

BRIDGES & TRAILS

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL SCOUTING MUSEUM  ISSUE 2, 2012



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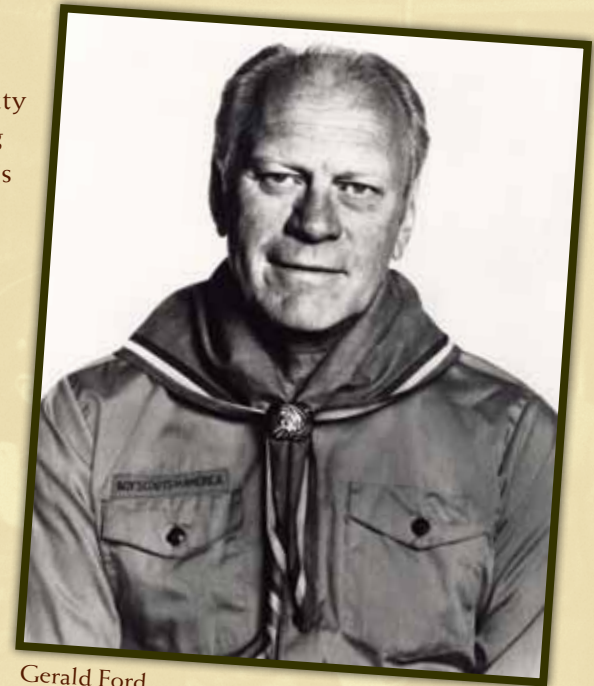
FROM THE ARCHIVES: EXECUTIVE SPEECHES AND WRITINGS

by Lauren Huber, National Scouting Museum Intern

The National Scouting Museum Archives maintains a collection of speeches and writings derived from Chief Scout Executives, the deputy Chief Scout Executive, and American presidents. This insightful grouping of materials highlights the tenures of former Chief Scout Executives James E. West, Joseph Brunton, Alden Barber, Harvey Price, J.L. Tarr, and Ben Love.

Speeches and associated writings from Deputy Chief Scout Executive George Fisher are included, in addition to writings by national Presidents Irving Feist, Norton Clapp, Robert Reneker, Arch Monson Jr., and Downing B. Jenks. These speeches and writings offer an exclusive look into the minds of prominent professionals and volunteers throughout history. Suggested outlines by speech writers, handwritten notes within the margins, and edited rough drafts provide a personal connection to these past leaders who created and accomplished so much for the Boy Scouts of America. The content of the documents includes recorded minutes of National Council meetings, speeches given at local council meetings, dedication ceremonies, and tributes. There are also speeches discussing the need for cooperation with the YMCA and similar organizations in order to better train and benefit the youth of America. They address Scouting as applied to boys' lives, and educated members and the public on the implementation of new programs, such as the Rural Program and Boypower '76.

Of other notable interest, the collection features correspondence and speeches from past presidents of the United States. Specifically, there exists some correspondence regarding Gerald Ford's Scouting background, as well as a letter to Ford asking for his permission to shoot a 60-second national television commercial "to build [the] Boy Scout Alumni Family nationwide."



Gerald Ford

(story continued on page 5)

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REMEMBERING IS OUR BUSINESS...

by Rick Bragga, National Scouting Museum Committee Chairman

What if you had amnesia? And, you didn't know your name, your family or even anything about the education or skills you might have had. You'd be lost. No religious principles, moral character, or even the ability to avoid a lifetime of steps and missteps, choices – good and bad, and decisions — successful or disastrous.



Remembering is an important part of learning and growing. According to Sir Winston Churchill, "Those who fail to learn history are doomed to repeat it." At the National Scouting Museum, remembering is our business. We are the file cabinet, the photo album, the diary, the home movies, the organizational memory, and even the attic of the Boy Scouts of America.

The legacy of the BSA is in the youth we serve. The story of the BSA is in the National Scouting Museum. Have you read our story lately? Have you participated in submitting your story in words or film, memorabilia or photos? What is the one great Scouting experience that should be preserved either in your council museum or even at the national museum?

While we build the next great age of Scouting, the greatest generation diminishes by thousands a day, and baby boomers are aging and leaving us more rapidly. The last golden age of Scouting will eventually be a faint memory.

Help us to preserve and promote the value and history of the Boy Scouts of America. If you have suggestions or ideas of how we can improve the National Scouting Museum or achieve greater impact, please email me at photoeagle@nesa.org. ♣

All the best, *Rick Bragga*

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Janice Babineaux, Executive Director



This summer, the National Scouting Museum had one of its busiest seasons on record!

Our popular advancement workshops saw record attendance as Scouts looked to beat the heat and work on their requirements with our team of dedicated instructors. On Flag Day, we welcomed hundreds of visitors to participate in a flag retirement ceremony and fun activities. In July, we were again visited by the Tzofim Friendship Caravan—a rotating troupe of 10 Israeli Scouts who travel across North America "sharing their lives in Israel through song, dance and story."* Performing before two packed audiences, the Friendship Caravan delighted our visitors with carefully choreographed song and dance routines and stories about their culture.

In August, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Eagle Scout Award with our annual Eagle Heritage event. The national commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America, Tico Perez, provided an insightful keynote address to hundreds of Scouts and their families. Joseph Csatari's new commemorative painting, *100 Years of Eagle Scouts*, was unveiled by National Eagle Scout Association Director Bill Steele, along with the model for the painting, Matthew Dobromilsky. And Nicholas Cobb, an Eagle Scout from Allen, Texas, shared his inspiring efforts to help those in need through a foundation** he founded when he was just 12 years old.

It all seems to have gone by too quickly. But with school back in session, we're ready to greet the annual influx of newly registered Scouts who drop by the museum looking to enrich their experience in the program. ♣

* Friends of Israel Scouts, Inc. (2012). "About Tzofim Friendship Caravan." Retrieved from www.israeliscouts.org. **www.comfortandjoystexas.org

J. Babineaux

2012 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

15 Bike Safety Day, activities, and advancement workshops, 2-5 p.m.

OCTOBER

20 55th Jamboree-on-the-Air

NOVEMBER

22 Thanksgiving Day – closed

DECEMBER

24 Christmas Eve – closed

25 Christmas Day – closed

NATIONAL SCOUTING MUSEUM "ORAL HISTORY PROJECT" STORY BY BILL MULLINS SR. NOVEMBER 4, 2009

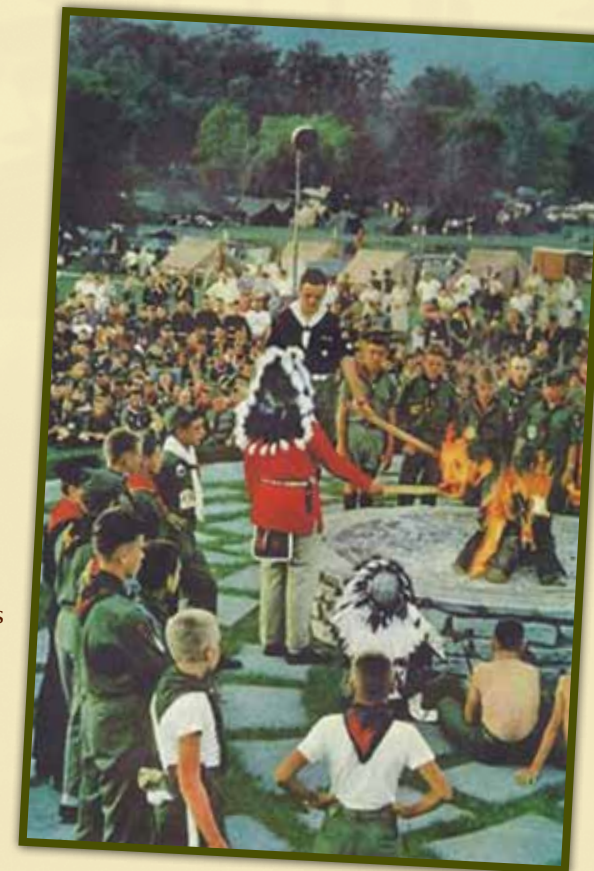
In June 1954, the Miami Valley Council was having its annual camporee at Greenville Treaty Park to commemorate the peace treaty between Mad Anthony Wayne and a coalition of Indian tribes. My troop and Explorer Post 202 always went.

We were going about our business of pitching tents, starting cooking fires, and general horseplay when we got word that *National Geographic* magazine was doing an article on Ohio, including the Treaty of Greenville, and anyone who wanted to be in the picture should go over to the Treaty Park fire ring.

Several of us went, and sure enough they were setting up to take pictures of the council fire which had been lit. There were several members of the Order of the Arrow standing around the fire, and one of the directors pointed at me and said, "Hey kid, grab that torch and stand up on the edge of the council ring." I did so, and they took a few pictures and that was that. There was no other ceremony commemorating the treaty.

The camporee ended, we went back to school and didn't think much about it.

The next April, my history teacher came into class with a copy of *National Geographic* magazine, and there near the center a full-page picture of the reenactment of the Treaty of Greenville with me standing on the council ring looking at one of the Indians. That was my three minutes of fame, and as near to being a centerfold as I ever care to be. But you can still find me in the April 1955 *National Geographic* magazine. ♣



10TH ANNUAL EAGLE SCOUT HERITAGE CELEBRATION

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF EAGLE SCOUTING

by April Proulx, Programs Director

During the week of August 11-17, the museum was buzzing with excitement as we hosted our 10th Eagle Scout Heritage Celebration. This year also marked 100 years since the first Eagle Scout Medal was awarded to Arthur R. Eldred in August 1912. Since that date, more than 100 million boys have enjoyed the Boy Scouting experience, but of those, just over 2 million Scouts have attained Scouting's highest rank. To celebrate this monumental occasion, we had an outstanding program lined up for the kickoff celebration!

The keynote speaker for this year's Eagle Scout Heritage Celebration was BSA National Commissioner and Distinguished Eagle Scout Tico Perez. Perez shared stories of how his more than 40 years in Scouting have helped him develop the leadership skills needed to become the founder of a successful consulting firm that specializes in business, government, and marketing. He shared with the audience his passion about taking Scouting into multicultural markets and serving disadvantaged youth. Perez is also a recipient of the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, Silver Buffalo, and Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service awards. With his leadership, the Boy Scouts of America will succeed in fulfilling its mission to provide quality program experiences for every youth involved in Scouting.



Photos top to bottom: keynote speaker Tico Perez • Eagle Scout Nicholas Cobb

Eagle Scout Nicholas Cobb delivered a moving and entertaining address about how Scouting has inspired and taught him the leadership skills he needed to start his own non-profit organization, Comfort and Joy, at the age of only 12. Through Comfort and Joy, Nicholas has raised tens of thousands of dollars to purchase coats for the homeless. For his many accomplishments, Cobb has earned numerous local and national recognitions and awards. There is no doubt this Eagle Scout will go on to enjoy many more successes, and make a difference in the lives of so many!

As part of the kickoff celebration, Joseph Csatari's *100 Years of Eagle Scouts* painting was on view for the very first time at the museum. Csatari was commissioned by the National Eagle Scout Association to paint a new portrait honoring the 100th anniversary of the



100 Years of Eagle Scouts

Eagle Scout Award. The model for the painting, Eagle Scout Matthew Dobromilsky, hosted a print signing following the kickoff program on August 11, 2012.

If you would like to own an (unsigned) 11" x 14" print of this painting, please call 972-580-2484. The cost is \$15, plus shipping and handling.

For a limited time, museum visitors can also view special exhibitions, including the first Eagle medal, awarded to Arthur Eldred in 1912, and a temporary exhibition, *The Eagle at 100: Medals From the Collection of Terry Grove*.

The National Scouting Museum congratulates all Eagle Scouts! 🌟

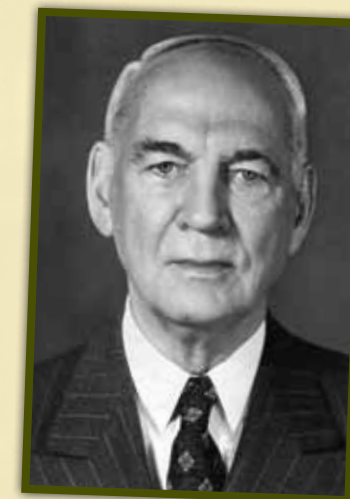


On May 10, 2012, our curator, Corry Kanzenberg, delivered a lecture about Norman Rockwell to staff and supporters of the Longhorn Council at the University of North Texas. Pictured from left to right are Longhorn Council Scout Executive John Coyle, curator Corry Kanzenberg, and museum director Janice Babineaux.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: EXECUTIVE SPEECHES AND WRITINGS

(continued from cover)

In the letter, written in April 1981, the Boy Scouts of America's director of national funding uses directorial notes and asks President Ford for permission to shoot some of the commercial at his residence to achieve the "at home" feel. Ford was the first Eagle Scout in the United States to become a president. The collection includes many writings from the deputy Chief Scout Executive, George J. Fisher, who became national Scout commissioner in 1943. Fisher was a physician and a prominent figure in the fields of youth development and physical fitness. One of Fisher's speeches attempted to tie his physician background with the Boy Scout program. "Implications of the Upright Posture," for instance, sought to explain how the upright standing posture was one of man's greatest intellectual stimuli.



George J. Fisher, M.D.

Fisher stated that the upright posture secured man's freedom from restraint and the capacity for mental growth. He claimed that with this growth, man enriched his emotional experience and this made ethical and moral rules necessary. Fisher further explained that posture contributed to personality, and that personality created a moral and ethical world. He then drew a connection to how men must stimulate and utilize upright posture because it was "the expression of an inner state of joy, and of personality;" and therefore, "good posture is the training in the expression of personality." This interesting speech leaves much for the reader to ponder over.

As an archivist, it is very exciting when you find material that relates within the museum's different collections. Like finding a missing piece of a jigsaw puzzle, these connections can shed even more light on a subject and give personality to an object that may have been contextually lost. For example, the collection features a radio address

given by James E. West over WEA and the Red Network of the National Broadcasting Company. It was broadcast for the 17th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America—for those who know their Scouting history, that's the year 1927.



James E. West (center), with Boy Scouts, stands saluting behind a Red Network of the National Broadcasting Company microphone.

West speaks to the founding of the organization, and recites the Scout Oath and Law. A photograph found in the Museum Archives shows West standing behind a microphone with the logo of the Red Network of NBC. While this picture is dated to February 1931, one can almost hear West and the Boy Scouts behind him reciting the Oath and Law to bugle notes.

The collection of executive speeches and writings provides the researcher or other interested person with a unique insight into the views, aspirations, and organization of the Boy Scouts of America. These documents are uniquely significant to those who wish to discover the institutional history of America's largest youth organization. 🌟

A recent dual major graduate of art history, and archaeology and anthropology from the University of Missouri, Lauren Huber served as an intern with the National Scouting Museum from December 2011 through May 2012. During her term of service, she completed processing of the Chief Scout Executive speech collection and other materials from the museum archives.



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