

Volunteers Needed

The Museum needs some volunteers to do data entry. Previous years' acquisitions information needs to be entered into an Access database (Windows operating system). We will train you. We need a commitment of at least 3-4 hours, one day a week. This will help get us up-to-date on all of our recent acquisitions, and will make it possible for us to inventory the collection.

Volunteering is a great way to support the museum, whether it's once a week or once a year. Not interested in data entry, then check our web site (www.nssm.org) for a list of over 25 other opportunities to volunteer your skills to help acquire, preserve, display and share our materials. Once we move into the new building, there will be many opportunities to help set up our new space.

Call Claudia at the Museum, 651-739-8857 for more details or to make arrangements to volunteer.

Skunk Reunion

Mark your calendars! Our annual Skunk Reunion is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31 at Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp. Again this year, the gathering of veteran Scouters will be held in Training Building.

All veteran Scouters are invited to attend this event, whether or not they are Museum members (of course we hope they all support the Museum). So invite all of your Scouting friends. More details about this event will be coming soon.

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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First Class



MUSEUM NEWS

March, 2005



Outside view of the new home of the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting

Museum Purchases Building!

Over the past five years, the Board of Directors has been seeking a building suitable for use as a public space for the display of North Star's diverse and growing collection. We are pleased to announce that the search is over! On December 21, 2004, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved the sale of the former North St. Paul Library building to North Star. On February 16, 2005, the North St. Paul City Council approved a necessary change in the zoning of the property.

North Star purchased this 10,500 square foot single story brick structure for \$700,000. We are putting \$450,000 down and the remaining \$250,000 is being financed by Ramsey County on a five-year interest only contract for deed at the rate of 3%. How could we afford to acquire such an exciting property? Well, the purchase was made possible by a \$350,000 anonymous gift from a long-time North Star member. The donation is contingent upon meeting a challenge

to raise an additional \$100,000. To date, we have raised \$87,000 toward the challenge goal. If you are interested in helping us meet the challenge or fund our balloon payment, simply contact Board Chair John Guthmann (651-482-8900).

The new building will help North Star continue its mission "to collect, preserve, display and share the artifacts and history of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides." The Museum News asked Board Chair, John Guthmann, what he thinks of the new building: "we are very excited about our acquisition. With this facility, North Star will be more visible, kids will have much more access to our collections, and we will be able to provide program and service opportunities to kids in both the Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs that we cannot presently provide." Look for more information on the new building and the additional programs we will be offering. Of course, we will give our members a chance to see the building as soon as we can.



Board members touring the building in October 2004



Claudia Nicholson, New Executive Director of North Star Memorabilia, Inc.

Comments From The New Executive Director

I am delighted to be writing this. I began at the Museum on February 25, and have received a warm welcome from your Board and volunteer staff. I look forward to meeting all of you.

As you have heard, or will read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Museum is embarking on a new phase in its institutional life: by the time you read this, we expect to have completed the purchase of the former Ramsey County Library building in North St. Paul. This will give the Museum the permanent home it has been seeking for years, and it will allow us to make more of our collection accessible to both you and the public. We expect to begin programming, tours, and to offer the building for Scouting community events. I can assure you that having a public building will make a huge difference for the North Star Museum!

No undertaking like this occurs without cost. Over the next few months, you will be hearing more from us about our plans, and the associated costs. I hope that you will be willing to go the extra mile and assist the Museum as we seek the funds we need to make our new building the wonderful reality that we envision. If you cannot help out financially, perhaps you can assist us in other ways. We will need volunteers for all kinds of tasks, and we would welcome your assistance.

In addition to plans for the new building, you will be seeing other changes in your North Star Museum. We expect to build on Dick Carroll's work, further professionalizing our operations, communicating more regularly with you, and offering you more for your membership dollar.

Contact the Executive Director

You can contact Claudia at the Museum by calling 651-739-8857 or reach her by email her at cnicholson@nssm.org.

Museum Hires New Executive Director

Claudia J. Nicholson was named new Executive Director of the museum at a board meeting on January 26, 2005, after a national search. She succeeds the late Richard E. Carroll.

Claudia began her career in museums at the National Archives in Washington, DC. After earning her Master's Degree in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program, she went on to become the Curator of Collections for the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre. Seven years ago she moved to St. Paul to take a curatorial job at the Minnesota Historical Society, from which she was laid off during the budget crisis of 2002. Since then, she has worked on a variety of projects in fundraising (including an annual fund drive and some grantwriting), teaching collections management to small museums, working at Lifetouch Inc. on a history project, and as a cashier and bookkeeper at Cub Foods.

She lives in St. Paul with her husband, Michael Salzberg, and her 15-year-old daughter, Marianne. She was also a Girl Scout in her hometown of Pompton Lakes, New Jersey.



Murray McLagan displaying some of his leatherwork during a living history interview at Presbyterian Homes.

History – Living It, Making It, Remembering It

By Terri Anderson

The “Museum Without Walls” has broken new ground in the community! Last fall Joanne Robbins, Carol Nielson and I (Terri Anderson) took an extensive display of mannequins and table top items to the Presbyterian Homes of Inver Grove Heights. What made this event exciting? The Presbyterian Homes event coordinator publicized the event extensively in their newsletter, sent out an invitation to the three Scouting groups affiliated with them, provided refreshments, and asked a number of residents and Scouts to tell us volunteers about their Scouting experiences.

Here are some of the interesting things we learned that afternoon during the living history interviews. (The full interviews are available on microcassettes in the Museum archives.)

Murray McLagan (age 91) started out in Boy Scout Troop 10 in the 1930s in the St. Paul Council (Indianhead Council's predecessor). He attained Life Scout, in fact was only one merit badge short of becoming an Eagle. Murray has

held a number of positions as a boy, graduated to Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, Merit Badge Counselor (leatherwork, signaling, and knot tying), Committee Chair, all the way to District Commissioner.

Murray said Scouting helped you learn to take care of yourself. He earned money “any honest way” he could to pay for uniforms and activities. He turned his leatherworking skills into a good income. He brought many examples of his work (camera bag, cassette recorder cover, album covers) to show everyone at the event.

Charles Lacore (age 82) was also involved in a Boy Scout troop in Chisago City, Minnesota. He attained the rank of 2nd Class. His special memories were of playing the saxophone in the South Dakota/Minnesota marching band, and also playing in the band at National Jamboree X in 1935 when he was 13 years old. His group took a train there and also visited Mount Vernon as a side trip. He has fond memories of canoeing in the Boundary Waters nearly Ely, Minnesota, swimming and canoeing at Square lake Camp.

Alex Bruns (age 14) was looking forward to his Eagle Board of Review in October, 2004. He and Troop 501, chartered to Grace Nazarene Church, worked 119 hours (10 boys and adults) on raised garden beds for Presbyterian Homes. These outdoor garden beds are being used for various plants and vegetables. What he learned most during his Eagle project was to solicit input, and weigh carefully the advice before making a decision.

Alex also enjoys all activities on a camp out, and has realized the importance of doing more instead of complaining. His most memorable camp experiences were staying surviving tent camping during the big storm at the Scout Fair at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds several years ago, camping with another troop at the Ripley Rendezvous, and winter cave camping at Eagle Cave in Wisconsin. He plans to go to the 2005 National Jamboree.

If you'd like to participate in living history interviews, contact the Museum at 651-739-8857.