



THE OCTORARO LOOP

**The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News
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The purpose and mission of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association

"To preserve and promote the spirit and heritage of Horseshoe Scout Reservation and its camps (Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware, III), to be a benefactor to the Reservation and to promote the brotherhood of Scouting among the alumni of the Reservation."



Horseshoe salutes HSRAA Alumni/ae.

**BE THERE FOR THIS YEAR'S
REUNION AT HORSESHOE!**

You can't beat it! On July 21, 2001, the Second Annual Reunion of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) will see Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware, III "old and new-timers" convene for fun, food and fellowship at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation. The event begins at 1 PM and concludes at 8 PM. A great barbecue dinner will be served at \$5 per person. Afterwards...a songfest and fun. Be there!

Reservations for the Reunion must be placed by July 6, 2001.

People are still saying, "Last year's Reunion hit the mark!" For this year's Reunion, Chairman Bill Davis promises more of the same and then some.

The afternoon's events will include tours of both Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware, III conducted by Alumni committee members. Fascinating Horseshoe and Scouting memorabilia will be on display. Also, pick up your summer issue of The Octoraro Loop at the Reunion.

Order your HSRAA T-shirt! Special T-shirts carrying the HSRAA attractive logo are for sale at \$10 per shirt. Further information will come in the reunion mailing. They will be available at Camp Horseshoe at the Reunion.

LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN BOB MATJE

As the New Year 2001 begins, and the "true millennium" is upon us, let us reflect upon our accomplishments.

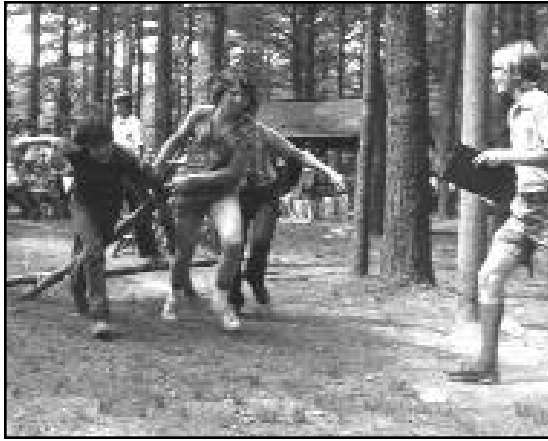
The HSR Alumni Association formally started last year. It was on this occasion that a group of past Horseshoe Reservation campers and staff, eager to lend their services to build and nurture this long overdue organization, met to bring to fruition the idea of creating a tightly knit alumni association built upon our common camping and staff experiences. Since then, we have accomplished so much that it is hard to believe that we are only a year old. Specifically, we have done the following:

- Organized and operated as a formal Executive Committee;
- Funded Harris Poll Survey of the HS Reservation measuring the effectiveness of how BSA summer camp programs influence healthy youth development;
- Supported the Order of the Arrow "Monopoly" fundraising game;
- Enjoyed our first ever annual reunion;
- Issued three Octoraro Loop newsletters;
- Attracted over 260 members;
- Developed and implemented a dynamic HSRAA website;
- Designed and began funding our first HSR capital project.

Continued on Page 2...

IN THIS ISSUE...

HSRAA Reunion/Contents.....	Pg. 1
HSRAA Chairman Matje's Message.....	Pg. 1
HSRAA-Funded Gateway Projects.....	Pg. 2
Personality of the Day — Al Forssmark...Pg.	2
Octoraro Lodge 22 News.....	Pg. 3
Membership Update.....	Pg. 4
HSRAA and Council Website.....	Pg. 4
Where Are They Today?.....	Pg. 5
Reflections/Special Places and Times.....	Pg. 6
Horseshoe Reservation This Summer.....	Pg. 6
HSRAA New Members List.....	Pg. 7



Challenging "chariot race" at Paul Bunyon Day.

CHAIRMAN BOB MATJE...continued

These successes are among all of the other necessary steps to operating a new organization in the Chester County Council, BSA.

We truly have built momentum that can only lead to a bright and successful future. Through the great leadership and dedication of the members of the executive committee, and those who have helped out on committees volunteered their time and energy, and, of course, your support, generosity and interest, we continue to succeed in our mission to support the Reservation and promote brotherhood among the Alumni.

The future holds great promise for this organization. As we move forward in this ever advancing age of technology it is always good to know that there is a little slice of the past nestled at the bottom of Chester County, where you can go and get your fill of the way things were many years ago for some, or, as early as just the past year for others. We have ability to maintain that tradition, and to fortify its meaning and traditions that we hold so dear.

When you see your reminder come to renew your membership along with the information asking for your support of the HSRAA's project to which we have committed, please consider what the camp program has done for you, then think of what you can do for it.

In the Spirit of the Horseshoe,
Bob Matje

HSRAA-FUNDED GATEWAYS FOR HORSESHOE RESERVATION DUE

HSRAA Projects Chairman Dick Bensing reports that the HSRAA-funded new Gateways for entrances to Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware, III are due this summer. This is a significant project, the completion dates of which are during summer camp. It is hoped that one of the gateways will be ready for dedication at the HSRAA July 21, 2001 Reunion date.

The gateways are designed to have field stone bases with a bronze plaque embellished with the HSRAA logo. A crossbar piece will be erected between the 12"X 12" support posts for each. The crossbar will carry a sign welcoming campers and visitors to the Camp. Initial cost estimates, based upon a prototype gateway, came in line with expectations. However, with appropriate modifications, judicious planning, etc., the cost is expected to be considerably less and closer to the budget of about \$13,000.

Gateway contributions are welcomed and should be identified as such and sent to HSRAA %Chester Co. Council, BSA at 504 S. Concord Rd., West Chester, PA 19382.

GUEST PERSONALITY OF THE DAY- ALLEN K. FORSSMARK

For each of us, in our lifetime, we may get just one chance to "pay back" some one or something that may have had a major impact on our youth. Al is one of these.

Now celebrating his fortieth year in Scouting, Al's first exposure to Scouts was in the Cub program. Following that, he was a Boy Scout in Troop 22 of Unionville. His extensive experience in Scouting bespeaks his total immersion in the program. He is an Eagle Scout with Three Palms and a 1973 Vigil Honor member of Octoraro Lodge 22 OA. While a Scout, he enjoyed hiking and camping and earning the Brandywine Trail Award. He attended the National Junior Leadership Training Course at the Schiff Scout Reservation in 1967. He was on the Camp Jubilee (now Camp Ware) staff working in Campcraft and Commissary Departments. In 1969 he attended the National Jamboree in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and, in 1971, the World Jamboree in Japan

Continued on Page 3...

Allen Forssmark continued...

(in a typhoon none the less). He was on the Staff of the National Jamboree in 1973. He is an HSRAA member.

Al is a unique individual who has grasped that chance to “pay back” time and time again those who touched his life and meant so much to him. Scouting has indeed touched the life of this man as has his experiences at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation. He is a major supporter of the Chester County Council’s Scouting effort. And, what is more important is that others have been swept up in his commitment and enthusiasm for Scouting and the Horseshoe Scout Reservation.

He became interested in electrical work when he was involved in stage lighting in high school. After graduating from Cheney State College with a BA Degree and teaching certificate in Industrial Arts, he



Former Camp Ranger Roy Cole and Allen Forssmark

formed a partnership with a school friend and gradually went into commercial electrical work. He eventually bought out his friend’s interest and A&D Electric, Inc. was formed. Al’s company, A&D Electric, and he, personally, have taken on many major projects at the Horseshoe Reservation for the Council over the years. He has built new electric and phone feeds to the Reservation among other efforts. The financial amount represented by his efforts is outstanding.

Roy Cole, former Camp Ranger, has been one of Al’s closest friends for many years. Together, they have formed a team that recognized the physical needs of Horseshoe and took action to correct them. Al also has attracted many other friends, business associates and contractors to contribute their services to benefit Horseshoe and the Scouts in a

like fashion.

Al’s spare time is devoted to being volunteer Chairman of the Camp Properties Committee and Council Board Member. He has been responsible for many construction projects over the years. Some of these include the Goodman Pavilion, two Quonset huts (Horseshoe and Ware), a new shower house at Ware, a C.O.P.E. Course building and a new Health Lodge at Ware.

Scouting awards are many for this quiet unassuming man. In 1985 he received the Horseshoe Camp Service Award, which is “presented to individuals for non-Scouting activities which have greatly benefited the Horseshoe Scout Reservation.” Allen and Bob Thomas constructed three bridges over the Octoraro Creek — two are still in use and a third was swept away in a flood. In 1989, he received the Council’s highest award, the Silver Beaver for his Scouting service to youth. The Order of the Arrow’s Founder’s Award was presented to him in 1994 for his exemplary service to the Order of the Arrow and Octoraro Lodge 22.

Accompanying every good man is a great helpmate. Supporting Al in his all work is his wife, Sue, who attends many of the Council’s functions.

What Al Forssmark has done and continues to do for Horseshoe is touching the lives of the Scouts of today and the future. It is a reflection of his love of the camps. He is one who makes a difference!

OCTORARO 22 CELEBRATES!

Matt Christenson, Horseshoe Scout Reservation “Icon” and Past Lodge Chief (see Octoraro Loop’s page 3 article in July 2000 Issue), is returning from Boise, Idaho and will be the featured guest speaker at our March Lodge Banquet to celebrate the 75th anniversary.

The 75th anniversary is a special time for the Octoraro Lodge 22 Order of the Arrow. The Lodge is going strong as the 75th is being celebrated. Many special activities are planned for this year.

Continued on Page 4...

Octoraro Lodge 22 continued...

Some of the events planned include the Annual Lodge Banquet and a special reunion weekend with our "daughter" Lodge Blue Heron from Tidewater, Virginia and our "granddaughter" Lodge Wahun Seneca of Virginia. The Trail Blazer and the Wulamoc newspapers will provide added details on these upcoming special events.

We hope that each of our Lodge members is just as excited as your Lodge Executive Committee. For more information on the 75th anniversary festivities, email Dale Mast, Anniversary Chairman: dalemast@hotmail.com

Yours in the Brotherhood,

Matt Griffin, Chief



Inspiring words by Matt Christenson at Lodge's Fiftieth Anniversary.

HSRAA MEMBERSHIP

Acting Membership Chairman Joe Eagan reports that HSRAA membership has risen to 261 in the first year of the Association's existence. Our members range from Link Rice, who attended the opening of Camp Horseshoe in 1928, to Cub Scouts attending summer programs at Camp Ware.

The HSRAA keeps track of its members through a state-of-the-art database developed by our website chairman, Andy Smith. Included in the database is such information as each member's first year at Horseshoe Scout Reservation, membership level and Reservation memories ("There are just too many memories to even know where to begin. All I know is that they were and always will be some of THE BEST years of my life.").

All Association members, and many

other friends of Horseshoe Scout Reservation, will receive a letter encouraging them to renew their membership for 2001 and contribute, if they can, to the new gates for Camp Ware and Camp Horseshoe. When you receive this letter, we hope you will give what you can toward these worthy projects.

Association members are encouraged to spread the word about the HSRAA to their friends. Please ask your friends to visit our website at www.hsraa.org and register on-line. Or ask them to request a membership form by sending an email to membership@hsraa.org. We also can provide an HSRAA information package that you can send to your friends by email. All new receive a membership card and the current issue of this newsletter.

We hope to designate an "HSRAA representative" for every troop that attends Camp Ware and Camp Horseshoe during the summer. As "long-lost" alumni sign up with the HSRAA, we will put them in touch with the appropriate troop representative. If you can serve as such a representative, please contact us at membership@hsraa.org.

HSRAA AND COUNCIL ONLINE

The HSRAA Internet website www.hsraa.org carries information about the Reunion, electronic versions of past issues of "The Octoraro Loop" and on line registration of new members as well as renewal of current memberships. Andy Smith is the Chairman of the website.

Please note: HSRAA is seeking to reconnect with former staff members and campers at Horseshoe and Ware. Anyone who knows of any former camper or staff member who would like to join the Alumni Association, please have that person contact the HSRAA website www.hsraa.org for information. Interested parties may register for membership in the Association on the website or may contact the Chester County Council, BSA Service Center directly at 610-696-2900 to do so.

Also, check into the Chester County Council, BSA Website www.cccbsa.org. This site has been up since October and is in the process of being upgraded in the near future. See "The Spirit of the Horseshoe" book by JB Rettew on this site or the HSRAA site.

"ERNE SAYS"

Ernie Heegard, Horseshoe Reservation Director Emeritus and Honorary Chairman of HSRAA is in New Zealand. His column will appear in the July 2001 issue of "The Octoraro Loop."

WHERE ARE THEY TODAY?

Today we find Retired General, United States Army, Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. in Alexandria, Virginia, a charter member of the HSRAA and a prominent native of West Chester.

"Dutch" as he is known in our Council history and among his peers, commented in a letter to our Chairman Bob Matje last year: "You people have certainly been busy for a great cause and organization. Some of my best experiences occurred there" (Horseshoe).

Thanks to a number of students at West Chester's Henderson High School who wrote an extensive American History report in 1991 on the life of General "Dutch" Kerwin, we have an insight into this man who rose to prominence in the U. S. Army. They have written about his early life in West Chester and particularly his activity as a Boy Scout. Council records show that, in 1932, "Dutch" joined Troop 21 of West Chester when he was 15 years old. He was registered with that troop until 1935.

He is described as a "popular and well-known" youth. He was a member of Troop 21, sponsored by the Church of the Holy Trinity in West Chester. He achieved the Life Scout rank in his troop. "Dutch" was a patrol leader and attributes this Scouting responsibility to his meeting many different people. Thanks to these associations, he secured a job as a counselor at Camp Horseshoe. His swimming abilities, developed after spending many hours of practice in the West Chester YMCA pool, served him well when he taught swimming at Horseshoe in 1933 as a member of the Staff.

"Dutch" was a hard worker while preparing to enter college. A close scouting friend of his, Dr. Ellwood "Ossie" Spellman, described "Dutch" as "a straight-arrow kind of a boy." He was enterprising and worked hard delivering newspapers, working on mushroom farms, and working in a local restaurant. He was active as a leader, scholar, athlete and in the arts while in high school.

His achievements contributed to his receiving an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. In 1937, "Dutch" returned to Horseshoe "on leave" from West Point to serve as a stockade leader. One of the important traditions that "Dutch" instituted at Horseshoe was our Retreat Ceremony. That traditional ceremony continues to be used today.

Upon graduation from West Point, his military career began and coincided with the onset of America's involvement in the Second World War. At the time of Pearl Harbor, Kerwin describes the situation as "everybody began getting wound up to go to war." There follows in his biography a detailed accounting of his impressive successes in the European theater of war in the Sicilian campaign resulting in his Legion of Merit Award and promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. His division was involved in the liberation of Rome after which the division moved into France. Here, he was wounded in action by a German machine gun and evacuated and returned home in 1945.

"Dutch," after recovering from his leg wound, returned to Europe to serve under General George Marshall. The mortal wound suffered by his old commander General George S. Patton necessitated this trip.

For his efforts and leadership during World War II, he received the Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and a series of other citations. His war experiences, his talent, perseverance and leadership qualifications served him well as he continued his rise in military ranks. He became one of the Army's leading nuclear "experts." He was sent to Los Alamos, New Mexico and also spent time in other places, including Bikini Atoll, Las Vegas, and locations in the Pacific handling operations involved with the atom bomb. His reputation in the nuclear arms field led to other responsibilities — not just for the Army but for SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Power Europe) as well as other branches of the military. From this tour of duty, Kerwin eventually served in Berlin before returning to the United States.

He worked in the Pentagon for a period of time and, in 1967, was called to duty in Vietnam. "Dutch" served there as Chief of Staff as well as Commanding General of the Second Field Force during the time of the TET offensive. In 1969, he returned home to become Director for Civil Disturbance, handling problems related to the Vietnam involvement protests. Kerwin was elevated to a three-star General and eventually a four-star General before officially retiring from the Army July 1, 1978.

His post Army life has been as active and distinguished as his military career. We salute "Dutch" Kerwin, a distinguished military leader, native of Chester County and former Horseshoe Staffer of the 1930's!



Ware's Program Director, JB Fischer, gets them excited!

Mike "Berk" Berkeihiser returns as Camp Director at Camp Horseshoe. While "...last year was one of the best seasons ever," this coming summer plans to be better than ever. Attendance will continue to be strong at Camp Horseshoe. Many of last year's camp staff members are coming back full of spirit and the experience that only comes from prior years of summer camp. The program and staff continue to grow and improve. Berk comments: "Our camp staff is second to none!" He reports that a new multi-purpose building for the C.O.P.E. Mountain Biking Program is being constructed at the C.O.P.E. course on Flag Pole Hill and will be ready for the opening of camp.

Camp John H. Ware, III will once more challenge the versatility of its Staff by providing different types of programs throughout the summer. Part of the summer will be devoted to the Webelos and Cub Scout Camping programs. Then, "Parent and Pal" Cubbing programs will be conducted with all the Cub Scout programs having "Robin Hood" theme. Next the staff changes gears and offers traditional Boy Scout camping involving "C.O.P.E." programs, aquatics, merit badge opportunities, etc. While we will not have the Irish Scouts this year, we will have a number of scouts from County Cork, Ireland serving on our staff. This gives an added worldly dimension to the Camp John H. Ware, III program. Camp John H. Ware, III Director Marjie Prosock along with J.B. Fischer, Program Director, will again provide leadership.

This year a new Health Lodge will greet campers at Ware thanks to the generosity of a number of foundation grants the Council received. Also, Al Forssmark and his

workers will do much of the work on this building.

All in all, it is shaping up to be a great summer at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation!

REFLECTIONS/SPECIAL TIMES and PLACES

You have enjoyed the "Reflections" feature providing bits of history by decade in the first three issues of The Octoraro Loop. For your further reader enjoyment, this column will alternate between one issue and the next. This issue is "Special Times and Places" around the Reservation. The next issue will carry the decade bits and future issues will alternate.

JB Rettew, Editor

Camp John Ware, III — A Special Place - The Campfire Arena on the Octoraro Creek.

I sat on a hillside bench early one Sunday morning as a Wood Badge Worship Service was underway. The moment was serene - shafts of sunlight pierced the leaves of trees, the creek's rippling water and the sound of chirping birds — provided a spiritual moment in time. It was a time of contemplation.

It was not hard for my mind to wander and think of evenings at this special place when campers came at the end of their week at Camp Ware or, perhaps remembered as Camp Jubilee to some. Remembering the campfire burning brightly; its light bouncing off the leaves and tree trunks; its glow creating shadow forms in the dark woods; and, the conjuring of thoughts of being in a "wild" place and unsure of the night.

Many campers remember such nights filled with awe as to what might be out beyond the fire's light and yet secure to know they had made it through their camp week and would celebrate their accomplishments during their time at Camp Ware.

Truly, a magical place and time for many campers. Moments of reflection.



Bob Fisher, Ware's Handicraft Director/Mountain Man at work.



Goat Hill, re-named Flag Pole Hill as seen in 1928 from Kindness Center.

Goat Hill — the ridge of land that lies between Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware, III

One of the most prominent topographical features of the Reservation is Goat Hill, so-named before Horseshoe became a camp in 1927. It was a barren hill when the camp was founded; few, if any, trees grew there; livestock grazed there before our Boy Scouts arrived.

Today, Goat Hill carries a different name — Flag Pole Hill — and is completely forested thanks to our Council Scouts of earlier generations whose forestry techniques were applied to planting thousands of seedling pine trees for enjoyment by future generations of Scouts. Today, our American Flag snaps in the breeze on the main flagpole for camp. Our C.O.P.E. course is known to many of our older Scouts for its challenging experiences. However, it was not always so.

During World War II, in the 1940's, Flag Pole Hill not only served as the focal point for our Retreat Ceremony in the evening but also a main area for camp wide games. Many of those scouts during and after the war period will recall the excitement of "war" games, Pioneers & Indians, Capture the Bugler and Capture the Flag games that took place on Flag Pole Hill in the dark of night where maneuvers were guided by flash light, strategy and stealth. What times they were — some frightening but mostly fun and boisterous activities with much yelling and shouting that helped those young boys to grow to manhood.

Another bit of magic for a young Scout learning to make his way at camp. Fond reflections.

WELCOME NEW HSRAA MEMBERS!

The following new HSRAA members have joined since last September 2000. Welcome aboard!

- Arles, Mike**
- Armstrong, Rick**
- Ault, James A.**
- Bennett, Brian**
- Boyd, Aaron J.**
- Campoy, Justin**
- Cassidy, Michael E.**
- Davis, Brian C.**
- Free, David Floyd**
- Hagerstrom, Dolores ***
- Helmcamp, Christopher D.**
- Ikenberg, Russell D.**
- Johnson, Richard P.**
- King, Mitch**
- Lewis, Matt**
- McAdams, Frank D.**
- Meyer, Chris**
- Meyer, Dan**
- Mountin, Eric**
- Nicolaides, T. J.**
- Palmer, Christopher**
- Paxson, Sharp**
- Prager, Josh**
- Rettew, Christopher**
- Sherwood, Paul**
- Truitt, C. Spud**
- Weber, Jr., Harold ***

*Charter Member omitted from 9/1/00 list



Reunion 2000: Three generations of Fish's-Ron, Grandson Ryan and Andy, '79 OA Lodge Chief

HSRAA OFFICERS ELECTED - 2000

- Officers elected for term ending July, 2001:
- Chairman.....**Robert E. Matje**
 - Vice Chairman.....**Paul Owens**
 - Secretary.....**Joseph M. Eagan**
 - Treasurer.....**Eric R. Lorgus**

**REGISTRATION FORM: Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association - send to:
Att: HSRAA % Chester County Council, BSA, 504 S. Concord Rd., West Chester, PA 19382**

Name: _____ Email Add: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP code: _____ Telephone (Home) _____

Occupation: _____ Telephone (Bus.) _____

Year of Birth: 19_____

I have camped at (please check): ____ Camp Horseshoe; ____ Camp John H. Ware, III (Jubilee); ____ Both.

Camper Year(s) Date(s): _____

Camp Staff Year(s) Date(s): _____ Position: _____

_____ Please send me further information about The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association

The following Camp Horseshoe/Camp Ware alumni* may be interested in the HSRAA:

Name	Address
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

* We especially need names/addresses of people not currently registered with Council or Lodge 22 OA.

(Tear off above and send)

**THE OCTORARO LOOP
HORSESHOE RESERVATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

% Chester County Council, BSA
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