hinted at starting from time to time, was to create an elite Sea Scouting program for older Scouts. Lt. Gen. Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting in 1907 in England, devised the Sea Scouting program, for which his older brother wrote a handbook in 1912. Sea Scouting in the United States was developed by James Wilder of Honolulu on the East Coast, resulting in the publication of a Sea Scout Manual that he published in 1919. In the 1920s, Commander Thomas J. Keane (1889-1951) (Figure 77) of Lake Forest and Chicago and a Waukegan resident during the World War when he was an aide to Captain Moffat, the Great Lakes commandant, took over the program and published a revised manual in 1924. He became the National Sea Scout Director in 1927 as a BSA professional Scouter.¹⁷⁵

Under Scout Executive Blodgett, concrete steps were taken to promote Sea Scouting in Waukegan starting in August 1925, when a Sea Scout committee chaired by G.W. Thaxter, a local contractor, was set up. Thaxter was “attracted to the Sea scout program chiefly because of his own sea experience and because of the possibilities that communities along Lake Michigan have for the carrying on of this activity.” The article noted that Keane “is well known in Waukegan.” In September, the post-summer camp court of honor awarded a Troop 3 Scout the Cabin Boy badge, “the first rank of the Sea Scout Reserves.” The YMCA reported in November 1926 that among the many local groups holding meetings at its building, 10 Sea Scouts had held two meetings there. At the WNCC’s annual meeting that month, as Thaxter was elected as the council’s second vice president, it was reported that the council’s first Sea Scout Ship, the “Dolphin,” sponsored by the Navy and Marine Post of the American Legion, had just been organized. Its Skipper, R.C. McDuffie, was formerly Troop 1’s Scoutmaster. The ship was identified as Troop 11 in February 1927, when a presentation was made to Blodgett to mark his three years of service to the council.¹⁷⁶

The unit count grew slowly after that. Blodgett reported 11 troops and 218 Boy Scouts at the annual meeting in November 1927, upping the number registered to 234 Boy Scouts and 7 Lone Scouts at year end. An item in the North Chicago column in June 1927 stated that the Sharvin Post of the American Legion was sponsoring two troops in town. These apparently were Troop 21 and Troop 22, which attended a Scout Sunday service at the Chapel Street Church with several other troops. Another North Chicago item stated that a third troop “has sent in their request for admission” to the post in March 1928, but a third North Chicago troop did not surface later. Troop 21 made an appearance at the WNCC’s first annual rally in February 1928 along with another new troop, Troop 15, but Troop 22 did not appear. Troop 15 was identified at summer camp several

¹⁷⁵ WKS0726 (1/14/1927 – 2), LVS130(1/20/1927 – 2); LFF0236C (1/21/1927 – 1); *Sea Scouts (1912-24)*, <http://www.senior scouting history.org/senior scouts site/seascout12.html>; *James A. Wilder*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_A._Wilder; *The History of Sea Scouting in the United States*, <https://seascout.org/about/history/>; records from www.ancestry.com.

¹⁷⁶ WKS0689 (8/18/1925 – 7), WKS0720.03 (11/15/1926 – 8), WKS0722 (11/23/1926 – 13), WKS0730 (2/11/1927 – 16).

months later as being sponsored by the Presbyterian Church, something that Blodgett started to promote in early 1927.¹⁷⁷

Another new troop popped up in June 1928 when the Boy Scout committee of the Homer Dahringer Post announced that it would “send three young scouts, Mexican boys who are members of the new Troop 10, sponsored by the Legion among the boys on Market street, to the annual scout camp.” This was confirmed in January 1929, when the post was awaiting receipt of Troop 10’s charter and the troop had 10 Scouts. The post was also working on a third troop “being organized among the boys at the Barwell club,” something that began the previous October according to a brief squib in the paper.¹⁷⁸

The Winthrop Harbor Scout troop reappeared in an item in the Zion column in June 1928 after having been formed sometime earlier. The item reported that the troop “has moved from the brick building to the log cabin erected by Mr. John I. Johnson, for the boys, on his place. They will hold their club meets there and will play games on the grounds adjoining.” The troop was identified as Troop 61 when Troop 3 held a ceremony in April 1929 “at the ravine at the foot of Mill Court, above Powell Park” to welcome “the newest unit in the county family of troops” with a charter held by a group of Winthrop Harbor citizens. Nelson Byington was installed as the troop’s Assistant Scoutmaster at the ceremony as were ten new Tenderfoot Scouts.¹⁷⁹

The council reported that month that as of the end of the year 1928, it had reached a new record of 20 registered troops and 403 Scouts. This sudden growth spurt was due to expanding the council to north and southwest Lake County and renaming it as the LCC to reflect that expansion. At the LCC’s court of honor in May 1929, three troops were represented for the first time: long-established Gurnee Troop 51, Great Lakes Troop 30, and North Prairie Troop 64. The Navy and Marine Post released its Sea Scout charter to the Homer Dahringer Post in Waukegan but at the same time applied for a Boy Scout troop charter for the sons of the officers and men at the Naval Training Station and the Veterans Hospital. The North Prairie troop had been transferred from the Kenosha Council. The Methodist Church in Lake Villa also applied for a charter in the summer of 1929. This revived a short-lived troop at the church that was active in the early 1920s.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁷ WKS0728.03 (2/1/1927 – 11), WKS0730.01 (2/12/1927 – 2), WKS0735.01 (3/28/1927 – 5), WKS0774 (11/17/1927 – 16).

¹⁷⁸ WKS0798.02 (6/2/1928 – 1), WKS0814 (10/23/1928 – 14), WKS0829 (1/4/1929 – 1), WKS0832 (1/16/1929 – 16).

¹⁷⁹ WKS0796.01 (6/13/1928 – 12), WKS0878 (4/5/1929 – 2).

¹⁸⁰ WKS0856 (2/22/1929 – 1), WKS0875A (4/2/1929 – 7), WKS0913 (5/14/1929 – 2), WKS0944 (7/22/1929 – 11), WKS0995 (12/31/1929 – 4); *Boy Scouting in Antioch*, supra note 149, at 20-21.

Blodgett's year-end report for 1929 referred to 23 troops, listing Troop 6 at Christ Church as an addition to the roster of troops due to its rechartering earlier in the year, apparently after its charter had lapsed, plus steps being taken to organize a troop at South School in Waukegan. Among the troops in Blodgett's count were the two Antioch troops. Their relationship to the LCC, dating back to Rev. Stanton's participation in the WNCC training sessions in early 1925, was strengthened in January 1929 when Judge Persons held a special court of honor in Antioch. Merit badges were awarded to three Antioch Scouts as well as to 15 Waukegan Scouts who made the trip there for the occasion. Earlier, in November 1925, Stanton and three members of the local Antioch court of honor he organized were guests at Persons' regular monthly court of honor in Waukegan. Antioch's Troops 1 and 2 appeared in the paper renumbered as Troops 61 and 62 in early 1929. Troop 61 was renumbered later in the year to Troop 81, no doubt to avoid confusion with the Winthrop Harbor troop.¹⁸¹



Figure 78



Figure 79

The two Lake Bluff troops were also among the LCC troops. Two Lake Bluff Scouts were honored at an LCC court of honor in November 1928 when one received a merit badge and the other, Niels Nielsen of Lake Bluff Troop 42, was awarded his Eagle Scout badge. He was the first Scout to earn Eagle in any Lake County troop outside of the NSAC communities. Waukegan's first Eagle was Donald Nellins of Troop 3 (Figure 78) two months later. Nielsen and Nellins were chosen to be part of the Eagle Scout troop at the Illinois State Fair in the summer of 1930 "to demonstrate scouting activities to the crowds" at the fair. Both completed the 23-mile Lincoln

¹⁸¹ WKS0693 (11/3/1925 – 11), ANT0041 (1/10/1929 – 1), ANT0042 (1/17/1929 – 1), ANT0045 (6/24/1929 – 1), ANT0051 (10/10/1929 – 4); *Boy Scouting in Antioch*, supra note 149, at 35.

Trail (Figure 79) from Salem to Springfield while they were there, as the author did in 1962 and 2002 with his troop. In addition, prominent Lake Bluff Scouter Milton H. Wright, Sr. was elected third vice president of the LCC at its annual meeting in November 1928.¹⁸²

3. Providing a Program

In 1929, the BSA published *The Rally Book* (Figure 80), which collected what councils all over the country had been doing to sharpen their programs through competitions from the patrol level to the council level, to show readers how to do it, and to show them how to let the local public know about it. In effect, the book codified best practices for a successful Scouting program. Much of what had been done by Waukegan's Scout Executives over the previous decade to get the public's attention was encompassed in it. What was new for Waukegan in the second half of the decade was instituting an annual rally for the LCC's troops in February 1927.

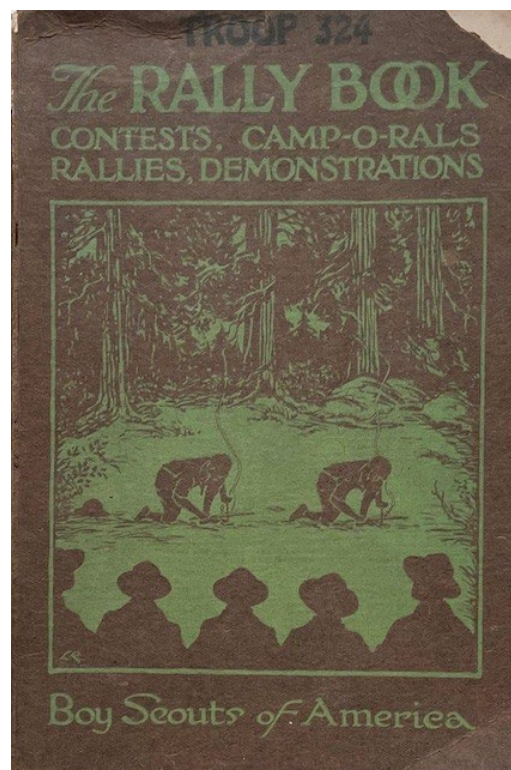


Figure 80

The BSA's book defined a rally broadly: "Any assembly of Scouts for the purpose of demonstration or competition may be considered a rally," from an inter-patrol competition at the troop level to "the annual gathering of hundreds of Troops in a metropolitan center." Rallies had a double purpose, both "to keep up Troop and Patrol spirit" and to "help educate the public as to what the Boy Scouts of America is accomplishing in the lives of boys, and thus evidencing the service range of Scouting." To achieve the second purpose, rallies "should be educational, and to

¹⁸² WKS0821 (11/21/1928 – 18), WKS0822 (11/27/1928 – 9), WKS1021 (2/11/1930 – 2), LVS179 (2/14/1930 – 7), WKS1117 (8/26/1930 – 6), LFF0504 (8/29/1930 – 2); NEIC records.

a certain extent spectacular, for the benefit of the onlookers.” Among the variations catalogued in the book were:

- The Round-Up, with a western, cowboy theme
- The Pow Wow, with an Indian theme
- The Scout Circus, with Scout games, demonstrations, and clowns
- The Camp-O-Ral, an overnight camp with a scoutcraft competition
- Pageants, with dramatic or historical expression
- Athletic Field Day, for Scouts in proper physical condition to compete athletically
- Merit Badge Exposition, with booths in a building demonstrating badge requirements
- Competitive Events, for groups, not individual Scouts, to show how they excel¹⁸³

The first annual LCC rally in February 1927 fell into the competitive events category. It was held for the LCC’s 10 troops at the Waukegan High School gym. Expecting a big crowd, the council printed up over 1,000 tickets for friends and relatives, although the final head count for the audience was 350. After the assembled troops with 140 Scouts passed in review before the council commissioner, Dr. Otto Thompson, there were inter-troop contests in “knot-tying, signalling, first aid, firemaking and games.” Troop 2, the oldest troop in the council, scored 27.6 points, “a good lead over the other troops in the contests,” to take first place. New Troop 8 came in second with 16 points and Troop 3 was third with 13 points. Special demonstrations included Sea Scout Troop 11, “very natty in their ‘whites,’” and a harmonica duet by Troop 14.¹⁸⁴

Shortly after the first inter-troop rally was concluded, the LCC received good news about an inter-council competition. The 106 councils in Region 7 were rated on a variety of measures like increased membership, low attrition, rank advancement, and summer camp attendance. The LCC came in fifth with 1651 points out of a possible 2529 points. Granite City came in first with 1914 points and Evanston came in second with 1783 points as the two councils switched positions from 1925. The LCC’s high standing was a big improvement from 1925, when it came in twenty-seventh of 95 councils with 812 points.¹⁸⁵

Publicity about the second annual rally in February 1928 was more extensive. As a “principal event” of Boy Scout Week, it was described as “inter-troop contests in Scouting activities and demonstrations of what Scouts do.” An exhibit of Scout handicrafts was set up for parents and relatives to see before Commissioner Thompson reviewed the troops sharply at 8:00 p.m., then the competitions began. Four-Scout teams from each troop competed in knot-tying, first aid, and signaling, then all Scouts could compete individually in fire by friction (Figure 81). The last two events were a “fun” relay race for four-Scout teams, then six-Scout teams could “make

¹⁸³ BSA, *The Rally Book* (1929), at 1, 4-6.

¹⁸⁴ WKS0728 (1/27/1927 – 11), WKS0729 (2/8/1927 – 5), WKS0730 (2/11/1927 – 16).

¹⁸⁵ WKS0732 (2/17/1927 – 1), WKS0733 (2/17/1927 – 2), LCC003 (2/24/1927 – 1), LFF0247 (2/25/1927 – 11).

some small construction project like a bridge or signal tower” (Figures 82-83). A full account of the rally was reported the following day. “Veteran” Troop 3, which had that status due to being registered for five years or more, won first place with 50½ points after scoring points in all but two events. Two troops organized during the previous year, Troop 15 and Troop 21, placed second and third with 29 and 25 points. The first, second, and third place finishers were named for the fire by friction contest, “which held the close attention of the spectators.”¹⁸⁶

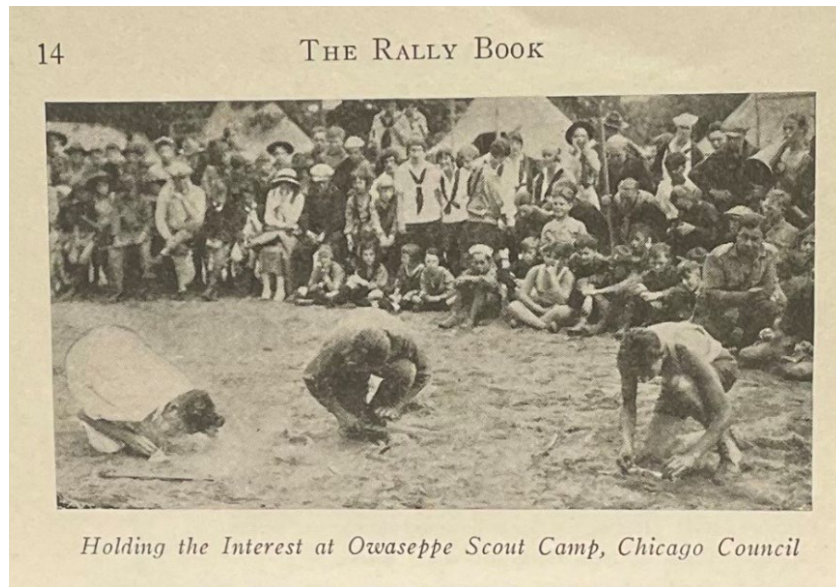


Figure 81

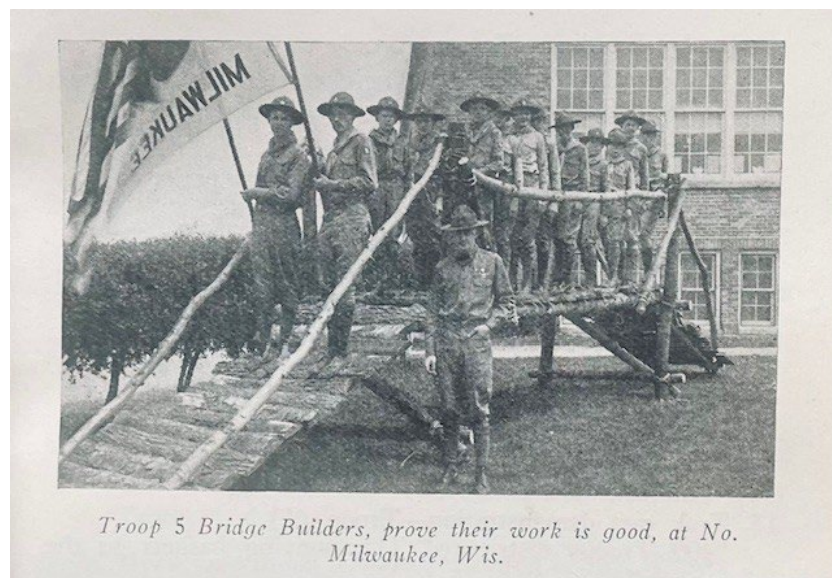


Figure 83

¹⁸⁶ WKS0778 (2/2/1928 – 13), WKS0780.01 (2/9/1928 – 8).

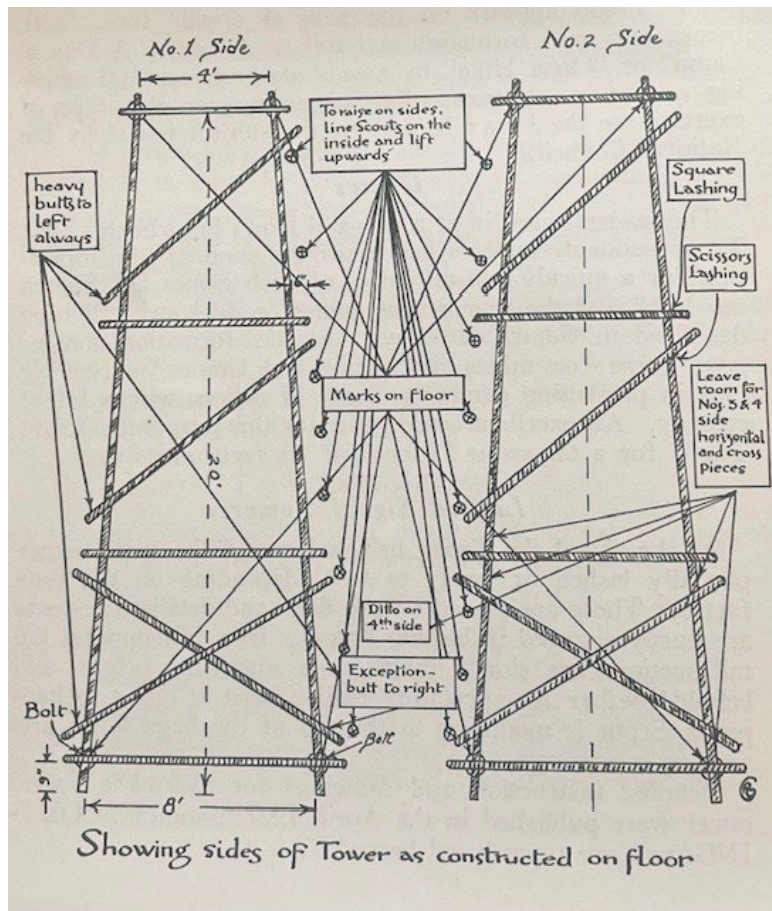


Figure 82

The third annual rally followed a similar format, but with a twist:

Although troops have been notified by the Camping and Activities committee just what contests will be held, the exact nature of each of these contests, excepting the fire-by-friction, will not be given until Announcer Coral T. Heydecker, member of the committee, reads the “problem” involved in each “event.” This offers a real test of the Scout’s preparedness.

There were two types of fire by friction events to thrill the crowd. The winner working on the non-yucca boards got a fire started in 1 minute, 15 seconds, while the winner working on the yucca boards did it in 22 seconds. The overall winner at the rally was Troop 15 of the First Presbyterian Church with 33 points, over Lake Bluff Troop 42 by 1 point. Troop 1 and Troop 3 tied for third place. Point totals were given for the other entrants.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁷ WKS0842 (2/11/1929 – 12), WKS0844 (2/12/1929 – 2), WKS0846 (2/13/1929 – 9), LVS147 (2/14/1929 – 2:1), LFF0346 (2/15/1929 – 2).

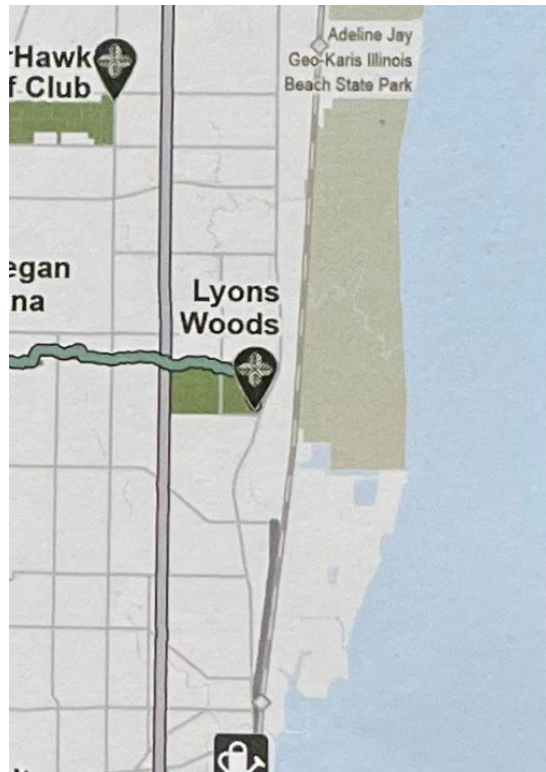


Figure 84

Bridge building events at the rallies may have helped to encourage the Waukegan Scouts to build a bridge across the Dead River in the Waukegan Flats north of town as part of rebuilding the old Scout trail. Troop 3 Scouts built the original Scout trail in the Flats, now in the south section of the Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park (Figure 84), in 1913 and 1914 under troop committee member William I. Lyons. The trail ran east of the Chicago & North Western tracks (now Union Pacific North Line – dashed line in map; solid line west of the tracks is the Robert McClory bike path, named after the Lake Bluff Troop 42 Scoutmaster and Congressman) where there was “a foot bridge across the low marshy section lying between two low sand ridges” a mile and a half north of the Johns Manville factory property (now a Superfund remediation site) at the north city limits. When Troop 2 was reorganized by the Elks Club, which installed new Scoutmaster F.H. Fall in May 1924, the troop announced ambitious plans that included building a camp in The Pines at Lyons Woods and “Indian bridges over the Dead River.” There is no record that these planned structures were ever built.¹⁸⁸

This trail was used until it was reconstructed by Scouts from Troops 1, 2, 5, 9, 14, and 15 in 1926, who moved the trail south and widened it to allow two people to pass. The trail was also extended north to the Dead River, and across the river. The goal was to create a trail from the railroad tracks to Lake Michigan.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁸ WKS0615 (5/15/1924 – 9), LVS122 (5/15/1924 – 3:34), WKS0903 (5/4/1929 – 9).

¹⁸⁹ WKS0748 (5/9/1927 – 4), WKS0751 (5/19/1927 – 13).

The Chicago Ornithological Society praised the Scouts for “making the marsh safe and dry” for its members’ annual trips to the Flats. A group of 40 Waukegan Rotary Club members also used the trail and bridge for a day’s excursion in June 1927. Their report described them driving to the Lyons Farm (now Lyons Woods Forest Preserve), then being guided by Boy Scouts to the trail. The first bridge, probably a raised boardwalk, connected two sand ridges covered with wildflowers. The second bridge across a branch of the Dead River took the group to the south bank of the river with more wildflowers. The third bridge crossed the river and the trail followed the river to the lake.¹⁹⁰



Figure 85

The four-mile section of the Flats between Waukegan and Zion was considered for a new state park in 1929. The bridge crossing the Dead River was “taken away by the ice and high water in the winter” of 1927-28 and was replaced by the Scouts in May 1928, but it was taken away again in the spring of 1929. Troops 3 and 10 planned to build a replacement bridge in May 1929, but there was no further progress report about it in the paper. The Scout trail was apparently still in use when the area became part of the new Dunes State Park in 1935 (Figure 85).¹⁹¹

Another activity from time to time that engaged a large number of Scouts and rivaled attendance at summer camp was putting on theatrical plays. For Boy Scout Week in February 1926, there was a revival of “The Kid’s Awakening,” a four-act “mystery comedy” with ghosts at the Parish House that had been seen before at the Majestic Theatre in November 1922 and at the North Chicago Auditorium in February 1923. The publicity noted that the play had previously been directed by the late Scout Executive Edgar and that Commissioner Thompson was taking over as director. Scout Robert Gustie reprised the starring role of The Kid, a “very difficult Part,”

¹⁹⁰ WKS0751 (5/19/1927 – 13), WKS0755.03 (6/10/1927 – 16).

¹⁹¹ WKS0892 (4/19/1929 – 5), WKS0903 (5/4/1929 – 9), WKS2057 (7/24/1935 – 7).

on short notice, leading a cast of 50 Scouts and adults, 38 of whom were named, including Scout Executive Blodgett. The play was seen by “a large audience.” North Chicago Troop 21 gave its own four-act play in December at the Auditorium, “The Birds Christmas Carol,” before “a large crowd.” Blodgett gave a “talk” between Acts 2 and 3.¹⁹²

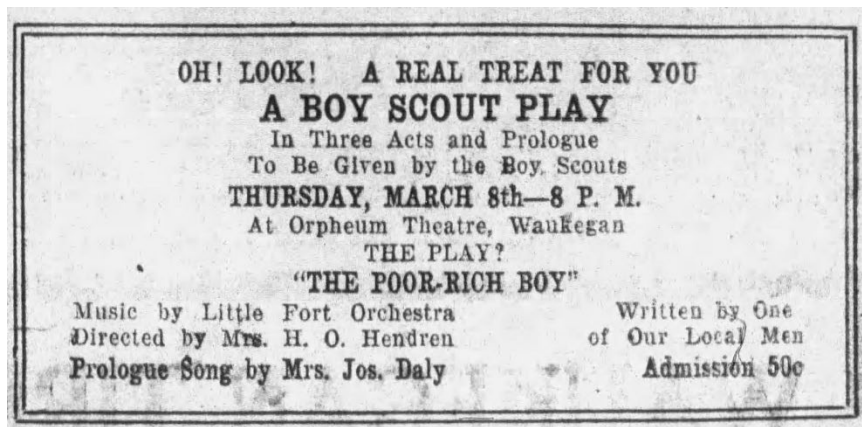


Figure 86

Thompson also directed the next play, “The Poor-Rich Boy,” at the Orpheum Theatre to a “packed house” in March 1928 (Figure 86). Thompson was assisted by an assistant director, a stage manager, a musical manager, a business manager, and two head ushers. The cast included one woman, 27 Scouts and leaders in named roles, and 16 “other Scouts.” This was the last Scout play for next several years, possibly because of logistical or financial issues.¹⁹³

4. Summer Camp

The plans for the WNCC’s summer camp in 1925, Camp Waunochico IV, were announced in early June. The Camp Committee’s thorough investigation found a site on the west shore of Diamond Lake after they took five trips to check out “eight lake and one river site in Kenosha County and five lake and one river site in Lake County.” The property they chose, generously made available by a Libertyville attorney who owned it, was a vacant newly-platted subdivision named Oak Terrace with an old farmhouse the Scouts could use as “a mess hall, kitchen, camp store and officers’ quarters.” Scout Executive Blodgett was the camp director, assisted by a Waukegan Assistant Scoutmaster and the Scout Executive of Merrill, Wisconsin. Troops outside of Waukegan and North Chicago could attend “contingent upon the visiting troop meeting its share of the overhead expenses.” The cost for 13 days was set at \$9 and the council set up a camp saving plan that may have resembled the plan that the author’s troop used in 1940 (Figure 87).¹⁹⁴

¹⁹² WKS0695.20 (1/26/1926 – 4), WKS0695.24 (2/13/1926 – 12), WKS0695.26 (2/15/1926 – 7), WKS0695.27 (2/16/1926 – 2), WKS0722.06 (12/23/1926 – 13).

¹⁹³ WKS0782 (2/23/1928 – 4), WKS0782.01 (2/11/1928 – 8), WKS0782.07 (3/7/1928 – 2), WKS0783 (3/9/1928 – 8).

¹⁹⁴ WKS0679.01 (6/8/1925 – 4), LCR054 (6/17/1925 – 7), LCR061 (7/25/1925 – 1).



Figure 87



Figure 88

The council invited the Lone Scouts in Lake County to attend the camp a month later. It then announced that because many Scouts outside of Waukegan and North Chicago were planning to camp elsewhere “and local Scouts show a decided preference for the first period,” the council would skip a second period and close the camp on August 1 after opening it on July 20. Notably, the YMCA’s rival Camp Wyboca opened on July 28 with 70 campers. The WNCC did not publish a total attendance figure for Camp Waunochico IV. The Antioch troop sent a contingent consisting of their Scoutmaster, Rev. E. Lester Stanton (Figure 88) (1890-1985), and three Scouts. Stanton served as another assistant camp director.¹⁹⁵

Honor campers got a new kind of award. In Camps Waunochico I to III, the best camper got a “W” monogram with the tenderfoot badge superimposed” and others got felt caps. At Camp Waunochico IV, the best campers became members of a camp honorary fraternity, the Order of the White Buffalo. One Scout got all three degrees of the Order, another Scout got two degrees, and seven were awarded the first degree. The four adult leaders, including Rev. Stanton, were all made associate members of the Order.¹⁹⁶

¹⁹⁵ WKS0680 (7/8/1925 – 5), WKS0681 (7/13/1925 – 11), WKS0683 (7/27/1925 – 4), LVS123.09 (7/30/1925 – 2), LCC006 (7/30/1925 – 7); records from www.ancestry.com.

¹⁹⁶ WKS0688.03 (8/15/1925 – 11), LCR065 (8/19/1925 – 6). Although numerous Scouting camp honorary societies not connected to the Order of the Arrow, which became an integral part of the BSA in 1948, have been researched and listed online, nothing has been found online about the Order of the White Buffalo. David L. Eby & Paul Myers, Jr., *Scout Honor Societies*, <http://usscouts.org/honorsociety/honorscout.asp>.

The Lake Bluff and Gurnee Scouts did not accept the WNCC's invitation for Camp Waunochico IV. The former went to a summer camp "in the forest preserve near Palatine." This was the Chicago Council's local summer camp, Camp Checaugau near the Deer Grove Forest Preserve. A group of 12 Lake Bluff Scouts under Scoutmaster Milton Wright were part of 100 Scouts at the camp. Three more Scouts joined them before the end of the two-week period.¹⁹⁷

Gurnee Troop 1 had a history of setting up its own summer camp. Its Scoutmaster, Rev. S.W. Slaughter, took them to Gage's Lake in August 1921 and August 1922. Scoutmaster Owen Metcalf took the troop to the Des Plaines River in August 1924. In August 1925, Scoutmaster Hobart Omstat and three Warren Township High School teachers took 18 Gurnee Scouts on "the annual trip" to the Wisconsin Capitol, the Wisconsin Dells, and Devil's Lake.¹⁹⁸

The WNCC announced a new plan for summer camp in July 1926. The Waukegan YMCA acquired a 35 acre property on Lily Lake with 800 feet of lake frontage in Kenosha County for a permanent campsite. The WNCC reached an agreement to share the camp facilities with it, a plan that "fits very well with the best of business and financial management encouraged by the Community Chest as well." The Scouts would have the facility for ten days in August to run their program under their own leadership while using the YMCA's cook, boats, and other equipment. The WNCC and the YMCA also agreed to have special swimming and lifesaving training at the YMCA pool so that the Scouts would become "proficient swimmers" in five different strokes before camp. The WNCC held a swim meet at the pool at the end of July that all but one registered troop participated in. Troop 3 won with 54 points, Troop 1 was second with 43 points, and Troop 2 was third with 39 points.¹⁹⁹

In addition to the ten-day Camp Waunochico V at Lily Lake, the council planned an ambitious "tramp hike" in northern Wisconsin for a second period for Scouts aged 15 and up. Scout Executive Blodgett and two adult leaders would drive Scouts to the Madison Council's Camp Tichora on Green Lake, then to the Oshkosh Council's camp at Onaway Island near Waupaca, then to Blodgett's former camp, Camp Samoset, on Lake Clara 300 miles north of Waukegan for eight days, and then would drive home for four days. There was no further word about the tramp camp in the paper, although the YMCA cancelled a similar-sounding "gypsy hike"

¹⁹⁷ WKS0689.03 (9/1/1925 – 4); *Boy Scouting in Lake Forest*, supra note 144, at 37-38.

¹⁹⁸ LVS091 (7/28/1921 – 2), LCR006 (8/12/1922 – 2), LCR030 (8/6/1924 – 3), LVS123.10 (8/6/1922 – 2), WKS0686.01 (8/5/1925 – 12).

¹⁹⁹ WKS0709 (7/10/1926 – 9), WKS0709.01 (7/14/1926 - 140, WKS0711 (8/3/1926 – 13), WKS0725 (1/8/1927 – 11).

for older boys to “visit various camps and seeing points of interest” because of “various unexpected changes in conditions.” Blodgett’s tramp camp plan may have encountered similar obstacles.²⁰⁰

There were no reports in the paper from Camp Waunochico V. The roster of registered Scouts showed Scouts coming from six Waukegan Troops and Antioch Troop 1, but none from Lake Bluff or Gurnee. A recap at the end of the camp season showed a total of 124 campers from the YMCA for three periods, 32 Scouts for one period, and 57 campers sponsored by the Rotary Club for one period, for a total of 212 campers for the season. The YMCA planned to build a larger dining hall and huts for sleeping to replace tents for the 1927 season.²⁰¹

Fifteen Lake Bluff Scouts attended the new Camp Checaugau at the Chicago Council’s Owasippe camps in Michigan in 1926. Three of them were inducted into the Order of the Arrow (“OA”) at camp, the first Scouts to be inducted into the OA in any community that eventually combined to make up the present NEIC. No report has been found about the Gurnee Scouts’ annual trip.²⁰²

Camp Waunochico VI returned to the Lily Lake camp starting in late June 1927 with Blodgett as camp director for the WNCC period under the same cost-sharing arrangement with the YMCA as in 1926. The YMCA held a naming contest for its new camp in February that was won by a Lone Scout under the WNCC’s jurisdiction following the incorporation of the Lone Scouts into local councils on a national basis. The winning name was Camp Sauganash, after the locally important Indian chief. Scouts from Lake Bluff Troops 41 and 42, under the NSAC’s new troop numbering system, were among the first of the Scouts who planned to arrive for the Boy Scout period. Rev. Stanton also brought Scouts from his new Troop 55 in Glenview following his transfer to the Glenview Methodist Church. The Scouts were assigned to four troops: Troop 1 for the Scouts from seven Waukegan troops and one North Chicago troop; Troop 2 for the “out of town” Scouts under Glenview Scoutmaster Stanton, his Assistant Scoutmaster, and an Antioch Assistant Scoutmaster; Troop 3 for the Sea Scouts and the Lake Bluff Scouts; and Troop 4 for the council’s Lone Scouts under YMCA camp director and Lone Scout commissioner C.M. Casey. The WNCC’s year-end recap counted 71 Scouts attending camp out of the YMCA’s total of 397 “regular campers.” The only report from camp was that one 16 year old Scout from Troop 42 who arrived early skipped his Red Cross swimming test, took a boat out, jumped out of it to swim to

²⁰⁰ WKS0711 (8/3/1926 – 13); *Camp Tichora/Camp Grow*, https://greenlakepostcards.com/home/campgrounds-group-camps/#elementor-toc__heading-anchor-5.

²⁰¹ WKS0711 (8/3/1926 – 13), WKS0712 8/26/1926 – 7).

²⁰² WKS0715.01 (9/2/1926 – 8); *Boy Scouting in Lake Forest*, supra note 144, at 39.

shore, sank, and drowned. His body was recovered after several hours of searching among the weeds in the water.²⁰³

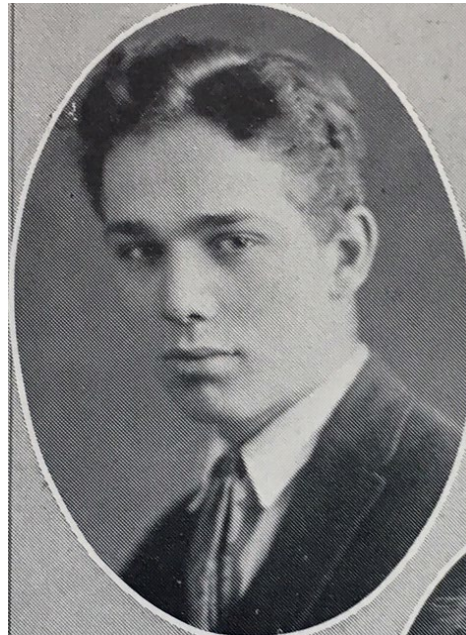


Figure 89

The YMCA added some improvements to Camp Sauganash in 1928, a new pier and float for the waterfront and what must have been welcomed by everyone, a “screened in dining tent which it has lacked in past years.” Antioch Troop 61 led the registration for the first Boy Scout period ending in early July and the second period. The Waukegan Sea Scouts were renumbered from Troop 11 to Troop 20, presumably to allow room for another charter to be issued, although the only new chartered troop in the LCC for the year was Troop 71 in Antioch, which sent no Scouts to camp that summer. A troop in Wauconda was also being formed. Gurnee Troop 51 was represented at the council’s camp for the first time with three of its Scouts enrolled in the second period. In addition to long lists of advancements and merit badges earned at camp, Red Cross lifesaving instructors, including Morris Wright (Figure 89) of Lake Bluff, were featured in the camp publicity for adding many Scouts to the ranks of the Red Cross Junior Lifesaving Corps. In his year-end report, Scout Executive Blodgett stated that 100 different Scouts attended the two-week period one, the two-week period two, or the one-week period three. The YMCA reported that Camp Sauganash had a record 477 boys in camp for 607 camper weeks. In his capacity as Scoutmaster of Troop 1, Blodgett also led 11 of the troop’s Scouts on a one-week trek cart hike

²⁰³ WKS0733.01 (2/26/1927 – 4), WKS0756 (6/23/1927 – 2), WKS0759 (7/5/1927 – 1), WKS0760 (7/5/1927 – 2), LVS0131 (7/7/1927 – 2), LFF0275 (7/8/1927 – 1), WKS0770.01 (10/17/1927 – 7), WKS0775 (12/31/1927 – 5).

through Walworth and Racine Counties to and from Burlington, Wisconsin between camp periods in August.²⁰⁴



Figure 90

The YMCA announced the 1929 schedule for Camp Sauganash in the following April. Camp capacity was set at 100 campers. There was one suggestion that because “it is expected that the camp will be filled to capacity each of the periods the council has negotiated” and because the camp season had been so popular, “it may be necessary for the camping committee of the local council to ask reservations of the North Shore Area Council for use of its camp” recently purchased in Langlade County, Wisconsin. This was the NSAC’s Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan (Figure 90) that it acquired in June 1928 and was set to open in June 1929 with a capacity of 100 Scouts per period. The NSAC managed to fill the planned three two-week periods and considered adding a fourth period, but lacked the demand to make it feasible. However, nothing further was heard about the suggestion that the LCC place some of its Scouts there.²⁰⁵

After YMCA residents had use of Camp Sauganash in mid-June, the LCC Scouts had their first period from June 22 to July 6. After that, the YMCA had three ten-day periods, then the Scouts had a second period on August 7 to 15. This was followed by the YWCA girls camp and

²⁰⁴ WKS0797 (6/14/1928 – 11), WKS0798 (6/19/1928 – 2), WKS0801 (7/10/1928 – 2), WKS0802 (7/13/1928 – 4), WKS0805 (8/13/1928 – 2), WKS0806.01 (8/15/1928 – 2), WKS0825 (12/31/1928 – 18), WKS0826 (12/31/1928 – 27).

²⁰⁵ WKS0880 (4/6/1929 – 2), WKS0935 (6/22/1929 – 10); John L. Ropiequet, *Becoming Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan* (2021), at 44-48, 62, 68.

the Rotary camp for underprivileged boys through the end of August. To entice Scouts to register, the LCC published a full roster of its camp staff in early June led by Morris Wright, “the popular director of the waterfront,” who was also Troop 42’s Assistant Scoutmaster, and his brother Robert Wright, the troop’s Scoutmaster and a veteran of Camp Owasippe in Michigan. Scouts were given the option to sign up for one or two weeks of the first period.²⁰⁶

The 100 Scouts in period 1 qualified for over 100 merit badges, most of which could only be earned by First Class Scouts. No list of who earned what was given, however. The Scouts came from 7 Waukegan troops, 2 North Chicago Troops, the Great Lakes troop, the Gurnee troop, and one Antioch troop, but there were no camper rosters in the paper.²⁰⁷

The LCC’s optimistic prediction for attendance at the August period was that the Scouts would come from 19 troops and would probably fill the camp. Instead, only 44 Scouts came from 9 troops, including one Scout from the LCC’s Lone Scout division. The LCC prediction, Camp Committee chairman Minard Hulse’s end of season camp recap, and Scout Executive Blodgett’s year-end report provided a snapshot of the LCC’s composition at the end of the decade:

- Troop 1, Homer Dahringer American Legion Post
- Troop 2, First Baptist Church
- Troop 3, First Methodist Episcopal Church
- Troop 5, West School
- Troop 6, Christ Episcopal Church
- Troop 8, Mother of God Church
- Troop 9, Immaculate Conception Church
- Troop 10, Homer Dahringer American Legion Post
- Troop 11, Goodfellow Settlement House
- Troop 15, First Presbyterian Church
- Troop 20, Homer Dahringer American Legion Post – Sea Scouts
- Troop 21, Sharvin American Legion Post, North Chicago
- Troop 23, South School, North Chicago
- Troop 30, Navy & Marine American Legion Post, Great Lakes
- Troop 41, Lake Bluff
- Troop 42, Lake Bluff Community
- Troop 51, Gurnee Community
- Troop 61, Winthrop Harbor Community
- Troop 64, North Prairie Methodist Episcopal Church
- Troop 81, Antioch Methodist Episcopal Church
- Troop 82, St. Ignatius Church, Antioch
- Troop 84, Lake Villa Methodist Episcopal Church

²⁰⁶ WKS0897 (4/27/1929 – 3), WKS0935 (6/22/1929 – 10).

²⁰⁷ WKS0939 (7/6/1929 – 2), WKS0943 (7/20/1929 – 10).

- Troop 91, Wauconda Community
- Lone Scout division

Troops being organized in fall 1929:

- St. John's Reformed Church
- St. Anastasia Church
- Finnish Lutheran Church²⁰⁸

²⁰⁸ WKS0943 (7/20/1929 – 10), WKS0949 (8/8/1929 – 5), WKS0961 (9/23/1929 – 13), WKS0995 (12/31/1929 – 24).

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