THE OCTORARO LOOP

The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News
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Our HSRAA Reunion on July 15, 2007 at Camp John H. Ware, 3rd celebrates the Camp's 50th Anniversary as well as the 80th Anniversary of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation!

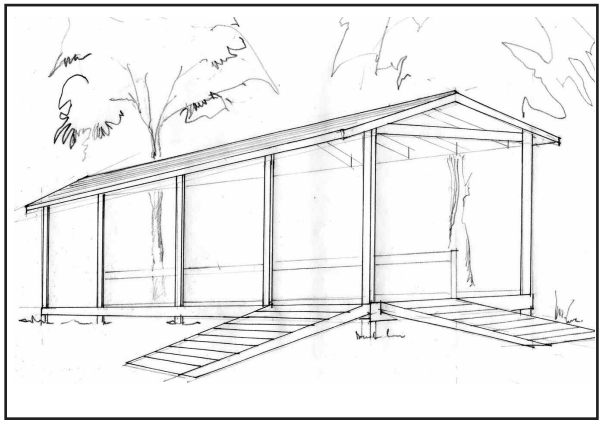
We welcome all to "Bill Robertson Day" to honor the longtime service of Bill, his family and the many who have made a difference over the years, from the early days as an Explorer Base to its current prominence as Camp John H. Ware, 3rd.

One of the day's highlights is the HSRAA's funded new Archery Pavillion being used for the first time this summer.

HSRAA REUNION PLANS

Our HSRAA Reunion features recognition of Bill Robertson's service to the camp. Bill came to what was then Camp Jubilee in 1969 when he was Scoutmaster of Troop 44 of Oxford. Now, his son Bruce is Troop 44's Scoutmaster, and follows in his dad's footsteps. We also pay recognition to so many other devoted Jubilee/Ware leaders and workers who found a unique and memorable experience there.

Of special note is the new Archery Range Pavilion (below) recently completed with HSRAA funds.



The schedule for the HSRAA Reunion includes:

- 1 PM to 4:00 PM– Activity areas at the Pool, Archery, Rifle Range and handicraft are open to all.
- 4:15 PM – 5:00 PM – Alumni Class photos (location to be announced)
- 5:15 PM – Retreat Ceremony
- 5:30 PM –'Pig Roast' Barbecue and Entertainment
- 6:15 PM – Recognition of Bill Robertson Day. Remarks by Distinguished Eagle Scout Paul Ware, son of The Honorable John H. Ware, 3rd (dec.) for which the camp is named. And, Business Meeting.



HORSESHOE RESERVATION CELEBRATES ITS 80TH YEAR.



In 1927, after many years of our Scouts travelling to Camp Rothrock, the Council under the leadership of "Chief" Charles Heistand, acquired the "Horseshoe" farm surrounded by the Octoraro Creek. Camp was built with the help of funds raised by the Council and lead by Ranger C. C. Cole. Heistand is pictured above (left) with his Program Director, Joe Brinton, when they returned for the Camp's 50th celebration.

Today, Camp Horseshoe under the continuing fine leadership of Mike Berkeihiser and his seasoned staff opened the camp's 80th season. Plenty of fun is being had by the campers and much more is in store for the summer along with great advancement opportunities.





IN THIS ISSUE, "ERNIE SAYS..."

(The second installment from Spring 2007)

LIFE IN HORSESHOE'S STOCKADE

In More than sixty years have passed, but the memories of my first week at Horseshoe for summer camp are just as vivid today as they were that first summer in my Stockade campsite.

After arriving at Horseshoe, I dashed off to the front porch of the White House to check in, then out the back door to join some other Scouts bound for the Kit Carson Stockade, our camp-site for the next 2 weeks. Each camp-site (or stockade as they were called in the early years,) was named for a key person or place in history. The names and buildings have not changed over the years, and have been wonderfully maintained by the Order of the Arrow.

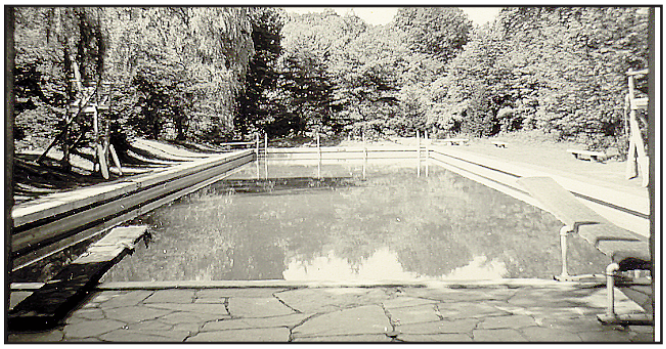
The five original sites were constructed of cypress wood, consisting of a leaders' cabin flanked by four bunk houses - each with only a back wall and 2 canvas roll-down sides. Sherwood Forest was on top of the hill and named for Robin Hood's hide-out. Then proceeding down (or south) along the stockade trail (the upper part of this trail is paved and part of the loop road), you encounter the Boonesboro Stockade named for Daniel Boon. Further on the trail, is the third stockade, Kit Carson, named for a western pioneer. The remaining two camp-sites are: Davie Crockett, named for a famous woodsman; and Bayard Taylor, a Chester County legend.

The Taylor stockade straddles the Mason-Dixon Line, separating Maryland and Pennsylvania. This dividing line actually passes through the middle of the leaders' cabin, leaving half of the group sleeping in Maryland, and

the other half sleeping in Pennsylvania.

Each stockade was staffed by a college student, with a strong Scouting background, and employed as a "provisional" troop leader for the summer. Scoutmasters rarely attended camp, but would drop by from time to time. Most Scouts came to camp as individuals, or with 3 or 4 from the same troop, depending on their choice of camping periods.

A Scout's first Sunday at camp was jam-packed with many things to be accomplished – preparing your bunk by filling a canvas sack with straw, hiking to the pool for a swim check, and orienting ourselves with a quick guided hike around the camp.



Upon returning to Carson we quickly donned our uniforms for inspection. The Scouts required a bit of adjusting by our leaders to form this diverse group of individuals from many different troops to look like a cohesive, functioning Scout troop. A few extra minutes were then spent learning the Kit Carson Stockade song: "Over hill, over dale, As we hit the dusty trail, To Kit Carson, the best camp of all!....." and a couple of cheers for the 'song and cheer challenge' which awaited us following that evening's meal.



We were then led to the parade field, which had to be cleared of any remaining cars, in order to allow each troop to practice marching. Each stockade leader stressed a good showing during the ceremony of 'lowering the flag'. I'm sure we did not win retreat that night, but I do remember almost jumping out of my skin when the canon was fired!

After the opening camp-fire that evening at the Natureheart staff site, a small tenting area for the nature and kitchen staff, we returned to the Carson Stockade for clean-up and Vespers. All eight bunks were filled in our bunk house.

Prior to "Taps" being sounded, all the Scouts were seated on the porch-ends while our leader and his assistant gave an inspirational thought for the day. The camp chimes seemed to be perfectly timed to the final words of our leaders and were played from a small wooden tower located in what is now the campcraft area. While were climbing into our bunks, the camp bugler played Taps, which echoed around the hills of Horseshoe. Very exhausted, we all drifted off to sleep listening for the sounds of the whip-o-wills.



Camp Staffer Ernie third from left and Chief Lester on right

Not the next day, but a few days later, was the cooks' day off. The kitchen was closed, but each patrol/bunkhouse had to send one Scout to the dining hall to pick up the food for breakfast. It had rained overnight, but was still intermittently showering. The side flaps on our bunkhouse were rolled down, protecting the bunks from the rain, and afforded us some cover for what we were about to do. Our instructions were to gather wood to build a fire in order to boil water for oatmeal and raisons, and then fry eggs and bacon, all to be done after the food arrived. Instead, we hastily employed the "democratic process" and took a vote! It was unanimous - no one wanted to venture forth for fire-wood, build a fire, or cook in the rain.

Clinton, a bunk-mate from Troop 50 or Berwyn 11, came to camp well equipped, and drew from his pack a small heat-tab stove, and so began the slow process of each of us

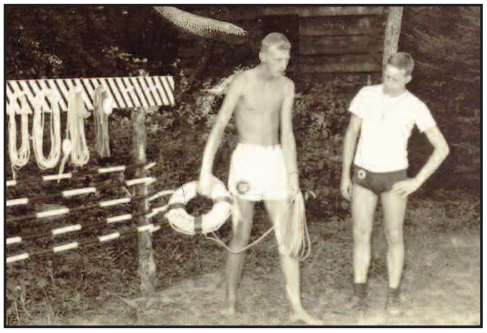
frying our eggs and bacon in our own mess kits. We planned to skip the oatmeal. The bunkhouse porch afforded protection from the rain and the long tarp shielded us from view from the leaders' cabin. No sooner had the cooking begun . . . . who should appear from out of nowhere, but the impressive figure, MR FRANK BEAM, the Camp Director!



Frank Beam greets OA Tapout Team

He was in full uniform, raincoat and broad-brimmed campaign hat! The scene on the floor of the bunk house must have been incredible – 8 scruffy young Scouts, with mouths gaping, crouching around a tiny collapsible stove merely 5 inches by 5 inches emitting a little blue flame coming from a white pill, which looked like a slightly oversized Alka-Seltzer tablet. WELL!!!!!! Mr. Beam was not going to let this pass.

The next 45 minutes he gave a highly personalized course on dressing for the weather, collecting squaw wood (small dead wood hanging in the vines), fire-building, and cooking the entire intended breakfast, not to mention the finer techniques of clean-up. The totally embarrassed eight of us all had to agree at the camp director's urging, "Wasn't that a better and more Scouting way of doing breakfast?" Looking back, many important life's lessons were learned that early rainy morning. Thus, the first of many, many lasting memories of stockade life…….



Heegard's Staff Days after Stockades



Dick Bennett (L) pictured with past Camp Ware Director, Rob McCarter (C) and JB Rettew

IN MEMORIUM
RICHARD C. BENNETT

Richard C. "Dick" Bennett passed away shortly after retiring from the Hawk Mountain Council where he had been Scout Executive since 1988.

Prior to that time, Dick was the Scout Executive for the Chester County Council since 1981. He came to West Chester from the New York Council. Dick was an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow and recently honored with the Distinguished Eagle Scout award. He was an HSRAA member.

His strong belief in Scouting principles, Scouting history and the importance of volunteers to Scouting's success made him an outstanding leader in our Council and Hawk Mountain.

Under his tenure, he believed in the importance of recognition…presenting mugs, plaques and other items of recognition to those whose service deserved such. The Horseshoe pool was named for the Camp's founder, Charles M. Heistand, and Camp Jubilee was renamed in honor of the Honorable John H. Ware, 3rd recognizing Ware's service and devotion to the Council as President and Executive Committee member.

Dick will be missed.

"What we have done for ourselves
dies with us,
What we have done for others
remains
And, is immortal."

-Dedication, Truckee, CA



On To Camp John H. Ware, 3rd...

My Personal Top Ten Reasons to Attend the HSRAA Reunion

By Mark Hammond, Chairman HSRAA

#10. Fun! Live entertainment, including a song written just for the reunion.

#9. It'll be chock full of former Camp Directors, guests and staff from all of the Camp Ware/Camp Jubilee glory days, from its first director Ernie Heegard to Jim Dukovic, a Bruton, Rob McCarter to Paul Owens and … to Jim Montich. (Possibly a visit from Paul Ware son of the Honorable John H. Ware, 3rd.

#8. Bring the family—crafts for kids. Show your wife where you cooked the "best" pancakes ever and learned to swim.

#7. The archery and rifle ranges, along with the pool, will be open.

#6. The food—Giant Pig Roast with all the fixings.

#5. See all of the recent additions to the camp, such as the Cubtown facilities, which are helping to recruit and retain scouts of all ages.

#4. See the unveiling of the 2007 HSRAA project—the Reservation's swankiest archery range and shelter.

#3. Your guaranteed to see at least one old friend—or JB Rettew gives you double your money back.

#2. On a more serious note, we will be honoring the lifetime commitment of Bill Robertson to the scouts of Chester County.

#1. It's the 50th Anniversary of the Camp's founding!

Fifty Years of First Memories

By Eagle Scout Andy Coe

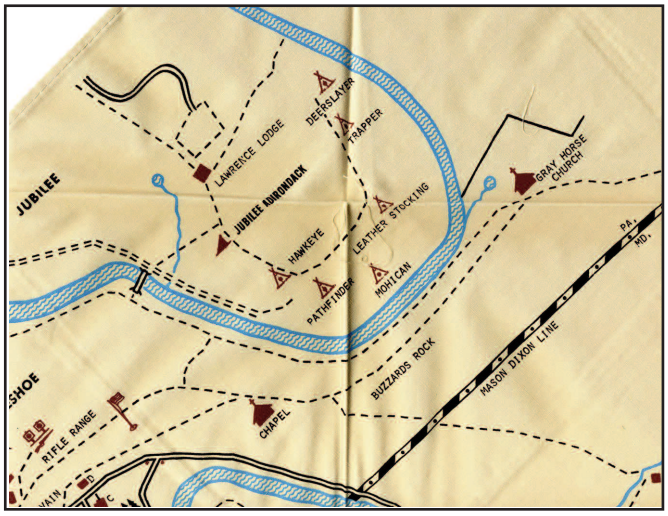
Reading off the 12 points of the Scout Law while venturing in from the outside world is not uncommon for the first timer of any council camp experience. They look high and low on every tree to catch a glimpse of the next point, making sure they haven't forgotten the words by which their organization was forged. Sometimes the harsh winter sweeps a placard into the woods or one final spring deluge rots away the timber which once proudly pronounced one of the high ideals of Scouting. But for some, that first memory doesn't reach much farther than the winding drive into their camp. For the privileged visitors of Camp John H. Ware, 3rd, it goes much deeper.



Distinguished Eagle Scout award to John H. Ware, 3rd by Chester County Council President Art Bone in 1979

Tucked neatly away by the Octoraro Creek, a camp that thousands of Scouts have known by evolving names celebrates its Gold Jubilee during the 2007 season. Camp Ware got its humble start in 1957 when Council President John H. Ware, 3rd approved the clearing of land for Chester County Council's new

Explorer Base, and the camp opened the following year with just two campsites: Lewis and Clark, and Frontier.



Camp Promotion Neckerchief 1982

Since those early years, the facilities and campsites have expanded to match the growing needs of the Scouting movement. The camp now features a diverse array of programs that serve the needs of Cubs and Boy Scouts alike, facilitated by an impressive following of staffers and volunteers. Mike Di Domenico, Camp Ware staffer and Octoraro Lodge officer says that "the Special Needs Camp-o-ree gives people who are not able to enjoy the things that most of us are fortunate to have regularly… their only event that they go to each year, which makes it special to every one of the campers." These Scouts are definitely **Helpful.**


Special Needs Camporee at Jubilee

In the intervening decades between Explorer Base and Camp Ware, Jubilee was the given name of the smaller of two camps owned by Chester County Council. In 1960, in honor of Scouting's fiftieth anniversary in America, the council changed the camp's name to Camp Jubilee. And now the camp is having its own fiftieth anniversary celebration, a stretch marked by unwavering commitment to nurturing Chester County's future leaders. Remarks past Lodge Chief Matt Griffin about one of Ware's special programs, Junior (now Youth) Leader Training, "… it made me proud knowing that through that program we were able to get [a fellow Scout] involved in the OA, and he subsequently got his troop back involved. It enhanced everything by getting Scouts ready to lead for the future..." Without a doubt, these guys are **Loyal.**

Over the past few years, Camp Ware received an extreme makeover of new facilities to expand the capabilities of the program and draw in new campers from neighboring councils. With assistance from the Council's Capital Campaign Fund, Ware was able to provide modern lodges, a health lodge, trading post and headquarters. But the aim of the face lift wasn't to show off flashy architecture, but rather to allow for more choices for those differing needs. Camp Ware has taken on that burden with flying colors as it sees steady increases in participation with the annual Science camp, Parent/Pal weekends and Wood Badge. As longtime Ware staffer John Reilly puts it, "…When one program ends, we get ready for a different program to start and the staff is ready to do it." And they're **Friendly** about it too.


Wood Badge Leaders Brian Bennett & Neil Chippendale

But the benchmark for any successful endeavor is not just the outcome itself, but the willingness to improve it. To mark the Golden Jubilee, Camp Director Jim Montich will soon be unveiling the newest improvement to the camp grounds – a covered Archery Range. Funded by members of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA), this range will allow for shelter during the most grueling summer afternoons and securely house the camp's supply of archery equipment. The unveiling coincides with a revamped summer initiative: "This winter the Camp Ware Staff has redone the entire program for all of our

campers (Cub Scouts, Parent & Pal, etc.) and we plan to have a successful summer", states Di Domenico. You have to be a Brave Scout to try something new.



Ranger Roy Cole with Jim Dukovic who played strong roles in the Explorer Base/Ware development

To usher in the next half century of quality camping at Camp Ware, HSRAA will also be celebrating the anniversary by holding its annual reunion at Camp Ware on July 15th. Dubbed "Bill Robertson Day", the HSRAA will honor not only the achievements of the camp and a fine leader, but also a family of devoted Scouts and Scouters from Oxford Troop 44 who haven given countless hours at Ware as staffers and volunteers. A camp is only as good as the people who run it, and it's no surprise that many a Scout's fondest memory of camp is of the staff. "Ben Bruton getting up in the dining hall to do the spaghetti song… I guess it would be the whole dining hall experience, the Friday night Chicken BBQs, with the Cat Came Back and other songs," Griffin says. No shortage of **Cheerful** there.

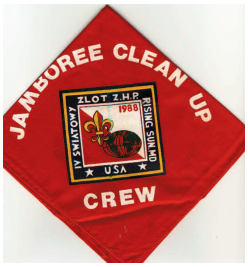


Bruce, Ryan and Bill Robertson, Eagle Scouts – Troop 44 and Camp Ware stalwarts.

Some would argue, however, that numerous council camps deliver these same outstanding programs with enthusiasm to match. Then why does Camp Ware consistently call out to its faithful to return year after year, which they triumphantly do? Some would say that it's the non-traditional outpost camping experience or that the campers don't "march for our dinners," exclaims Di Domenico proudly. But as Reilly explains it: "My favorite thing about Ware is the friendships you make there and its size – not too big and not too small." Di Domenico agrees: "With camp being smaller… [it] makes it better for you because all of the scouts get more attention and help from the staff. " It's true – there's nothing but Kind words to say about Camp Ware.

Driving back out of Camp Ware after a long week or weekend of sealing new friendships and cementing Scout skills, one can't help but wonder where all the Scout Law signs are. Chances are that exercise is only but for the most observant, as others are chirping away in the back of the car about all the fun things they did. But for those looking hard they won't see the Scout Laws on any side of the trees facing camp, because the countless placard builders (since Explorer Base to Camp Ware) are confident, that for those looking really hard, they'll find the 12 points of the Scout Law inside themselves wherever they go.





Polish Jamboree 1988





Irish Scout 2000 Camp

OFFICERS OF HSRAA

Chairman……**Mark Hammond**
ViceChairman……**Richard T. Bensing**
Secretary…… **Donald Tyson**
Treasurer……..**EricR.Lorgus**

Editors..**JB Rettew, Joe Bradley, Ellie Rettew**
Website address: www.hsraa.org

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Att: HSRAA % Chester County Council, BSA, 504 S. Concord Rd., West Chester, PA 19382

Name: _____ **Email Add:** _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIPcode: _____ **Telephone(Home)**_____

Occupation: _____ _____**Telephone (Bus.)**_____

Year of Birth: 19_____

I have camped at (please check)**:**____**Camp Horseshoe;**____**Camp John H. Ware, III (Jubilee);** ____**Both.**

Camper Year(s) Date(s): _____

Camp Staff Year(s) Date(s): _____**Position:** _____

_____Please send me further information about The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association

The following Camp Horseshoe/Camp Ware alumni* may be interested in the HSRAA:

Name	**Address**
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

***We especially need names/addresses of people not currently registered with Council or Lodge 22 OA.**

(Tear off above and send)

THE OCTORARO LOOP
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