



MUSEUM NEWS

February, 2006



New patch available at the grand opening of the new North Star Museum

Museum Grand Opening Events Scheduled

Dust off your old Scouting collectibles. The museum will hold its Grand Opening the weekend of April 21-23, 2006, with several public activities including appraisals and information about Boy Scout and Girl Scout items.

“We can’t wait for this opportunity to share our exciting collection with the public,” said John Guthmann, chair of the Board of Directors.

Members will celebrate at a private dinner on Friday evening, April 21. There will be an opportunity to sneak a peek at the new exhibits and see how storage will be arranged. Members will also have the opportunity to reflect on the museum’s past, and toast its future.

The public kick-off begins on Saturday, April 22. The fun begins at 10 a.m., with a Dutch oven cooking demonstration that will continue all day. Kids can participate in a “make and take” activity, and volunteers will be present to collect oral

histories from visitors who would like to share their Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting experiences.

At 11 a.m., the Museum will formally open to the public with ceremony, speeches, and a ribbon-cutting, followed by a public reception. Museum officials will raise a flag over the museum for the first time and plant a tree.

Following the reception, a panel of experts will be on hand for a Scouting Collectibles “Roadshow.” Appraisals and identifications will be offered by George Cuhaj (author of the *Standard Price Guide to U.S. Scouting Collectibles*), collector/dealer Bob Hannah, and collector Bob Pettit, among others. (Individuals will be limited to four pieces, and a charge of \$2 per piece will be applied.) Simultaneously, girls from the Northern Lights Girl Scout Clown Club will work the crowd, and offer face painting for the kids.

For those with a sweet tooth, the North Suburban St. Paul Kiwanis Club will bring its famous malt machine to the museum, selling malted milk shakes all day. Proceeds benefit the museum. The public can tour the building, and get a peek behind-the-scenes. For those that did not meet them the first time around, Lord Robert S. S. Baden-Powell, the founder of Boy Scouts, and Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts, will be brought to life by interpreters. The museum will show some of its rare, one-of-a-kind films throughout the day. Events will wrap up at 5 p.m. The gift shop will be open all day, and there will be no admission charge.

From the Director

Things are moving apace here. I continue to be astonished at how far we have come, but that is tempered by how far we have yet to go. The North Star Museum is poised for huge change, and you all have contributed mightily to the effort.

But now is not the time to let down. We are planning a grand, Grand Opening the weekend of April 21-23, and I hope to see all of you here then. Time is short, and there is much to be done. Volunteer opportunities await you. We will need many hands to carry out what will be our first big public splash.

You may have already heard, or read elsewhere in our newsletter, that we have had some success securing grants for collections work. Because there are so many things we need to do to get the Museum moving in the right direction, collections have, of necessity, taken a back seat to other types of administrative work. These small grants from the Minnesota Historical Society and the National Endowment for the Humanities are critical to getting us moving on collections work. But again, we need volunteers for this work too. Many of you to whom I have already spoken indicated an interest in working with collections. Now is your opportunity. Call me today, and let me know what kind of collections work you wish to do. Our website <www.nssm.org> lists the latest volunteer positions.

As the year rolls on, you will hear more from us about our plans and programs. Following the Grand Opening in April, we will be open on a regular, and predictable, schedule. Please plan to drop by. But if you are in the area prior to April, stop by the Museum. I'm always glad to see members!

Claudia J. Nicholson
Executive Director

Museum offers Grand Opening Sponsorship Opportunities

We are offering opportunities to businesses to support the Museum during its grand opening in North St. Paul. All sponsors, patrons, and supporters will be recognized in the Grand Opening commemorative program, and on a plaque that will be displayed in the Museum lobby for one year following the ceremonies.

But some of these opportunities to support the Grand Opening would work just as well for members. Each of these sponsorship levels has specific recognition attached to it. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, call Claudia at the Museum (651-748-2880).

The Sponsorship opportunities include the following:

Lead Celebration Sponsor - \$25,000
Member's Dinner Sponsor - \$10,000 - SOLD
Public Reception Sponsor - \$7,000 (2 available)
Opening Exhibit Sponsor - \$5,000 (4 available)
General Event Sponsor - \$1,000 (10 available)
Grand Opening Patron - \$500 (25 available)
Grand Opening Supporter - \$100 (unlimited)

Skunk Reunion

Mark your calendars! Our annual Skunk Reunion is scheduled for Tuesday, May 30 at North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in North St. Paul.

“Skunks” are members of the Museum who have served 15 years or more as a registered Scouter in the Boy Scouts of America, or were registered in the Boy Scouts of America as either an adult or youth member at least twenty years prior to applying for North Star membership, or were dues-paying members of North Star Scouting Memorabilia, Inc. on or before May 1, 1989.

Don't let your lack of Skunk status deter you, however. All veteran Scouters are invited to attend this event, so invite all of your Scouting friends. More details will be coming soon.

Museum meets with grant success

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) notified the Museum late last year that it is a recipient of a grant of \$3,651 from the Grants-in-Aid program for a project to inventory the patches in the collection. In early January, we learned from the National Endowment for the Humanities that we have been awarded a \$5,000 grant to have a survey of our entire collection done by a professional conservator.

Together, these two grants will allow us to begin to get a handle on the collection we have, and set priorities for care of it. We know that there are many valuable and wonderful things here. However, they are difficult to find, and often, the documentation for these wonderful things is slim. While it will take many years to completely document and safely store the collection, there are things that we can do immediately.

The grant from the MHS will enable us to inventory, catalog, number, and safely house the 10,000+ patches in our collection. These artifacts are among the most valuable and interesting parts of the collection. When the project is completed, we will have a complete accounting of our patches, they will be numbered, and they will be safely and efficiently housed. We will know exactly how much duplication there is, and we will be able to find everything.

The grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will allow us to survey the entire collection, and determine in what order we should tackle other collections projects. Objects conservator Helen Alten of the Northern States Conservation Center in St. Paul, will review the collection, and look at our new museum building, as well as our storage facility in St. Paul. She will make recommendations for immediate steps we should take to protect the collection, make environmental recommendations (we know already that the relative humidity fluctuates significantly in both places), and assist us in determining what kinds of additional storage furniture we will need to help us store the collection. This project will conclude with a collections handling workshop, to

be filled first by the Museum's collections volunteers, and then, by staff and volunteers of other local, small historical societies and museums.

But beyond these first steps, the NEH grant can be leveraged into additional grants, especially from federal agencies, for more collections work. By having a survey done as a first step, it will be much easier to justify future projects, because our priorities will have been established by a professional conservator.

These two grants are very good news for the Museum, and a first step to better collections care for everything that we own.

Put North Star Museum in your will

Dick Carroll's bequest was key in getting the Museum to the place it is today. Bequests are very simple to do. An outright bequest can take several forms: a *specific bequest* designates a specific dollar amount or property that you may wish us to receive; a *residuary bequest* allows you to give all or a portion of your property, after all other estate debts, expenses, and bequests have been paid; and a *percentage bequest* is expressed as a percentage of the estate or a residuary estate. Call Claudia at the Museum if you have questions about putting North Star in your will.



Workmen building new wall for storage room at the new museum building

Member News

The following became new, first-time members of the museum since November of 2005:

Clarence Purfeerst	Brian Bullock
Maureen & Robert Espelien	Jon Theobald
Harry McNeely	Grover Sayre
Richard Zehring	Floyd Shreeve
Lee & Marianne Nicholson	Jon Cieslak
Donovan Schwichtenberg	Gary Kwong
Barbara Schmidt	James Lee
D. Eugene Nugent	Erik Lindquist
P. & M. Korsmo-Kennon	Ed Trust
William Sandberg	Steve Wilcox
Richard Halverson	Irving Lerner
David Jungkunz	Robert Dusso
Troop 112, GSCSCV	Bruce Richard

In addition, twelve lapsed members took the opportunity to rejoin the museum. Thanks to all of our members for making the museum possible.

Newsletters Online

Did you know that you can view and download issues of the *Museum News* online at <http://www.nssm.org>? You can save the museum the additional cost of printing and mailing if you choose to view the newsletter on our website instead of receiving a printed copy in the mail. If you would rather receive an e-mail notification of new issues, and view or print the *Museum News* from the website, please send an e-mail to webmaster@nssm.org.

Contact the Executive Director

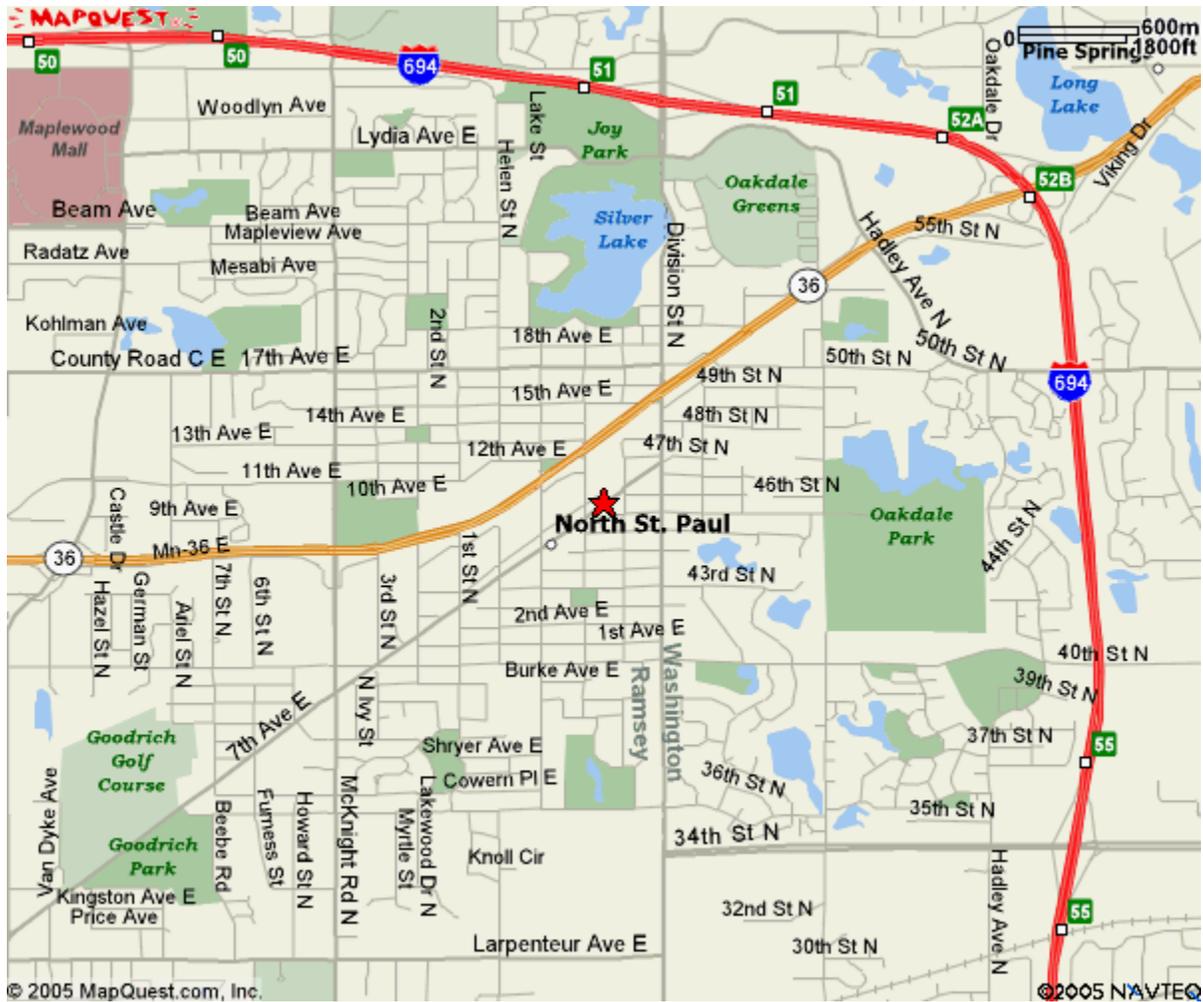
You can contact Claudia at the Museum by calling 651-748-2880 or reach her by email her at cnicholson@nssm.org.

Editor: 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) dedicated to the preservation of the historic items of Scouting. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

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How to Find Our Museum!



Directions from the West: take Highway 36 to 1st St. N., turn right (South) on 1st to 7th Avenue. Turn left (East) on 7th Avenue and go three and a half blocks to 2640 Seventh Avenue East. There is a parking lot behind the building or on street parking.

Directions from the East: take Highway 36 to Century Ave. (also known as Division St. or Hwy 120) and head South about two blocks to Seventh Avenue (there is an Anchor Bank on the North West corner). Turn right (West) and go one long block to 2640 Seventh Avenue East. There is a parking lot behind the building or on street parking.

Grand Opening Schedule of Events

North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting

2640 E. Seventh Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109

Friday April 21

Members' Dinner and tour

Saturday April 22

10:00 a.m. – Dutch oven cooking demonstration begins
“Make and take” activities for kids
Volunteers collect oral histories

11:00 a.m. – Formal opening of the Museum
Ribbon cutting and Flag raising
Tree planting
Public reception

Daily Activities

Scouting Collectibles “Roadshow”
Face painting by Girl Scout Clown Club
Public tours of the Museum
Lord Baden-Powell and Juliette Gordon Low interpreters
North Suburban St. Paul Kiwanis Club malts
Museum gift shop open

5:00 p.m. – Museum closes

Sunday April 23

12:00 noon – Intergenerational storytelling - veterans and kids telling stories of camping and Scouting (Boy Scout & Girl Scout veterans will alternate hours, two hours of each)

4:00 p.m. – Museum closes