



# THE OCTORARO LOOP

**The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News  
Issue No. 3 – Volume 7 – Fall 2006 - On Line – WWW.HSRAA.ORG**

**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."*



## **HSRAA REUNION - 7 ... MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER!**

Thanks to the return of Horseshoe's own "Sump Pumps!" July 9, 2006 was the largest turnout for an HSRAA reunion in its seven-year history. After a great supper, the reunioners settled in to singing songs lead by Ernie Heegard, an auction of old camp Scout Law signs lead by Clarke Green and an evening filled with comedy and song provided by the popular "Sump Pumps".

One cannot applaud more the effort put forth by our past Camp Staffers that Saturday evening.

The members of the "Sump Pumps" came from as far away as Virginia, Tennessee and California. Organized by Bill Grubb playing the "saw", the group in the "No Flames in Tents" concert included Rev. Jim Goudie on guitar, John Sauser on the washboard and kazoo, Dave Kline on the washtub, along with the "strong" vocals and kazooing by Yogi Moyer, Phil Schwabb, Bill Pierson, and Steve D'Antonio. Sharp witty humor of Jim Goudie and "Rusty" among others keynoted the performance. Eric Lorgus introduced the group in

witty style. Yes, and Jim Goudie's friend, "Rusty" was there with his humorous back and forth "go 'round" delighting all.

Bill Grubb worked putting together this year's "concert" with loyal Sump Pumpers of old. Thanks to Bill and all our old friends for another memorable event!

Thanks, too, to Chris Minshall, the Reunion committee leader who delivered a great time for all. Special HSRAA reunion T-Shirts were available and will be at future events.

### **JEFF BALMAT, PARK SERVICE, SPEAKS AT REUNION -7**



*Eagle Scout and former Horseshoe Staff member, Jeff Balmat, attending the Reunion from Arizona talked of his returning to the*

*Horseshoe Scout Reservation and about some of his exploratory work on the past history of the property that now makes up the Reservation. Here is Jeff's article for our enjoyment .It forms a background of his studies and is a preamble to his future articles about our beloved property.*



### **Prehistory of Horseshoe Bend**

On a rainy afternoon in November of 1992, Bob Matje, Jr., and I crossed the foot-bridge over the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. We were on a weekend hiking trip with our Scout troop. Bobby had recently returned from military deployment overseas, was settling back down in the Philadelphia suburbs, and served as an adult leader in the same troop in which he had been a scout. In contrast, I was still a youth in the troop, but already dreaming of escaping the place of my upbringing. We scouts looked to Bobby as a role model, and as we crossed the bridge, I asked him why he came back home. His answer and advice was this: "Never forget your roots."

Nearly fourteen years hence, I no longer live in Chester County, yet still attempt to maintain a connection to my scouting roots. Horseshoe is an especially strong part of my sense of connection. As a scout, I found the natural setting and cultural history of the Horseshoe Bend fascinating. Encouraged by Rich Foot, it was then that I began collecting maps, historical documents, books, articles, whatever I could get my hands on that was relevant to the area's history. Since then I have amassed hundreds of sources of information about the "prehistory" of HSR—the Horseshoe Bend and the surrounding area before 1928. We are fortunate to have a solid understanding of our

more recent history, thanks to JB Rettew, Casey Jones, Louis Lester, and others. But equally rich and intriguing stories define the place and people that came before scouting in this small corner of land.

One example is the amusing tale of Abe Buzzard and his gang of chicken thieves, recounted by Role Cole in a previous issue of the Octoraro Loop. And there are the campfire tales you may have heard Clarke Green spin of the Susquehannock people that inhabited this area for hundreds of years before the Reynolds family settled, grazed and farmed the Bend. What about accounts of moonshiners practicing their craft in the Bend and crossing the state line to avoid capture? Perhaps you have visited the monument stone at the edge of the Horseshoe Athletic Field that marks the Mason-Dixon Line, surveyed two and a half centuries ago. Do you recall the campfire tale of an altercation of Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Taylor regarding a shifting course of the Octoraro Creek? Have you ever pondered the history of the old stone foundations along the Old Camp Road and Yellow Trail? Have you visited the old chromite mines in Camp Ware? Did you know that there are two churches on camp property? Where does the name Octoraro come from? These are some of the many legends that are part of our communal history.

In my search for more information about these legends I have exposed as many questions as I have answers about our foggy past but I am excited to share the fruits of this labor. Future issues of the Octoraro Loop will unearth more stories of geography and history, many of which relate to shreds of myth and truth found in our collective Horseshoe memory—the campfire tales we tell, the legends we pass down from generation to generation, both written and spoken. In addition, Clarke Green is developing a narrative in which will weave together many of these stories into an updated Camp (pre) History—a tale of the Horseshoe Bend's evolution through time.

Our communal roots in the Horseshoe Bend stretch far back in time. Bobby was right—we should not forget our roots. There is value in learning more about the nature of these roots and the truth to our myths. But do not be fooled—there is still opportunity for discovery, there is still room for legend.

## HSRAA REUNION – 8 CELEBRATES WARE’S 50TH...BE THERE!

JOIN us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Explorer Canoe Base, later known as Camp Jubilee, and now as we know it, Camp John H. Ware, 3rd.

The HSRAA proudly announces the Eighth Annual Reunion will be held at Camp John H. Ware, 3rd on Sunday, July 15, 2007. The Reunion moves to Ware to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the camp and to show off the latest HSRAA project.



Mellinger, Christenson and Montich – Be There!

HSRAA’s Eighth Annual Reunion will feature open program areas at the pool, shotgun, archery, handicraft, and rifle/BB in the afternoon. Trained staff will be available in these areas to provide instruction and to insure safety. After the activity period, dinner will be served and a brief HSRAA business meeting will follow.

The Camp was named in honor of Senator Ware, a longtime leader of the Chester County Council, it’s former President 1957 – 1961 and Council Camping Chairman from Oxford, PA.

Originally known as the Lewis Property, the land was acquired in the 1930’s and in 1956 became an integral part of the Council’s Horseshoe Reservation’s expansion plan when it was developed as the Explorer Canoe Base. Ernie Heegard was its first director in 1956.

### OFFICERS OF HSRAA

Chairman.....Mark Hammond  
 Vice Chairman.....Richard T. Bensing  
 Secretary.....Donald Tyson  
 Treasurer.....Eric R. Lorgus  
 Editors..JB Rettew, Joe Bradley, Ellie Rettew



### PARADE FIELD’S CROWNING GLORY- THE FLAG POLE

Reunion attendees were impressed by the fine work done on the Horseshoe Parade Field over the past several years as well as the fine new flagpole that crowns the field.

Thanks to our loyal members, the HSRAA and the friends of the HSRAA who donated the flagpole and base.

### 2006 REUNION PICTURES



1930’s Minshall, R. Lorgus and McComsey



1940’s A band of brother Scouts!



1950's Scouting - away we go!



1990's The Nifty Nineties!



1960's Still with "the" dust in their Moccasins



2000's join in the fun!



1970's Green Grow the Rushes, Ho!



Horseshoe Staff and Alumni are BBQ'd out!



1980's Solid Scouting Supporters!



Sump Pumps are sumpin'!



Clarke Green with Tom Minshall and  
Charlie Bradford

## Land Before Time

*Assistant Editor Joe Bradley obtained the following interesting article from Clarke Green, Past Camp Director further talking about the rich history of what is today's Horseshoe Scout Reservation.*

### "Archaeologists at Horseshoe"

Buzzard's Rock has been a familiar destination for Horseshoe Scout hikes since the camp's founding. It is an interesting and important place to explore. Jutting from the steep hillside the giant boulder forms a shelter that overlooks the Octoraro creek.

In 1987 Buzzard's Rock was given a second name: 'Horseshoe Rockshelter (36Ch488)'.

According to camp folklore Buzzard's Rock was a prime location for finding arrowheads and it was long assumed that Native Americans once occupied the site. During the summer of 1987 a couple of staff members exploring Buzzard's Rock turned up a few significant artifacts that piqued my interest. I sketched the shards of pottery and projectile points they unearthed and sent the drawings to the State Museum in Harrisburg with a letter inquiring about the origins of these interesting objects.

I received a reply from archeologist Mark McConaughy expressing an interest in visiting the camp to assess the possibility of excavating the site. He visited camp that September and we arrived at an agreement

between the State Museum Commission and Chester County Council to conduct an excavation. Buzzard's Rock was then officially designated 36Ch488; 36 for the alphabetic rank of Pennsylvania amongst the first 48 states, Ch for Chester County and 488 as the 488th recorded site in Chester County.

As the dig progressed during the summer of 1988 Mark and his assistant Doug Miller painstakingly recorded the location of the many artifacts they unearthed. Every ounce of soil removed from the site was carefully sifted to assure that every piece of history, no matter how small, was preserved for study. Within each layer of soil lay the story of Buzzard's Rock, one that would prove to stretch back farther than any of us could imagine.

Through the course of the summer Mark and Doug had the opportunity to share their considerable knowledge with 673 Scouts who visited the site. 77 Scouts were lucky enough to actually participate in the dig. Both archeologists proved to be a wonderful addition to the camp program. Doug, a student of military history, gave a powerful performance at our Fourth of July campfire representing soldiers from different periods of American history complete with his collection of uniforms and accoutrements.

One of the concepts the archeologists stressed then (and is now an important part of the Archeology Merit Badge) was that found artifacts should not be disturbed or collected. Understanding of pre-history is gained only when artifacts are studied in the context of the area they are found. An arrowhead, for example, may be a tempting souvenir but once removed from where it has rested for perhaps thousands of years it loses much of its power to inform us of the past.

When the summer drew to a close Mark and Doug packed up their equipment and the artifacts for their return to Harrisburg. They backfilled the excavations after placing some brand new 1988 pennies in the holes to pinpoint the date of the excavation for should any future archeologists follow

them.

In the ensuing months the artifacts were studied, identified and dated and Mark completed a thorough report of the dig. Perhaps the most unique find mentioned therein was a bit of stone chipped into a crude arrowhead. At first the arrowhead confused the archeologists; it was the wrong kind of stone, the wrong shape and was found at a relatively shallow depth.

With a little help they put two and two together and identified an entirely new class of projectile point. Apparently a former camp director (who shall remain nameless) had occasionally made his own arrowheads and 'seeded' the area around Buzzard's rock to enhance the camp legend. As a result the newly discovered artifact, officially designated the "Ernie Point", is now in the collection of the State Museum in Harrisburg.

While the other artifacts unearthed at Buzzard's rock may not be considered individually archaeologically significant, as a group they paint an astounding picture. It is certain that Native Americans used the site as a short-term camp, perhaps for hunting parties or as a place to procure quartz to make tools or temper pottery.



Lodge 22 Indians celebrate at Buzzard's Rock site

The things unearthed at Buzzard's Rock were carried there by people of many Native American cultures from many different places over a great span of time. Things aren't so different now – we still come to Camp Horseshoe from all over hunting for serenity, adventure and fellowship, stay for

a relatively short time, and return home.

To my mind the most extraordinary conclusion based on the study of the artifacts found during that summer is that Buzzard's Rock was occupied as far back as 6000 BC, or nearly eight thousand years.

By identifying, studying and preserving Buzzard's Rock we now know that long before the Scouts, the Reynolds farm, Frey's Forge; or Mason and Dixon - before the bend of the creek bore the name Horseshoe, or Crook's Hill; even long-long before the first Europeans set foot on this continent - for thousands of years people sitting beneath Buzzards rock looked up to see the same stars we can see if we sit in their place today.



Mark Hammond with Jim Jordan and Don Tyson

## CHAIRMAN HAMMOND'S REMARKS

Our 2006 reunion was tremendous fun. The Sump Pumps performed again, the food was tremendous (two roasted pigs), and most importantly, we had our highest-ever member attendance.

The Parade Field renovations look great, and the sprinkler system should be installed by the time you read this. In addition, a few tweaks to address some minor issues have been made this autumn, including improved storm water management. If you haven't had a chance to see the new Parade Field in person, I suggest you visit our website [www.hsraa.org](http://www.hsraa.org) and take a gander.

As discussed briefly at the reunion, we are turning a part of our attention to Camp Ware (nee Camp Jubilee). Currently, the camp "affiliation" of our members is not commensurate with the historic attendance levels at the two camps. A subcommittee has been formed and it recommended undertaking a "Ware

Initiative" at the November HSRAA Executive Board Meeting.

Specifically, the subcommittee recommended a 3-prong approach for invigorating this important constituency of the association. A special membership drive will be launched in December, coupled with a project to be performed at Camp Ware and a reunion entirely at Camp Ware. Discussions are already underway for some of the new and fun events to be held at the reunion, including opening the rifle and archery ranges, and possibly the pool.

The HSRAA has a bright future. I hope that you will continue your membership in the association—please look for our membership renewal mailer in December.

**YOURS IN THE "SPIRIT",**

*Mark Hammond,* '79 Chairman

### **OCTORARO 22 BUILDING FUND 2006 -7 UNDERWAY**



1950's firm foundation for the Octoraro 22 lodge

Lodge 22 is executing plans for the restoration of the Lodge building along with a number of additions and is seeking financial support through its Lodge 22 members. A.J. DiAntonio offers the following in support of this effort:

*"...Historic Land Where Values Shine..."*

*a print by A.J. DiAntonio*

Inspired by the pageant, *The Spirit of the Horse's Hoof*, by A.J. DiAntonio, written for the 2003 NE-4A Section Conclave, and the book *The Spirit of the Horseshoe*, by J.B. Rettew III, written for the 75th Anniversary of Chester County Council, *...Historic Land Where Values Shine...* combines all of Horseshoe Scout Reservation's incredible past as it developed

into one of the Nation's premier Scouting facilities. Each of the 7 segments of the painting represents a part of the amazing history of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation, a second home to many of us.

The prints are signed and numbered by the artist and limited to 300 copies. Along with each print, you will receive a detailed description of each part of the painting and its significance in the creation of the jewel of Chester County Scouting.

To reserve your copy, contact Ed Dougherty, Sr. with the Order of the Arrow at 610-496-7091 or by email [mrtedco@aol.com](mailto:mrtedco@aol.com). Prints are available unframed for \$50 or \$150 for a custom frame and matting. All profits have been dedicated to the Octoraro Memorial Lodge Building Restoration Fund.



A.J. DiAntonio's art print here!

### **HARVEY BROWN VETERAN SCOUTER OF THE 1920'S TALKS**

*Bruce Baker of Troop 65, Exton, has spent much time with Harvey Brown, veteran Scouter and writes the following:*

Harvey, was born in 1915 and was a Scout from 1928 to 1931, when he had to quit school and other activities to support his family during the depression years - at age 16.

He was a member of Malvern Troop 7 (which recently celebrated its 90th anniversary). Harvey originally joined Troop 78 but later left for Troop 7 where his deafness could be better accommodated. Harvey recalls Malvern 7, under Walter Burkey's leadership that met at the old Malvern firehouse on Church Street in the borough. He recalls being

a Tenderfoot Scout, but can't recall his rank beyond that.

He camped at Horseshoe in 1928. He had suffered a farming accident, so he only was able to go for the second week. He remembers the camp doctor allowed him to swim on his last two days at camp. He remembers the straw shed, filling his mattress and wonders if that still happens (See Ernie Heegard's article in July 2006 issue).



1928 arial looks down on camp buildings

Back then Harvey recalls that camp fees were \$13 a week. He remembers the dining hall and marching to meals in full uniform. He feels that all the principal buildings were north of the Mason-Dixon line, and he recalls the line marker with no cage around it. There was a new swimming pool in his recollection (1930), and he has gifted to council and the camp a section of cedar trunk that was a part of a wooden structure at the pool. He's held onto this memento for more than 75 years.

Harvey recalls trooper's (campaign) hats, good food, team sports and overnight campouts across the creek. And recalls a Mr. C.C. Coley who was caretaker of the Reservation at that time. Coley had a farm across the creek. Harvey Brown proudly recalls being 'at attention' on the parade ground for the raising and lowering of the flag. He also recalls being sent for toothpicks by his troop table at dinner.

Harvey returned to Horseshoe in November of 1932, riding all bundled up in the rumble seat of Norman Phelps Ford car.

"It was pretty cold", Harvey recalls. The



White House HQ in 1928 for Harvey Brown

road in to camp was still as bad as when he was first there. He remembers camping with Richard Larue, only son of a Paoli pharmacist, who was lost at sea when a German U-boat in World War II sank his troop transport. "I'll never forget him," commented Brown.

"I have nothing but the fondest memories of being a Boy Scout. I wish *I could have gone on (sic) in Scouting.*"

*HSRAA wishes all our best to Harvey, now 91 years 'young'!*

## ANDREW COE - ADVENTURER



*Andy's story began in the Octoraro Loop of November 2002 in an article "Where In The World are they now? ... Here's Andy Coe" Since that piece appeared, Andy has returned from his Peace Corps experience and offers the following:*

### Grading Service

Browsing through my dusty trinkets from Tanzania the other day, I stumbled upon an old notebook that I had all but forgotten.



That old notebook was just sitting there amongst photo negatives, hand-carved giraffes, and other novelty boutiques. Concealed in all the mess was that book- a diamond in the rough, a shard of tanzanite if you will. I couldn't toss away one of those.

I began thumbing through the book gently as the paper had become frail and the ink a touch faded. They don't make them quite as sturdy in Africa. This particular notebook – the keeper of all my students' grades – was only three years old.

Turning from page to page, each revealed names from another place, most completely foreign to me now through the passage of time. Neema Juma, Rehema Athumany, Deogratias James- if not for the scores stretched across from their names, I had no prayer of picking out my best students. Ntgowo Abel, Mussa John, Beatrice Leonard- that's right, I remember you, Beatrice. You scored a zero on my Chemistry final exam. Apparently I hadn't forgotten everything, though I tried hard to forget that.

One name, however, came thrashing off the page like a phoenix. Regina Matobu. A hard luck case that defied the odds and graduated from Sumve Girls' Secondary School with flying colors, Regina was the epitome of will power. From a broken home, Regina existed in a crucible of personal tragedy from physical and sexual abuse, yet she always strived to transcend the roles of the lowly Tanzanian woman - homemaker and subjugate. She was the indelible pearl of human struggle, a lost cause persevering through untold obstacles, and so altruistic that even a weary volunteer like me could absorb life lessons from her.

With an unequivocal triumph such as this, a person who has marked your whole experience in an intangible and special way, you want to know- does she remember me? Does she remember how I helped her, even if nominally, through the turbulence? Of course she does. I was one of a handful of foreigners in the village. But how singular is the name that you remember above all else, feeding me stories of salvation in a cruel and prejudicial world that hardly forgets a shamed past. I remember her, the one that showed me an unflinching committal to excellence, even in

the face of destructive forces. Regina will forever be a guide.

It wasn't until reading those cascading names that I realized I too am a Regina Matobu – for innumerable campers at Camp Horseshoe. During this past camping season, someone approached and blindsided me with salutations and memories of 2001 when I was his Shotgun Shooting instructor. I hadn't been in camp for long, and even then I was just volunteering, but he remembered that far-gone week I spent with him instructing and mentoring in but the most seemingly minor of ways. I felt somewhat embarrassed at not knowing his name, but his thrilled acknowledgment of my tutelage far outweighed my ignorance, much like Regina's breezy gifts of triumph overshadowed my awkwardness at learning of her heartaches.

They both taught me, in both significant and matter-of-fact ways, that we do not serve in a vacuum- we extol wisdom in all that we do. Though we do not expect to be moved by our actions, it is both an inevitable and satisfying consequence, a wonderful caveat of selflessness that both the Peace Corps and Scouting foster. I was nearly moved to tears to hear that Regina was now in college, but satisfied all the while to have her name in my book. I can throw the other trivialities away contently knowing that I have many other fantastic stories like this to remember, sitting amongst the giraffes and elephants, in a dusty old grade book that is but three years old. Even you, Beatrice.

## PHOTO REMBRANCES...



**Chief Lester at Lodge 22 Building Dedication  
June 20, 1959 – “The Bridge Builder**

**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, ZIPcode: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 SCOUT RESERVATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

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