

THE OCTORARO LOOP

The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News Issue No. 3 - Volume 3 - November 2002 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 HELPS CELEBRATE 75TH CAMP SEASON WITH THIRD ANNUAL REUNION

The Horseshoe Scout Reservation celebrated 75 years of service to Scouting and the Chester County Council, BSA this summer. More than 140 HSRAA members from the 1930's to present day were there to join in the celebration on July 13, 2002.



Hail! Hail! The gang's all here for third Reunion.

This was the third Annual convention of alumni/ae from Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware 3rd. Bill "Biff" Davis was in charge of the daylong event and the great program. A fine catered dinner capped the event and kept all in a fine mood for the camp songs and reminiscences led by Ernie Heegard and Clarke Green.

Attendees were greeted by streamers and banners at the Goodman Pavillion and by HSRAA greeters. Alumni representing most

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of the decades were there to join in the fun and fellowship of the day.

Many activities were arranged for the Alumni this year. Events enjoyed were the open rifle shoot, an obstacle rope course, archery shoots and hikes to the swimming pool to watch the Aquatics meet. The camp staff erected a giant swing that captured the fascination of many stalwarts including Council Commissioner Russ Neubauer and many more youthful attendees.

A nostalgic slide show of Camp Horseshoe days from 1927 to the present day were viewed along with those of early Camp Ware (then Jubilee) days and the present.

Leonard McCabe of the 1940's showed up with some memorabilia which he presented to JB Rettew. It was the envelope and message from the "Message to Garcia" game played on Flagpole Hill on August 10th in 1942. Len asked – "Is Garcia still waiting for the Message?" (See editor's note on last page) Then, he also produced "the mine claim" that he and his patrol had staked out in the Octoraro Creek at the Camp Horseshoe 'Gold Rush' in 1945.

Ron Walter came to the Reunion representing the 1950's. Before the event, his father, T. Edgar Walter, Jr. had sent him a letter about his 1927 and later years' experiences at Camp Horseshoe. He wrote of the day he joined "Chief" Heistand, his Scoutmaster Harold Schramm, his father, and others to visit the "new property" that was to become our Camp Horseshoe. What a great time that must have been for this twelve year old and now at age 87 to relive some of those days through his son, Ron. Ron also produced the well known camp post card photo showing him in Indian costume being paddled in a canoe to the "Bend in the Octoraro."

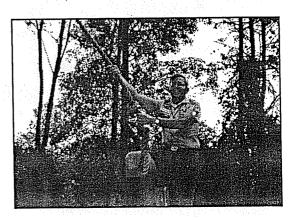
There were patches and old uniforms, copies of old "Camp Echo" newspapers, slides and movies and other ancient and honorable relics of an earlier day. But, the best part of the Reunion was the opportunity to reunite with campers and Staff members of the past from Horseshoe and Ware and to reflect on those halcyon days of our youth.

The Reunion included a sumptuous barbecue feast following the evening Camp Retreat ceremony. This was probably one of the largest summer camp Retreat ceremony held at camp. The Parade Field was bulging at the seams with Scouts, Leaders, Staff, Parents and Alumni! We can take great pride in the fact that all of those and us assembled had a lot to do with keeping our Council's summer camping program among the best in the Nation.

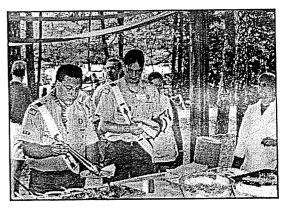
Next year's reunion is planned for July 12, 2003. Be sure to mark your calendars now. Be there...for fun, fellowship and to reflect on days gone by and the important future happenings at Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware, 3rd!



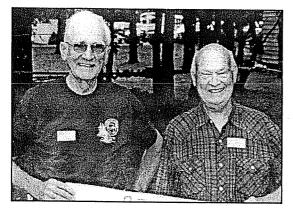
Neil Chippendale and Biff Davis welcome attendees.



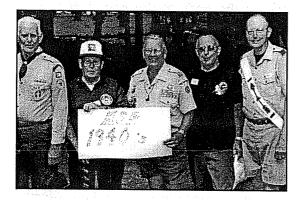
Russ Neubauer swings into Reunion.



3 Mike Arliss and Andy Smith chow down.



1930's Bob Lorgus and Roland Minshall



1940's looking good!



1950's are fabulous!



1960's are well represented!



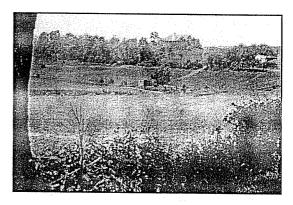
1970's savoring the fellowship!



1980's are here in force!



1990's are new kids on the block!



75 year old view from Octoraro Creek.

CHAIRMAN BOB MATJE WRITES

Fellow Alumni:

"I have gotten more out of [the BSA] than it has gotten out of me."- A slightly modified quote from Winton Churchill

A friend of mine recently asked me why I was involved in an organization for youth in which I had no children of my own involved. The answer was simple, but the explanation was a little bit more difficult. I began my reply with a story about when I first arrived in Germany as a Second Lieutenant in the Combat Corps of Engineers. The first day I arrived at my unit I was escorted to an area where a group of soldiers were building a boom derrick to lift the front of a truck. A boom derrick is a field-constructed device that is used by engineers when a mechanical lift is not available to lift heavy objects such as bridge parts or runway grid panels. The soldiers were having trouble because they could not adequately anchor the guy wires of the boom derrick using a stake in the ground no matter how deep they drove it in or how much rope they used to secure it because the stake kept pulling out.

After watching the operation for several minutes, I quietly pulled aside the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge and drew a picture for him. I first drew a horizontal line on a piece of paper followed by three slanted lines about an inch apart and drawn through the horizontal line. I then drew an oval from the top of the first slanted line to the point where the second slanted line crossed the horizontal line, and finally from the top of the second slanted line to the point where third slanted line crossed the horizontal line. He understood immediately.

He then rejoined the growing crowd that was massing around the developing fiasco. He picked up one stake and drove it into the ground, he took another stake and drove it into the ground a foot behind the first, and then a he drove a third stake a foot behind the second. He took a piece of rope and tied the top of the stake to the point where the second stake met the ground, then took another piece of rope and tied the top of the second stake to the point where the third

stake met the ground. All eyes were fixated upon him, and no one spoke as he went about his business. He then anchored the boom derrick to the first stake and the team effortlessly pulled up the front of the HMWVV. The mission was a success, and though no one noticed our wordless conversation, the word got out that the new LT had his "stuff" in a pile. That is, I had instant credibility.

I owe that earned credibility to the HSR and the BSA. The method of securing the boom derrick came from learning how to secure the ends of the rope bridge in the Camp craft area at Horseshoe, having the piece of paper and pen came from being required to be prepared while in uniform, and the ability to quietly pull someone aside and coach them on what they needed to know to lead a group came from the training I received from Ernie Heegard at our leadership training during staff week.

This simple, yet profound example is one of the many instances where I profited from the character and leadership development I experienced as a Scout, Camper, and Staff Member at the HSR as we all have. This example is also why I stay involved and give both my time and what assets I can spare back to the program that I have benefited so much from. The cultivation of this atmosphere of character and leadership development has long been a tradition within the Horseshoe Scout Reservation and Chester County Council because there has always been a core group present to preserve it. It is my hope that you will consider supporting this tradition that many have cheerfully donated their time, talents and resources to further deepen our impact.

Yours in the **Spirit**, Bob Matje



Chairman Matje delivers message.



Ed and Bob Hartman are here from 1964.

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THEY NOW? HERE'S ANDY COE!

Today we find Andy Coe, popular former Camp Horseshoe staffer, in Tanzania, Africa with the Peace Corps, thousands of miles away from our reservation and the comforts of home!

You'll remember Andy being an Eagle Scout from Chadds Ford Troop 31, a Horseshoe 5-year Staff member, Founder's Award recipient and Vigil Honor member in Octoraro Lodge 22. He graduated with a degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Penn State.

While at Penn State and passing by the College Job Fair Booth, he suddenly recalled that a long time ago, he had thought that the Peace Corps was what he wanted to do not for a career, but a slight diversion.

So as this is written, Andy is fulfilling his Peace Corps Assignment, which is teaching Secondary School Chemistry at an all-girls boarding school in the village of Sumve, Tanzania. He has been there since January of 2002.

He recounts, "I decided to devote two complete years of my life to service partially because I didn't have any solid plans after college, but mainly, I felt that my experiences in scouting, particularly in the OA, could be best suited to the Peace Corps. I wanted to teach Geometry using Spanish. Don't ask me why, but I distinctly recall thinking that one day I would do just that. So now I am teaching Chemistry using "Kiswinglish"- mostly English, and some Kiswahili.

I was scheduled to depart for Tanzania on Sept. 18, 2001, but the events of 9/11 altered those plans a bit. Many people decided not to appear for departure, as the gravity of those attacks threw new perspectives on life from different angles. My first

thought was that I'd be safer out in the middle of nowhere, without a stable communications network or accessible medical attention, not to mention the threat of wild animals, than back here in the U.S. But soon, I realized that perhaps these events would add more to the challenge, to promote the U.S. in a brighter light.

Luckily, I found that even in a country with 41% of the populace being Muslims (who I thought might be sympathetic to the 9/11 attackers), our plight was a tragic one and the attacks were condemned by all I've met."

The journey is far from over, but it isn't too difficult to step back and see that point A is but a distant memory, and here at point B. things are slowly coming into focus. It's kind of like being at Summer camp for a week or a summer, but with the stress lasting for 2 full years and the fulfillment lasting even longer. It's unbelievable how useful my scouting skills have been, from fixing up my house, to being patient during the most trying of market transactions (imagine how humiliating it is not to be able to buy nails because you don't know the word for nails although everyone else around you does), to building a huge teepee bonfire for students to marvel at only to later realize that it resembled a typical tribal shelter of that area before I set it ablaze (the students and teachers were a bit shocked-recreational combustion is not commonplace here).

Sometimes we, as volunteers, feel as if our efforts are in vain, that culture is too great an obstacle in our path. Often, the problem is obvious- we're trying to meet our own goals rather than those of who we're trying to serve. A tent pole example of this is the volunteer in Ethiopia who built a high-tech solar kitchen for the women of the village, and found that after 6 months, the kitchen was seldom being used. The problem was that the kitchen was not configured for "socializing", and that was just as important to the women as the food they were preparing.

As I look to the future, I can't help but think that perhaps this little career sidetrack is not one at all. Living abroad and helping where help is needed never seemed appealing until I actually did it, and now I yearn for more. There are plenty of opportunities to do this kind of work, where being out in the field, meeting the people, and assessing real problems can't be underestimated in their

value to the communities that these organizations serve.

Of course, my tour is far from the end and a lot can happen until that time to make me steer to a new course. The temptation to just "ride it out" in the Peace Corps is high, especially at this stage of service, but if we don't struggle to entertain new ideas and perspectives, we don't serve anything but our own interests."

We wish Andy well in his endeavors and look forward to his safe return and hearing further about the Peace Corps adventures.

COMMUNICATIONS

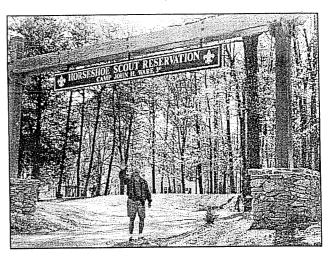
Several ways are being used to give and get the most current HSRAA information – electronically: online via the Council's website: http://www.cccbsa.org or directly to http://www.hsraa.org and via written word in The Octoraro Loop, the Council's newly redesigned Trail Blazer newspaper and the new The Leader bi-monthly letter.

The Council's website continues being updated keeping in mind the needs of the Scout Leaders and Scouting youth. Forms for unit leaders' use are now available for downloading as well as other useful information for Scouts and leaders.

The Council's website contains a TRAIN-ING section for all levels of training available. Other elements being added in the future are High Adventure and Council Commissioner's Corner. Periodic updates will be done on a consistent basis to keep the site lively and useful. The current Trail Blazer issue is now electronically available for display.



Ernie's 'I'll sing you one, Ho! Green ...



Gateway beckons Ware Boy Scout and Cub campers.

HSRAA GATEWAY WELCOMED CAMPERS – Other Projects

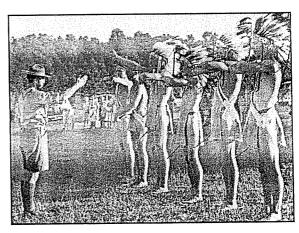
Dick Bensing, Committee Chairman for Special Projects, announced that the Camp John H. Ware, 3rd gateway was completed in time for the summer Boy Scout and Cub Scout programs.

This was the second HSRAA funded gateway to be built on the Horseshoe Scout Reservation.

In the meantime, plans are being developed for another HSRAA funded project to refurbish the Parade Ground at Camp Horseshoe. Plans were introduced at the July 2002 Reunion.

DR. CHARLES E. SWOPE DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN HONOR

In September 2002, some 300 people joined to honor Dr. Charles E. Swope for his continuing leadership in banking, the community and Scouting in Chester County. This was the first Distinguished Citizen Award presented by Chester County Council, BSA. He is an



1946 OA Tapout Team: A. Wilson, J. Rettew, Charlie Swope, C. Miller, R. Thomas and R. Alexander hail Frank Beam.



OA Picture presented by JB Rettew to Charlie Swope.

Briar Photo

HSRAA member.

Charlie is well known to Scouting. He is an Eagle Scout from Troop 21 of West Chester. As a youth, he served three years on the Camp Horseshoe Staff as a Stockade Leader of the Sherwood Forest campsite. He was active in the OA and served as Camp Sakima during the summer at Horseshoe. He is a charter member of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association. A long time Council Board member, Charlie was recognized with the National Scouting's Distinguished Eagle Award a number of years ago.

Charlie is the Chief Executive of the Bank of Chester County where he became its youngest President at the age of 41. A Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, he holds a degree in Law.

Among those honoring Charlie were R. James Macaleer of the Chester County Council, BSA Board, Kevin Holleran, former Council Legal Advisor, State Representative Elinor Z. Taylor. General Walter T. "Dutch" Kerwin Jr., a friend of Charlie's and a Horseshoe staff member in the 1930's (Kerwin was featured in the March 2001 Octoraro Loop), came from Virginia to join in his friend's celebration.

It was my (JB's) privilege to represent Scouting and to recall the days when Charlie and I served on the Horseshoe Staff in 1946. I presented Charlie with a photograph (see photo accompanying the article) of the OA Tap-out team showing Charlie, your editor and other team members skimpingly attired in breach clouthes hailing the Camp Director Frank Beam. In presenting the photo, I related that such attire would not pass today's standards and the story that the cloth to make the costumes came from the

Camp Director's living room curtains.

It is a well-deserved honor for Charlie. We look towards his continuing support of Scouting in the Chester County Council.



General "Dutch" Kerwin" honors Charlie Swope.
Briar Photo

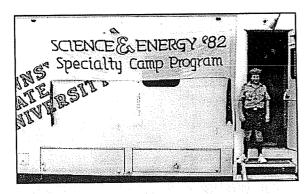
TODAY'S YOUTH...TOMORROW'S LEADERS KEYNOTES COUNCIL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The primary targets of the recently planned Chester County Council, BSA Capital Campaign are Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware 3rd.

Headed by R. James Macaleer and Robert D. McNeil, the Council announced plans for a capital campaign to raise funds for both camps. Funds raised are to be applied to updating wastewater treatment facilities for both camps, development of a themed Cub Adventure Camp at Ware, renovating Camp Horseshoe and expanding the Council Service Center to meet the demands on that facility. Money raised will also be set aside as an endowment to provide income to insure the proper facility maintenance in the future.

Some funds have already been raised, mostly from Chester County Council's Board members. However, to be successful, we must rely on Scouters, the community and parents to support this vital initiative if the Council is to continue to develop its membership, programs and major facilities.

Please contact Ms. Robin Shipman, Council Development Director, at 610-696-6621 EXT 21, for further information. The support of all is requested.

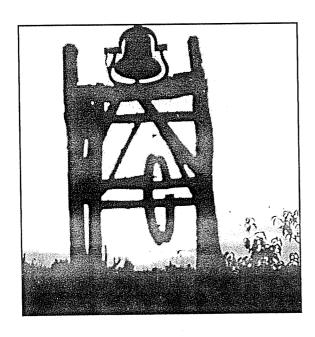


Camp Ware 1982 Science and Energy first in USA.



Cub Scout is "boxed" and ready for Ware camping.

"ERNIE SAYS" ... Ernie Heegard, Camp Director Emeritus of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation, is the Honorary Chairman of the HSRAA. His column is regularly in "The Octoraro Loop."



Horseshoe Bell and Iron Ring sound the alarm!

FIRE! FIRE!

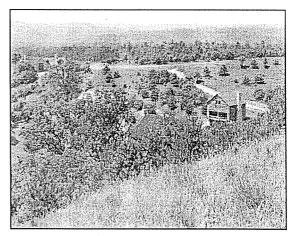
For most of us who have spent any time camping, we will remember how important a fire has been to this memorable experience. On a cold rainy day how quickly spirits are raised when we hear the crackle of a wood fire, the smell of cedar smoke, or the warmth of the blazing campfire. Another experience to remember might be that morning following the night of your OA Ordeal and later those words "The fire has been to all people a sign of cheer." Fire is truly a gift to all especially to the camper. There have been, however, fires at camp that have not been remembered as fondly. Some time in the early 1940's, a forest fire blazed just outside our Camp Horseshoe property, finally jumped the Octoraro Stream, and almost burned to the ground the three lower campsites. It first burned Bayard Taylor campsite, moved quickly up the hill to Davy Crockett campsite, and finally was stopped after burning Kit Carson campsite. A few sparks made it to the Dining Hall roof but were quickly extinguished.

Over the years several other fires have occurred throughout the camp. I recall a less serious one that occurred during my early staffing years. It burned the staff area known as Naturehart, which housed kitchen and nature staff. The site is now the clearing just below the Dan Beard campsite. Fortunately, some one happened upon the blazing tents and rescued most of the personal gear, but the tents and practically all the raised platforms were lost. To the best of my recollection, the remaining fires were dispatched without further lasting damage. Part of the credit for this good fortune in fire protection can be attributed to the fire readiness training given to Staff, Leaders and the Scouts. Some may remember the old hand-cranked fire siren atop a rusty stand at the head of the Parade Field. This remained through most of the 1940's. Or later Scouts will recall the little red fire wagon equipped with stirrup water pumps, fire rakes and shovels and canvas water buckets. Others may remember the old iron-ring fire gong which hung behind the Dining Hall.

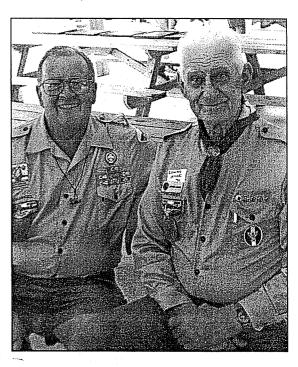
There is also a more controlled side of fire in Scouting and at camp that is part of our vivid memories. It is that very special time around a campfire. Recall a Sunday night at camp and the wild and crazy staff members exploding with their opening campfire. For many of the campers, it was their first opportunity to meet the camp staff and be impressed with their spirit and enthusiasm. The enormity of the fire and the drama of the opening, whether by pyrotechnics or by Indians arriving in canoes wielding blazing torches, can go a long way in forming that memory. You might recall more clearly a small troop campfire with a talented Scout playing a guitar, troop members joining in song, patrols acting out skits and a closing story told by your troop leader. Your strongest memory may be the final ceremonial campfire that capped off each week in camp. It began with the Indian entrance at the Skull Gate and a "Ho, Chief!" "Howww!" The towering fire, the Indian Pageant, and the ring of seats filled with Scouts, parents, and the leaders only added to the excitement. It concluded with the award of the Silver Buckle to the honored Scouts and dismissed with the Staff members circling the dying fire while singing the camp song "In the Loop of the Octoraro Bend."

Torches, candles and fire are an important part of the entire Scouting experience. Scout competitions like water boiling, string burning, fire-by-friction and fire-by-flint and steel have long been a part of the skill building among Scouts. Scouting ceremonies have always included candles, torches and fires as a way to warm, impress and inspire. The Scout Induction Ceremony, the Eagle Court of Honor, and the Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil Ceremonies all draw on the ethereal and the intangible qualities of FIRE! Who among us has not spent time around a fire looking deeply into the glowing embers, enchanted by the strange shapes of the leaping tongues of red and orange flames, or followed skyward the showers of exploding sparks, and then wondered what it is that draws us to it! The next time you build a campfire, remember those wise words from the OLD INDIAN CHIEF, "Indian, builden small fire, sittem up close --. White man builden BIG FIRE, sittem wayyyyyy back!!"





On Flag Pole Hill 75 years past.



JB Rettew and Len McCabe discuss "Garcia".

EDITOR JB'S REFLECTIONS – 1942

"Message to Garcia"

Earlier in this issue (page 2) I mentioned that the "Message to Garcia" from a game on Flag Pole Hill on August 10, 1942 was finally delivered 60 years later by Len McCabe to me at the HSRAA Reunion last July. Mentioning this to the HSRAA Executive Committee members recently, elicited this comment – "What in heavens name is this Garcia thing?"

Regretfully over the years, this wide area game did not survive except in the minds of some of our old timers.

Allegedly, Garcia was a "General" in the

Spanish American War. A message was dispatched to him (by the enemy) only to be intercepted by other combatants, thus turning the battle in favor of the American forces.

At Camp Horseshoe in the good ol' days, this game along with Cowboys and Indians, Capture the Flag, et al were camp wide area games. In this case, the camp was divided by Stockades, with one group charged with delivering the "Message" to "Garcia" who was atop Flag Pole Hill. The other group was to try to intercept the "Message." The group delivering the letter would be declared the "winners."

An interesting night time event, climbing the hill, dodging "the enemy", trees, rocks, poison ivy, etc. to attain the heights! A bit rough and tumble as you can imagine, but to a young camper like me, it was exciting!

Fond camping memories are built on times like these. JB Rettew

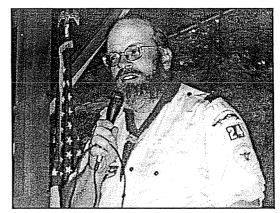
HSRAA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Your membership contributions directly support one of the HSRAA's main tenets: improving Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware, 3rd.

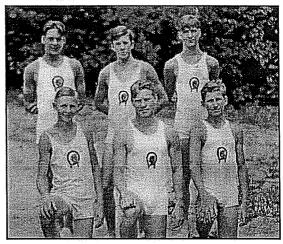
Everyone who has camped at the Reservation for at least one night has fond memories of their experiences in a place that is known as a "Real Camp for Real Boys."

Renewing your membership in the HSRAA will help preserve and improve the Horseshoe Scout Reservation so the youth of tomorrow can continue to have the experiences which taught so many of us about life and leadership. When you receive your membership renewal letter, please consider renewing at the next level.

The HSRAA membership cycle is a calendar year. HSRAA has three levels of paid membership: Silver (\$30), Gold (\$100), and Platinum (\$250). All Scouts under the age of 21 are classified as "Youth" members and receive free membership including the *Octoraro Loop* newsletter.

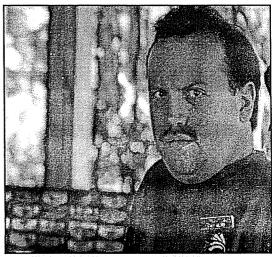


Clarke Green talks of days past and future.



Swim Staff of 75 years ago.

William S. "Biff" Davis



William "Biff" Davis 1967 - 2002

William "Biff" Davis whose life of devotion to his family, service to his community and Scouting has been an inspiration to all who knew him, passed away November 7, 2002 at the age of 35.

His family and Scouting have been the mainstays of his life.

Affectionately known as "Biff" he was a

Charter Member of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA). He is remembered for his long standing dedication to the youth and adult leaders of Coatesville Troop 117, his devotion as a Vigil Honor Member in the Order of the Arrow and his participation in the start-up and leadership of our HSRAA.

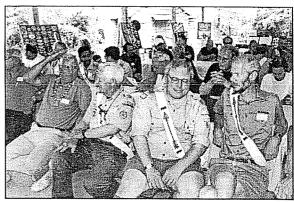
Up until his passing, Bill served as the Reunion Chairman on the HSRAA Executive Committee. He has also served as a member of the Horseshoe Camp Staff where he taught Handicraft skills to the youth of Chester County. He attended Camp Horseshoe for 21 years both as a Scout and leader.

His accomplishments are extensive. As Scoutmaster of Troop 117 for eight years, there were 18 Scouts attaining the Eagle Scout rank under his guidance. He was a Life Scout. As an Octoraro Lodge 22 Vigil Honor member, he served as Lodge Corresponding Secretary, Vigil Honor President, Secretary, and Advisor to the Vigil. In 1988 he received the Lodge's prestigious Founder's Award. He was a Wood Badge member and received his Scouter's Key. He was Camping Chairman of the Horseshoe Trail District. The Masonic Lodge recognized "Biff" with their Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award recognizing one "who acts as a role model and provides dedicated service to young men in the Boy Scouts of America."

His wife Sharon and his three-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, survive Bill. A trust fund has been established for his daughter Elizabeth. Donations may be made to: Elizabeth K. Davis Education c/o Citadel Federal Credit 3030 Zinn Road Thorndale, Pa 19372

"What we have
Done for ourselves
Dies with us;
What we have
Done for others
Remains, and is
Immortal"

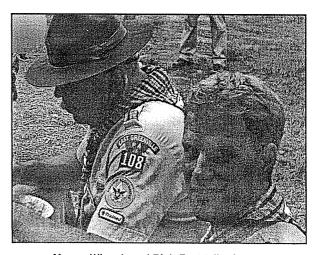
-Dedication, Truckee, CA



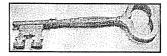
Alumni gather for the business meeting.



Mark Hammond, new Vice Chairman, and friend.



Moose Winsch and Rich Foot talk of camp.



"Key" to Camp Horseshoe of 75 years ago.

OFFICERS OF THE HSRAA OFFICERS ELECTED TO NEW TERM Officers elected for term ending August 31, 2003:

Chairman	Robert E. Matje
	Mark Hammond
Secretary	Don Tyson
Treasurer	Eric R. Lorgus

THE OCTORARO LOOP HORSESHOE RESERVATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

c/oChester County Council, BSA 504 South Concord Road West Chester, PA 19382 Return Service Requested NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT # 93 WEST CHESTER, PA

Return Service Requested

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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(Email Address:<JBR3@prodigy.net>)
(HRSRAA website address: <www.hsraa.org>)

Address label

(Tear off below and send)

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 inf	ormation about The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association
The fall and an Committee on the officer	p Ware alumni* may be interested in the HSRAA: