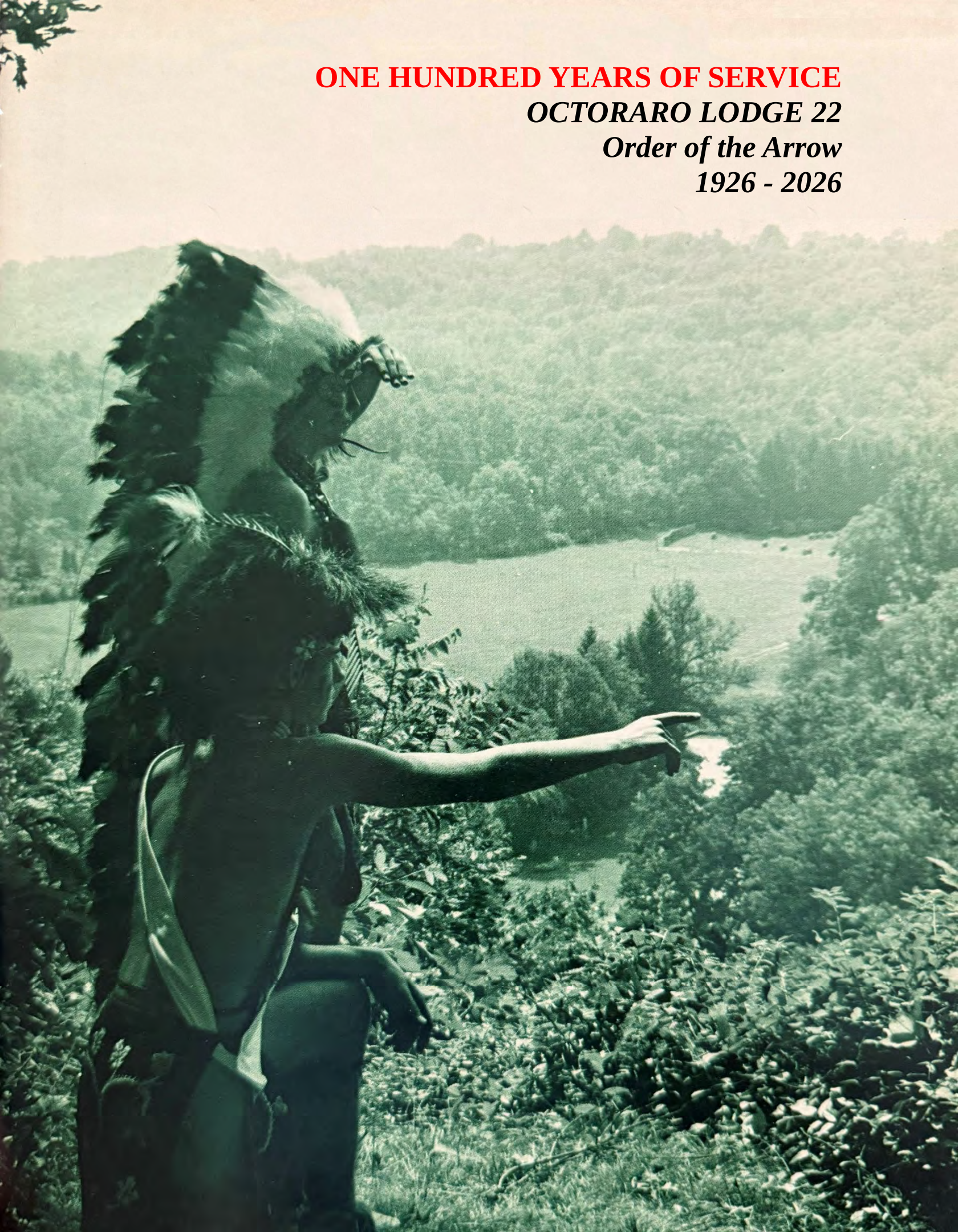
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE

OCTORARO LODGE 22

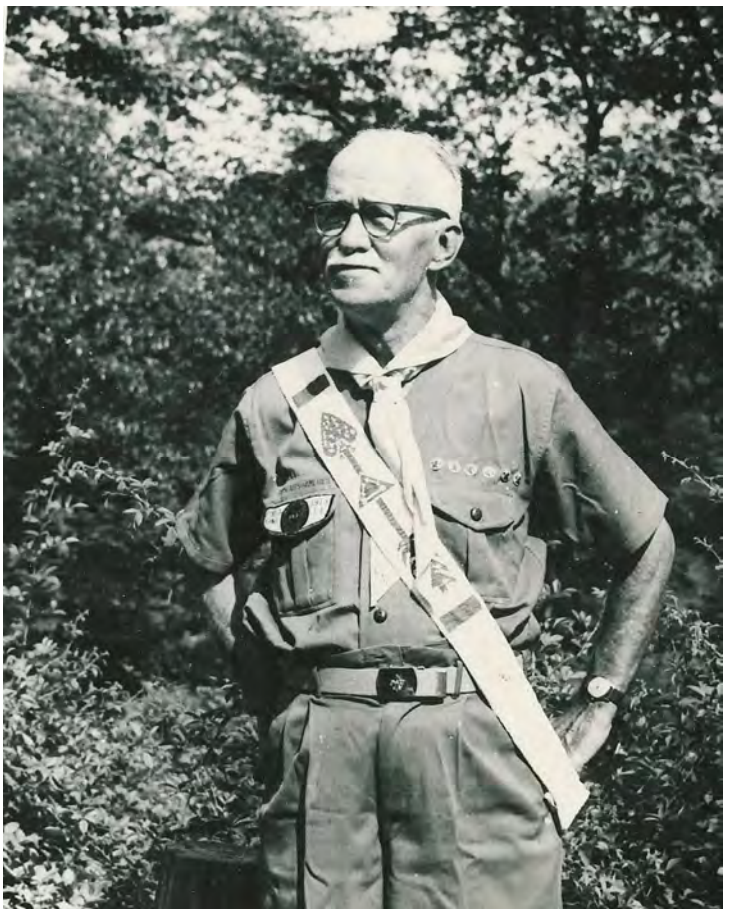
Order of the Arrow

1926 - 2026



During the summer of 1915, Dr. E. Urner Goodman, Camp Director of the Philadelphia Council's Treasure Island Camp, desired to find some means of definite recognition for those Scouts who had best lived up to the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law. From this desire, and from the rich Indian traditions of the area, Dr. Goodman and his assistant, Carroll A. Edson, developed what we know now as the Order of the Arrow. The organization grew slowly during the next few years, but, as the 1920's began, the small camp honor society of 1915 had taken hold in several nearby councils.

In 1924, Charles M. Heistand, then Scout Executive of the Chester County Council, BSA., wrote to the National Chief for information on the new organization then known as the "Wimachtendienk" or "Brotherhood." He had become interested in the program through Mr. Horace Kern, Scout Executive of the Philadelphia Council at that time. “Chief’” Heistand's interest in the organization became an integral part of his planning for the 1926 summer camping season at Rothrock, the council's camp in the South Mountains of Cumberland County.



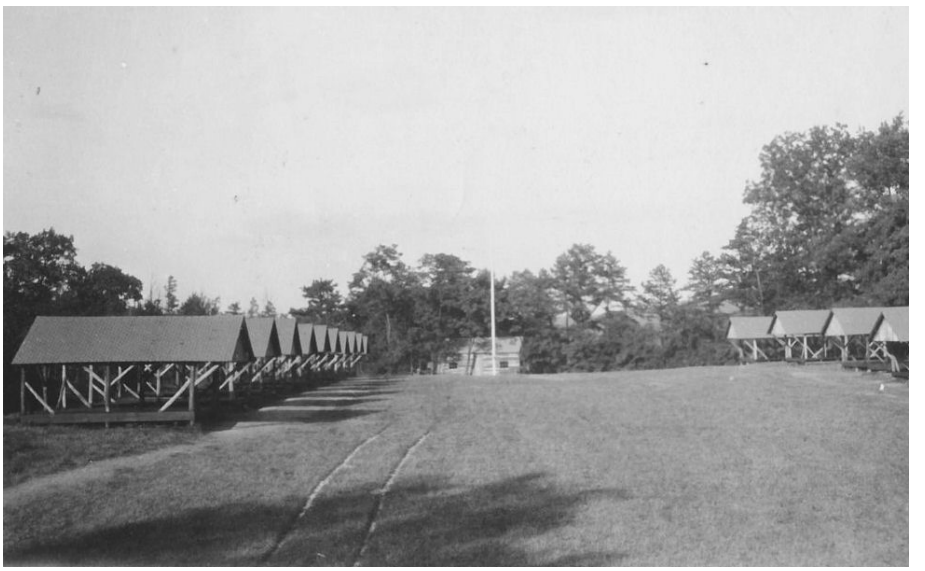
E. URNER GOODMAN
FOUNDER

HILLSDALE
SITE OF THE FIRST INDUCTION





In preparation for the camp season, the charter for Lodge #22 was approved on May 17, 1926 and a nucleus of nine new members were given their induction by founder E. Urner Goodman and the induction team from Ranachqua Lodge 4 from the Bronx. This group was given both the First (Ordeal) and Second (Brotherhood) Degrees at this ceremony at Hillsdale, a weekend campsite of the council. Hillsdale was located along the banks of the Brandywine in the western part of the county. Six of these nine charter members were to receive the Vigil before the decade was out and several went on to hold national positions in the Order and in Scouting. “Chief” Heistand continued in Scouting as a Scout Executive, Regional Executive, National Program Director, and Assistant Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, as well as serving for many years on the National Order of the Arrow Committee.





CAMP SCENE AT CAMP ROTHROCK

As plans for summer camp were unveiled in the May edition of TRAILING, the council newsletter, the Scouts of the county learned that: "This year we will institute a lodge of the W.W.W., a Lenape Indian fraternity, for honor campers." The article went on to explain that each troop would be able to select one Scout for every eight it had attending camp. The new society proved to be a popular one as forty-one more new brothers joined the ranks of the lodge during that first summer. Under the leadership of Scout Executive Heistand and the Lodge's first Chief, Joseph Brinton, the Chester County chapter became a firmly established part of the W.W.W. In November of the same year, a delegation of Chester County brothers journeyed to the Reading-Berks County Council Camp at Indiandale for a meeting of the Grand Lodge, the forerunner of today's National Conference. It was there that Brinton and Heistand became the first members of Lodge 22 to be bestowed the Vigil Honor. Brinton would also later serve as National Chief from 1936-1938 and would be bestowed the Distinguished Service Award in 1942.

Little is known of lodge activities of the next two years although it is evident, in light of continued achievement of the Vigil Honor by Lodge 22 members, that the lodge continued to develop during this period. The primary focus of the council's activities during these years was the selection of a new council camp, an event that would provide the young lodge with a home, a name, and a focal point for its service.

CAMP HORSESHOE AS IT LOOKED IN 1904 - THE HOME OF A. BRINTON REYNOLDS





A REYNOLDS FAMILY REUNION

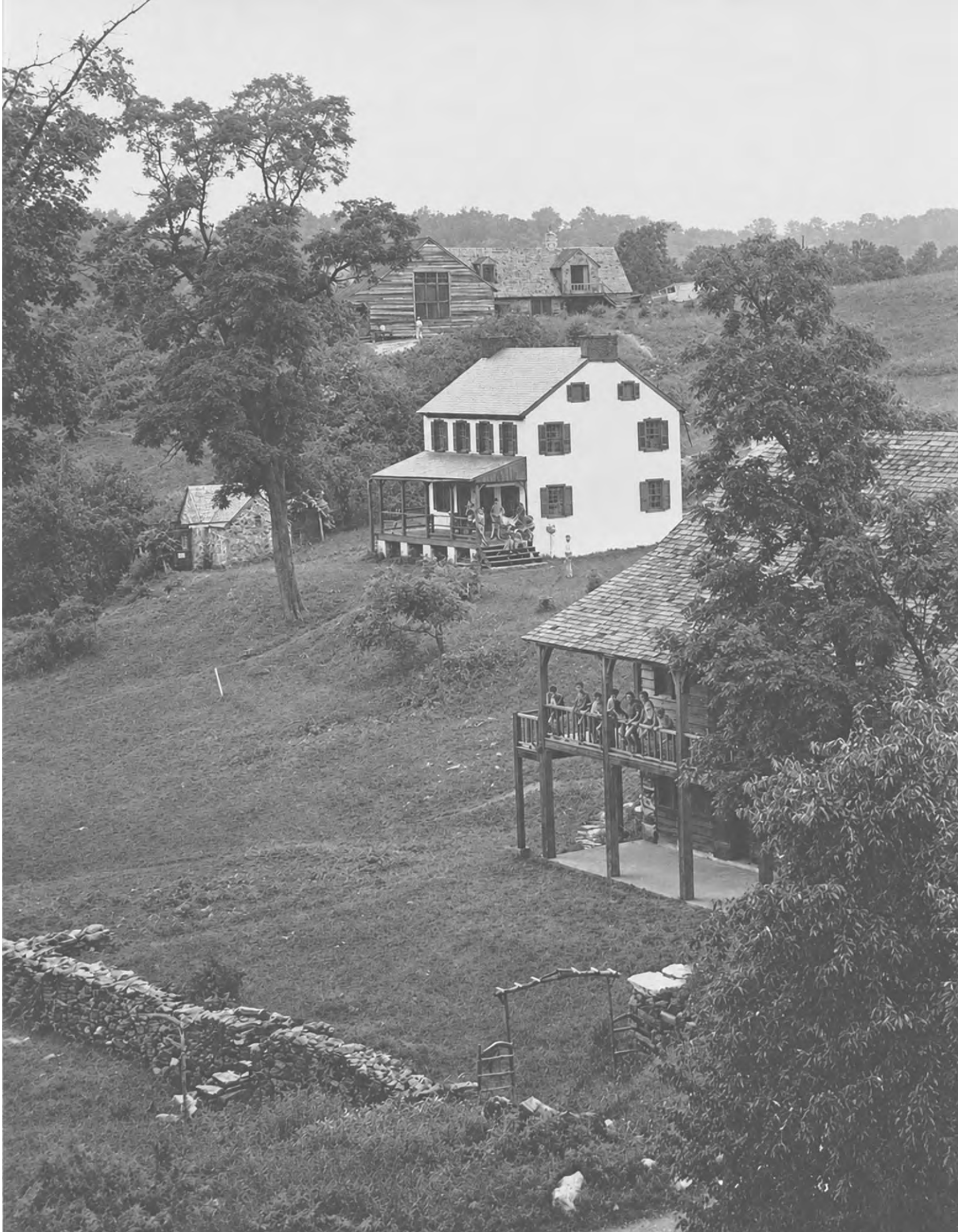
Guided by the vision of Scout Executive Heistand, the council selected the old Reynolds property along the banks of the Octoraro Creek near Rising Sun, Maryland as the site upon which to build the new camp. A tribute to the foresight and dedication of the council leaders of the day, the beginnings of Horseshoe Scout Reservation are as significant in the development of the lodge as they are in the growth of the council. As years passed and the camp expanded, the efforts of the lodge and the lives of its members would come to surround the camp as completely as does the muddy stream “Octoraro” from which the lodge takes its name.

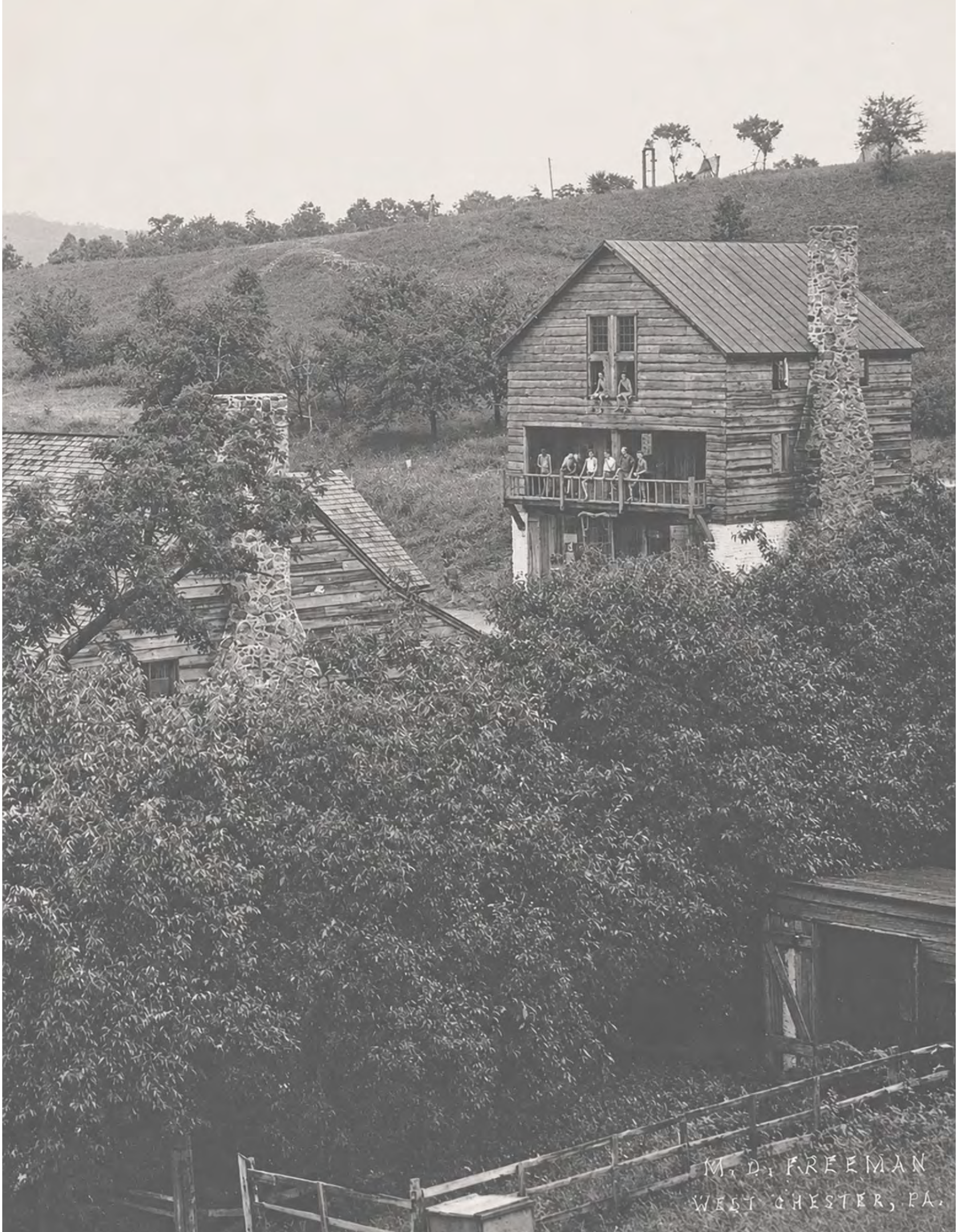
Purchased in 1826 for $300 in sheep and dried peaches, the property became the home of Samuel Reynolds and three generations of his offspring. Much of the heavily wooded land was cleared for use as farm and pastureland. During their time on the land, the Reynolds family left many monuments. Their family home, the “White House”, was used, after brief occupation by bootleggers and assorted shady characters, as the Headquarters building and infirmary for the Scout camp. The barn and carriage shed provided the foundation for Kindness Center and Browning Lodge, respectively.

Following crop failure, for a time the mining rights were leased to Tyson’s Mining Company, whose discovery of several low-grade ores, including gold, sparked interest in the area. The problems of extracting the ore, however, soon put an end to the venture.



COMMUNITY LEADERS POSE AT THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW CAMP




M. D. FREEMAN
WEST CHESTER, PA.



THE OCTORARO ENCIRCLES THE CAMP IN A LAZY FOUR-MILE-LONG HORSESHOE



SCOUTS STAND INSPECTION IN SHERWOOD STOCKADE
DURING AN EARLY SEASON

Located and identified as a possible campsite by the Philadelphia Council, the area was passed over as being far from the council headquarters to be practical. On a bright Saturday morning in 1927, however, the Camping Committee of the Chester County Council, with several brothers of the Wimachtendienk among them, traveled the old wagon road over Goat Hill to view the property and, shortly thereafter, purchased the site for development as the new council camp. A new camp was required to replace Rothrock, a victim of encroachment by various resort communities.

As the camping season of 1928 approached, the lodge was figuring prominently in the build of the reservation. Brother Gilbert McIlvaine of Downingtown served as Camp Architect, and the mainstays of the camp staff are recognized as being among the Charter Members of the Class of 1926. Camp Director Heistand with Joe Brinton and Ben Thomas as his assistants set to work with a staff that included charter members Raymond Watson and Thomas Gillingham. With five campsites and a capacity of 160 boys, the first season proved a great success and a bright future was forecast for the camp and the lodge.



SCOUTS ARRIVE AT THE PARADE FIELD
TO BEGIN THEIR WEEK IN CAMP

THE ALLEN MEMORIAL DINING HALL WAS AMONG THE FIRST CAMP BUILDINGS
AND WAS IN SERVICE FOR THE 1928 SEASON





THE BOATING AREA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FOCAL POINT OF CAMP ACTIVITIES; ONE OF THE MANY SWINGING BRIDGES IS SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND



THE CAMP FORMS FOR RETREAT DURING THE MID-THIRTIES



THE CAMP PASSES IN REVIEW AT AN EARLY RETREAT

THE HORSESHOE POOL, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN A SCOUT CAMP, IS A TRIBUTE TO THE VISION OF THE CAMP'S FOUNDERS



OCTORARO LODGE CHIEF WARREN R. GRAY PRESIDES OVER LODGE CEREMONIES IN THE SPRING OF 1945. THE TEMPORARY CEREMONIAL GROUNDS IN THE PICTURE WERE USED WHILE THE LODGE GROUNDS WERE BEING REBUILT DURING THIS PERIOD.





THE ANNUAL HIAWATHA PAGEANT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE CAMPING SEASON DURING THE THIRTIES AND FORTIES. HELD AT THE CLOSE OF CAMP, THE PORTRAYAL OF THIS INDIAN LEGEND WAS THE FORERUNNER OF THE ORDER OF THE ARROW PAGEANTS FOR NEARLY 9 DECADES. (BELOW) MANY SWINGING BRIDGES HAVE PROVIDED ACCESS TO THE LODGE CEREMONIAL GROUNDS AND TO THE OUTPOST CAMPS OVER THE YEARS. THE LOUIS LESTER MEMORIAL BRIDGE OF 1968 WAS AN ILL-FATED ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT BRIDGE.



During 1929, the procedure of lodge organization became standardized. Regular meetings, both throughout the county and at camp, were held for activities planning. The slate of officers was decided upon: The Lodge Chief, Junior Vice Chief, Lodge Recorder, Senior Vice Chief, Guardian of the Trail, Deputy Guardian, and Chaplain. This system of two vice chiefs, which fell into disuse in the Thirties, was destined to be revived in 1969.

In May of 1929, Octoraro Lodge played host to a Regional Meeting of the Order held at Camp Horseshoe. This meeting was the equivalent of the Section Conclave of today. In the fall of the same year, the lodge undertook the establishment of a tree planting project to honor the Eagle Scouts and adult Scouters of the county. Known today as the Eagle and Scouter's Groves, these trees stand at opposite ends of the camp athletic field in lasting tribute to the early Scouts of the council.

EAGLE GROVE, BEGUN BY THE LODGE IN 1929, GREW GRADUALLY OVER THE YEARS IN THE FORM OF A SEMI-CIRCLE WITH RAYS EXTENDING FROM IT AS IN THE PICTURE BELOW.



Continuing its tradition of participation in national affairs, the delegation of Scout Executive Price, Lodge Chief Donald Hughes, Vice Chief Ray Watson, and charter member Ben Thomas attended the 1929 Grand Lodge Meeting held in Philadelphia at the end of October.

Lodge activities continued in earnest as the thirties dawned. The year 1930 saw the lodge meet several times at camp to continue work on Eagle and Scouter's Groves as well as other projects. The lodge's primary camp project during these years was the construction of a camp chapel on the hillside overlooking the camp. This open-air chapel, with its breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside, has been a place of inspiration for generations of Horseshoe campers. The final meeting of 1930 was a ceremonial weekend at camp held in late December. At this meeting, eleven of the lodge membership were elevated to the Brotherhood Degree and four more were nominated for the Vigil Honor.

The lodge grew slowly over the next several years as we see only 17 new brothers inducted during the summer of 1936. By the end of that year, however, 20 additional brothers were inducted, and a period of new growth was underway. Seventeen lodge members attended the National Conference that year, held at the birthplace of the Order, the Treasure Island Camp on the Delaware River. In addition to a schedule of camp activities, the lodge was expanding into the social scene as well. The first lodge banquets were held during this period; they set the precedent for banquets which were to become the highlight of the lodge calendar in years to come. The 1937 banquet was held on December 27, and featured as its guest speaker Joseph Brinton, first chief of Octoraro Lodge, who was then serving as National Chief of the Order.

While the year 1941 found the world at war and young men of Chester County answering the call of country, the year is equally significant in that it marks the arrival of a man under whose leadership Chester County and Octoraro Lodge would begin a period of con growth and success. Louis L. Lester began his sixteen-year term as Chester County's Scout Executive by immediately establishing himself as a leader both in Scouting and in community. His vision and dedication to the improvement of the council and, especially, the Horseshoe Scout Reservation, moved him into an association with Octoraro Lodge which set the lodge on a course of growth and development from which it emerged as a vital force in the life of council and the camp.



FRIDAY EVENING TAPOUTS BECAME A RETREAT TRADITION DURING THE EARY YEARS OF CAMP

AN EARLY GROUP OF CANDIDATES CHECK IN AT MCILVAINE WITH CAMP RANGER C. C. COLE



THE ORDER OF THE ARROW HAS ALWAYS TAKEN A DEEP INTEREST IN PROMOTING INDIAN LORE AMONG THE SCOUTS AT CAMP.

THE LODGE HAS CONSTANTLY MAINTAINED A STRONG SHOWING ON THE HORSESHOE CAMP STAFF AS EVIDENCED BY THIS EARLY SHOT.



DR. ELWOOD K. FRETWELL, CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, RECEIVES THE SASH OF THE ORDER OF THE ARROW FROM SAKIMA GEORGE RUSSELL



AN EARLY TAP OUT TEAM TAKES FIELD DURING RETREAT



THE CHIEF OF THE TAP OUT TEAM GREETS CAMP DIRECTOR FRANK BEAM WITH THE SIGN OF THE ORDER



During the late 1950's the National Council set aside the left pocket flap of the uniform shirt for official Order of the Arrow insignia. Following this ruling, Octoraro Lodge was among the first to adopt the flap-shaped patch.

The first of the pocket flaps (S1) was issued in 1958. Designed by the fellows on the Service Weekend Committee known as "Our Excellent Cooks", it depicts a white goose flying in the blue skies of Camp Horseshoe. The border is green, symbolic of the many woods and trees at Horseshoe, and the lettering is red and white. This patch is commonly referred to as the "cut edge blue".

The next patch (the S2) was issued in 1963 and is basically the same as the first except that is not as wide, and the blue background is slightly different. The goose is also slightly changed.

There is an interesting story behind the next three flaps, which tends to confuse the untrained eye. The first (S3) has a red border with yellow background standing for the muddy Octoraro Creek; a black Horseshoe representing the Reservation; and a white migrating goose flying through it. The second (S4) is similar in all respects except that it has the words "Chester County Council" across the bottom. The third (S5) is identical to the second except in the Chester County Council. The lettering in all three is red. The only difference is that the S4 carries "Chester County Council" with the quotes, while the S5 has the quotes removed. The story is that the first set was ordered without the Council name, then, on the second order, the patch company was told to add "Chester County Council", and they did just that, quotes and all! On the next order, the correct flaps were obtained. These patches were issued in 1964, 1965, and 1966 respectively.

In 1968 another patch was issued (S6), which differed from the last only in that it had a black border. In 1969 another patch was issued (S7), changing only the color of the nails in the horseshoe from black to white.

The elusive eighth flap (S8) was issued by mistake in 1970. Designed as a replica of the second patch issued, the patch was again blue with a green border. However, in this edition the goose was shorter and fatter, and the colors are a shade different. The design was rejected as its 100mm width was considered too narrow for a standard shirt pocket. Only two are known to exist. The design was corrected the same year (S9) by increasing the width to 108mm and is still a bit smaller than previous patches.

In 1971, the tenth flap (S10) was issued. It is the silver bordered, multi-colored patch which is known as our official Lodge flap.

The eleventh flap issued (S11) was a red bordered edition with white nails in the Horseshoe made later in 1971. It is somewhat similar to the earlier red borders. In 1972, another reprint was issued (S12). This was identical to the1968 and 1969 black borders except that the nails in the horseshoe were red.

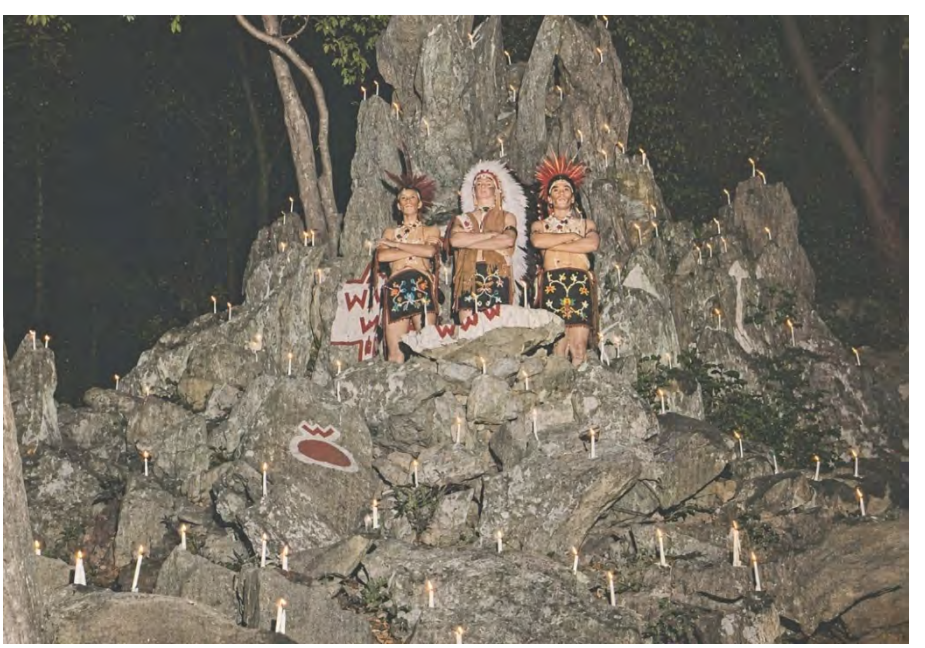
In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary year, the official lodge patch was changed. For the year 1976 only, the border of the flap was gold (S13). Following the anniversary year, the border color was again silver.







We are gathered here together
In the midst of this great forest
Underneath the stars above us;
Gathered now to help and serve,
Cheerfully in all our actions,
Lovingly in our reflections.
As the smoke curls winding upward
May our thoughts and actions rising,
Fill us all with acts of goodness
And direct and rule and guide us
In our work and thoughts this evening,

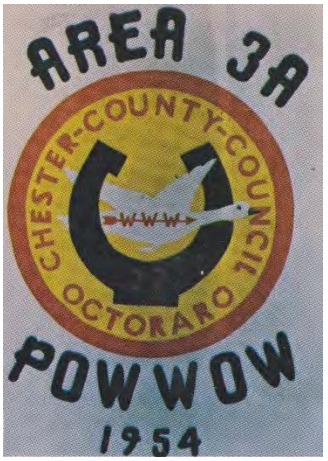






Let us both urge on our kindred
Firm devotion to our brethren
And our cause. Ourselves forgetting,
Let us catch the higher vision.
Let us find the greater beauty
In the life of cheerful service.

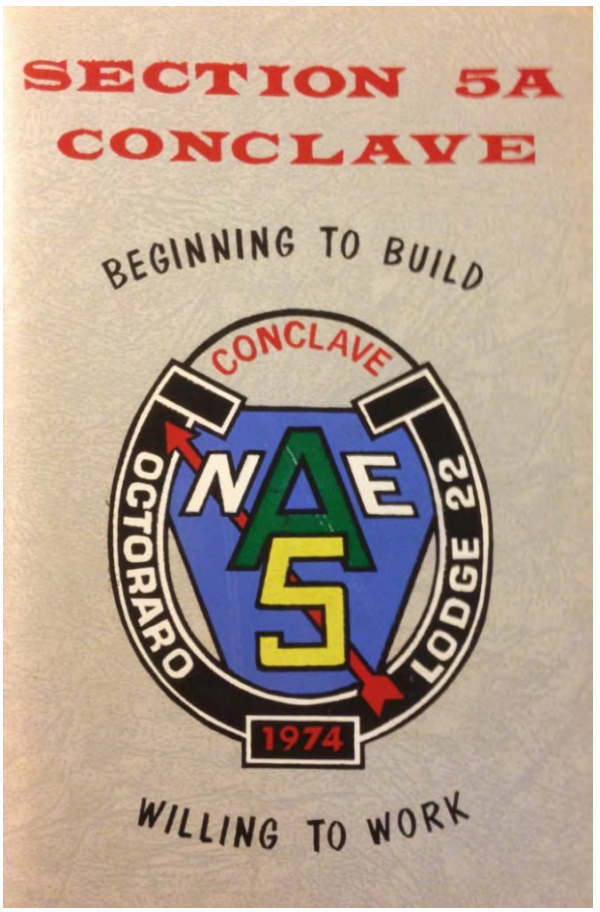




In 1948, the National Executive Board recognized and adopted the Order of the Arrow as an official program of the Boy Scouts of America, setting the stage for rapid growth and expansion of the Order. With many councils adopting the program of converting existing camp honor societies to Order of the Arrow lodges, revamped Area organizations were developed for information sharing and fellowship among the lodges. The primary tool of the area was the Annual Conference. Together with seven other lodges, Octoraro Lodge was a member of Area III-A and on May 1 and 2, 1954, held its first Area III-A Conference at Horseshoe. Similar Conferences were held in 1961 and 1969 with each providing the opportunity for further lodge progress and improvements.







1974 SECTION 5A CONCLAVE





Under the direction of Section Chief Matt Christenson and the guidance of Scout Executive Walt Ryan, the Conclave proved to be a huge success. The leadership of Chief Christenson provided the Section with an active and ongoing program of service to its lodges. The 1974 Conclave was the culmination of a banner year for both the Section and Octoraro Lodge.

The 1974 Section Conclave was highlighted by a Camping Exposition featuring fascinating displays by the participating lodges and over twenty-five businesses specializing in quality camping and outdoor equipment. Many of the product samples donated by the participating companies were raffled off at the end of the weekend and many delegates returned home with valuable souvenirs. In addition, the delegates were challenged by numerous tests of skill and coordination.





Whereas:

Our genial host lodge, Octoraro #22, is to be complimented for their exemplary endeavor in making sure everyone attending this Conclave was very welcome, by their attendance to every detail.

They demonstrated the true meaning of the Order of the Arrow in their willingness to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.

Every delegate, lay advisor, and adult attending this Conclave was overwhelmed by the performance of Octoraro Lodge #22, and wish them continued success in their service to others; for, in doing so, they found the true meaning of happiness. And, through this first Conclave, have conveyed this happiness to all of us.

And, with grateful affection, we thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Section 5A Resolutions Committee



OLYMPIC MEDAL PRESENTATIONS



KEN YEAGER OUTDOES HIMSELF AT THE SATURDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP FEAST



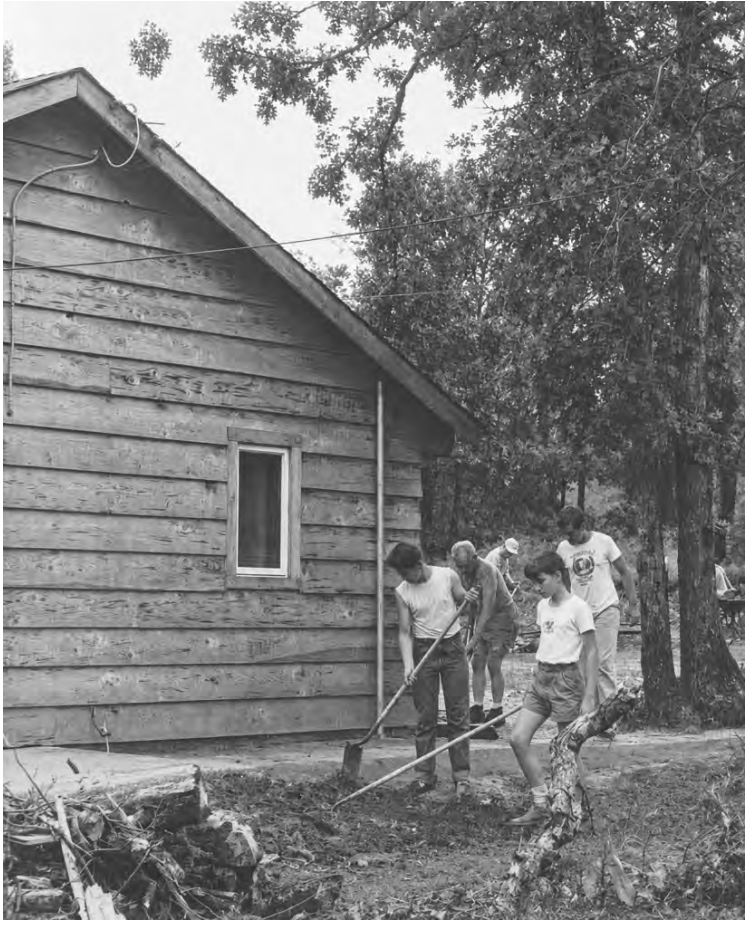
ARROWMEN WORSHIP SERVICE



THREE OF OUR SEVENTY-FIVE MEMBER WORKFORCE



AJAPEU DELEGATES ON THEIR WAY TO AN AFTERNOON WORKSHOP



At a regular meeting of the Lodge Executive Committee held on November 21, 1944 a resolution was approved calling for the creation of a building fund for the construction of an Octoraro Lodge Building at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation. A collection was taken and the building fund started with a sum of $12.51. Over the next several years numerous fund-raising projects were devised and implemented to collect sufficient funds for the start of construction. Arrowmen were challenged to cover the trails of Horseshoe with pennies, purchase building blocks, and participate in numerous other fundraising schemes. The building block sale permitted the brother to sign a block on the main record poster for every contribution. The idea was revived in late 1973 when the final blocks were sold to raise money for the new building addition.

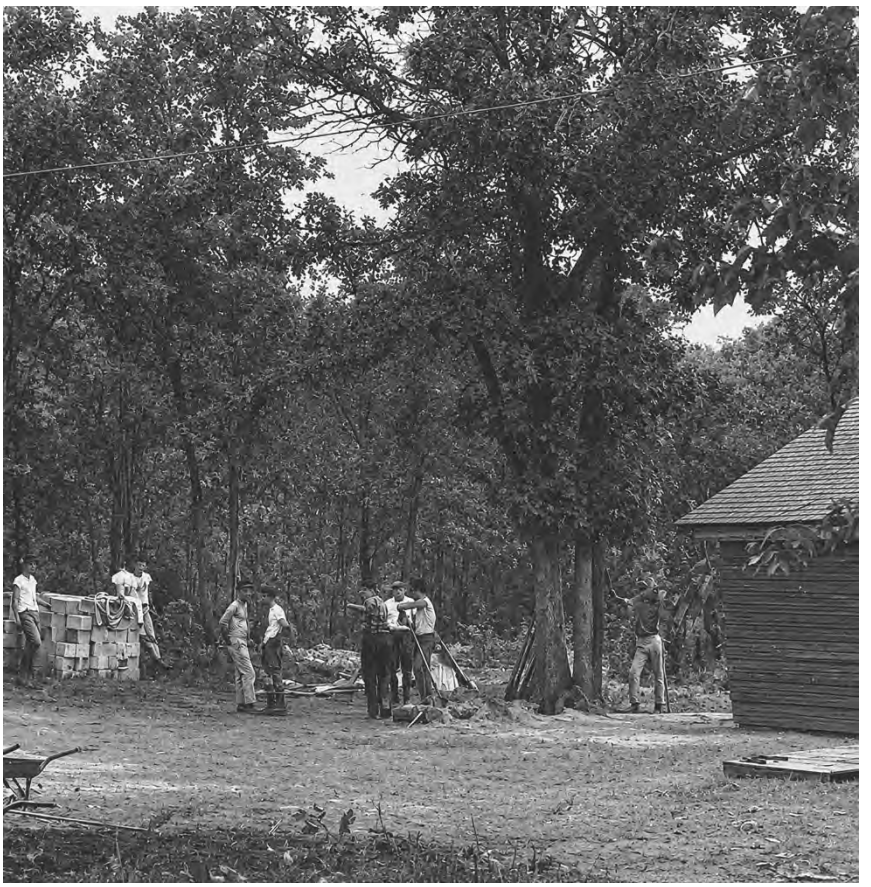
On a special work weekend in 1952, ground was broken for the building and over the next several years work progressed sporadically as material was purchased when funds became available. After nearly five years of construction, the two ends of the building, roof, and the walls of the main room were completed. Lack of money, however, stalled any further progress. At this point the lodge approached "Chief" Lester for assistance.





The council had recently completed its own capital improvement drive which included, among other things, the construction of five tent campsites. After the expansion was completed, the council had a small surplus, and the lodge was able to secure a generous loan of $2000 necessary to complete construction. The building itself was essentially completed by 1958. In a daylong celebration, the Octoraro Memorial Lodge was finally dedicated on June 20, 1959 to the memory of all our former members who helped spread the light of the Brotherhood in Chester County. Over the next several years the council loan was gradually repaid until, in 1965, the final payment was marked by a mortgage burning dinner celebration.

Work has continued ever since as the Lodge Building has become the center of lodge activities at camp. As the lodge expanded, so did the building. A new addition to provide storage and office space was begun in 1969 and, along with a renovated kitchen, was completed for the 1974 Section 5A Conclave. The donation of an oil heater enabled the lodge to winterize the building for use by members in the Lodge's Winter Camp Staffing Program begun in 1970.



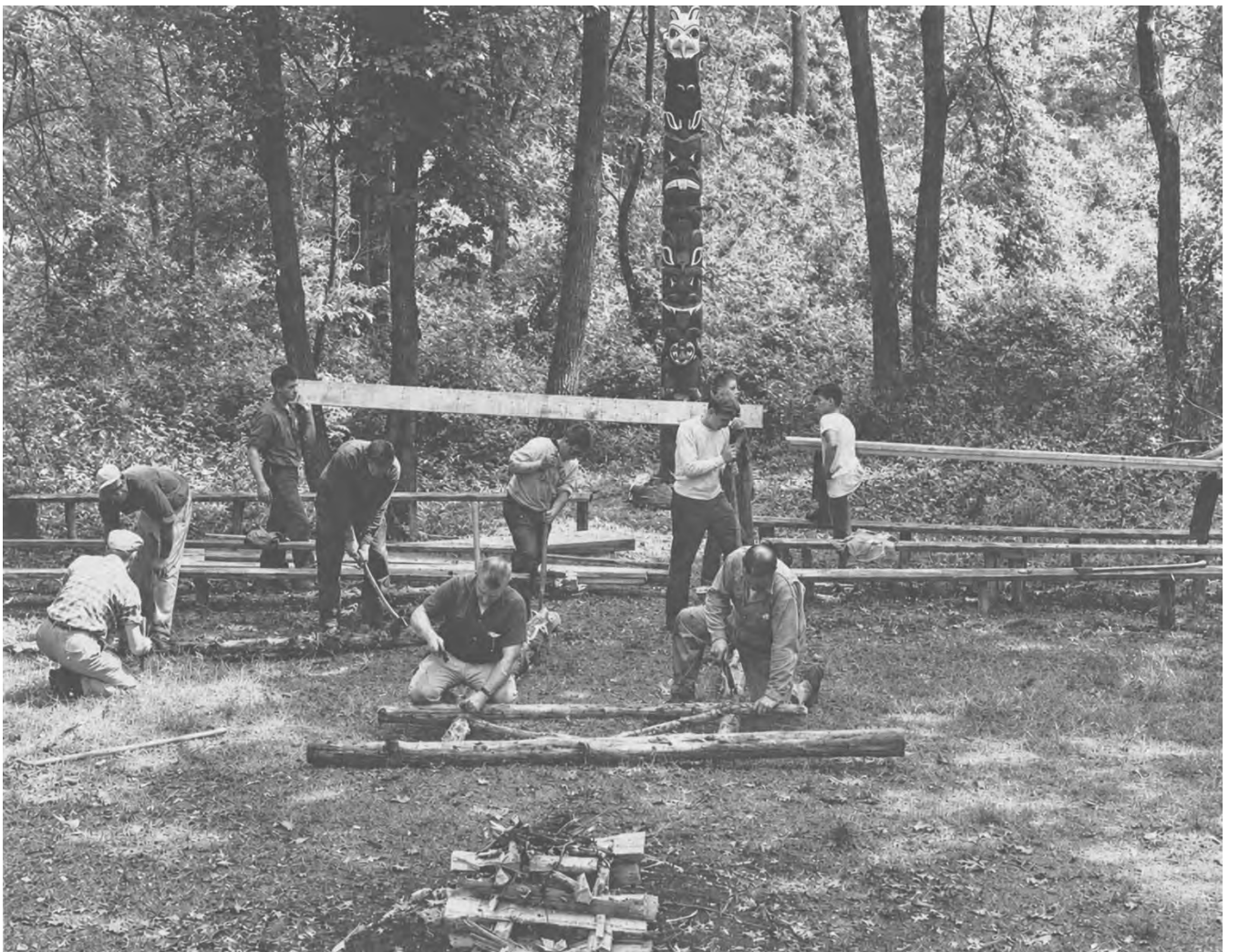
As work on the building was progressing, the lodge was entering other areas of service as well. A highlight of the week at summer Scout Camp was the Saturday evening Indian Pageants, presented by lodge members at camp. Those pageants, held at the Totempole Circle, and the weekly tap-out ceremony, helped publicize the lodge's value in the life of camp.

During the summer of 1945, two Scouters from Virginia, Norman Jones and Gordon Lindsay, were visiting in Pennsylvania. They became interested in the Order of the Arrow program in the area. Seeking information on the Order, they were referred to Louis Lester, who, as well as being Chester County Scout Executive, was serving as advisor to the area Order of the Arrow organization. Through "Chief" Lester, the charter for Lodge #349 of the Tidewater Council in Norfolk, Virginia was approved. On September 7, 1946, a delegation of Octoraro Lodge members journeyed south to induct the charter members of the Blue Heron Lodge. Making the trip were Chief Lester, Asst. Scout Executive Frank Beam, his son Bill Beam, Lodge Chief Warren Gray, Ron Sykes, and Charles Swope. Assisted by Virginians Jones and Lindsay, who had been inducted earlier, they conducted the initiation for 36 new brothers. From that day forward there has developed a close and lasting friendship between our two lodges.

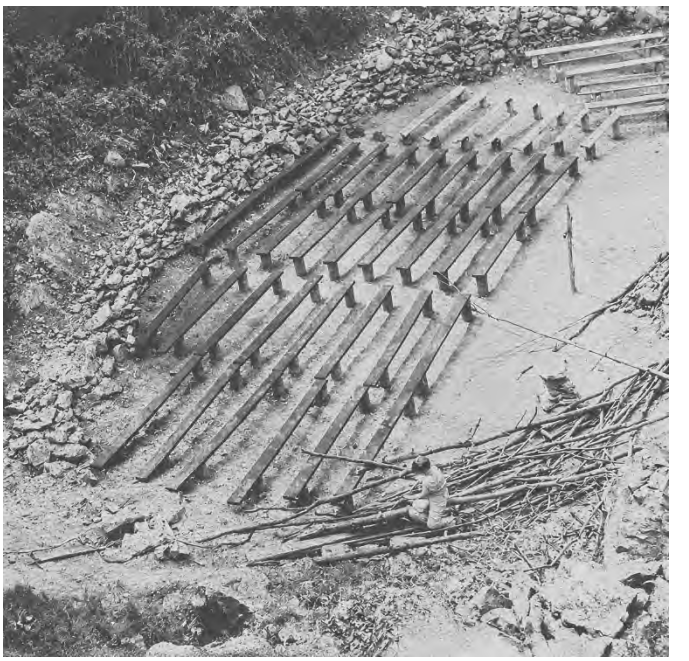


BLUE HERON 349 CHARTER INDUCTION










INTERNATIONAL





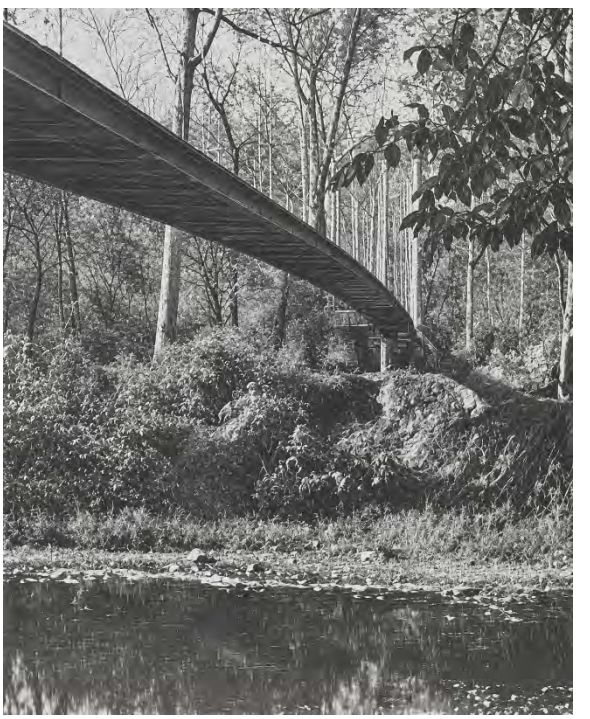






In preparation for the 1969 Area Conference, the lodge undertook the demolition, shifting, and reconstruction of the Lodge Ceremonial Circle. Seating had long been a problem at the site which was situated on a slant about 30 degrees downhill from the present location. Faced with nearly 350 area delegates, the lodge decided to excavate the uphill side, clear more of the rock face and thus increase seating capacity. Work began at the 1968 fall workday and thanks to countless hours of work, the circle is among the most beautiful in the country.

Long before the new circle was planned, the problem existed of how to get to the ceremonial grounds themselves. One of the landmarks of camp through the years has been the swinging bridge across the Octoraro. Any number of rickety spans served the camp until the lodge undertook the construction of a permanent bridge. Completed in 1968 and dedicated to the memory of Louis Lester, this bridge promised an end to continual bridge rebuilding chores. This, however, was destined never to be as, in 1972, the torrential rains of Hurricane Agnes swelled the Octoraro and the raging river claimed the bridge. Once again, though, lodge members set to work and rebuilt the span within a year.







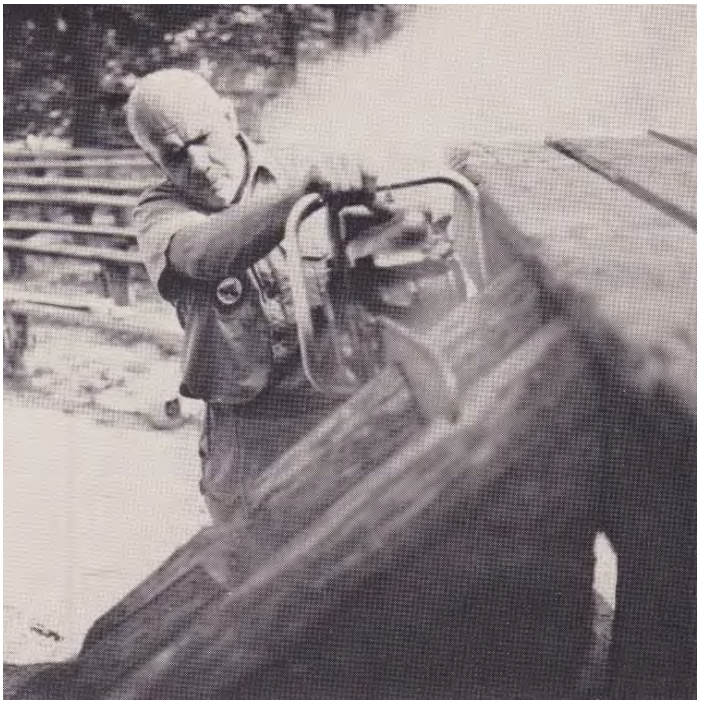


Following the promulgation of new election guidelines in 1968, the membership of Octoraro Lodge increased dramatically. From a small lodge of 400-500, the rolls soon swelled to nearly 1,200 by 1970. As a result of the increased attendance at lodge weekends, a third ordeal was added in April of 1970. This weekend, in addition to reducing the candidate load at each ordeal, provided another 1,800-2,000 man hours of service every year. This additional time allowed for the expansion of lodge service areas. A new Dining Hall roof, an intra-camp telephone system, extensive rewiring, road work and many other projects were added to the lodge schedule. In addition, the lodge by-laws were revised to move the annual officer elections to the April weekend. This change allowed for a two-month transition period for officer training and organization before the new officers were installed in June.

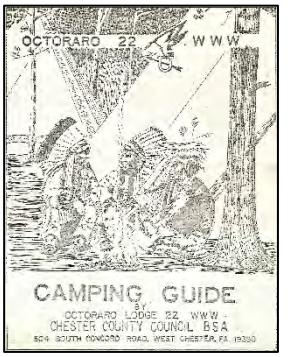
The increase in membership following the 1968 guidelines was a national trend. The improved lodge program, however, was not. As time went on, lodges became increasingly more concerned about the problem of quality versus quantity in their membership. As a result, new election procedures were issued in 1971 which dramatically reversed the expansion trend.

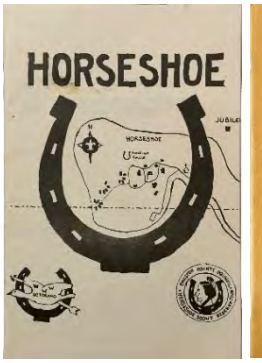
One of the primary responsibilities of any Order of the Arrow lodge is the promotion of Scout camping, and, from the very beginning, Octoraro Lodge has taken its responsibility quite seriously. Since 1931, when the lodge was credited for the large increase in camp attendance, to 1974 when Lodge 22 was recognized as having the top Camp Promotion Program in Section 5A, Octoraro Lodge has constantly refined and expanded its camp promotion efforts.

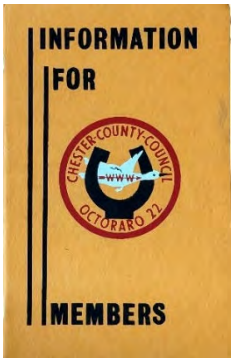
The basis of the lodge camp promotion program has always been the Arrowman in his home unit. To aid the cause, however, various programs have been developed to assist the district camp promotion team in its unit visits. The first camp slide show was developed and distribution begun in 1969. Soon afterward, the 100% Patrol Award was begun and administered by the lodge to increase Scout attendance at camp. The slide show was expanded and revised in 1973 and supplemented with an ingenious camp map game. The summer of 1973 saw the lodge undertake its biggest camp promotion effort with the production of a camp movie. A half-hour color presentation with soundtrack, the new movie was an immediate hit with council troops and sparked interest in the entire area. It was widely applauded at the Section 5A Camp Promotion Meeting in March of 1974.











Camp Promotion, though, was not the only area of lodge success in the seventies. The year of 1972-1973 was a banner year for publications as three new booklets were added to the lodge library. The beautiful new WHERE TO GO CAMPING GUIDE culminated several years of planning and was a valuable adjunct to the camp promotion program. The Horseshoe CAMP HISTORY Booklet provided the first complete and accurate history of the reservation and was a companion to the history slides developed by the council. Another important publication of this year was the INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS Booklet. Designed to supplement the ORDER OF THE ARROW HANDBOOK, this publication explained in detail what the lodge does, how it operates, and the many ways in which a member could become involved in lodge activities.



The same storm that claimed the first Louis Lester bridge was to provide yet another service opportunity for the lodge. The crest of the storm hit Camp Horseshoe on a Thursday and gradually subsided during the day on Friday. Camp was scheduled to open for the 1972 season at noon on Sunday. With two days to opening, the camp was in shambles and the road was impassable. A call went out throughout the council and on Saturday morning nearly 150 Arrowmen arrived armed with picks, shovels, dump trucks, and ton after ton of crushed stone. While the staff rebuilt campsites and salvaged equipment, the lodge members cleared and filled the road. As a result of the herculean efforts of these lodge members, camp opened on schedule, only 48 hours after it had been totally inaccessible.





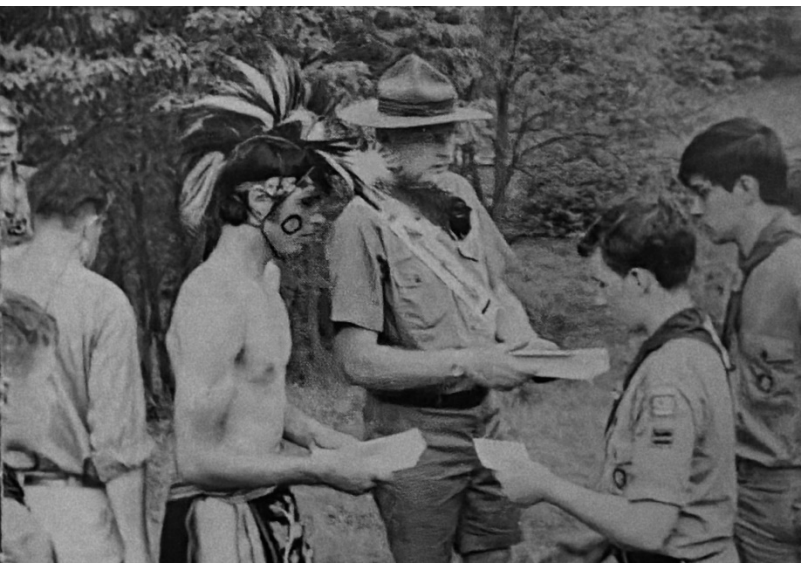
When the new management plan of the Boy Scouts of America was unveiled in 1972 dividing the country into six regions, the Order of the Arrow had to be realigned accordingly. After much planning and discussion, the changes took place at the 1973 National Conference in California. Old Area 111-A, minus Nentico and Nentego, joined Lodges 39, 44, 223, and 542 to form Northeast Section 5A. Matt Christenson of Octoraro Lodge was elected the first chief of the new section and was responsible for organizing and developing a vibrant and responsive section organization. Emphasizing shared information among lodges, the new section instituted committees in many areas of lodge activities to assist lodges in developing their own program. The focal point of this development was the National Standard Lodge Award. When the section came into being, not one of the nine lodges had ever achieved this award. At year's end, seven of the nine had met the qualifications.

Octoraro Lodge, held up for years by the 50% Brotherhood requirement, was able to overcome this obstacle during 1973-1974 and became the first lodge in the section to qualify for the NSL rating. Primarily as a result of a revitalized brotherhood promotion program, including periodic district meetings and streamlined procedures, the lodge was able to raise its percentage to the required figure and earn the award. The strong program continued the following year, and Lodge 22 again led the section by requalifying for an NSL charter.

This award would be replaced by the Quality Lodge program in 1978 to dovetail with the designation used throughout Scouting. It changed again to Journey to Excellence in 2012, then finally to the Lodge Performance Measurement Program beginning in 2019.







The highlight of the first year of Section 5A was the first annual Section 5A Conclave hosted by Octoraro Lodge at Camp Horseshoe. An unqualified success in every respect, this first Conclave was a milestone in the history of Octoraro Lodge and set the standard against which future Conclaves would be measured. At the close of the weekend, Matt Christenson was elected to a second term as Section Chief and there was every indication of continued success in 1974-1975.

For several years, Octoraro Lodge had been experimenting with ways of making the expertise of lodge members available to individual troops and to assist troops in planning and executing their own program. Dubbed “Program Development ‘76”, this lodge program became the prototype for the Section 5A Bicentennial Project. In addition to Program Development, Octoraro Lodge Member Rich Mason chaired the Section Camp Promotion Committee and, at year’s end, was elected Section Vice Chief for the coming term.

The 1974-1975 Lodge year ended on a bright note as the lodge forged ahead toward its Golden Anniversary and eagerly anticipated the dawn of its 50th year.







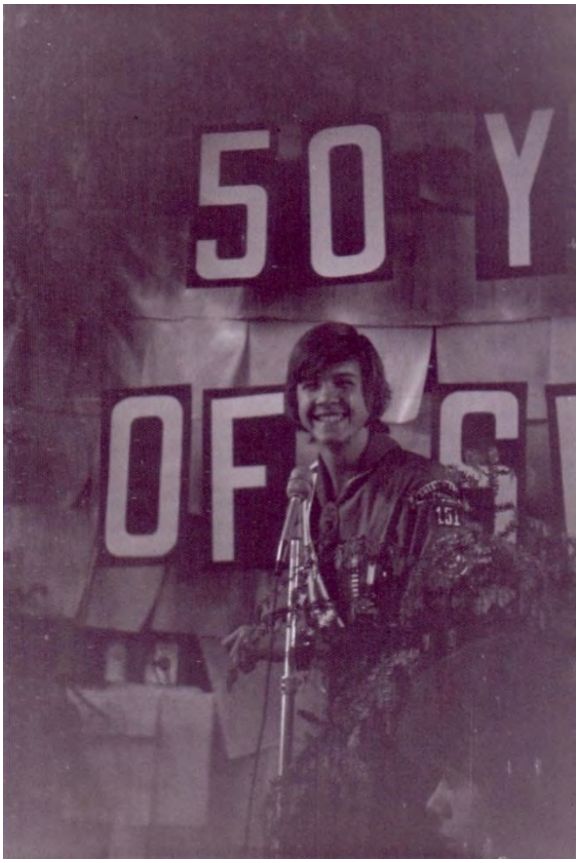




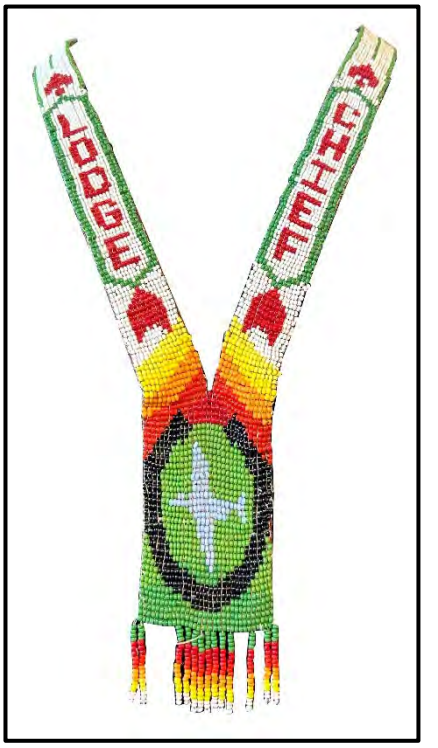
In 1976, Octoraro Lodge 22 held its 50th anniversary celebration to mark a half century of service to Horseshoe Scout Reservation and Scouting. Several items of interest from that year have stood the test of time, each being wearable with the Scout uniform. The first, the S12 (later redesignated to the S13 flap), is a gold mylar flap that was issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary, and while not incredibly rare, has often fetched a good sum of money during lodge auctions in later years. The second item is the "Chief's Beads", an heirloom passed from one chief to the next that serve not only as a symbol of office for our Lodge Chiefs but also as a visible bond between Blue Heron Lodge 349 and Octoraro 22. These beads were retired in 2016 after forty years of wear, and new ones were commissioned and bestowed to Lodge Chief A.J. Moreno.



S13 GOLD MYLAR FLAP ISSUED IN 1976



1976 LODGE CHIEF PHIL SEARS



LODGE CHIEF BEADS

Later in June 1976, a special Anniversary Order of the Arrow Fellowship took place at Camp Horseshoe. Former Council Scout Executive "Chief" Charles M. Heistand, who had started our Lodge in 1926 and had served later as National Advisor to the Order of the Arrow; and Joseph H. Brinton, first Chief of Octoraro Lodge and its first Vigil member and later National Chief of the Order of the Arrow, joined in the celebration. Dignitaries, friends and families and OA members came to Camp for the day. At a special Banquet, Chief recalled the days when he founded Camp Horseshoe and related many fond memories of the people he met and the special warmth that he and Joe Brinton had for Chester County Council and our Camp.



ERNIE HEEGARD AND 1975 LODGE CHIEF FROG COYLE

The winter of 1978 was particularly brutal at Horseshoe Scout Reservation, with 15 inches of rain and snow washing out complete sections of the old camp road. $5,000 was spent to repair the road and service was provided by over 100 Octoraro Lodge members but the road was retired by 1980 in favor of a new camp road built at the North end of camp. This road linked up to Ridge Road at the Lane property, which was later purchased by Chester County Council.

Leading the clearing efforts was Octoraro 22. Many Arrowmen removed trees and stumps in 1979 and 1980. Paul Skelly, Paoli Construction Company, and J. D. Eckman, Inc. were also involved with this project.



THE NEW CAMP ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION



THE OLD CAMP ROAD AFTER 1978 WINTER STORMS

Council board approval was given later in the summer of 1979 to let Paul Risk & Associates build the new kitchen at Horseshoe for a price of $175,000, with a completion date of May 1980. The Order of the Arrow had committed to finally demolishing the old kitchen structure, even down to its foundation. Though front-end loaders and other heavy equipment were used, some of the work was manual labor provided by the lodge. Once constructed, the new kitchen was one of the most up-to-date ones in any camp of our sort.



KITCHEN DEMOLITION CONDUCTED BY OCTORARO LODGE MEMBERS



CONCRETE WALLS BEING BUILT FOR THE NEW ALLEN MEMORIAL DINING HALL KITCHEN

For only the second time ever, Octoraro Lodge hosted a conclave at Camp Horseshoe in 1983, and the tagline of Section 5A's tenth conclave was fitting: "A Decade of Service". Chairman duties for the conclave were on the capable shoulders of Lodge Chief Bob Matje Jr., with his adviser being Ernie Heegard.

Unlike later conclaves, many guest lodges hosted various portions of the weekend's activities, such as Wunita Gokhos 39 running the ceremonies competition or Witauchsoman 44 leading an evening Water Carnival on Saturday.

The conclave once again featured a camping exposition, a Native-American dance competition, and a wide range of activities to keep participants busy throughout the day and entertained in the evening.







OA LODGE GATHERING DURING THE 1983 CONCLAVE





NATIVE-AMERICAN DRUMMING FOR CONCLAVE POW-WOW





JAIME SOTOMAYOR WORKS ON THE PAINTING

In May 1986, Octoraro Lodge held its 60th anniversary Open House at Camp Horseshoe; many past Arrowmen visited camp to exchange memories, visit old locales on the property, and revel in such a momentous occasion.

Tours were arranged to visit various sites around camp and culminated in a festive dinner followed by a rededication ceremony at the lodge circle.



YOUNG ANDREW RETTEW VISITS THE MASON-DIXON MARKER DURING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

In coordination with the 75th anniversary of the BSA, Arrowman Bob Fisher spoke with his next-door neighbor Jaime Sotomayor about the Boy Scouts and the lodge, and he later commissioned him to paint the Lodge Fire Circle in 1985.

Sotomayor, a classically trained painter from Spain who studied at the Vatican, knew Pablo Picasso, and emigrated to the United State prior to WWII, traveled with Fisher to Horseshoe Scout Reservation in Spring 1975. Without taking notes or even sketches, Sotomayor conferred with Fisher later about his ideas for the painting: A Scout from 1910 posed with a current Scout, a blocked trail to prevent the Scout going back (meaning, he must go forward on the trail), and the American flag with fleur-des-lis looking down on the beloved fire circle and rock outcropping.

The painting was originally housed at the Council Service Center on South Concord Road in West Chester, but it later found its way to Camp Horseshoe and is now on display in the main hall of the Octoraro Memorial Lodge Building.



THE COMPLETED FIRE CIRCLE PAINTING

The Octoraro Lodge Annual Banquets were becoming so immensely popular that in 1986, separate banquets were held on consecutive weekends with the same program in two locales – Kimberton Fire Hall and Union Fire Company in Oxford. The turnout was incredible – a combined 650 attendees for the two banquets.

Subsequent banquets held at Kimberton Fire Hall in the 1980s and 1990s would routinely have over 400 guests in attendance.

In 1988, the Order of the Arrow changed its policies to include female Scouters as part of the local lodge to coincide with integrating female Scouters into the official Boy Scout program. The pioneer for females in our Lodge was Karen Morris.

Karen took her Ordeal in April 1989 and sealed her membership in the brotherhood in April 1990. She took a very active role and for almost 20 years was the advisor to the lodge costume (regalia) committee.

In 1993, Karen was selected as our first female Vigil Honor Member. Her Vigil name, “Small Woman with Needle," was quite apt based upon her small stature and her history of creating costumes for the lodge.

Her role as the trailblazer for women in our Lodge paved the way for additional dedicated female Scouters to follow in her footsteps. After Karen’s selection as a Vigil Honor Member, more women were recognized with the honor, including Mercedes Davis in 1996, Cindy Smith in 1998, Sue Fisher in 1999, and Karen Griffin in 2001. Since the addition of female Scouters in the program, Octoraro Lodge has honored 22 as Vigil Honor members as of 2025.

In the modern era, we have had many very dedicated female Scouters join the Lodge as an integral part of our day-to-day operations.



KAREN GRIFFIN WORKING IN THE WARE KITCHEN AT THE 2000 IRISH JAMBOREE



FRED STOUDT AND JACKIE PALMER BUILDING A HORSESHOE PIT IN 2019



SUE FISHER (CENTER) IN THE WARE HEALTH LODGE IN 2001



CINDY SMITH CHECKING IN GUESTS AT THE 1998 LODGE BANQUET



LESLIE JOHN AND BARB MYERS WORKING ON LODGE RECORDS IN 2009

Sponsored and run by Octoraro Lodge 22, the first Special Needs Camporee was held at Camp John H. Ware, 3rd in 1990, back when it was named the Handicapped Camporee. More than 100 special needs Scouts enjoyed the weekend long event. Susan Crouch, who was Assistant Council Commissioner for Handicapped Scouting, worked hard with other Scout volunteers, including Bob Fisher and Herb Wittmaier to insure a good time for the boys. Much credit goes to Jamie Iorio who helped in the organization of the Camporee and assisting in the events.

From a mid-1990s news article, Wittmaier says “They come in with one attitude, but we see them leave with a different one.” Bob Fisher set the schedule and organized all the volunteers for camp, which often was a ratio of 1:1 or 2:1 volunteers to campers due to the special attention many of them needed.

The lodge sponsored the event from 1990 to 1993. It was then run by other volunteers and staff from council, but many Arrowmen have volunteered over the years and continue to do so. It was renamed the Special Camporee in 2000, then named the Special Needs Camporee in 2017.

The program continues to offer a wide variety of activities for the campers, including swimming, nature study, archery, cooking, fishing, and arts and crafts.





After 28 years as Lodge Adviser, G. Ernest Heegard retired in 1991. Not one to solicit or approve of a big celebration to honor his remarkable tenure, Octoraro Lodge nonetheless threw a retirement party for Ernie at Kimberton Fire Hall in 1992 during the annual lodge banquet.

The room lights came on and as the curtains opened on stage, Ernie's shelter from the Greenbrier site at Camp Horseshoe along with all the accoutrements he customarily had in the site when he was Camp Director, had been transported by Karl 'Moose' Winsch and others from camp. Many lodge chiefs returned for the occasion, and Walt Ryan, a former CCC Scout Executive from the 1970s, came up from Georgia for the occasion. Ernie sat in his rocking chair, enjoying the old stories recounted from his friends and colleagues.



ERNIE HEEGARD AT HIS OA RETIREMENT CEREMONY



NATIVE-AMERICAN CRAFTS AT THE 1991 SECTION NE-4A CONCLAVE

A common feature at many banquets throughout this period was Native-American dance teams performing as part of the evening's entertainment. Earlier on it was by the Ahtaquaoweh Dance Team from Troop 78, and in later years it was from the Lodge's own Drum and Dance team. An attendee in the 1990s will remember the "passing of the blanket" to support the ongoing efforts of the team to raise funds for maintaining their costumes.

Dr. David "Doc" Sherwood was the banquet coordinator for several decades all the way up until the early 2010s, working with the Dance Team, the Vigil Honor, other committees, and featured guests to ensure a memorable evening each year.



ARCHERY AT THE 1991 SECTION NE-4A CONCLAVE



The Northeast section realignment occurred in 1988 and Octoraro joined Section NE-4B. The new section also included Unami 1, Sanhican 2, Delmont 43, Hunnikick 76, Lekau 77, Apatukwe 107, Gitche Gumee 423, and Schiwa' Pew Names 535.

Octoraro Lodge 22's third hosting duties for conclave came in 1991. Entitled "Paths of the Spirit", the NE-4B conclave boasted over four hundred attendees from the nine lodges in Southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The era of the mid-1990s saw excellence in many areas of the lodge program and weekend activities, including a dedicated group of ceremonialists, kitchen crew, and banquet committee. Kimberton Fire Hall remained a well-attended venue for the annual banquet, with dance team exhibitions, dynamic speakers, and door prizes provided by the Vigil Honor. It was during this era that the Lodge Executive Committee created the Allouchsit Allogagan Award, later renamed in honor of Deputy Advisor James H. Gawthrop Jr, which sought to honor those who had contributed greatly over 25 years of service to the lodge and Scouting.

Much of the progress in maintaining a high level of program, membership, and attendance can be attributed to Jake Carrigan, who has the distinction of being the only consecutive 3-term Lodge Chief in Octoraro Lodge's history. Glenn Wolfe, the other 3-term chief, held that office in 1933, 1934, and 1936.



JAKE CARRIGAN WITH ERIC BAUGHMAN,
J.B. RETTEW III, AND MIKE BERKEIHISER IN 1995





WARREN LAWRENCE (LEFT) AND
TOM OTT (RIGHT) RECEIVE FOUNDER'S AWARD
FROM JIM GAWTHROP AT 1989 ANNUAL LODGE
BANQUET

It was also during this period that Octoraro Lodge accomplished something that no other lodge had done by 1995: have their own website. Led by Andy Smith, www.octoraro.org hosted pictures, a listing of officers, and other types of information to keep Arrowmen with internet access informed.



ART THOMAS AT 1997 SECTION NE-4B CONCLAVE



CHRIS FLIPSE AT 1997 SECTION NE-4B CONCLAVE

"Ponder the Past, Plan the Future" was the theme of the 1997 Section NE-4B Conclave held at Camp Horseshoe. While NE-4B had been pared down to only five lodges – Unami 1, Octoraro 22, Hunnikick 76, Lekau 77, and Apatukwe 107 – Blue Heron 349 paid a visit to their mother lodge during the conclave.

The event opened with a dramatic fire-lit show rich in Native-American pageantry, followed by assemblies, flag ceremonies, and a Chief's Reception attended by lodge and council dignitaries. The kitchen crew was joined by executive chef Carlo DeMarco and the dining hall meals were of the highest caliber.

Throughout the weekend, Arrowmen participated in conclave sessions at the Rossiter Center, explored Native-American regalia and crafts, and enjoyed performances by the Octoraro Honkers and other musical groups.

A wide range of activities rounded out the program, blending recreation with skill-building. Participants took part in rifle and shotgun shooting, horseshoes competitions, and frisbee games, while the kitchen and service crews kept the conclave running smoothly with meals, snacks, and plenty of camaraderie. The trading post, lodge website display, and constant movement of staffers and volunteers highlighted the conclave's energy and community spirit. The event, led by Conclave Chairman A.J. DiAntonio and Conclave Adviser Bob Matje Jr., captured the essence of late-90s OA conclaves: tradition, service, and enthusiastic brotherhood.







LODGE OFFICERS RAISING THE FLAG AT THE 1997 SECTION NE-4B CONCLAVE





Photo: Andrew Keyes









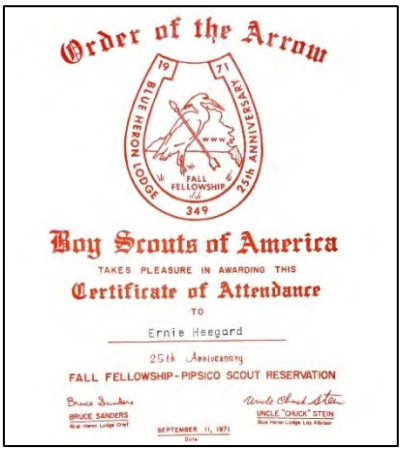






Octoraro and Blue Heron Lodges have enjoyed strong ties since the latter's formation in 1946. The celebrations of major anniversaries bring delegations back and forth from Pennsylvania to Virginia and have even spurred the creation of special flaps representing both lodges.

The members of Blue Heron Lodge, and its granddaughter lodge Wahunsenekah 333, have been prominent in their attendance at numerous lodge functions. Some of these events include lodge banquets, fall fellowship weekends, and Section conclaves, and Octoraro Lodge often sends members to their fall fellowship weekend each October.


Order of the Arrow

BLUE HERON LODGE 19 71 SILVER ANNIVERSARY MCZ

FALL FELLOWSHIP

349

Boy Scouts of America

TAKES PLEASURE IN AWARDING THIS

Certificate of Attendance

TO

Ernie Heegard

25th Anniversary

FALL FELLOWSHIP-PIPSICO SCOUT RESERVATION

BRUCE SANDERS

SEPTEMBER 11, 1971

UNCLE "CHUCK" STEIN

Some of their members have contributed greatly to the success and traditions of Octoraro Lodge. Two brothers from Blue Heron Lodge, Mike Coley and Bill Stine, both past Lodge Advisers of our daughter lodge were awarded the Allouchsit Allogagan Mighty Servant Award in 2014.

Mike and Bill are both stalwarts at many lodge functions, particularly fall fellowship weekends and Section conclaves. Both have worked diligently on staff for many conclaves that Octoraro has hosted.

Dave Singletary, a past Blue Heron Lodge Chief has been active with Wahunsenekah Lodge 333, part of the Colonial Virginia Council, for many years. Wahunsenekah Lodge is the granddaughter lodge of Octoraro; formed from the merger of Kecoughtan and Chanco Lodges. Dave was awarded the Allouchsit Allogagan Award in 2013 for his unending dedication to the Scouting program and his tireless support of Octoraro Lodge and our relationship with Blue Heron. Dave was often involved with transportation logistics at NOACs and National Jamborees and has recruited Octoraro members to help him cheerfully serve these large events.

We continue to strengthen our bond with our daughter lodge and granddaughter lodge each year. It is these bonds which best exemplify the true spirit of brotherhood within the organization.





OCTORARO LODGE MEMBERS AT THE 2014 BLUE HERON FALL FELLOWSHIP



OCTORARO LODGE MEMBERS AT THE 2022 BLUE HERON FALL FELLOWSHIP



JOEY BOTTUM FROM BLUE HERON LODGE ACTS AS AUCTIONEER AT SEPTEMBER 2014 FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

"The Order of the Arrow is a thing of the outdoors rather than the indoors, It was born in an island wilderness. It needs the sun and the rain, the woods and the plains, the waters and the starlit sky."
-Dr. E. Urner Goodman



The 2003 Conclave, entitled "Follow the Arrow, Find the Spirit", was led by Conclave Chairman Brett D'Antonio and Adviser Bill Sedar, and hosted NE-4A lodges Unami One, Kittatinny 5, Wyona 18, Wunita Gokhos 39, Witauchsoman 44, and Woapeu Sisilija 343.

375 delegates and staff were immediately welcomed with hospitality and lots of food scattered all throughout camp. They were kept busy on Saturday with rifle shooting, volleyball, and floor hockey. Training cells included "OA vs The Real World", "I've done it all now what?", and "Lodge Spirit and Good PR".

The Saturday evening show chronicled the entire history of the Horseshoe property, and while it was quite the production, it had to be moved twice because of inclement weather.



2009 SECTION NE-6B CONCLAVE OCTORARO DELEGATES

Section realignments occurred after the 2008 conclaves concluded, and Octoraro Lodge was shifted to Section NE-6B. The Lodge was tasked with conclave hosting duties for the new section in 2009. Entitled "Test the Bow, Accept the Arrow", this was the last conclave hosted by Octoraro Lodge to include dance and induction ceremony competitions. Mike DiDomenico served as its chairman.

Additional program offerings included shotgun and rifle shooting at the ranges, a Lodge Adviser cook-off, volleyball, horseshoes, and an Outdoor Expo at Campcraft. Training cells included sessions on patches, utensil-less cooking, and camp promotion. There was even a mini-ArrowCorps project for the reservation.



2009 SECTION NE-6B CONCLAVE WAITERS



OCTORARO 22 DANCE TEAM AT CONCLAVE



BUILDING THE MURPHY TRAIL IN APRIL 2008

One of the initiatives of the 1990s and early 2000s was to expand on the national program by creating the OA High Adventure program (OAHA), where youth Arrowmen could do one week of service and a one-week trek at Scouting's high adventure bases at a steeply reduced cost.

This focus on service and conservation also led to ArrowCorps5, a summer-long program in 2008. Arrowmen across the country worked for a week on creating trail systems for 5 national forests. Octoraro Lodge sent 15 Arrowmen to 3 of the 5 national forests for an unforgettable experience working side-by-side with Arrowmen from other lodges to leave a legacy for hikers and adventurers to experience the natural beauty of the country.

Even before attending ArrowCorps5, Octoraro Lodge recognized that HSR needed extensive trail work, including redoing trail blazes, installing water bars, and general cleanup of the trails. This led to the Lodge creating the OA Trail Crew in 2008 which is responsible not only for trail work during the service weekends but also creating special workdays for OA members and others from their troops to attend.

In 2009, an OA Trail Crew award was created, incentivizing members to attend multiple workdays and earn hours towards the award. In 2010, Octoraro Lodge received national grant funds from the OA to assist with purchasing tools and a trailer to help the burgeoning program grow and thrive. With trail maintenance expertise taking hold, in 2011 Octoraro Lodge sent 16 Arrowmen to the new Summit Bechtel Reserve property in West Virginia to participate in Summit Corps. This program was tasked with building trail infrastructure for the site which would host its first National Jamboree in 2013 and be used as a new high adventure base for Scouting.

Over the years, the OA Trail Crew has worked on all of the trails on both camps of the reservation and has even worked in nearby locales like Goat Hill and Nottingham Park to assist the community with trail creation and maintenance. In 2018, several members of the Lodge even participated in ArrowCorps Puerto Rico to help embattled Camp Guajataka, devastated from Hurricane Maria in 2017, get back on its feet. Projects included tree removal and chipping, clearing campfire circles, and building construction and painting, all done by host Yokahu Lodge 505 and 100 other Scouts and Scouters from 28 states.



OA TRAIL CREW IN SEPTEMBER 2010









OCTORARO LODGE 22 AT ARROWCORPS5



ARROWCORPS PUERTO RICO IN 2018



OCTORARO LODGE 22 AT ARROWCORPS5



As Octoraro approached its 85th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the Octoraro Memorial Lodge Building, a renovation project began to update the interiors and exteriors of the structure. Work began in 2007 and picked up heavily in 2009.

Though periodic maintenance had always been done on the building, including receiving a new roof in 1993, the Lodge Building needed a large overhaul including a new floor, kitchen, bathroom, and sleeping areas.

Fundraising was needed to procure the materials for the project. A paver purchasing program was initiated to not only raise funds for the lodge renovation but create lasting tributes for individuals or units in the form of engraved pavers that would form the basis for the new lodge building walkway leading to the front of the building. The pavers were eventually moved to become part of a patio outside the lodge building, and the walkway was replaced by concrete.



1993 ROOFING AT THE LODGE BUILDING



WALKWAY PAVERS INSTALLED IN FRONT OF THE LODGE BUILDING



2009 LODGE BUILDING RENOVATIONS



LODGE CHIEF MATT STEINBERGER AT THE LODGE BUILD REDEDICATION CEREMONY IN 2011

After several years of repairs, the newly renovated Lodge Building was rededicated at the 85th anniversary celebration in September 2011. Special speakers including the 2011 Northeast Region Chief Travis Cunningham and new CCC Scout Executive Charlie Rogers offered their greetings prior to 2008 Lodge Chief Sean Bealer giving the dedication address.

One of the new features of the Lodge Building included eight lighted display cases to house the extensive collection of Octoraro Lodge memorabilia, photos, and awards that had accumulated for decades. Photos of our founders, banners and awards from our history were neatly displayed on the walls and large metal replicas of our Lodge flaps and those of our section were displayed on the ceiling of the main room.

During the evening feast, Chief Fred Gates (1951-1952) thanked the lodge for renovating and improving the Lodge building, recounting how he presided over the groundbreaking in 1952.

"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant."

-Max De Pree

The Order of the Arrow has always had a strong emphasis on building leadership through service. With the advent of Servant Leadership as a guiding model to the national program, the principles of that model filtered down to training at the lodge level. The Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) program is the Order of the Arrow's training for lodge officers, team leads, and other lodge leaders. Designed to build practical leadership skills and strengthen lodge operations, LLD covers goal-setting and strategic planning, team development and communication, event planning, membership growth and unit election support, and the OA's program and service priorities.

While the LLD program was revamped in 2018 to incorporate the EDGE method and make the sessions more modular, Octoraro has been employing the program to train its leaders since the 1990s. In earlier times, the LLD would take place in August at Camp Horseshoe until shifting to November or December to coincide with the Brotherhood Blitz at camp. In later years, the LLD training moved to PARC in Exton for its geographic centrality. LLD mini-sessions also occur regularly at service weekends at Camp Horseshoe to ensure important topics are being shown in front of a larger lodge audience.



BROTHERHOOD BLITZ IN 2022

Recognizing that there is always room for improvement, Octoraro Lodge entered the THRIVE Connect partnership to bolster unit visitations, create an engagement plan, and overcome other unique challenges to the lodge through weekly mentorship meetings.

In 2025, Octoraro again embarked on the reconfigured THRIVE program to focus on finding novel solutions for enhancing communications, extending fellowship, filling LLT roles, and making the 100th anniversary of Octoraro Lodge as special as it can be. These partnerships typically take six to nine months as lodge members work out the finite details of what they want to implement, then the fun begins – putting the plan into action!



2013 LLD AT CAMP HORSESHOE



2025 LLD AT PARC

The Lodge Leadership Team (LLT) meetings moved to PARC in 2021 when the facility first opened and have convened there on the first Sunday of every month just like years past when the council service center was at 504 South Concord Road in West Chester. The name changed from Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) to Lodge Committee in 1999 when Lodge Chief John Callahan wanted to make the LEC sound less exclusive and more inviting to all Arrowmen. In 2021, Lodge Committee changed to LLT in consultation with national partners from the THRIVE Connect program.



2026 LODGE OFFICER SWEARING-IN AT PARC

As Chester County Council's attention turned to recruiting and retaining Cub Scouts in the program, Octoraro Lodge 22 was tasked with creating a new innovative program to engage the Cubs with fun activities and a small dose of camping for a weekend every year.

Initially called "Race to Scouting, Run with the Pack" in 2013, the event was launched at Camp John H. Ware 3rd with Arrowmen serving as staff to run sports on the parade field, shooting sports activities, bottle rocket demoss, and campfires.

The program moved venues to Paradise Farms Camp in 2016 and rebranded the "Chester County Council Cub Camporee", or C5 for short, where arts and crafts opportunities were expanded and attendance ballooned to over 600 Cubs and their parents.

After going dormant for a few years around the COVID-19 pandemic, C5 returned to Camp Ware from 2023-2025 before Octoraro Lodge took up the task of running the immensely popular Spook-O-Ree later in 2026.



BOTTLE ROCKET DEMONSTRATION IN 2013



CAMPFIRE FOR CUBS IN 2015



SCOTT SALVATORE TEACHING BIRD HOUSE MAKING IN 2014



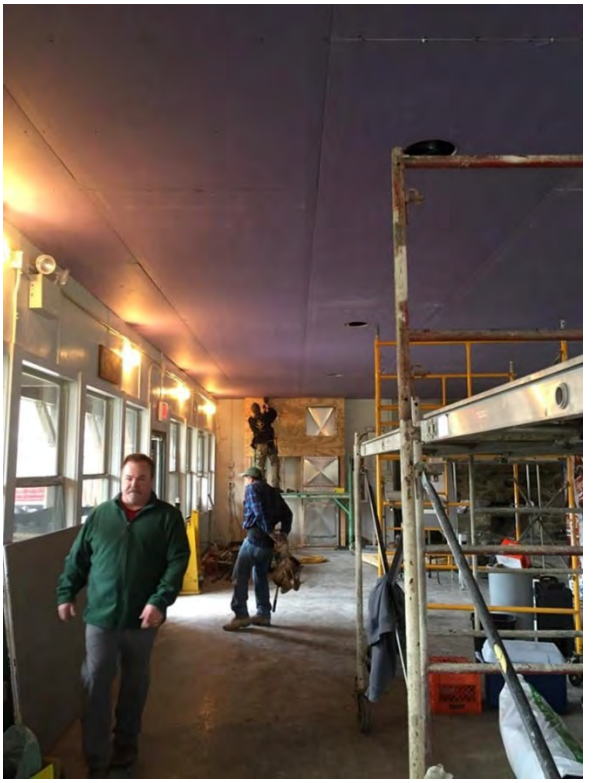
WARE GOES WEST KITCHEN CREW IN 2023



WARE GOES MEDIEVAL C5 STAFF IN 2024

Once the Lodge Building renovations were complete, Octoraro Lodge was asked to provide support for the next reservation project – the Ware Dining Hall. Seeing an opportunity to use the facility year-round during the winter camping season for Scouting programs and outside groups alike, Chester County Council worked with the Lodge to develop plans for insulating the entire building so that heat and air conditioning could be installed.

Fundraising for the project began as early as 2012, and from 2013 to 2016, Octoraro Lodge and other stakeholders worked diligently to make modifications to the walls, install new interior paneling and lights, apply a protective coating to the ceiling, and employ spray foam insulation throughout the building. Work weekends, special workdays, and a lot of volunteer labor saw this project to the end, with another proud accomplishment under the belt of the Lodge. Today, the Camp Ware Dining Hall enjoys heavy use throughout the entire year, all made possible by the tireless efforts of people who see the value in having great facilities for our youth.



ED DOUGHERTY SR. INSPECTS THE WORK



ENCLOSING THE DINING HALL TOP WINDOW



APPLYING PROTECTIVE COATING



FINISHED WARE DINING HALL CEILING



RON ROSENBERRY WORKING ON WALLS

Octoraro Lodge had conclave hosting duties in 2014, their second as a member of Section NE-6B. The theme this year was "Arrowmen: Assemble the Brotherhood", inspired by the Marvel Cinematic Universe that had taken pop culture by storm in the previous 5 years. Activities related to the theme included Captain America's Frisbee Tournament, Hulk's Tug of War, and Iron Man Iron Chef Cook-Off. Alex Hughes served as Conclave Chairman with Mike Steinberger taking on adviser duties.

To build excitement for the conclave, Octoraro Lodge brought 350 rally towels of assorted colors to the 2013 Conclave at Camp Mack and developed several sleek memorabilia items to entice section Arrowmen to attend the following year.



Training during the conclave included cells with unique titles such as "Build a Tower, Build a Team", "Has Beens in the Lodge", and "Servant Leadership", which had increasingly been getting more attention at the National level regarding the value the tenets of the Servant Leadership model could offer the Order.

The closing show of the conclave was quite memorable – an Avengers-themed message adapted using Native-American lore and OA ceremonial traditions – that was kicked off at the bend with some pyrotechnics to light the campfire. A makeshift dock – that turned out to be more permanent than anticipated – was even created to allow for a canoeing ceremonialist to ascend safely to shore.

Some memorable aspects of the conclave were its perfect weather – 80 degrees and sunny each day – and the made-to-order omelets that may or may not have arrived during Saturday breakfast, depending on your luck.

SCENES FROM THE 2014 CONCLAVE











One of the disappointing aspects of the 2014 conclave was the inability of the lodge to use its ceremonial fire circle for any of the shows. A severe rainstorm in May wiped out the OA bridge and with only weeks before the conclave, it could not be repaired in time. After two years and many work days by lodge members, the bridge was reopened in a dedication ceremony at the 2016 April Service Weekend, presided by Lodge Chief A.J. Moreno.



DECK REPAIRS TO OA BRIDGE IN 2016



OA FIRE CIRCLE AFTER REOPENING IN APRIL 2016



OA BRIDGE DAMAGE FROM HEAVY SNOW IN 2010

History doesn't repeat itself, but in the case of the OA bridge, it is very proficient at rhyming. In 1988, several lodge members were on the OA bridge when it collapsed from overcrowding, including Lodge Adviser Ernie Heegard, who luckily only sustained minor injuries. Hurricane Floyd destroyed the OA bridge in September 1999, and it suffered damage in 2010 from heavy snow that snapped guide wires.

It was determined after the bridge collapse in 2014 that lodge money should be contributed yearly to a "rainy-day" fund for the next collapse, which happened in September 2021 from the powerful Hurricane Ida that struck Horseshoe Scout Reservation. The bridge was completely destroyed and almost nothing was salvageable. Several years later, the Lodge began discussing fundraising for the lodge on top of the "rainy-day" fund to restore the bridge, and plans are in place to construct a removable bridge that can be built and disassembled after each use.



BRIDGE COLLAPSE FROM HURRICANE IDA IN 2021

2015 saw the Order of the Arrow celebrate its 100th anniversary, and in addition to attending the NOAC that year, Octoraro celebrated the occasion multiple ways: issuing the Arrowman Service Award to those who provided service and commitment to the lodge over the course of the year, instituting a Day of Service, and hosting an ArrowTour stop.

ArrowTour was a special event held at Camp Horseshoe on June 24th, 2015; it was a traveling display put on by the Northeast Region as part of the centennial celebration done for the 100th anniversary of the Order of the Arrow. Former Octoraro Lodge Chief Alex Hughes was one of the ArrowTour staff that led the special event.

One of the more challenging aspects of the event was that Camp Horseshoe lost power for the entire day as a violently windy storm passed through Cecil and Chester counties the day before, knocking out power throughout the region. Generators were employed to keep the show going.





ALEX HUGHES, 2012 LODGE CHIEF AND ARROWTOUR STAFFER



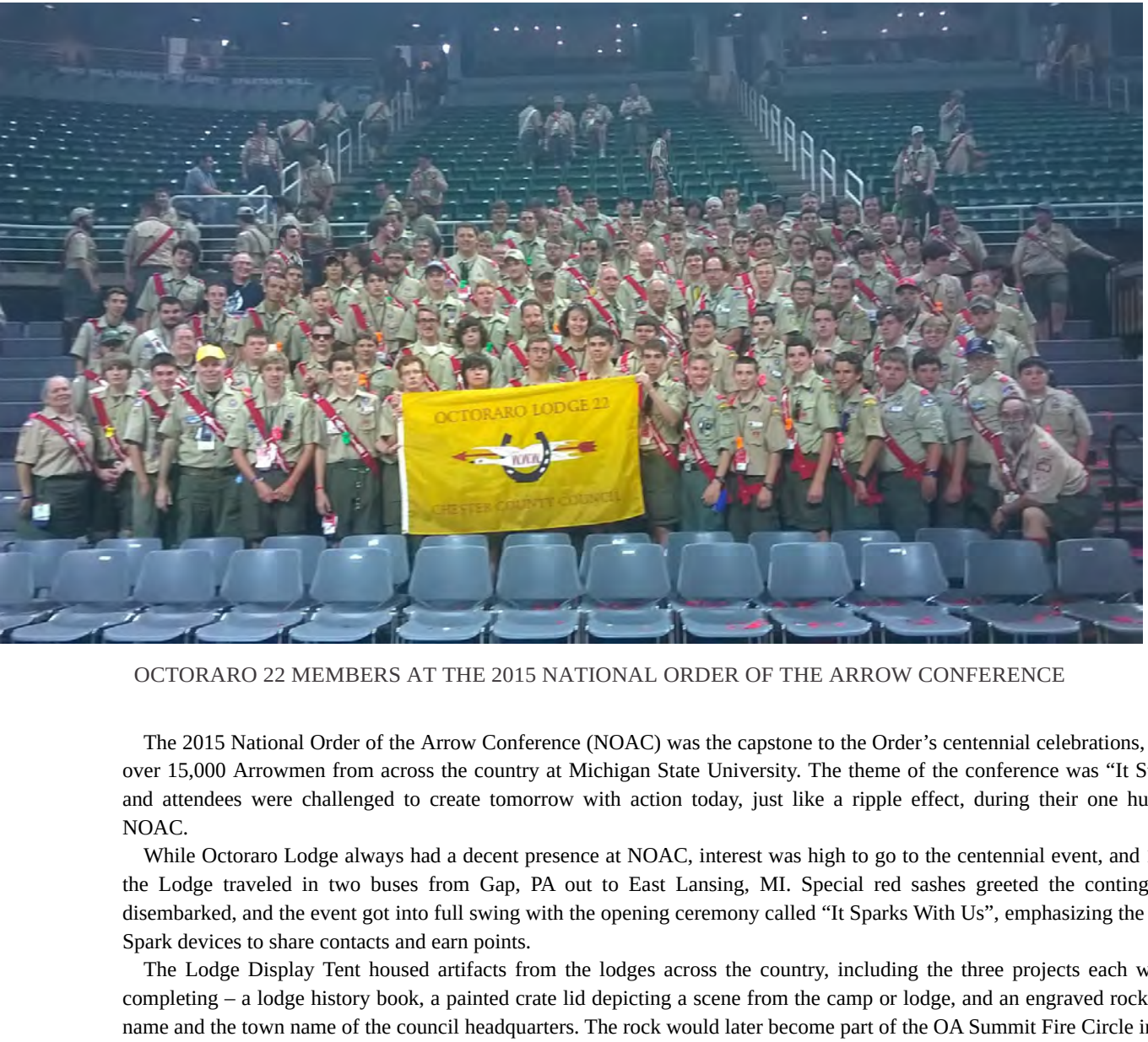
ARROWTOUR BOOT BRANDING



DAY OF SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER 2015







OCTORARO 22 MEMBERS AT THE 2015 NATIONAL ORDER OF THE ARROW CONFERENCE

The 2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) was the capstone to the Order's centennial celebrations, and it gathered over 15,000 Arrowmen from across the country at Michigan State University. The theme of the conference was "It Starts With Us", and attendees were challenged to create tomorrow with action today, just like a ripple effect, during their one hundred hours at NOAC.

While Octoraro Lodge always had a decent presence at NOAC, interest was high to go to the centennial event, and 107 brothers of the Lodge traveled in two buses from Gap, PA out to East Lansing, MI. Special red sashes greeted the contingent when they disembarked, and the event got into full swing with the opening ceremony called "It Sparks With Us", emphasizing the use of the little Spark devices to share contacts and earn points.

The Lodge Display Tent housed artifacts from the lodges across the country, including the three projects each was tasked with completing – a lodge history book, a painted crate lid depicting a scene from the camp or lodge, and an engraved rock with the lodge name and the town name of the council headquarters. The rock would later become part of the OA Summit Fire Circle in 2016.

Recipients of the Centurion Award, created to honor those who have meaningfully contributed to the forming, maturing, and ongoing operational excellence of the local council's lodge, were honored at a NOAC reception, and Octoraro Lodge had several able to attend. Chosen by the past lodge chiefs of Octoraro Lodge, ten were selected in early 2015 for their service as either a youth or adult.

CENTURION AWARD HONOREES FROM OCTORARO 22 AT THE 2015 NOAC



The 90th anniversary of Octoraro Lodge 22 was celebrated in 2016 with several big events, including an impressive history display at the annual banquet. The entire hall leading up to the ballroom and stage at Downingtown Technical High School was filled with pictures from the lodge's past, and Jim Matthews, 1973 Lodge Chief, shared many stories from his time in the OA and on camp staff.

A rededication ceremony was held on the banks of the Brandywine at Camp Hillsdale, site of the first induction ceremony for Octoraro brothers on June 21, 1926. Forty members came out for the Sunday ceremony on May 22. Ceremonialists reminded those in attendance of their duty to the obligation and rekindled the flame for a Brotherhood of Cheerful Servants.



90TH ANNIVERSARY REDEDICATION CEREMONY

Octoraro Lodge also sent seven members to the Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR) in 2016, to participate in PRISM, a specialized four-day National OA program to expose lodge members to SBR's program offerings and facilities and to provide a Day of Service doing labor to build trails and other projects around the property. The adults on the excursion to SBR remember fondly the pick-up basketball game against the youth, which they decisively won despite their aching limbs and a height disadvantage.

The PRISM program ended in a special rededication ceremony on the original grounds on which the Order was founded. The original Treasure Island Scout Reservation ceremony grounds were moved and recreated in their entirety at the Summit Circle.



OCTORARO LODGE CHIEFS AT 2016 BANQUET



VIGIL HONOR CANDIDATES AT 2016 BANQUET



OCTORARO LODGE MEMBERS AT PRISM

The original land on which Horseshoe Scout Reservation sits was a forest that had its timber harvested to create farmland for what eventually became the Reynolds property. When the Scouts purchased the property in 1927, not only did Eagle Grove get planted within the first decade, but also many other trees around the camp. By the early 2000s, it was evident that these trees were starting to die off, and by the mid-2010s, the conservation committee and others decided to act.

A plan was hatched by Ed Dougherty of Octoraro Lodge to market an event whereby if $5,000 was raised to procure new trees for the reservation, Ranger Tom Murphy, known for his long civil war era beard (his nickname was Stonewall Jackson), would have to shave it off in front of the Lodge. Tom agreed.



TOM MURPHY AFTER THE BUZZ

Tom Murphy was unrecognizable after the procedure, which took but minutes to erase 44 years of growth, but he immediately went back to growing out his beard as one of his indelible charms. And the camp started growing too – a few oaks to replace the dying pines that started this whole business.



TOM MURPHY BEFORE THE BUZZ

The initiative became known as “Buzz the Beard”, and through merchandising (hats, pins, patches, and even a frisbee), soliciting donations, and special social events, the Lodge raised $27,000 to help plant new trees at camp, far surpassing the goal.

At the 2017 September Fellowship Weekend, all manner of pomp and circumstance was employed: inflatable obstacle courses, a barbershop quartet, a Buzz the Beard soiree (referred to as the “Ode to Gawthrop”), and even a special appearance by the Mummers highlighted the momentous occasion.

Special citations from the states of Pennsylvania and Maryland proclaimed September 23 “Tom Murphy Day”. Murphy brought in his personal barber from Parkesburg to handle the buzzing. As the gray beard started coming off, the crowd chanted for the mustache to go as well. A hat appeared, and so of course there was a collection for that too.







BUZZ THE BEARD SOIREE AT THE OCTORARO LODGE MEMORIAL BUILDING

As a testimonial to the camping centric purpose of the Order, the National Order of the Arrow committee created the E. Urner Goodman Camping Award in 1969. One of many recognitions endowed with our Founder's name, this award honored Goodman, but strengthened the intent of the Order's camping promotions. The purpose of this award is to challenge lodges and their members to increase their efforts in promoting an increase in Scout camping in their respective councils. Octoraro Lodge has risen to that challenge on numerous occasions.

Since the inception of this award, Octoraro Lodge has been a perennial contender for this coveted award. From its first award in 1981, under the leadership of Lodge Chief Michael Spitz and Lodge Adviser Ernie Heegard, the lodge brought an outstanding program of camping promotions to the Council. Through these efforts, they laid the groundwork for Octoraro Lodge to be awarded the E. Urner Goodman Camping Award a record 11 times. Our lodge has been recognized for their outstanding work in Camping Promotions and Program in 1981, 1982, 1984, 1999, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2018. It is the outstanding link between the Lodge and the Horseshoe Scout Reservation that has made this possible. Were it not for the jewel of Chester County Scouting, these recognitions would not be possible.

The Lodge has been recognized for its outstanding service to Scouting, the Horseshoe Scout Reservation and the greater Chester County community. These recognitions have come from a variety of sources, but most impressive of these are the four National Service Awards bestowed to our Lodge. This award was created in 1999 by the National Order of the Arrow Committee to honor and recognize those lodges that provide outstanding service to their Councils, Camps and Communities. Octoraro Lodge was first awarded this honor in 2009 for the 2008 lodge year. Led by Lodge Chief Chris Palmer and Lodge Adviser Scott Salvatore, our Lodge continued to be recognized for its outstanding service. These efforts led to the continued accolades for the Lodge's service. Octoraro Lodge was recognized with the National Service Award again in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2016. In 2014, Octoraro Lodge and its members contributed 23,508 hours of cheerful service to Scouting and the community. It is this dedicated service which remains a hallmark of our legacy to Scouting.

The newest national award premiered in 2013—the Innovation Award. The purpose of this recognition is to honor the lodges throughout the country for significant innovative approaches to practices, problems and key issues within the Order and Scouting communities. In early 2014, the entire Scouting community struggled with Youth Protection and sought innovative ideas to dealing with the problems at hand. Under a charge from Scout Executive Charlie Rogers, the Lodge responded with new procedures to combat Youth Protection issues at Lodge functions. Under the leadership of Lodge Chief Richard Gardner and Lodge Adviser Andrew Coe, the Lodge developed a series of comprehensive strategies for Youth Protection. As a result of these developments, Octoraro Lodge became the second lodge in history to receive all three National Lodge Awards, the E. Urner Goodman Camping Award, National Service Award and the Innovation Award in one year. The lodge won the award again in 2017 for the "Buzz the Beard" campaign. All three national awards were phased out in 2019.

While awards and recognitions provide a sense of pride to the Lodge and its members, they are not the reason for existence and service. They are seemingly a byproduct of the best we have to offer. The immense time, talent, service and resources provided by the Lodge and its membership serve as an example for Scouting.





2019 LODGE OFFICERS AT NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING RECEIVING THE E. URNER GOODMAN CAMPING AWARD





CONCLAVE CARNIVAL GAMES

Preparations for the conclave began in early 2018, and heavy promotion of the event began at that year's conclave with Octoraro Lodge members juggling, dancing, and even stilt-walking to a captive audience at Camp Bashore.

The Conclave Chairman and Adviser – Jake Zebley and Mike DiDomenico, respectively – scheduled several workdays at Camp Horseshoe to build all the necessary carnival games that could not be purchased or rented. Despite so many activities, training cells did include things like unit elections, inductions, and OA jeopardy, but less-obvious offerings like introduction to juggling and how to create malt were there for those willing to travel off the beaten path.

Competitions included staples such as the Horseshoe Horseshoe Classic, Disc Golf, and Lodgeball, but a few other eye-openers included Bedsheet Volleyball and Cornhole.

The sheer level of activities, including shooting sports and all of the carnival games, along with the large staff and contingent sizes from other lodges, made the 2019 Section NE-6B conclave one of the most highly regarded conclaves many had ever seen.

As the decade neared its end, Octoraro Lodge was tapped once more to host the Section NE-6B conclave, and the youth chose a carnival-themed event, aptly titled "Carnival of Fellowship – Living Beyond the Obligation". With the new emphasis on activities over training, the weekend saw an unprecedented number of "county fair" type events, including a barrage of "try your luck" games such as milk bottle toss, fling a frog, basketball mania, and Skee ball. The carnival events were open Friday night through most of Saturday, and special carnival foods were available throughout including popcorn, sno-cones, fried Oreos, cotton candy, and funnel cakes.

Some of the highlights of the conclave included the 2019 National Chief Matt Parsons making an appearance, the ever-popular dunk tank, an amazing closing show centered around the film "The Greatest Showman" and featuring fireworks, and a staff shirt – a pinstriped tuxedo t-shirt - that became divisive over the years. It was either loved or hated.



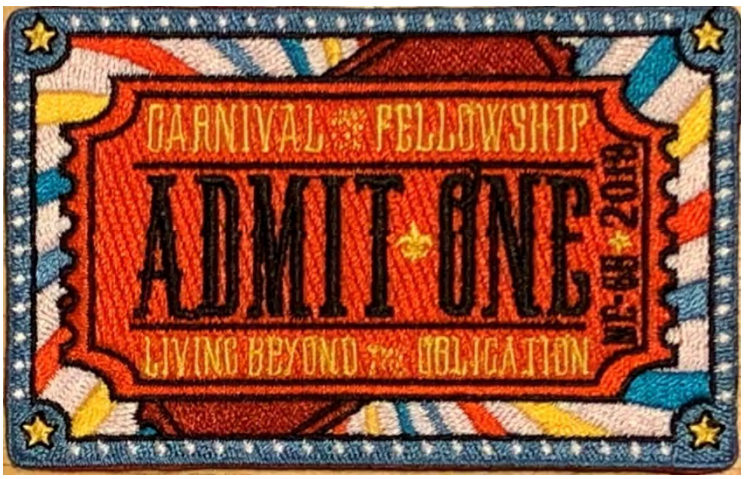
PETE AND NATE MOTEL SERVING COTTON CANDY



CLOSING SHOW FIREWORKS



CLOSING SHOW AT THE BEND





2019 NATIONAL CHIEF MATT PARSONS



SERVING BBQ AT THE CONCLAVE



2019 SECTION NE-6B CONCLAVE DRUMLINE



CLOSING SHOW WATER / LIGHT CYCLONE



CONCLAVE REDEDICATION CEREMONY

On February 1, 2019, the Boy Scouts of America opened its doors in a new way, welcoming female youth into the program at every level. For Octoraro Lodge, this moment became more than a change in policy. It became a test of our values and an opportunity to live them more fully.

At the very first moment they were eligible, a small number of female troops chartered, and with them came nine young women who would be inducted into the Order of the Arrow in 2019. That first induction weekend carried with it a sense of history, not because it was announced, but because it was felt. A quiet understanding that the story of the lodge was expanding, not changing its course, but widening its path.



JULY 2024 VIGIL HONOR INDUCTEES



CEREMONIES PRACTICE IN 2020



SARAH DIAMOND AND JOHN PORTER AT 2019 SECTION NE-6B CONCLAVE

Since that first year, six female youth have been selected for the Vigil Honor, a recognition reserved for those whose service speaks louder than titles. Several, including Elena McFadden, Camille Bergmaier, and Violet Pendill, have stepped forward to serve as officers at the Lodge and Section level, leading with humility, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to cheerful service.

What began as a first has since become a tradition. Their presence, leadership, and example are now woven naturally into the fabric of Octoraro Lodge, strengthening the brotherhood we share and reminding us that the Order is defined not by who has come before, but by those who choose to serve.



ORDEAL CANDIDATES IN 2023



TROOP 19 AT 2025 BANQUET



2022-2023 SECTION OFFICERS



2025 SECTION E11 STAFF MEMBERS



ORDEAL CANDIDATES IN 2020

Units throughout the council struggled to keep the flame of Scouting burning in this new virtual environment; while many special virtual Cub Camporees were held to fortify the Scouting spirit for our youngest members, and special Horseshoe Scout Reservation weekend programs were held during the summer of 2020, Octoraro Lodge was faced with how to conduct its annual banquet in 2021. Protocols were still in place, and no banquet hall could accommodate distancing measures.

A Virtual Lodge Banquet was held on March 6, 2021, and over the course of seventy-five minutes, pre-taped speeches, award announcements, and the Lodge Song were compiled to give a close facsimile of a usual banquet, minus the dinner, silent auction, and door prizes. A virtual Vigil Honor callout was held where Arrowmen were honored individually at their troop meetings, district meetings, houses, and even schools, and videos of the various callouts were compiled for the virtual banquet. It was the latest in a long line of creative entrepreneurship that the Lodge had to employ during the pandemic to keep the Brotherhood firmly bound.

2020 presented a unique challenge to Scouting, the Order of the Arrow, and Octoraro Lodge. By March of that year, and right after the annual lodge banquet, the entirety of the world came to a pause as the COVID-19 pandemic forced businesses, organizations, and governments to halt normal in-person interactions to prevent further spread of the disease. Everything became virtual overnight, and programs that could only be done effectively in person – such as the normal 2020 summer camp at Horseshoe Scout Reservation and the 2020 NOAC – were canceled.

Octoraro Lodge was forced to cancel its April and June service weekends, and the annual conclave was held virtually. The Lodge, while maintaining pandemic protocols such as masking and distancing when in groups, was still able to conduct a single Vigil induction weekend in July (held over two nights), host a special August work and induction weekend at Camp Ware, and conduct the September Fellowship Weekend to cap off a year of “necessary flexibility”.



CANCELED 2020 NOAC PATCH



MASKED ADVISERS SAUERZOPF AND COE IN 2021



SASHA CHRISTENSEN VIGIL CALL OUT AT SCHOOL



AUGUST 2020 PRE-ORDEAL CEREMONY AT WARE

While everyone was disappointed that the 2020 NOAC was canceled, the Octoraro flock came roaring back in 2022 for an excursion to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; 47 members of the lodge traveled by bus to the “Tomorrow Begins Today”-themed event. Attendees participated in extensive training sessions, vigorous unit and lodge competitions, arena shows and ceremonial events, large-scale patch trading and trading-post activity, and community service projects.

The 2024 NOAC at the University of Colorado Boulder brought together over 6,000 Arrowmen from across the United States for a week of fellowship, training, and high-adventure activities, and Octoraro represented well with 25 delegates and several staff members in attendance. The NOAC theme “Seek New Heights” was appropriate given the altitude, but the travel home was all about “seeking new flights” as devastating storms in Florida disrupted connecting flights throughout the country. Spirits remained high regardless as it was the first time a NOAC was hosted in the West since 1988.

The tradition of having an Octoraro contingent at NOACs dates to at least 1963, with small but enthusiastic groups of Octoraro Arrowmen traveling all around the country to various colleges and universities. In the 2000s, those contingent sizes began to swell into the 20s, 30s, and 40s, and through the tireless efforts of contingent chairmen and advisers, the NOAC became a much-anticipated destination on the calendar every two or three years. The 2018 NOAC was also well attended at Indiana University, and some of the contingent even went to Cincinnati on the way out to visit the Kings Island Amusement Park, then a quick stop to Indianapolis Motor Speedway before NOAC check-in.



NOAC PATCHES EXCHANGED BY OCTORARO AND BLUE HERON LODGE CHIEFS AT 2024 NOAC



OCTORARO AND NATIONAL CHIEF - 2022



2022 NOAC DELEGATES FROM OCTORARO AND BLUE HERON LODGES



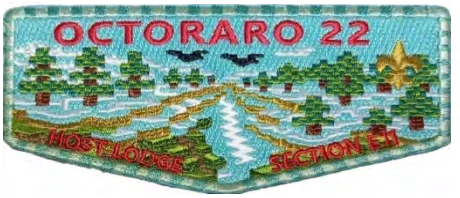
MOTHER GOOSE AT THE 2018 NOAC

While initially trying to get the hosting duties to coincide with Octoraro 22's 100th Anniversary in 2026, the Lodge was locked in for 2025 and decided to theme the event after another cultural phenomenon: Minecraft. Titled "Scoutcraft", the 2025 Section E11 Conclave, led by Conclave Chairman Peter Gorman and advisers Doug McConnell and Bob Wheeler, saw all manner of "cubic ingenuity" that focused heavily on STEM topics but also literally putting square objects in round holes, such as cubic basketball.

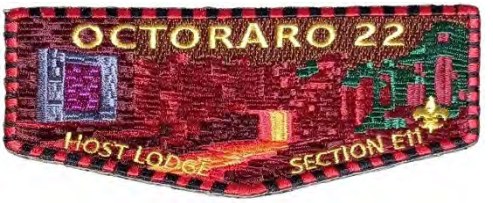
Everything was matched to the 3D theme as much as possible – from Cube Golf Putting, to a Minecraft Building Competition, and even the food was rectangular, squared, or cubed, from pizza, to French toast casserole, and square pancakes! The Lodge Competition trophy itself was built from wooden blocks, Minecraft wallpaper, and figurines from the game.



OCTORARO OFFICERS AT OPENING SHOW







Lodgeball, volleyball, and horseshoes of course made an appearance as mainstays of competitions, but an Escape Room built at the White House was a fun addition that had never been done before at Horseshoe. "Wanted" posters appeared all over camp to offer Minecraft building materials as a reward to lucky conclave participants who found the Octoraro officers hoarding the items. A photo booth, dunk tank, obstacle course, fire building competition, fishing, ladder ball, and nature display were some activities that rounded out the 2025 Conclave. From Octoraro Lodge, Collin Wheeler was elected Section Secretary and Michael Corbo was elected Section Chief.



CLOSEST TO PIN WITH CUBED GOLF BALL



2025 SECTION E11 CONCLAVE STAFF



CUBED BASKETBALL IN CAMPCRAFT



CONCLAVE ESCAPE ROOM AT THE WHITE HOUSE



MINECRAFTING AT SCHRAMM LODGE



SCOUTCRAFT PHOTOBOOTH
AT ALUMNI PAVILION



2025-2026 SECTION E11 OFFICERS

Starting in 2019 to incentivize better attendance at LLT meetings during service and fellowship weekends, the "Legends of the Lodge" patch series honors Arrowmen who have meaningfully contributed to the forming, maturing, and ongoing operational excellence of Octoraro Lodge, and in doing so inspired others to follow in their footsteps.

As of 2026, sixteen members of our lodge have been memorialized as patches, eight of whom were our founding members in 1926. Three founders – Heistand, Brinton, and Thomas – were honored prior to 2026, and the five remaining founders will be honored in the 100th anniversary year.



LODGE CHIEFS AT THE 2026 ANNUAL BANQUET



As it had been for the past several years, the 2026 Annual Octoraro 22 banquet celebrating the 100th anniversary of the lodge, was held at the Red Clay Room in Kennett Square.

Over 250 members, alumni, and guests shared in the joyous milestone. A slideshow of the lodge's history was presented, along with trivia games, the usual vigil door prizes, a photo booth, and the popular silent auction. 14 lodge chiefs present and past were honored for their part in building the legacy of the lodge. The 2026 National Chief Joshua Nero was the keynote speaker, and he spoke of the lodge's remarkable achievement and Octoraro's ongoing commitment to building the leaders of tomorrow. The lodge also presented Scout Executive Jake Segal, himself a past lodge chief, with $5,000 to be put towards the council's campership program.

The evening carried a sense of reverence – an awareness that it was more than a celebration; it is a moment in history that few are privileged to witness. Surrounded by past and present Arrowmen, guests felt a deep pride in the legacy they inherit and a quiet awe at the continuity of the lodge's spirit from 1926 to today.



LILAH WILLIAMS RECEIVES CHESIMUS WULIHAN



TJ BELZER AWARDED
MOST VALUABLE ARROWMAN



DR. DAVE MELLINGER AND AUSTIN PRICE
BESTOWED THE FOUNDER'S AWARD



2026 VIGIL HONOR CANDIDATES

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Octoraro 22, the lodge partnered with the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) to create a historical marker to be installed at Camp Horseshoe. This was the seventh in a series of markers installed at camp that chronicle some facet of the program, history, or facility.

The marker includes a history of the OA, the founding of Octoraro Lodge, a description of the Lodge Building's origins and construction, a sample of the various service projects and programs undertaken by Octoraro Lodge, and a timeline of various events in the history of the lodge.

Octoraro Lodge's 100th anniversary stands as a rare and remarkable milestone, a century that was shaped by unwavering service, brotherhood, and tradition. There is a still sense of wonder in realizing that generations of Arrowmen – each with their own stories, challenges, and triumphs – have carried the lodge's flame forward without interruption. Reaching this centennial feels almost miraculous, a testament to the enduring spirit that continues to inspire all who are privileged to witness it.



OCTORARO LODGE 22 HISTORICAL MARKER



One hundred years, countless hours of service, and the dedication of an untold number of brothers have built the tradition of excellence that is Octoraro Lodge. As pause to remember those who founded and fostered this tradition, we should be mindful that we are the custodians of it; that it is for us to build upon, not lean upon. Let it be our firm resolve to enter the second hundred years of Octoraro Lodge with renewed dedication to the traditions it is our obligation to uphold.

Call you now upon your Father
Without who we are but nothing
Without whom we can do nothing
To look upon this Brotherhood
With His Love and with His favor,
That its work and upward progress
May ever lead and ever guide us
From the things that are of mortals.
To the things that are eternal.

-Meteu

Chiefs of Octoraro Lodge 22

1926 – Joseph H. Brinton
1927 – Benjamin Thomas
1928 – Joseph H. Brinton
1929 – G. Raymond Watson
1930 – Donald G. Hughes
1931 – David Heilig
1932 – Sharpless Worrall
1933 – Glenn E. Wolfe
1934 – Glenn E. Wolfe
1935 – George Russell
1936 – Glenn E. Wolfe
1937 – David Hartman
1938 – Elwood M. Spellman
1939 – J. Holland Heck
1940 – Ernest S. Walker
1941 – Ernest S. Walker
1942 – J. Roland Minshall
1943 – Warren R. Gray
1944 – Warren R. Gray
1945 – Ralph R. Matlack
1946 – Ralph R. Matlack
1947 – Leonard Johnson
1948 – Albert F. Brawn
1949 – Franklin S. Young
1950 – Franklin S. Young
1951 – Fred N. Gates
1952 – Fred N. Gates
1953 – Clair Langham
1954 – G. Ernest Heegard
1955 – Robert I. Hoffman
1956 – Richard Swope
1957 – Peter Tobiessen
1958 – Charles Ax, Jr.
1959 – Richard Walter
1960 – Richard Moran
1961 – Edward Baird
1962 – Robert C. Lull
1963 – Robert Farmer
1964 – Donald Bellgrau
1965 – Thomas Antol
1966 – David Jones
1967 – Gary Cummins
1968 – Richard Puls
1969 – R. Larry Garver
1970 – Barry S. Jones
1971 – Kenneth Tinsman
1972 – Matthew Christenson
1973 – James A. Matthews
1974 – Thomas A. Fosnocht
1975 – James A. Coyle
1976 – Philip Sears, III
1977 – John D. Ellison
1978 – John Kemmerer
1979 – Andrew W. Fish
1980 – Michael Spitz
1981 – S. Kyle Kuhn
1982 – Derek Shackelford
1983 – Robert E. Matje
1984 – Martin A. Summers
1985 – Martin A. Summers
1986 – Shane C. Bicking
1987 – Robert A. Crane
1988 – Chester F. Darlington, Jr.
1989 – Jeff Matthews
1990 – Scott R. Lutz
1991 – Tim J. Johnston
1992 – Tom H. Woodworth
1993 – Jacob M. Carrigan
1994 – Jacob M. Carrigan
1995 – Jacob M. Carrigan
1996 – Neville P. Austin, II
1997 – Richard E. Smith, Jr.
1998 – John M. Callahan
1999 – Clee P. Brun
2000 – Matthew D. Griffin
2001 – Dale K. Mast
2002 – John Sauser, Jr.
2003 – Toby McCabe
2004 – Andrew J. Arthur
2005 – Andrew J. Arthur
2006 – J.C. Todd Ehlinger
2007 – Sean J. Bealer
2008 – Christopher J. Palmer
2009 – Jake M. Segal
2010 – Jake M. Segal
2011 – Matthew R. Steinberger
2012 – Alexander M. Hughes
2013 – Philip J. Ruffini
2014 – Richard T. Gardner IV
2015 – Matthew C. Candy
2016 – Austin J. Moreno
2017 – Luke D. Carstens
2018 – Steven J. Winn
2019 – Bevan R. Watson
2019 – John M. Porter
2020 – John M. Porter
2021 – Benjamin F. Merklee V
2022 – Sean D. Darlington
2023 – Sean D. Darlington
2024 – Peter J. Gorman
2025 – Collin J. Wheeler
2026 – Collin J. Wheeler

Charter Members of Octoraro Lodge 22

There is a certain reverence that is often felt when we have the privilege of speaking about those Brothers who paved the way for Scouting and the Order in the very early days of our Council. Our Founding members are held in such high regard simply because they created a world in which we as a Lodge exist. They never intended to be immortalized. They just wanted to give the youth of Chester County the experience of the Scouting movement.

*Charles M. Heistand
*Joseph H. Brinton
*Benjamin J. Thomas
*G. Raymond Watson
*Thomas E. Gillingham Jr.
*Charles C. Schmidt
*Carlton L. Suplee
*Walter C. Burkey
Willard Lapp
Frank K. Bicking
William E. Brown
Carroll E. Cox
Gordon J. Cree
Richard l. Krick
John McMahon
Morris Maloney
Walter S. Mitchell
Ward Northermer
F.M. Patterson Sr.
F.M. Patterson Jr.
Horace A. Rigg
John L. Romig
Willard R. Elton
Charles J. Ezra
Charles Forney
William K. Hathaway
George W. Sloan Jr.
George l. Snyder
Vere Bishop
Edwin M. Blumenthal
Joseph C. Bronson
Earl H. Brown
Harry G. Dash Jr.
Thomas W. Forney
Robert C. Gordon
John Greiner
George E. Hall
A. Lewis Heisey
John D. Hoover
J. Reeder Huey
Robert Lee Jacobs
Eugene L. Kibbe
Lehman E. Otis
Maurice L. Pettit
E. Harrison Rigg
Donald M. Rine
Harold J. Schramm
Kenneth E. Sowden
William D. Tiley
Roger P. Hollingsworth

*Inducted as Founding Members on June 21, 1926

Octoraro Lodge Awards

E. Urner Goodman Camping Award - The E. Urner Goodman Award was established in 1969 as a tribute and testimonial to the Order's founder, E. Urner Goodman. Its purpose was to encourage and challenge OA members and lodges to increase their effectiveness in promoting and increasing Scout camping in each council.

Octoraro Lodge earned the award in 1981, 1982, 1984, 1999, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2018.

National Service Award - The National Service Award was established in 1999 to recognize lodges in each region that have performed outstanding service, both in a qualitative and a quantitative sense, to their council.

Octoraro Lodge received the award in 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2016, as denoted on the trophies.

Innovation Award – The Innovation Award was established in 2012 to recognize OA lodges and chapters for developing creative, effective solutions to challenges in their annual programs.

Octoraro Lodge earned the award in 2014 and 2017.

James H. Gawthrop Jr. Memorial Allouchsit Allogagan Award

Established in 1995, the Mighty Servant Award was created to recognize those individuals whose service to Octoraro Lodge has made a lasting impact on our organization. The award is not limited strictly to Arrowmen but extends beyond our membership to honor outstanding service.

1995
George Balderston, Jr.*
Walter C. Burkey*
Janeeta W. Dautle
Fred N. Gates*
James L. Good*
Warren R. Gray*
Clair R. Langham*
Joan W. Malin*
Mary N. Malpass*
J. Edgar McComsey*
Richard L. Rice*
Robert E. Thomas
Kenneth E. Yeager*

1996
James G. Dukovic*
Maryann R. Foard
Herbert F. Jewson, Jr.*
James T. Kassel, Sr.
Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr.*
Stephen M. MacNeill
Leonard M. McCabe*
Thomas M. McCabe*
John B. Rettew, III*
Kenneth R. Trimble*
Herbert A. Warner
C. William Waxbom*

1997
John A. Ahn*
Helen M. Ash*
Charles H. Brown*
Ronald Dean Cole*
Thomas E. Gillingham, Jr.*
William E. Moffet*
William W. Robertson, Jr.*
Frank J. Rodgers*

2000
Robert E. Christensen*
Albert M. D'Antonio*
Steven R. D'Antonio
Joseph M. Eagan
Charles C. Fisher*
Robert E. Fisher*
Warren B. Hampton
William L. Jackson, II*
Gwyn C. Patrick*
Scott R. Salvatore
Elmer E. Tompkins*

2001
Matt Christenson

2002
Richard T. Benzing
Norman R. Goodman*
James C. Horton*
Thomas A. Minshall
J. Roland Minshall*

2003
William R. Hess*
Robert C. Hinderliter
Richard P. Johnson
Lee McIlvaine
R. Adamson Rodgers
Frank Shackelford*

2004
Frank J. DiMarzio*
G. Mitchell King
Eleanor Rettew*
James J. Trainor
Wesley B. Vincent

2005
Claude Boddy*
Harriss A. Butler, III
Harold C. Griffith*
Bob Matje Sr.*
David Mellinger
Maureen Milman
Tom Savoy

2006
Charles J. Bradford*
Edward. J. Dougherty, Sr.
J. Craig Hadden
Raymond J. Hayden, Jr.
Thomas A. Murphy
Thomas A. Schardt
Howard G. Tompkins

*Deceased

James H. Gawthrop Jr. Memorial Allouchsit Allogagan Award

2007
Daniel L. Berdell
Thomas A. Dintaman, Jr.
R. Bruce Robertson
Michael T. Steinberger
Gary M. Stolz

2008
Richard H. Crompton*
Mercedes Davis*
Timothy Davis*
Ronald D. Fish

2010
David A. Hohl
John L. McCabe, Jr.
John O. McGovern, Jr.*
Paul E. Munscher
George F. Pfeiffer, Jr.
William G. Taylor*
W. Stuart Watson III

2011
A. Raymond Coe
Scott Hoopes
James Jordan*
Russell Neubauer
Brian White

2012
Elna Batykefer
Daniel Berdell
John Eppinger
Christopher I. Gilbert
Mark E. Graham
Robert Hinderliter, Jr.
Thomas A. Iivari
William E. LaPorte, Jr.

2013
Michael T. Berkeihiser
Wayne B. Cherry
Susan Fisher
Edmund K. John
J. Patrick Lynch
Charles J. Persch, Sr.
Stephen M. Scheidt W.
David Singletary
Price Stevenson, III

2014
Michael Coley
Harry Gladfelter
Harold E. Hiddleson
Betty L. Quay
George W. Quay
William Stine

2016
James Matthews
Allyn Plambeck
Ronald Sykes*

2019
Samuel H. Coale
John C. Grover Sr.
Karl F. Pfeiffer

2021
Lisa D. Antonucci

2022
Edgar Gottshall
Loren Griffith
David Seace
James Sweed

2023
Joseph Warram*

*Deceased

Achgeketum Award

The Achgeketum Award is presented annually to one adult member of our lodge. The award represents the recipient's uncommon dedication to the education of our youth members.

2011 – Raul Laguna
2012 – Mark H. Morris
2013 – Jackie Palmer
2014 – John McCabe Jr.
2015 – Michael Steinberger
2016 – Barbara Myers
2017 – Steve Carstens
2018 – Jeff Schaefer
2019 – John Ackroyd
2020 – David Seace
2021 – Sherry Seace
2025 – Matthew Ostrowski
2026 – Max J. Weiser

Joseph H. Brinton Memorial Wipinquoak Award

Named for Octoraro Lodge's first Lodge Chief, Joseph H. Brinton, this is an annual honor given to Brothers in recognition of their lifetime of contributions to Octoraro Lodge.

2012 – J. Edgar McCompsey*
2013 – G. Ernest Heegard*
2014 – Fred N. Gates*
2015 – C. William Waxbom*
2016 – John B. Rettew III*
2017 – Karl W. Winsch*
2018 – Frank DiMarzio*
2019 – Norman Goodman*
2020 – R. Bruce Robertson
2021 – Steven D'Antonio
2022 – Alfred L. Stoudt
2023 – John McCabe Jr.
2026 – Thomas A. Murphy
2026 – Scott R. Salvatore

Most Valuable Arrowman Award

The Most Valuable Arrowman Award is presented to a youth Arrowman that went above the regular cheerful service, contributing positive ideas to the lodge to advance the program and community.

2018 – Kolbe Bien
2019 – John Thelman
2020 – James R. Bossong
2021 – Matt Shookowsky
2023 – Collin J. Wheeler
2024 – Violet Pendill
2025 – Lily J. Rohner
2026 – Thomas J. Belzer

*Deceased

Chesimus Wulihan Award

This award is presented by the Lodge Officers to recognize a new youth Brother in the Lodge who has served for fewer than two years, but who has, during that time, demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to the principles and mission of both the Order of the Arrow, and Octoraro Lodge.

2010
Joseph Van Loon
2011
Eli Bravo
2012
Jack Edgarton
Christian Miller
2013
John Sauerzopf
2014
Eric Lindsay
2015
Matthew Carden
2016
John Bossong
Steven Winn
2017
Owen Cutler
Max Weiser
2018
Andrew Delaney
Bevan Watson
2019
Sasha Christensen
Ryan Darlington
2020
Sarah Diamond
2021
Mia Christensen
Elena McFadden
Violet Pendill
2022
Katie Shookowsky
2023
Austin Price
Grayson Pitman
2024
Brooke Cutler
Camille Bergmaier
2025
Michael Corbo
William Grosick
2026
Siddhant Prabhudesai
Lilah Williams

Centurion Award

The Centurion Award aims to highlight "Hometown Heroes," or those Arrowmen who have meaningfully contributed to the forming, maturing and ongoing operational excellence of their local council's lodge, and who, in doing so, have or will have inspired others to follow in their footsteps. This award is a one-time recognition associated with the centennial anniversary of the OA that is bestowed by the national Order of the Arrow committee.

Joseph H. Brinton*
F. Matthew Christenson
A.J. DiAntonio
James H. Gawthrop*
G. Ernest Heegard*
Charles M. Heistand*
Alexander M. Hughes
Robert E. Matje Jr.
Scott R. Salvatore
Jacob M. Segal

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) was created in 1940 to honor those who rendered service to the Order beyond the lodge level. The award is presented to Arrowmen, youth and adult, who have rendered distinguished and outstanding service to the Order on a sectional, regional, or national basis. The award is presented at National Order of the Arrow Conferences.

1942 – Joseph H. Brinton* 1952 – Charles M. Heistand*

*Deceased

Founder's Award

Introduced at the 1981 National Order of the Arrow Conference, the Founder's Award was created to honor and recognize those Arrowmen who have given outstanding service to the lodge. The award is reserved for an Arrowmen who demonstrates to fellow Arrowmen that he or she memorializes in his or her everyday life the spirit of achievement as described by founder E. Urner Goodman and co-founder Carroll A. Edson. It was established to reinforce the values first instilled by the founders in the early days of the Order. From its inception, the Founder's Award has been highly restricted and bestowed only upon those individuals who best exemplify the vision and quest of the founders.

1985
Robert E. Matje
G. Ernest Heegard*
1986
Martin A Summers
Richard C. Bennett*
1987
William J. Prestia
Richard M. Mason, Sr.*
1988
William S. Davis*
James H. Gawthrop, Jr.*
1989
Thomas E. Ott
Warren F. Lawrence*
1990
Mark H. Morris
Philip Sears, Jr.*
1991
Scott R. Lutz
William H. Trowill, Jr.
1992
Scott R. Sanders
John L. Pfeiffer
1993
Thomas J. Evasew*
Thomas H. Woodworth
David J. Sherwood
1994
Jeffrey D. Balmat
Allen K. Forssmark
1995
Jacob M. Carrigan
C. Christopher Morris III
1996
Andrew J. Smith
Roy G. Cole*
1997
Anthony J. DiAntonio
Karl W. Winsch*
1998
John M. Callahan
Stephen J. Brun
1999
Kyle W. Brun
Clee P. Brun
Harold C. Weber, Sr.
2000
Andrew R. Coe
Bruce M. Goodman
2001
Neville P. Austin, II
Alfred F. Stoudt
2002
Dale K. Mast
Karen W. Morris
2003
Matthew D. Griffin
James E. Montich
2004
Noah J. Austin
Brett P. D'Antonio
John B. Rettew III*
2005
John Sauser, Jr.
Earl R. Dering
2006
Neville P. Austin, Sr.
2007
Ian P. Miller
W. Jeffrey Miller
2008
Robert J. Pryor
P. Gerald Evasew
2009
Sean J. Bealer
Thomas A. Murphy
2010
Nicholas P. Masarro
John L. Boldin
2011
Jake M. Segal
Scott R. Salvatore
2012
David McConaghy
A. Raymond Coe
2013
Joseph Van Loon
Alexander M. Hughes
2014
Jaqueline E. Palmer
2015
Chad W. Martin
Edward Dougherty Sr.
2016
Matthew C. Candy
Leslie D. John
2017
Austin J. Moreno
Michael J. DiDomenico
2018
Jake Zebley
Thomas A. Savoy
2019
Kevin Babb
W. Stuart Watson III
2020
Mark Lysle
Maxwell J. Weiser
Jeffrey L. Schaefer
2021
Bevan R. Watson
Jeff Goodman
2022
Francis J. Purcell IV
Peter Motel
2023
Elena J. McFadden
Gustav L. Sauerzopf
2024
Collin J. Wheeler
David V. Seace
2025
Peter J. Gorman
James J. Trainor Jr.
2026
Austin M. Price
David C. Mellinger

*Deceased

The Vigil Honor

The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their office to one or more of the following: Octoraro Lodge, the Order of the Arrow, the Scouting community, or Horseshoe Scout Reservation.

1926
Joseph H. Brinton*
Charles M. Heistand*

1927
Charles C. Schmidt*
Benjamin J. Thomas*

1929
Thomas E. Gillingham Jr.*
Donald G. Hughes*
G. Raymond Watson*

1936
Glenn E. Wolfe*

1938
David Hartman*
Walter L. Lawrence*

1942
Frank S. Beam*
Holland J. Heck*
Elwood M. Spellman*

1945
Louis R. Lester*

1946
Warren R. Gray*

1950
Paul S. Carnathan*

1951
Albert F. Brawn*
Franklin H. Young

1953
Edward B. Jones*
H. Milton Jones*
Ronald E. Sykes*

1954
John S. Harley*
C. Walter Hooper
Richard L. Rice*

1955
Leon O. Anderson*
Lee H. Bettenhausen*
Fridtjof Tobiessen*

1956
Fred N. Gates*
G. Ernest Heegard*

1957
Robert Alexander*
Clair R. Langham*
Lawrence Reeder

1958
Richard C. Bennett*
Stanley W. Burkey*
George E. Test
Earnest S. Walker*

1959
James H. Gawthrop*
R. David Rice
John F. Stine*
Peter Tobiessen

1960
Chester M. Eckman*
Richard Walter

1961
Charles J. Ax Sr.*
Brian DeHaven
William Givler*
William L. Jackson*
C. William Waxbom*

1962
Marcum E. Gruss
Marvin K. Knauer*
Gustave C. Meyer
Albert L. Smith*
Woodrow S. Yeingst*

1963
Daryl B. Holler
Joseph B. Knipe*
Francis L. Maule*
James J. Petrucci
Donald C. Simpson*
H. Miles Stevens
Ronald Walter

1964
Charles J. Ax Jr.
Richard Burghart*
William P. Foster
David A. Gingras
David Roberts
John F. Souder
Calvin C. Trice*

1965
George R. Bellgrau Jr.*
Gerald E. Brown
Robert Farmer*
Nicholas T. Govatos*
Robert C. Lull
E. Gary Marshall
E. Wayne Renner
Herbert A. Warner
James A. Wingrave*
Kenneth E. Yeager*

1966
Thomas Antol
Horace S. Finnefrock*
Michael S. Givler*
Larry Marshall*
George Tay*
Kenneth Woodworth

1967
William Deaver*
George A. Gruss
Warren B. Hampton
Steven Matejousky
John E. McComsey*
Paul O. Taylor*
Daniel H. Yost

1968
John F. Coleman
Clifford A. Gardner
David Jones
Thomas Lull*
Thomas M. McCabe*
Robert D. Morse
Harry A. Murvin*
Bruce Oldham*
James P. Riley*
Edward A. Stoltzfus
W. Stuart Watson Jr.*
J. Carl Welsh*

1969
John H. Carrigan*
Gene Eachus*
Larry R. Garver
Leonard M. McCabe*
Thomas W. Murray Jr.
Harry J. Murvin
Mark A. Peterson
Richard Puls
Clinton W. Smedley*
James Vanderhaar

* Deceased
** Received from another lodge

The Vigil Honor

1970
Richard Barnard**
Paul D. Beauregard*
Robert Behrle
Donald Bellgrau
Stephen J. Brun
George A. Cole*
Carl R. Dillman
Frank T. Gillingham
James L. Good*
William Hall
Robert J. Hartman*
John J. Hobson
John Hochstuhl
John M. Hope
Robert G. Hopkins
Thomas W. Murray Sr.*
William W. Pearson
Clinton F. Radcliffe*
John A. Rasmussen
Rodney K. Simonetti
Elmer Tompkins*
Harry C. Weber Jr.

1971
Charles H. Brown*
Albert B. Cappelli*
Eric R. Lorgus
D. Jackson Loughhead
Robert L. Reid

1972
Robert E. Christensen*
Steven R. D'Antonio
Stephen Darby
Joseph M. Eagan
Donald Harms
Paul W. Heck
Vance Hein
Barry S. Jones
John W. MacFarland
Bruce R. Ott
John B. Rettew III*
Walter Ryan*
Paul Stavrides
Robert E. Thomas*
Calvin F. Wallace*

1973
John A. Ahn*
David P. Benedict
Joseph W. Bogle Jr.
Ray L. Gentile*
Guy T. Holcombe
William R. Hook
Julius M. Kowalczyk
Eric P. Lund
James A. Matthews
William K. Mayer*
David McCardell*
David R. Midgley
Charles C. Nelson*
Ronald A. Rambo
Russell A. Reidinger*
Howard G. Richardson
William F. Roman*
William C. Stavrides*
L. Reynolds Taney*
Rodney T. Waters

1974
George Balderston*
George R. Bellgrau*
Charles J. Case*
Mark W. Cavanaugh
Matthew Christenson
Mark D. Clayton
Greg H. Deaver
James M. DiCecco
Thomas A. Fosnocht*
Harry D. Holden*
Charles F. Lawrence
Thomas R. McCabe
Harry P. Montoro
James A. Myers
Gary A. Myers
Richard E. Oncay*
Russell G. Ott
G. Fred Reitnour
Christopher R. Rettew
Frank J. Rodgers*
Gary M. Schroeder
Mark E. Stookey
David P. Thompson

1975
Richard F. Burk
Jeffrey B. Case
Stephen E. Craig
Alan D. Fegley
Allen K. Forssmark
James A. Goudie
Thomas E. Jones
Warren F. Lawrence*
Gary M. Lorgus
Stephen M. MacNeill
Richard M. Mason Jr.*
Richard M. Mason Sr.*
Robert K. McCarter*
William E. Moffet*
John C. Taylor
Howard O. Thompson*
W. Stuart Watson III

1976
Richard K. Coster
James A. Coyle
Robert A. D'Antonio
Richard S. DePippo
Warren H. Graham*
Kevin C. Grewell
William W. Robertson*
Peter H. Ross
Philip H. Sears Jr.*
Henry C. Swab*
Philip E. Wirth

1977
Paul H. Bennethum*
Thomas J. Brun
John D. Ellison
Mark D. Grubb
Peter T. Howe
Jeffrey J. Jameson
William E. LaPorte
Robert B. Lenker
Kevin McDermott
Lee D. McIlvaine
Daniel H. McKay Sr.
Jeffrey F. Oncay
Leo J. Ritter*
R. Bruce Robertson
Charles E. Rogers, Jr.
Philip H. Sears III.
Ronald R. Slifer*
Samuel Stearly*
William H. Trowill Jr.
Stephen M. Wallace

1978
Brett A. Barraclough
Everett Cassel
Richard H. Crompton*
George A. Dunheimer
Lewis J. Gay*
Michael H. Goodman
Scott E. Hollinger
Frank J. Liotta
Peter J. Motel
Gwyn C. Patrick*

1979
Harry L. Altman*
Kevin Y. Berger
Carl E. Buffington*
Walter C. Burkey*
Michael C. D'Antonio
Albert M. D'Antonio*
Norman R. Goodman*
John F. Kemmerer
Clarence H. Lonsdale
Daniel H. McKay Jr.
Joseph R. Smith
William H. Trowill III

The Vigil Honor

1980
Robert D. Erickson
Paul A. Fegley
Andrew W. Fish
Ronald D. Fish
William J. Grier*
Alan R. Hicks
Kenneth E. Lawrence
Scott R. Salvatore
Robert H. Tickner

1981
Christopher Berger
Ralph E. Briskey*
William T. Donohue
Bruce M. Goodman
James T. Kassel
S. Kyle Kuhn*
David A. Lawrence
Brian L. Sinders
James W. Smith*
Robert Wheeler**

1982
Todd W. Bettenhausen
Charles J. Bradford*
Ronald D. Eckert
Philip W. Fretz*
Charles S. Fry III
Charles S. Fry IV
Eric D. Kuhn
Raymond J. McClure*
David C. Mellinger
John L. Pfeiffer
Derek W. Shackelford

1983
Joseph W. Chehy*
Samuel P. Dinsmore
Daniel W. Dinsmore
Theodore J. Dinsmore
James G. Dukovic*
Jeffrey L. Goodman
John Harple*
Charles E. Hartman
Carroll C. Hillebrand
Carroll C. Hillebrand
David G. Horton
David L. Lewis
James E. Lewis Sr.*
James E. Lewis Jr.
Robert W. Matje*
Robert E. Matje
Mark A. Reynolds
Frank K. Shackelford*
Frederick Stelwagon
Charles A. Summers*

1984
Craig R. Berger
Harry Bertoti
Claude Boddy*
Madison B. Cole
Gerald R. Diener
James Fennelly
William R. Hess*
Charles H. Kelly*
Donald C. Kenzakowski*
Jeffrey L. Lawrence
Robert M. Reczek*
Thomas G. Savoy
Andrew C. Schenck
Jeffrey R. Small
Martin A. Summers
Kenneth R. Trimble*
Kurt E. Yeager

1985
Gregory M. Acland
Gregory R. Bedrosian
Harry J. Bertoti
Joseph T. Coleman
John R. Eppinger
Kenneth H. Fellenbaum*
Eric C. Hanson
Robert A. Hosier
Mark A. Kiernan
J. Eugene Kister
James S. Neal
John R. Neff
Robert J. Neff
Robert M. Reczek
C. B Kip Scarlett
Clifford B. Scarlett Sr.*
David J. Sherwood

1986
Jeffrey M. Bell
Douglas C. Bicking*
Shane C. Bicking*
Scott A. Carlsen
Nathan E. Christensen
John P. Dinsmore
Keith L. Douglass
Jay M. Gregg
Randy A. Hosier*
C. Robert McMullen
Doyle E. Morrison
William J. Prestia
Michael C. Rost
Charles S. Schenck
Gregory K. Schenck
Brian T. Swinehart
Karl W. Winsch*

1987
Keith H. Berger
Joseph E. Boyd
Robert A. Crane
William S. Davis*
Timothy G. Davis*
James C. Hadden
Robert A. Hosier
Mark F. Matje
Dale E. Melrath*
Steven M. Miller
James M. Neal
Paul S. Owens
Edward H. Parry
Jeff M. Patrick
Wayne P. Swinehart
William F. Thomas*

1988
Ethan T. Bicking
Frederick R. Conner*
David Cutler**
Chester F. Darlington
Christian K. Fisher
Robert E. Fisher*
Richard D. Foot
Stellis Govatos
Harry C. Keith*
C. Christopher Morris
Mark H. Morris
Sean T. Preller
Roy A. Rogers
Eric L. Speakman
Chris E. Stoltzfus
Lawrence E. Ward
Joseph L. Warram*

The Vigil Honor

1989
Pete L. Barlow
David D. Bauer*
Brian E. Bennett
Jack M. Bilson
Chris S. Crowley
Douglas W. Dillow
Duane G. Eastburn
W. Jon Egmore
Erick Fellenbaum
Edgar S. Gottshall
Mark E. Graham
Wayne Jackson*
Edwin D. Knoll
Steven K. Lien
Scott R. Lutz
Ronald R. MacDonald
Jeff D. Matthews
Terence E. Neal
Scott E. Sokso
Donald R. Wilson*

1990
Charles A. Buck
Harriss A. Butler
Chester F. Darlington
Timothy G. Davis
Thomas J. Evasew*
Joseph E. Handoe
Lawrence K. Hockman
James C. Horton*
James M. Iorio
Richard F. Kline*
Ronald W. Martin
Eric G. Meyer
Thomas E. Ott
Harold C. Weber

1991
Brian C. Davis
Earl R. Dering
Thomas A. Dintaman
Peter G. Evasew
Charles C. Fisher*
Jeffrey C. Grant
Jeffrey J. MacDonald
Scott E. MacDonald
John F. McGinley
John O. McGovern*
Michael S. McKinney
Gregory R. Melrath
Thomas A. Minshall
Norman B. Nields*
Phil R. Rusiecki
Wayne M. Vincent
Jason W. Whiteside
Sam Mantegna III**

1992
Joshua E. Brody
Jacob M. Carrigan
Thomas H. Darlington
Kevin M. Eichinger
Yuri T. Eliashevsky
Joseph P. Evasew
David H. Giljam
Harold C. Griffith*
Keith V. Johnson
Tim J. Johnston
James L. Klucar
David G. Liebler
Jan D. Miller
Ronald C. Mullins
Ronald K. Mullins
Robert L. Richards
Scott R. Sander
Charles F. Vain
L. Griff Watkin
John W. Whiteside
Herbert N. Wittmaier*
George L. Wolford

1993
Thomas G. Badman
Charles S. Barth
Peter F. Caracappa
James F. Caron
Michael Carrigan
William B. Cass
Barry M. Cockerham
Jonathan R. DeVirgilio
Joshua I. Foreman
Jack Foreman
Clarke A. Green
Thomas P. Hillhouse
James E. Montich
Karen W. Morris
Thomas A. Rusiecki
Steven A. Shedlock
Michael S. Spritzer*
Alfred L. Stoudt
Steven E. Vain
David R. Warlick
Tom H. Woodworth

1994
Steven M. Algier
Jeffrey D. Balmat
William F. Cass
Chip Childers
Neil Chippendale
Keith R. Davis
Daniel B. Eichinger
Raymond B. Ferry
Chris D. Gay
Kenneth E. Hawk
Ray J. Hayden
Reed A. Hosier
Richard P. Johnson
James L. Klucar
Jason L. Nasino
Glenn E. Runyon
David H. Schurr
Andrew J. Smith
James J. Trainor
Kevin T. Turner**
Wesley B. Vincent
Harold C. Weber
Eric G. Wilson
Lynn V. Ziegler*

1995
Michael M. Barnes
Mark H. Bodenstab
Aaron J. Boyd
Sidney C. Buck
Robert C. Flipse
Brian Herb
Todd Herion
William E. Iorio
Stephen MacCall-Carter
Barry L. Moul*
Winchell S. Reber
Richard E. Smith
Robert F. Stoudt
William J. Thresher
Brian Williams
Davis L. Wright**

1996
Bruce M. Balmat
Daniel L. Berdell
Michael T. Berkeihiser
John M. Callahan
Ted A. Davis
Mercedes Davis*
Christopher B. Montich
Russell H. Neubauer
James Pine
Charles R. Savoy
Paul D. Schwarz
Michael S. Sleichter
Thomas T. Stoner
Dennis Teefy
Joshua S. Thresher
Arthur J. Zadrozny

1997
Neville P. Austin
Brendon J. Battenfelder
Eric D. Baughman*
Anthony J. DiAntonio
Robert C. Hinderliter

The Vigil Honor

1998
Neville P. Austin
John L. Boldin
Kyle W. Brun
Clee P. Brun
Andrew R. Coe
Jacob A. Sabo
William T. Sedar
Jozef S. Sivco
Cynthia C. Smith*

1999
Noah J. Austin
Alfred R. Coe
Thomas J. Cooper Sr.*
Thomas J. Cooper Jr.
Edward J. Dougherty
Susan Fisher
Curtis R. Fouts*
Matthew D. Griffin
Chris D. Helmkamp
Mark Herman
Robert S. Hinderliter
Adam W. Larson
Sean A. McConnell
Rodney Wynn
Timothy Zupko

2000
Michael A. Arles
Richard W. Bowley
Gerald F. Cavanaugh*
Patrick M. Griffin
Benjamin J. Haldeman
David A. Hohl
G. Mitchell King
William J. Miller*
Avram J. Patton
John M. Reilly
Howard G. Tompkins
Carl D. Wiggins

2001
Kevin B. Andrews
John P. Boldin
Frank J. DiMarzio*
Brad Dunlap
Harry F. Gladfelter
J. Karen Griffin*
Harold E. Hiddleson
Timothy A. Hinderliter
James A. Jordan*
Eric S. Kimmel
J. Joseph Mahan
John L. McCabe
John W. Murphy
Thomas A. Murphy
Michael R. Palmer
Thomas C. Pantazes
Vincent S. Piotti
Jermaine P. Race
Ryan D. Sedar
Patrick B. Taylor
Christopher D. Wagner

2002
Christopher S. Boldin
Joseph J. Bradley
Brett P. D'Antonio
Edward J. Dougherty
Anthony L. Hawk
William D. Hohl
Matthew Koepke
Dale K. Mast
Michael T. McCabe
Paul E. Munscher
Charles Pilkington
William M. Predmore*
George W. Quay
Betty L. Quay
John B. Sauser
William W. Warram
Benjamin D. Zieser
Timothy K. Zirkel

2003
Andrew J. Arthur
Daniel W. Aument
Henry C. Ayton
John G. Bedford
Earl R. Dering
Joshua R. Hughes
Sean T. Johnson
J. Patrick Lynch
Ian P. Miller
Richard A. Patton
Jonathan D. Rogers
Thomas A. Schardt
Stephen F. Schuyler
Anthony A. Sciotti
Matthew J. Simonetti
Christopher A. Truitt

2004
Harry H. Alberts
Brian K. Armstrong
Richard T. Bensing*
Anthony J. Cascone
Raymond F. Conlin
Robert J. Cunningham
Evan T. Ellwanger
Matthew Lewis
Edwin L. Mongan
Jacqueline E. Palmer
Robert J. Pantazes
Blake Prichard
Robert J. Pryor
Ryan B. Robertson
Casey A. Snyder
David B. Wilson

2005
Christopher D. Alberts
Cory S. Brun
Doug Foss
Raymond W. Fredericks
John C. Grover
John C. Grover
Leslie D. John
Jason P. Johnson
Dave Koepke
Marc S. Michell
Trevor W. Miller
Justin M. Quay
William G. Taylor*
Brian D. White
Christopher R. Wilder

2006
Joshua W. Anders
James F. Bratcher
James B. Coll
Patrick W. Conlin
John C. Ehlinger
Chris G. Harms
Brian A. Heckert
Andrew H. John
Vance E. King
James F. Reagan
Adam Rudenos
Stephen M. Scheidt
Eric B. Sifford
Elmer Wadsworth*
David J. Wilson

The Vigil Honor

2007
David A. Anders
Linda M. Bowling
James S. Bratcher
Christopher D. Cotignola
Michael J. Di Domenico
Ben H. Hamilton
Marshall R. Hamilton
Edmund K. John
Carl W. LaPorte
Daniel K. Luczka
Nicholas P. Massaro
Thomas J. Nicolaides
George F. Pfeiffer
David J. Sherwood

2008
Sean J. Bealer
Chester Borysowski
Jeremy J. Johnson
Robert B. Nicolaides
Bootsie B. Pannell
Jonathon G. Pfeiffer
Michael T. Steinberger
Thomas F. Steinberger
Gary M. Stolz
Andrew C. Walker

2009
Paul M. Bowling
Thomas J. Bowling
Daniel M. Coll
Stephen J. Curtis
Mark D. Dulik
Matthew B. Heckert
David J. McConaghy
Christopher J. Palmer
Thomas F. Rapp
Jake M. Segal
Christopher L. Sifford
Clayton J. Wilson

2010
Richard H. Crompton
Bradley Donahue
Christopher I. Gilbert
James A. Harris
William J. Kassel
Douglass S. Kiernan
Scott C. Mitchell
Charles A. Moore
Charles J. Persch
William F. Pfeiffer
Nathan R. Ramberger
Jeffrey L. Schaefer

2011
Robert C. Bane
Charles G. Bender
Matthew F. Flaig
Robert Graves**
James C. Harris
Raul Laguna
Joseph A. Marlino
Matthew Pellegrino
Peter T. Raymond
Evan P. Steinberger
Matthew R. Steinberger
Price Stevenson IV

2012
John R. Ellwanger
Nathaniel C. Gilbert
Alexander M. Hughes
Frank J. Keegan
Ronald A. Medykiewicz
Alexander A. Peterson
Leigh R. Sifford
Price I. Stevenson
Joseph W. Van Loon

2013
Ian H. Chamberlain
Samuel H. Coale
David J. Dondero
Mark S. Frazier
Richard T. Gardner IV.
Neil E. Gehringer
Thomas A. Iivari
Frank Keegan Sr.
Nathaniel F. Keegan
Benjamin E. Linskens
Chad W. Martin
Joshua B. Mateyk
Christian L. Miller
Karl F. Pfeiffer
Philip J. Ruffini
Gustav L. Sauerzopf

2014
Justin R. Ackroyd
Henry L. Busby Sr.
Henry L. Busby Jr.
Matthew C. Candy
Wayne B. Cherry
Daniel N. Dufoe
William S. Frazier
Ian B. Gompers
Scott T. Hoopes Jr.
Alexander Keene
Timmo K. Mather
Mitch Miller**
Barbara J. Myers
Steven D. Reich
Benjamin L. Savoy
David V. Seace
Justin P. Tkaczuk

2015
Brian Cameron
Daniel J. Cancelmo
Loren B. Griffith III
Scott T. Hoopes Sr.
Alexander J. Jamnicky
Dean J. Kaiser
John E. Linskens
Patrick J. Linskens
Austin J. Moreno
Ronald J. Rosenberry
John M. Sauerzopf
James E. Seace
William B. A. Stevens
Joseph C. Van Loon
James T. Warburton
Ian T. Wolfe

2016
John L. Ackroyd
Wade K. Bennett Jr.
Mitchell C. Candy
Luke D. Carstens
Louis J. Evangelista Jr.*
Marshall R. Goodman
Jo-Ann Hohl
Eric W. Lindsay
Vernon H. Powell*
Steven G. Scheibe
James S. Sweed
Americus C. Vitale

2017
Kevin P. Babb
Stephen J. Carroll
Stephen Carstens
Simon F. Crew
Patrick D. Griffith
Phoebe A. Hohl
Sean R. Kaiser
Saralyn C. Kassel
Timothy LaGreca
Alex Lindley
Dana Lysle
Scott A. Sifford
John S. Zebley

The Vigil Honor

2018
Eric B. Allison
Ann B. Babb
Alec A. Bartlett
Kolbe A. Bien
Becky B. Ekins
Dylan E. Seace
Jared M. Seace
Sherry L. Seace
Arthur R. Taylor
Steven J. Winn

2019
Thomas D. Bartlett Jr.
William C. Cox
Owen M. Cutler
Andrew P. Delaney
Matthew Gutherman
L. Christopher McConnell
John M. Porter
Curtis W. Stillman
John W. Thelman
Bevan R. Watson

2020
David A. Blankmeyer
Matthew D. Carden
Curtis W. Cox
Edward E. Crompton
Ryan P. Darlington
James A. German
Steve H. Gorman
Mark Lysle
David A. Maxwell
Joseph A. Meli
Thomas D. Mellema
Benjamin F. Merklee V
Carter P. Miller
Steven T. Miller
Melissa A. Pendill
Francis J. Purcell IV
Matthew J. Shookowsky
John S. Thelman
Duncan T. Tudor
Kelly A. Watson
Sean M. Watson
Maxwell J. Weiser
Christopher J. Wills

2021
Ethan J. Bilson
Alexander J. A. Christensen
P. Douglas Cook Jr.
Tucker E. Daland
Nicholas L. Defina
John P. Dinsmore
Jacob P. Donahue
Brian Holton
Jeffrey M. Granito
Eric A. Jordan
Sharon L. Jordan
Jake R. Provenchar
Padraic H. Richardson
M. Douglas Tushar
Dean C. Wheeler
John R. Wills

2022
Lawrence R. Bishop
Samuel P. Bishop
Tara C. Brooks
Arek J. Conners
Sean D. Darlington
Ryanne C. Fisher**
Jacob M. Herweck
Adrian S. Karver
Benjamin W. Karver
Edward J. Layton Jr.
Nathan Motel
James N. Swithers
Mason D. Tushar

2023
Colin W. Bainbridge
William J. Blankmeyer III
Joseph I. Gorman
Ethan G. Greway
Michael W. Grosick
Sara W. Herweck
Dane G. Walker

2024
Ewan C. Brooks
Alexander J. Cardwell
Mia T. J. Christensen
Peter J. Gorman
Raul A. Laguna Jr.
Douglas C. McConnell
Elena J. McFadden
Joseph W. Moon
Violet G. Pendill
K. Jackson Shover
Anthony K. Watson
Collin J. Wheeler

2025
Camille M. Bergmaier
Daniel E. Bishop
William J. Blankmeyer IV
Logan S. Duff
Sawyer W. Johnson
Hannah M. Lamb
Mary L. McFadden
Joel A. McNary
David S. Mengel
Matthew Ostrowski
Austin M. Price
Ralf Weiser

2026
Thomas J. Belzer
James D. Bennett
Gregory C. Comolli
J. Katherine Eversmeyer
William J. Grosick
Samuel Jenkins
Elliott G. Karver
Kerri Lea McFadden
Grayson D. Pitman
Lily J. Rohner
Candace A. Roworth
Mark J. Saylor
George M. Stephens

Acknowledgements

The pages of this book are a testament to the power of teamwork, dedication, and stewardship of our Order, and to the wisdom of keeping good records, never throwing anything away, and never putting away your camera. Thank you to the following individuals for their invaluable contributions to the research, compilation, and production of this book, either for the original 50th anniversary edition, or this updated 100th anniversary edition:

Dave Benedict, Matt Christenson, Andrew Coe, Cindi Coe, A.J. DiAntonio, Jim Gawthrop, Matthew Griffin, G. Ernest Heegard, Scott Hoopes, Andrew Keyes, Jim Matthews, Tom Murphy, Matt Stephens



"He who serves his fellows is, of all his fellows, greatest."

-Dr. E. Urner Goodman