

Manheim Boy Scouts

“Manheim Boy Scouts Achieve Notable Records”

The available records of the Boy Scout's Organization dates back to the year 1918 with Henry W. Stauffer as Scout Master. To Mr. Stauffer belong the honors for organizing the first troop in this borough. The committee in charge was composed of W. J. Glendenning, B. F. Heiges, H. H. Shenck, Elmer S. Bomberger. The Assistant Scout Master was A. H. Young. The organization began with thirty-five young boys from the ages of 12 to 16.

Among the members of the early troops were H. Russell Stauffer salesman of Vineland, New Jersey; John M. Hunter, who has charge of the Clutch Facing and Brake Lining Department at the United States Asbestos Division; Lewis T. Williams, who is a salesman for the Bond Foundry and Machine Company of this borough; Austin Bishop, who is Assistant Professor of Physical Education on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia; Albert Pinkerton, head linotype operator at the Sentinel Printing House; Ira A. Diehm, Assistant Postmaster here; Robert Heiges, traveling salesman, residing in Tenafly, New Jersey; John H. Hummer, Assistant Superintendent of the Machine Shop at the Hershey Machine and Foundry Company; Charles Hummer, proprietor of Hardware Store and Lumber Yard at Chester; Lloyd Helman, present Assistant Scoutmaster.

During the period in which Mr. Stauffer was Scout Master, a scout building was erected at the corner of South Grant and Ferdinand Streets. It was financed by a number of citizens interested in the boys of the borough. To this troop belong the honors of having broken the county record in selling the first series of Government Bonds and War Savings Stamps that were offered by the United States Government during the World War. Mr. Stauffer says this was the outstanding achievement of his troop. Many of the members today point back with pride to their troop which at that time held the championship in baseball, basketball, and quoits at Camp Chiquetan.

The following year H. H. Nissley and W. A. Bishop served on the committee with W. R. McCauley, Second Assistant Scoutmaster. That year the number of members increased to 42. In 1920 W. R. McCauley became Scoutmaster and Mr. Stauffer's son, H. Russell, Assistant Scoutmaster. The committee in charge included Guy U. Obetz, H. H. Nissley, Harry A. Danner, R. H. Hershey, H. E. Trout, H. H. Martin, J. C. Gingrich and M. T. Williams.

With a membership varying from 21 to 33 young boys the scouts continued their regular meetings for the next two or three years. They were sponsored at various intervals by the Civic Club and the Chiques Club. About 1929 the Lions Club took an interest in the Boy Scouts, under the direction of H. C. Burgard, J. D. Rohrer, P. B. Beck, R. F. Walter, H. P. Achey and R. H. Miller. At the time John H. Hummer was Scoutmaster and Colin H. Gray, John M. Hunter, Lewis T. Williams, Sherwood S. Hollobaugh and John H. Arndt were Assistant Scoutmasters and the membership numbered 36 scouts. At the present time (1938-1939), Richard Keller is Scoutmaster and Lloyd Helman is Assistant Scoutmaster. Activities include trips to the Boy Scout Camps and various tests in scout maneuvers with awards for passing the tests.

History of the Boy Scouts, June 1938 – 1939

June --- With the registration of the Scout Troop, 33 old scouts rejoined. During the year we saw 25 new scouts join the troop. Some scouts entered for fun, others entered for scouting. This month the Beaver Patrol had a Fireworks Stand to raise money for uniforms. The troop sponsored a benefit movie to help toward the purchase of camping equipment. New laurels were added to our crown when our Camporee Patrol amassed a total of 926 points out of a possible 1000 points.

July --- Most of this month's activities were centered at Camp Chiquetan where seven members of our troop attended camp. Bill Helt, Assistant Scoutmaster, served on the camp staff.

August --- Again new feathers were added on our wings when for the first time in the history of the Lancaster County Council any troop undertook an Appalachian Trail hike in the South Mountains. Our troop took this hike which proved very successful with the exception of a few blisters.

September --- The Farm Show saw scouts in action directing traffic and helping the local officer in many ways. The Beaver Patrol set up a refreshment stand selling the usual hot dogs, hamburgers, cider, candy, etc. This stand proved a success.

October & November --- Winter activities with hikes near White Oak and Manheim. Of course, some scouts were the boys who were goblins and witches who rang door bells and littered the streets with confetti and caused one's old heart to wish that it was his childhood again.

December --- In the keeping with Christmas, the scouts helped the American Legion and Lions Club collect and repair toys for the less fortunate children of Manheim. Some boys sang Christmas Carols and ate their private Christmas meals in keeping with the Holiday spirit. What's this I hear ringing? It's the school bells and we find our scene in the month of

January --- During this month the scouts held a winter camp at Mollie's Inn and camped at the Gunning Club. Here the boys learned that the floor is a hard bed to sleep upon.

February --- During the annual Scout Week found our boys taking charge of Sunday School Services. Our attendance at the annual Scout Rally at the Armory at Lancaster was one of the largest present. We had approximately 83% of the Troop present.

March --- To limber up the bones stiff from skating and sledding, Carl Graybill, Wallace Heisey, Carl May and Christ Boyer built a lean-to and blazed a trail to the Fire Tower. This lean-to is still standing and is still water-proof.

April --- The Local Council, for the first time, held a Scout Circus. Our part in this affair was to assemble on the floor a 16 foot signal tower, built of light timber and held together by rope. We do not like to boast, but would only like to point out that this was the main and most interesting feature of the entire circus. The Troop sponsored a one week's camp at Chiquetan under the supervision of Carl Graybill, Henry Becker and William Helt. Other scouts attending were: William and Robert Simpson, Wallace Heisey, Carl May, Richard Bricker, William Beck, Cortland Diehm, Richard Hilton, Dale

Barto, Omar Graybill, Abram Alleman , Paul Evans and Harold Hershey. Wood for the fire tower was cut at this time.

May --- Inspired by the success of the Council Scout Circus, our troop presented a circus of our own.

June --- Troop registration at this time showed sixty - one scouts in the troop. This was the largest registration of any troop in Manheim. Again a Camporee Patrol at Ephrata scored 890 points out of a possible 1000 points.

July --- Camp Chiquetan opened and 7 scouts from Manheim appeared on the scene to pass tests and sing the songs of scouts.

August --- The Second Appalachian Trail camp of this troop proved a great success with fifteen scouts attending the camp. Twenty-one tests were completed and many tests started. This is a brief summary of scouting in the past year. We hope that our efforts will make “One good Scout out of one bad boy.”

The Scouting Experience of JAMES A. FUNK from 1940 – 1950, in Troop #47, and to today

I joined Boy Scout Troop #47 in December 1940, at which time you could become a scout 30 days before your birthday. The membership fee to join was 50¢ with dues of 5¢ per week. My first Scoutmaster was Richard Keller and Junior Gochnauer was Asst. Scoutmaster. We held our meeting in the Old Manheim High School every Thursday evening at 7:00 P. M. When world tensions grew, there was debate whether Scouting should continue because of lack of leaders and a permanent meeting place.

World War II started December 7, 1941 and the scouts were called to render their services to the community by helping the Civil Defense – Air Raid Wardens – Messengers – First Aid and other needs related to Civil Defense and Scouting. Scouts also served as members of the AAW (Auxiliary Aircraft Watchers) and informed the Civil Defense Headquarters of Air Traffic movement over the Manheim area.

During the War Years, the troop had several Scoutmasters and Assistants which included – William Witmyer, Rev. William Bond, Elmer Miller, Francis Grunenberger, Elwood Myers and others that I can’t remember. With no regular place to meet during this time, we met in the Old High School – Basement of the Episcopal Church Manse – a small building behind the George H. Danner Building, now Ruhl’s Insurance Office – and in Paul Cassel’s Barn.

The Scout Hall was built in 1948 to 1949 with the Dedication Service in the spring of 1949. The Industries of Manheim which were responsible for erecting the Hall included Raybestos / Manhatten – Hershey Machine and Foundry – Heisey Masonary, Penryn – Dissinger & Connelley, Plumbing – and plenty of Volunteer Help.

From the year 1939 to 1950 Troop #47 was under the sponsorship of Ammon K. Gibble Post #419 and The Lions Club of Manheim with membership ranging from 30 to as high as 80 plus boys and included an Explorer Post #347 within Troop #47. Activities included a lot of Outdoor Themes like Hiking – Camping and Charity Work for the disabled citizens of the community.

Troop #47 was fortunate to have skilled Merit Badge Counselors who were prominent citizens of the community which included the following: John Kendig: Nature; High School Band Director – Music; Dr. Ruth Brenner – First Aid; Local Art Teacher – Art; High School Shop Teachers – Woodworking, Carpentry, Painting and Electrical.

Before World War II the Troop went to Camp Chiquetan which was in York County. During the World War Years and the Post War Years Troop #47 had their own Camps at Spring Lake Park and at the Old Military Reservation at Mt. Gretna. After 1947 the Troop went to the new Camp Chiquetan at Conestoga, Lancaster County. Troop #47 was always one of the Top Units in the Lancaster County Council. They excelled in all the projects that were given to them with Thanks to the Excellent Leaders, Merit Badge Counselors, Committee Members and boys that were really interested in Scouting and doing their Best.

While in Troop #47 I earned many Merit Badges and skills which helped me to become the first Eagle Scout of the Troop. These scouting experiences have helped me in my adult years as a Merit Badge Counselor to other young scouts working towards their Eagle Scout Badge. Some of the Merit Badge and skills I learned in scouting helped me while serving in the U. S. Navy and came in handy with some of the courses I had when attending Penn State.

I am still a Registered Scout and proud of My Eagle Scout Rank. I support the Boy Scouts in every way possible in this age when there are people and groups who want to destroy what Scouting stands for morally and for God and Country.

DEDICATION OF THE MANHEIM SCOUT HALL IN 1949



FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT – Ted Dissinger, Elden Rettew, Harry Bentzel
SECOND ROW LEFT TO RIGHT – William Armstrong*, James Funk
THIRD ROW LEFT TO RIGHT – Sonny Myers, Elwood Myers, Francis
Grunenberger, Dick Shelly * Chief Scout Executive, Lancaster County Council