

# NORTH STAR MUSEUM BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

## Museum News

June 2010

### **HONOR BRIGHT TAKES THE BOOK AWARDS SEASON BY STORM**

Even before *Honor Bright* went to press, we knew that the book would be something special. However, after seeing the book first hand, we were blown away by the great production, writing and design of Peg Guilfoyle, Dave Kenney and Cathy Spengler. Yet, even though we applied to three major book award programs with great excitement—we did so with our fingers crossed. You see, no matter how good we thought the book was, it is rare for a self-published book to receive recognition in the close-knit publishing community.

Now that we have the results, we can say (with a wink and a nod) that it is no surprise that *Honor Bright* earned a trifecta! The first award was received in April when it was announced at the Minnesota Book Awards Gala that *Honor Bright* had received the People's Choice Award. In early May, *Honor Bright* received a Midwest Book Award in the Interior Layout category from the Midwest Independent Publisher's Association. Then, taking our sights to the national level, we received word in late May that *Honor Bright* had received an "IPPY" award from the national Independent Book Publishers—a silver medal in the Midwest Regional Competition. The IPPY Awards bills itself as the world's largest book awards competition.

When combined, these awards programs generated thousands of entries from across North America. It is both significant and unusual for a self-published book to receive this kind of recognition. We knew that the book was good and now everyone knows. Thanks once again to Peg, Dave and Cathy. Also, we extend a special thanks to the History Book Committee, which oversaw the production of *Honor Bright*. Do you have your copy yet? If not, drop by the Museum gift shop and pick one up.



Peg Guilfoyle, John Guthmann, Dave Kenney and Cathy Spengler show off the Reader's Choice Award at the April 17 Minnesota Book Awards Gala.

## From the Director

I just came back from the Skunk Reunion, where I spent some time explaining why the work of the Museum is important. I want to explain it for all of you, because I think sometimes it is easy to lose sight of why we care about all of this *stuff* we have amassed over the years.

Most people connect to people. This means that what we need to be about are the stories of the people who have been Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts through the years, if we wish to connect with our visitors. So, then, why collect anything? Because it is in the artifacts, photographs, films, and written records that we find the stories. At the museum, I often use the story of the Rosene canoe to explain the way Scouting works.

The canoe, by itself, is a wonderful artifact—rough, clearly handmade, and yet a thing of beauty. The canoe allows us to tell a much larger story—of a patient man interested in conveying to youth his love of the outdoors and his pleasure in building something useful. It makes physical the principle that if caring adults work with youth, kids can do much more than they ever imagined they would be capable of. I know that some of you have indeed built your own canoes, but imagine for a moment that you are 10 years old and looking at something that appears kind of complicated and way beyond your skill level. You might not believe that you could do it, but if you had the good fortune to run across an adult leader like W. A. Rosene as a Boy Scout, you would learn how to build a canoe.

The men who built canoes with W. A. Rosene in their youth never wanted to talk about their unusual canoes (many have used them for years since they were built), but instead, preferred to talk about a kind and patient man who taught them so much. Isn't that a story we should preserve, and tell over and over again? I believe it is.

Claudia J. Nicholson  
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Eagle Scout Benjamin Thompson of Troop 64 is shown with his Eagle Scout project, a storage case for neckerchief slides. Ben's Eagle Court of Honor was held at the Museum on May 15.



Pictured above are girls from Junior Troop 50937 presenting Board Chair Barb Herrmann with a check for \$100, earned when they did their Bronze Award project at the museum, teaching Girl Scout history to Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts.



The young men of Troop 188 kept the Centennial Commissary cooking all weekend.

## BOY SCOUT CENTENNIAL WEEKEND A SMASH

On April 24-25 the North Star Museum celebrated the Centennial of Scouting in America in style. Hundreds of folks descended upon the Museum for a weekend of fun, food and history. On Saturday, Dave Kenney was on hand to place his autograph on both newly purchased copies of *Honor Bright* and copies folks brought with them. On Sunday, we were pleased to welcome Lord Baden-Powell, aka Dr. Hal Yocum. In addition to his dead-on impression of BP, Dr. Yocum displayed some of his own BP collection. On each day, there were plenty of activities to keep Scouts and Scouters alike entertained. The event also featured the debut of our Scouting Centennial exhibit, which is also now on display in Stillwater at the old Washington County Courthouse. The event concluded on Sunday with a brief ceremony formally opening the Davis & Randall Founders Hall. We were pleased to have Lorraine Davis and Nancy Randall Dana on hand for the proceedings. Special thanks to all who helped make the event a success, particularly Kurt Leichtle, Gary Gorman, Nell Nere, and Barb Herrmann. An extra thanks goes to Troop 188 for running our “commissary” during the event.

Dr. Hal Yocum as B.P. poses with two millionth Eagle Anthony Thomas



## Boy Scout Centennial Weekend



"B.P." (aka Dr. Hal Yocum) compares notes with Northern Star Council President Dr. Tom Alt.

Bob Pettit helps a Scout learn his knots.



This artist's rendering of the Davis & Randall Founder's Hall was unveiled during the Centennial event.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

*This article is the 4th in our series of articles featuring our volunteer staff at the museum.*

By Gary Gorman, Volunteer Team Leader

Joan Robbins, this month's featured volunteer, comes to our museum family via the charm and recruitment efforts of our late Executive Director Richard E. Carroll. Joan moved to Minnesota from her native Washington State in 1970 and started her family about that time. Joan recalls that Dick first asked her to help with the Museum's work sometime in the mid 1990s.

Joan started working with Dick as an inventory helper—a job that she still performs a couple of days a week. Joan is our behind-the-scenes expert at our Case Street facility, where we have thousands of items stored. Joan works there with her Scouting buddy and current board President Barb Herrmann. They both spend almost every Thursday morning at the facility, with some time off in the summer. Their mission: sorting, identifying, categorizing, identifying, and separating the boxes and boxes of records, equipment, uniforms and other items stored on site. When asked about her work with Dick Carroll, Joan recalled some special times she shared with Dick during the last few years of his life as she was able to drive him to the Case Street warehouse and other events. She fondly recalls working as team with Dick, Jim Rupert, Doc Berry, and Henri Eisenhower at the council office on mailings and other tasks. Joan has spent much of her time the last two plus years working on “the patch project”, identifying and numbering the thousands of scouting patches in our collection. This work has been done in addition to her Case Street work. Joan has also staffed the Museum's booth at the University of Scouting and other events and has volunteered to staff the Skunk Reunion and Annual Meeting.



Joan Robbins

When I asked what she liked to do best, Joan said that her preferred work is with uniforms and patches. Many things motivate volunteers to give of themselves. Joan said that her Scouting friendships are one of the things that have motivated her to volunteer throughout the years. She recalls her special fellowship with Laverne Sherman and her husband Dennis, Cheryl Evans, Barb Herrmann and, in days gone by, the Scout office crew of Dick Carroll, Doc Berry, Jim Rupert, Henri Eisenhower and others. Joan said she sees the Museum as an important part of the community.

Although Joan's son is long gone from Troop 254, she is still a Scouting volunteer in the community of Lauderdale, which is in the Northwest District of Northern Star Council. Joan's Scouting career includes such honors as: Silver Beaver, District Award of Merit, and Joan is one of only a few women to be inducted into the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow.

In addition to the many hours Joan gives to the Museum, she still finds time to be active on the Northwest District Round Table Committee, where she is the district hospitality person, A.K.A. the “cookie lady”, as well as still serving as the Pack 233 and Troop 254 chartered partner representative. Joan continues to be active with Pack 233. Joan serves on boards of review and regularly works on the annual Northwest District Dinner. Next time you see her, give a special thanks to Museum volunteer Joan Robbins.

## **CELEBRATE THE JOURNEY CAMPAIGN MOVES AHEAD**

Despite a poor atmosphere for corporate and foundation fund raising, the Museum's *Celebrate the Journey* campaign continues to make progress. In May, we received word that the Museum was the recipient of a \$75,000 gift from the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation. We are very appreciative of the support the Museum has received from this foundation. Our continued progress is a testament to the fine programs we offer through our strong base of volunteers and members.

You can help us continue our fund-raising progress. Get the word out about the Museum and its programs. Bring your friends, acquaintances and Scouting units to the Museum. The more the merrier. With your help, we can assure the Museum a strong future.

### **North Star Museum Loses a Friend**

It is sad to have to write about the death of Phil Zoubek. Phil was a long-time and generous member of the Museum. When we launched campaigns to fund the hiring of an Executive Director and to purchase our building in North St. Paul six years ago, Phil was there, making two significant gifts. Few were prouder and happier at our Grand Opening weekend in 2006.

Phil never really stopped thinking about ways that we could do things better. He Scouted in St. Paul as a youth, and attended the first National Boy Scout Jamboree in Washington, DC. He also attended the 1937 World Jamboree in Holland. Phil led a troop in Minneapolis when he was young and continued to be involved throughout the years. Of course, he was a regular at our Skunk Reunions. Phil, we'll miss you!

*Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson and John Raymond.*

*North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. is a Minnesota non-profit corporation, a member of the American Association of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, and the Association of Scout Museums International. We are a 501(c)(3) with the mission to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest.. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.*

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