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See You at the 7th Annual Founder’s Hall Celebration

One of the Museum’s fall highlights is the annual Founder’s Hall recognition and celebration. Join us for this special event on Saturday November 12, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you RSVP, you will be charged \$30 per person. At the door, your cost will be \$40 per person. Please plan to attend and help us honor a deserving group of Founders, Builders and Trailblazers for their outstanding contributions to Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting.

A **Founder** is an individual who has played a substantial role in the advancement of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or the North Star Museum. A Founder is a visionary leader who has played a meaningful

role in the creation, innovation or direction of these Scout institutions over a significant number of years. This year, **Pearl Mitchell-Jackson** will be recognized as a Founder.

Builders are the second group of persons or organizations recognized in the Davis & Randall Hall. Builders have made a meaningful impact on one of the Scouting institutions, through their financial support or gifts of influence. A Builder is a transformative leader, persuasive and insightful in their leadership; one who helps make the Founders’ vision a reality. Our 2016 Builders are Lee and Penny Anderson, and Carol and Bob Oldowski.

Finally, **Founders Hall Trailblazers** are people or groups who have provided exceptional direct volunteer leadership to Scouting at the grass roots level. These dedicated leaders combine their own ideas and creativity with those brought forth by Founders and Builders through their mentorship of youth. Our 2016 Trailblazer is Tom Turba.

Join us on November 12 to thank this remarkable group of people. Their impact and influence continues. Call Diana Foss to reserve your spot (651-748-2880) or email her at dfoss@nssm.org.

Help the Museum When You Buy

Online shopping is all the rage. You can buy your favorite merchandise without leaving the comfort of your own home. Many web-based merchandisers offer potential customers a fantastic incentive—a percentage of each purchase goes to the buyer’s favorite charity.

Now you can help fund the Museum when you buy online through AmazonSmile, Goodsearch, GoodShop, and Shop for Museums. When you go on these sites, just follow the prompts on the menu that guides your purchase. If you so indicate, a percentage of your purchase will

be sent to the Museum without any increase in your purchase price. So, help the Museum financially even if you can’t visit. Thank you for your patronage!

Volunteer Corner – by Gary Gorman, Volunteer Team Leader

The subtitle for this article could be “The Deep Roots of Gordon Meeker.” This month’s Volunteer has Scouting roots almost as old and deep as Scouting itself. Soon to be 94 years old, Gordon is the Museum’s second oldest volunteer, with longtime supporter and board member Howard Guthmann being the oldest volunteer.

Gordon’s family Scouting history begins in 1915 in the Southwest Minnesota community of Pipestone. At that time, his father, a local attorney, became one of the organizers of the brand new Sioux Council. The council then covered parts of three states: Southwest Minnesota; South Dakota; and, Iowa. Shortly thereafter, Gordon’s father went on to be the Council’s first President. Gordon was born in 1923 and joined the Boy Scouts as soon as he could in 1935 at age 12. He was a member of Troop 21 in Pipestone. In 1937, his family moved to Saint Paul. Gordon then transferred to Troop 34. Within a few months of his joining, the unit became Sea Scout Ship 34. Not many of us can claim to have been both a Boy Scout and a Sea Scout but Gordon can. Prior to his 18th birthday, Gordon earned his Eagle Scout award.

During this same time frame, Gordon joined the Pine Bend Scout Club. He was a part of the group that floated a raft of logs down the Mississippi river, Huck Finn style, to be used as building material for their camp’s log cabin, which they built near the river just below what is now the Pine Bend oil refinery. The event is documented on a film that is part of the Museum’s collection. Through the Pine Bend Scout

Club, Gordon met the late Bob Nelson, who became a lifelong friend and was later a Museum board member. Bob was the founder and long-serving Scout master of Troop 71, which is still going strong today.

During World War II, many Scout leaders were drafted or volunteered to serve in the armed forces. In the military, they wore a different uniform and were involved in a different and much more dangerous kind of outdoor activity. Consequently, the war caused many vacancies in the ranks of adult troop leaders across the country. At age eighteen, Gordon was asked to fill one of those vacancies as assistant Scout master of Troop 32 in Saint Paul. In 1943 Gordon entered the U.S. Navy. After more than a year of training, he was commissioned as a naval officer. His ship participated in the famous naval battle for Okinawa. Gordon was the ship’s gunnery officer. Gordon was discharged in 1946. Like a homing pigeon, he went right back home to Troop 32 and became its Scoutmaster. Today, Gordon is one of the very few remaining combat veterans of World War II, nearly all of whom are over the age of 90. He is also one of a handful of the original members of the Pine Bend Scout Club.

After the 1950s, Gordon went on to serve in a number of volunteer positions in Scouting including: Webelos Den leader; Explorer Post leader; Scoutmaster; Assistant Scoutmaster; District roundtable leader; and, several others. Gordon held volunteer positions in the old Skyline, Capitol City, and

the North Star Districts. Over the years, he also served various positions with the Pine Bend Scouting Association, Pine Bend Foundation, and he served as its Webelos Woods director. In 2004, Gordon were named Skunk of the Year by the Museum.

Obviously, service to youth has been a very large part of Gordon’s life. On top of his heavy involvement as a Scouting leader, Gordon also was the volunteer director of the Highland Park Hockey League. Of course, Gordon has also been an active and effective Museum volunteer. In 2008, Gordon joined the Museum’s Service Patrol. An invaluable aid to the Museum, the Service Patrol has helped in many areas, such as organizing the Museum’s extensive Boys Life and Scouting Magazine collections. For the last eight years plus, Gordon has also been a part of almost every Museum newsletter mailing crew that folds, labels, and stamps our newsletters.

When asked what part of his Museum volunteer work he enjoyed the most, Gordon pointed to an event four or five years ago. Claudia Nicholson asked him to represent the Museum at an event showcasing Scouting one Saturday in Roseville’s Central Park. Gordon demonstrated to the public the semaphore flag alphabet system of communication from the “good old days.” It was the out-of-doors interaction with the boys and the public he enjoyed the most that day. How lucky we are to have such a long-serving and faithful Scouter with us! Gordy, thank you for your dedication to the Museum, Scouting, and the public!

News from the Gift Shop

Autumn and falling leaves brings thoughts of . . . shopping! If you have never shopped in the Museum's Gift Shop, you have missed out on an opportunity to own an eclectic mix of items ranging from books and mugs to clothing.

Now, there some new items to shop for, two of which come to us courtesy of our volunteers. Accompanying this article are pictures of the new merchandise. First, Museum volunteers Jon and Sherrill Carlson visited the Museum last month and brought with them Bruce the Moose logo puzzles. Jon makes our

wooden moose puzzles (large and small).

Jon also makes our second item—Girl Scout trefoil necklaces. There is no end to the creativity of this talented couple. Many thanks, Jon and Sherrill, for always thinking of the Museum.

Finally, the well-dressed Boy Scout and Girl Scout will be wearing our beautiful 40th anniversary collectible T-shirt this fall. The shirt commemorates the Museum's 40th anniversary of preserving your memories. This fall, shop the Museum's Gift Shop!



Make sure to purchase an attractive 40th anniversary shirt for yourself as a gift for a friend or family mem-

Tribute Gifts

Kevin Balfanz gave a gift in tribute to Myron Jacobson

Jeffrey Niblack gave a gift in tribute to Brian & Cheryl Reiners



Jon and Sherrill Carlson show off their handiwork—Bruce the Moose logo puzzles and Girl Scout trefoil necklaces.

A New Ally for Call to History 2017 – YOU!

The *Call to History* has become the Museum's premier event for raising money and recruiting new people to our fold. Every spring, our board and staff are busy inviting new friends to the Museum for this event so they can learn more about us and be inspired to support our work.

Traditionally “an acquisition event,” the *Call to History* is specifically designed for inviting **new prospective members and supporters**. Still, a few Museum members have asked us why all Members are not a big part of this event. That got us thinking. Our *Call to History* has become such a wonderful celebration of

who we are, why not include everyone who makes us who we are?

The 2017 *Call to History* scheduled for April 26 will present a new opportunity for Museum members to take part in the fun. We particularly need members to participate as Table Hosts. Do you know seven people? We bet you do! Do you know people involved in Boy Scouting or Girl Scouting, past or present? We bet you do! Do you know people who like local history? We bet you do! Helping bring seven people to fill your table is pretty much all it takes to be a table host.

So, if you are interested in becoming part of *Call to History 2017* as a table host, please contact Shirley De la Torre at sdela-torre@nssm.org. She will put you on the guest list for *Call to History 2017*, and will notify you when it's time for all Table Hosts to meet and receive their training and assignments. It is amazingly easy and fun, and gives you a special chance to share the Museum with your friends, family, and others interested in the legacy of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in our community. Answer the call. Be a part of *Call to History 2017*.



A scene from the 2016 *Call to History*. Plan on being a part of the 2017 event.

Membership Corner: We Want to Spotlight HIS-Story, HER-Story, YOUR-Story

The North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting is about telling your stories. The artifacts in our collection tell stories of adventures and traditions in Girl Scouting and Boy Scouting, and these stories make history come alive. We would like to celebrate all of our members with a new column in our newsletter that focuses on stories told by our members.

Starting with our December *Museum News*, we are going to feature a current member of the Museum and share their story of what the Museum means to them and why they are a member. Was it your years in Boy Scouting or Girl Scouting that inspired you to preserve these memories with us? Do you have a son taking Merit Badge Work-

shops at the Museum and would you like the membership discount? Are you part of a Girl Scout Troop that takes advantage of the Museum's great Girl Scout programs? Is Scouting a tradition in your family? Does the Museum have artifacts that reveal your family's timeline?

If you want us to tell your story, just send an email to Shirley at sdelatorre@nssm.org and let her know why you are a member of the Museum, as well as the story you wish to tell. Every other month, the Museum Membership Committee will choose their favorite and publish the member's story in the *Museum News*. If your story is published, you will receive a FREE non-transferable, one-year membership in the Museum. That's right.

Your story can earn your next year of Museum membership. So, start emailing your stories to Shirley today!

Also, plan on participating in the Museum's Holiday Membership BoGo again this year from December 1-31. Buy one membership and get another one FREE. Take care of all the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, leaders, and history buffs on your gift list this holiday season. Also, don't forget your 10% discount in the Museum gift shop. Who wouldn't love a plush "Bruce the Moose" in their stocking this Christmas?

Thank you for your support of the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting.



What could be more inspiring than sharing stories with and helping shape a new generation. We want to know what inspires you to help the Museum.

IT WAS A BUSY SUMMER FOR THE MUSEUM



Museum volunteer and Board member Emily White tutors a group of Woodbury Brownies and Juniors on the art of pie iron cooking.



On August 28, Museum volunteer Nell Nere led a group of Brownies in a discussion of Girl Scout history.



On August 23, Troop 5, led by Scoutmaster and Museum member Myron Jacobson visited the Museum for their meeting and a tour.



The Museum recently hosted Anthony Yang's Court of Honor. Anthony is on the left.



On August 15, the Museum promoted its powerful programs at the MN Field Trip Expo. This year the event was at the Minnesota Historical Society. Museum volunteer and Board member Bonna Scherer is shown working the table while members of the Girl Scouts River Valleys program department, (l-r) Natasha Brownlee, Emily Burck, and Laurie Pulver, get cozy with Bruce the Moose.

Storytelling – Help Us Do What We Do

Over the past forty years, thousands of visitors have been touched by the exhibits, objects, and programs of the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting. Your financial support has made it possible. Whether it is a new member of the Order of the Arrow immersed in our Order of the Arrow anniversary exhibit or a young Brownie noticing that the leg brace on a Brownie mannequin is almost the same as her own, there is no denying it—these exhibits have power. The power to make you think. The power to make you feel. The

power to inspire you to take action to lead, action to wonder, and action to take your place in history’s Boy Scout and Girl Scout legacy.

The Museum needs your help to continue touching the lives of our visitors with these powerful storytellers. With your financial support, we will continue to manage our day-to-day expenses, build memory-provoking exhibits, and conduct interesting programs that focus on sharing the memories and traditions of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting with each and every visitor that

we welcome. Your gift this fall will keep the momentum of forty years of passion moving forward. You can make your gift online by going to our website at www.nssm.org, and scroll down to the *Donate* bar and click. It’s so easy to make a difference.

Help us keep telling:
His-story.
Her-story.
Our-story.

The North Star Museum – Preserving Your History for forty years!

Get Your Holiday Hopping

This reporter heard his first holiday ad and jingle bell on September 30. So, it is not too early to be making plans to attend the Museum’s Holiday Hop and Christmas Bazaar on December 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It is a free event for the whole family. Bring ‘em all.

Here is what you can expect to find at the Hop. Of course, there will be food. Boy Scout and Girl Scouts will be on hand with food, baked goods, and beverages. With a satisfied stomach, you can shop for hand-made Christmas ornaments and holiday gifts. You can even make your own ornament with materials made available by the Museum at no charge. The frosting on your cookie will be a visit from Santa and the North St. Paul Snowman. What a way to start the holiday season. Put the Holiday Hop and Christmas Bizzare on your calendar now.



NORTH STAR MUSEUM
BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Holiday Hop & Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 10
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.





FREE Holiday event for the whole family!

- *make an old fashioned tin ornament (all materials provided)
- *shop at our holiday bazaar for hand-made ornaments and gifts
- *watch for Santa and the North St. Paul Snowman!
- *Boy Scout & Girl Scout Troops selling baked goods, food and beverages, holiday décor and gifts!











2640 East Seventh Ave North St. Paul, MN 55109 (651) 748-2880 www.nssm.org

DATED MATERIAL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 2016

North Star Museum
of Boy Scouting
and Girl Scouting
2640 East 7th Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109

Phone: 651-748-2880
E-mail: cnicholson@nssm.org

We're on the web
www.nssm.org

A Builder Passes On

Several years ago, Roland D. Wilsey was inducted into the Museum's Founders Hall. On September 20, 2016, he passed away at age 94. Roland was not just one of the Founders Hall Builders, he was a *real* community builder. He was a proud U.S. Marine who served in the Second World War, was elected a District Governor in the Rotary International, and was devoted to the Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts of America. As stated in his published obituary: "Roland's legacy will never fade; he lived life to the fullest, with great passion, humor, and love. His friends, Rotary Scholars and

colleagues in the United States of America and around the world will forever be inspired by his enduring contributions to humanity and deep commitment to making the world a better place for those less fortunate. Roland's spirit will always be with us, and his love will live forever in our hearts. Semper Fi."

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, Shirley De la Torre, 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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