



THE OCTORARO LOOP

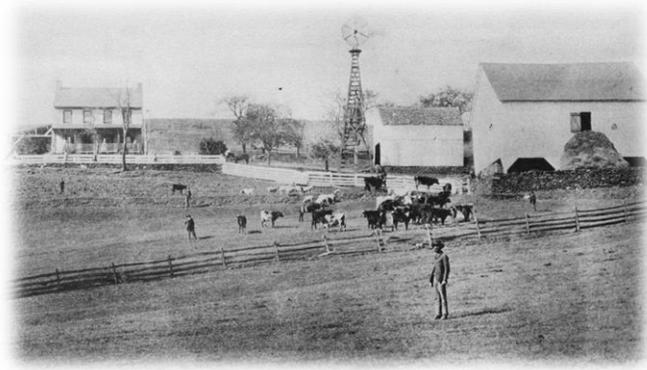
The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News

Winter 2018

Everything Old is New Again - A Look Back

By: Andrew Coe, HSRAA Executive Committee

It's hard to imagine Camp Horseshoe at its inception - few structures, few people, and very few trees. The Reynolds farm, purchased by Chester County Council (CCC) in 1926, was very barren in terms of trees, but over the years many efforts have turned the property into a thriving forest of cedars, pines, oaks, and maples. All of those efforts were deliberate, but some were unexpected.



This past year saw Octoraro Lodge start planting trees, with the funds raised by the 2017 "Buzz the Beard" campaign that spurred HSR Camp Ranger Tom Murphy to have the most expensive shave in local history. \$25,000+ was raised in order to purchase trees to repopulate the Horseshoe Scout Reservation that has seen many trees originally planted in the early days of the reservation die; some from old age, others from the destructive Pine Beetle, and some just from wind and storm damage over the years.

Octoraro 22 also sponsored the Eagle Grove trees for each Eagle Scout in CCC that earned the top award, and as anyone can tell you who has been down to the Bend, it is an amazing "claw" that gives that area of camp a lot of character.

One less expected effort came in 1938 on the heels of a devastating fire. Sparks from a brush fire on a hill adjacent to the camp set ablaze underbrush and leaves at Camp Horseshoe. Three of the original five stockade sites - Carson, Taylor, and Crockett - suffered enormous damage to their buildings and the surrounding area. The Dining Hall roof also suffered some damage, but many forget that of the thousands of trees planted in the first 10 years of Camp Horseshoe, several hundred were also destroyed in the brush fire. In total, \$6,000 of damage was assessed from the blaze, or \$102,000 in today's dollars.



The fire happened on May 7, 1938, and with such little time to rebuild before camp opened, many feared that Horseshoe would not open, or would open in a diminished capacity. However, Scout Executive Thomas J. Price assured everyone that the rebuild would commence immediately, and it did - Camp Horseshoe opened on time with new stockades built in the damaged sites. Trees however weren't immediately replanted, but over time, through the efforts of volunteers and staff, the Horseshoe forest came back to full strength. One thing is certain - as long as there are natural threats to the HSR environment, service to camp will never go out of vogue.

2018 was another great year with outstanding programs delivered at our Horseshoe Scout Reservation, ranked nationally as the #1 Scout Camp in the Mid-Atlantic States Region for quality program & customer satisfaction!



Now Hiring – 2019 Summer Camp Staff at Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware 3rd. Apply today @ www.hsr-bsa.org/campstaff

Mark your calendar, the next Reunion is scheduled for July 13, 2019. Our 20th year celebration is one you won't want to miss. Festivities will start - Saturday at 2:00.



Other Dates to Remember, June 7-9, 2019.



Octoraro Lodge 22 will also be hosting the **2019 NE 6B OA Conclave** at the Horseshoe Scout

Reservation. Every four years our lodge has the opportunity to show off our camps to the other Councils. This year's theme will be the **Carnival of Fellowship** and, as always, promises to be one of the best OA Conclaves.

Throughout the year HSRAA uses email as well as USPS mail. Updates include reunion notices, the Octoraro Loop newsletter, and membership drive information. If you would prefer to receive only email, logon to the hsraa.org website and update your profile (select 'email only').

If you are not receiving email, it is probably for one of the following reasons: check your junk or spam folder for emails from hsraa.org. If you find email from hsraa.org, you can add a 'whitelist filter' for hsraa.org to avoid this.



HSRAA may not have the correct email address for you. You can logon to the hsraa.org website and update your profile. If you do not already have a logon, you can set one up from the logon page. You can also send an email to registrar@hsraa.org and we will update your email address.



We will continue to send USPS mail to anyone who has not requested 'email only'.

If you haven't logged on the HSRAA website in a while, take a tour and check out the recently redesigned site @ www.hsraa.org



Our mission "**to preserve and promote the spirit and heritage of Horseshoe Scout Reservation and its camps...**" to fulfill this goal, HSRAA created and maintains a *Virtual Museum* as an extension of this website.

The HSRAA Virtual Museum (VM) "opened its doors" in 2009 and has grown steadily since that initial unveiling. Today the VM holds 8945 artifacts in 234 exhibits. Artifacts include pictures, documents, letters, movies and anything else that can be digitally saved and displayed.



Horseshoe staff from 1979 celebrating their 40th year anniversary this upcoming year, along with the 20th year celebration of the HSRAA.