



NORTH STAR MUSEUM
BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

April 2009



Get Ready for the Skunk Reunion!

Each year the Museum hosts the annual Skunk Reunion. This year, the format of the reunion will be a bit different so you can see old friends and experience the newest part of Fred C. Andersen Camp during the day. The Reunion will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2009 starting at 10:30 a.m. The date does NOT conflict with memorial-day weekend.

The Skunk Reunion will be held at the brand new Fred C. Andersen Swanson Lodge. The building was just dedicated last fall and many of you will be seeing the building for the very first time. In addition, a number of troops will also be in camp in case you would like to see Scouting in action.

This year's Skunk Reunion will be a brunch. Come hungry and ready to hear about activities and events planned for the 2010 Scouting Centennial. As a special treat, our keynote speaker will be Dave Kenney, author of the Northern Star Council Centennial History Book. You will also have a chance to hear about the Museum's fund raising plans. Look for your invitation and registration form in the mail in late April or early May. You do not want to miss the 2009 Skunk Reunion.

One of the highlights of the Skunk Reunion is the awarding of Skunk of the Year. Last year's recipient was Howard Guthmann. Right now, we are accepting nominations for the 2009 Skunk of the Year. If you know someone who would be a worthy recipient of the award, please submit a nomination form. A copy of the form is in this issue of Museum News. Just fill it out and mail it in. The nomination form is also on the Museum website at nssm.org. Nominate a Skunk today! We look forward to seeing you at the Skunk Reunion.



A Unique Mix of Brownies, School, the Museum and Art

Several months ago, the Museum was contacted by Susan Bergmann and Camille Feng leaders of Brownie Troop 53402, at Capitol Hill Magnet School in St. Paul. Susan and Camille had been asked by their girls' teacher to prepare a film on the work of historians and they thought of involving the Museum.

Shortly after the first call, Susan and Camille interviewed Executive Director Claudia Nicholson about the project. The girls' teacher had some specific things that she wanted her students to learn from this film, so they interviewed her about her background and experience. Claudia gave them some guidance on putting together a script and how to involve the girls.

Thereafter, the girls prepared storyboards for the project. Then, they forwarded drafts of their script to Claudia, who offered editing suggestions. On a recent Sunday the girls, their leaders, and some parents came in and filmed the scenes that were designed to take place at the museum.

The film depicts a story in which a group of Brownies find an old Girl Scout sash in

someone's attic and bring it to the museum for identification. There, they meet the museum's Executive Director, Curator, Archivist, and Exhibitor, all of whom help them figure out if the sash is "real", how old it might be, and what a museum would do with it. (Each of the museum's employees looks suspiciously like Claudia Nicholson).

When the film is done, it will be used in the girls' third grade classroom. Of course, the Museum hopes to see and acquire a copy of the finished project. Claudia plans to speak with the girls about using the film at the Museum. The experience of Brownie Troop 53402 is another example of how the North Star Museum can be a partner to enrich unit program while providing an educational and fun experience.



Brownie Troop 52788 working on a snow sculpture outside the Museum building.



Picture Needs 1000 Words

Every once in a while a new photograph comes into the Museum's collection that revives long-forgotten memories. Photographs also present research opportunities. In early March, the Museum obtained an intriguing photograph of a Cub Scout drum & bugle corps taken in 1960. Don't the boys look terrific?

The photo has been included in this issue for your enjoyment. Since receiving the photo, we have learned a few things about the unit. Turns out that Pack and Troop 44 used to be chartered to St. Casimir's on St. Paul's East Side, near Maryland and Forest. The units no longer exist. Although the bass and snare drums are emblazoned with "Pack 44", the church no longer possesses any equipment from the former unit.

To see if we could find any mention of the Pack 44 corps, we checked out an old *Council Close Ups*. The May 1960 supplemental edition devoted the entire issue to the 50th anniversary "Golden Anniversary Show" at the State Fair Hippodrome on May 6-7, 1960. Sure enough, listed under "Special Demonstration" is a note that "The Cub Scout Drum & Bugle Corps from St. Casimir's Catholic Church—Pack 44—will perform in the arena 7:30 p.m. Friday and 2:30 and 7:30 Saturday." Later it lists Lloyd M. Carlson as the leader. However, when we checked editions of the *Close-Ups* from 1961 and 1962, we did not find another mention of the unit.

We would love to learn more about both Pack 44 and the late-great Pack 44 Drum & Bugle Corps. If you were a member of the unit or can tell us more about the history of the unit, please give us a call. We'd especially like to find out what happened to those beautiful drums. Help us put this picture into words.

2009 Merit Badge Saturdays Off to a Good Start

As you learned in our last issue of the Museum News, our new Merit Badge Saturdays were a big hit in 2008. Well, they are off to a great start in 2009. On February 21 the Museum hosted the first of the spring semester Merit Badge Saturdays. The event was very successful and well-received. There were 14 Scouts in attendance. At the time we went to press, there was still limited space left in Collections, which is scheduled for June 6. Act now while space is still available!

We are tentatively planning a Merit Badge Week at the museum this summer, probably in mid-July. Details will be available on the website in the next month or so, and in the June newsletter.

Membership Has Its Privileges!

“Membership is a relationship between an organization and an individual or group of individuals, in which *tangible* benefits are provided in exchange for annual dues payments.”

“Philanthropy involves making a contribution in return for gratitude and other *intangible* benefits.”

Historically, the Museum has combined the preceding principles into a single membership program, much to the confusion of many. After examining other organizations and in furtherance of the Museum’s more sophisticated fund raising and membership goals, the Board of Directors voted in February to separate the concepts of membership and philanthropy. Going forward, we will also simplify memberships to avoid confusion.

The membership program will be simpler and provide tangible benefits. There will be two categories of membership. If you are an individual member, your annual fee will be \$35. If you are a family, troop or unit member, your annual membership fee will be \$50. A separate business membership is in the development stage. The membership fees represent the basic cost of entering into a relationship with the Museum. Your annual membership fee will bring you the following tangible benefits: a six-times yearly newsletter, the opportunity to select new board members and amend the by-laws, a 10% discount in our museum shop, and the opportunity for a discounted fee to use the building. You will receive special invitations to new exhibits and other events, and members-only events, like the annual meeting and more, will be held.

For years, membership dues served as the primary fundraising vehicle for the museum. Your dues payments supported the activities of the museum, from acquisitions to exhibition. The benefits that you received in exchange for your dues payment were few. Our tiered dues structure allowed you to make larger contributions for a higher level of membership. However, due to our small size and limited resources, the tangible benefits received by a Guardian member were virtually the same as those of a \$35 Individual member.

Membership in an organization is all about the relationship. You are the people we rely upon to promote the museum to your friends and participate in our programs. You are our closest and dearest *friends*. It is time for us to clarify the relationship. We need members—the more, the merrier. We need people to promote, use, and enjoy the museum. We need a corps of individuals who are closer to us than the rest of the public. That is you.

We also need individuals who are willing to donate more—to make larger contributions to our vision and program in exchange for the intangibles that most of you enjoy—the feeling of supporting something bigger and more important than yourselves. The belief that the work of the museum is vital—and will become more vital as the institution becomes what we all want it to become—a vibrant, exciting, lively enterprise telling the myriad stories of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in this region, and serving as an ambassador between the general public and these programs. A belief in the Museum as an important place for all area Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to learn more about the programs to which they belong, and these programs’ place in our culture. That may also be you.

The effort to annually renew our loyal cadre of members will continue throughout the year based upon the date of membership. When you receive your renewal letter, please renew promptly so we can save postage on a second mailing. Only current dues paid members will receive the benefits of membership.

Of course, our annual philanthropic fundraising efforts will go on and you will be hearing more about our plans in the coming months. The Museum cannot survive on memberships alone and we hope that all members will wish to make additional contributions. If you are presently at higher membership levels, we hope you will continue giving at the same

(Continued on Page 8)

From the Director

I have been pawing through boxes lately. For a variety of reasons, like reference requests, the Northern Star Council centennial book, and program support, I have been delving into our collection in a way that I have not before. And, I've got to tell you, I am impressed.

In the 33 years of the museum's existence, its volunteers have amassed an enormous and enormously important collection of Scout material from this area. I want to focus on the *documentary* record for a moment. We have troop record books in which the scribe took minutes of the meetings. We have troop newsletters from multiple troops. We have at least one Agaming Lodge ledger, recording income and expenses for a period of time in the late 30s and early 40s when the lodge was new. We know that we have a narrative written by two Scouts who went on an epic hike in 1915 from St. Paul to San Francisco to attend the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (it took them 6 months), although we haven't run across it yet. Fabulous photographs keep turning up in boxes, and some are still coming through the door (check out the 1960 photograph and accompanying article featuring the Pack 44 Drum and Bugle Corps on page 3 of this issue of *Museum News*). One of my favorite Girl Scout documents is a scrapbook kept by Brownie Scout Ruth Johnson in Omaha, Nebraska in the 1950s. There is much, much more that we haven't even looked at yet.

Uniforms, patches, camping gear, and all the other artifacts in the collection and our exhibits are very important for us to have, and provide you and all of our visitors with an immediate connection to your past. But it is the documentary record that will allow us to tell better stories of these artifacts, provide them with more context, and truly preserve the story of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the region. We have tended to value documentary records less

because exhibiting a 25-page manuscript is just not terribly gripping. However, as we organize and make these documents more accessible to researchers, authors, and you, the artifacts that we have will become richer and more valuable.

The Boy Scout Centennial and the Girl Scout Centennial provide us with the impetus to take our collection in hand and finally be able to find everything that we have, answer questions from others, and improve many-fold our own exhibitions.

This will be fun work, and there are opportunities.

Claudia J. Nicholson



Some of the many boxes in the museum collection. These boxes contain patches from the recently completed patch project

Volunteer Corner

This is the first in a series of short articles featuring our Volunteer staff at the Museum.

Jay Jonasson comes to us from the Seattle, Washington area where he was a long time Scoutmaster with over 25 years of experience. Jay started out in Scouting in the 1950s and is a Life Scout. As a young man, Jay was a member of Troop 118 in Seattle. Jay tells me that their Troop motto was; “it is really keen to be in 118”. After high school, Jay enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served four years including a little over two years In Hawaii, where he signed on as assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 121, which was composed of kids living on the naval base at the Naval Air Station in Barbers Point Hawaii. In 1970, after leaving the Navy, he was again a back in Seattle and Scoutmaster of Troop 120 from about 1970 until 1988. Jay also served as Scoutmaster in another Washington State town and again in New York State, where he had moved to be closer to his sister.



Jay Jonasson
volunteers at the Museum every Thursday

Jay worked most of his life as a licensed steam plant operator operating heating plants at a Seattle area hospital and a logging company doing similar work. Due to a series of strokes in 2004 that limited his mobility, Jay moved from New York to Minneapolis to live at the Minnesota Veterans Home in order to be closer to his brother who lives in this area.

Although confined to a wheel chair, Jay manages to come to the Museum every Thursday morning after what is usually an hour-long ride via a Metro Mobility bus. Jay works on our patch identification project for about three hours each Thursday and has only missed coming once or twice in the past year. Before leaving Jay usually eats lunch with Claudia and I and then, at about 1:30 P.M or so, it's back on the bus for the return ride to the Vets home.

When I asked Jay what was one of his favorite Scouting experiences he told me the story of his trip to the World Jamboree in Idaho in 1967 when he took four Scouts in his VW bus. Jay's boys did not have enough money at the time to camp at the official Jamboree site so they camped on a roadside nearby and shared the site with a small Canadian troop that was also short of money. Jay said that was the time he really learned the meaning of the brotherhood of Scouting.

In concluding my conversation with Jay he commented that he really enjoys his work and seeing the wide variety of patches along with the neat colors and designs that seem to be unique to our region. He added that the fellowship of working with other Scouters is very important to him and that he really enjoys the company of “Madame Director.”

By Gary Gorman , Volunteer Team Leader

Skunk of the Year Nomination Form



Nomination for Skunk of the Year due by May 1, 2009

Section One:

Award Criteria: This award is presented to a person who has been affiliated with Boy or Girl Scouting or the North Star Museum for at least 15 years, and is a current member of the museum.

CANDIDATE/ Name of individual being nominated: _____ Current museum member? Yes / No Registered member of Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts? Yes / No Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Nominator's name: _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone number: _____ Email: _____ Best time to reach you: _____

Section Two:

Please provide a statement of support for the individual being nominated. The statement should address the award criteria and this individual should receive this award. Include tenure with the museum, special or extraordinary things done during the year, other Boy Scout/Girl Scout activities he/she may be involved with, and the amount of time spent on museum activities. Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary.

Section Three: (optional)

Attach a letter of recommendation supporting your nomination from a person other than yourself. This person may be a museum member, Boy Scout or Girl Scout, adult volunteer in Boy Scouting or Girl Scouting, or someone else who knows of the individual's contributions.

Nominator's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Mail nominations to:

Selections Committee
North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting
2640 E. Seventh Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109

This form can also be downloaded from: www.nssm.org

Membership Has Its Privileges! (continued from Page 4)

philanthropic level. However, we also hope that everyone who is a member feels that their *membership dues* get them their money's worth.

If your old membership expired in the first half of this year, you will be receiving a renewal letter soon. Please renew, visit, and tell others about us. We need your support now, more than ever.

Thank you for everything you have done to keep the museum moving forward!

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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Contact the Executive Director

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

First Class