



Vol. 24 Dedicated to Preserving the Memories of T.M.R. Campers #6

The Newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum - June 2024

This issue of Smokes Signals highlights: Scouting at the '64 World's Fair, a look at Sanita Hills, Kintecoy's BBQ and "Before TMR."

If you have a TMR memory you would like to share please email it to us.

[Join the TMR Scout Museum](#)

From the Chairman - Mitchell Slepian

We are all excited that summer camp starts in less than a month. Longtime TMR staff member Ira Nagel will serve as museum director. I want to introduce Reggie Laine, a former Keowa staff member who will be our assistant director. We welcome him to our museum.

We would love for you to send us your images when you visit. Feel free to send me your highlights.

We are actively seeking volunteers to join our team. Specifically, we need individuals with graphics and web design skills. If you have these skills and are interested in contributing to our museum, please reach out to me at chairmantmrmuseum@gmail.com.



Memories from the 1964 World's Fair

by Nick Gelbard

After the 1964 TMR season when I was a 15-year-old CIT, the Greater New York Council, specifically Bill Scollay, selected eight Ten Mile River CITs to help promote "The Wonderful World of Scouting" exhibit at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair. I recall that Donald Ratcliffe and Steve Pilnick were two of the other Scouts in our group (see postcard).



We did many promotional and ceremonial activities, and some met noteworthy people in NYC. We met Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Harry Van Arsdale, a prominent labor leader in New York. For me, the high point was that I got to represent the fair president, Robert Moses (yes, that Robert Moses), at the annual meeting of BSA executives in Cleveland - 60 years ago this past spring. At the podium, I was introduced to Joseph Brunton, the Chief Scout Executive, and Thomas Watson, Jr., the BSA President (and CEO of IBM). Michael Faber, a TMR staff member from Manhattan, helped with my speech.

That gathering in Cleveland was an annual event where all of the Boy Scout executives from across the country met. The auditorium (10,000 seat capacity) was dark and photographs of the eight of us working at the fair were projected on a large screen as I did my speech... nervously at first, but then with more confidence. Afterward, I received letters of congratulations from Dan Henry, scout executive, GNYC, and Joseph Brunton. I flew back to NYC and sat next to one of the BSA's strong supporters, Robert Wood Johnson II, the CEO of Johnson and Johnson. He told my father that I had done very well.

I recall a somewhat humorous event from the fair. The eight of us were present at the opening ceremonies for the fair on April 22, 1964. My task was to raise the enormous fair flag. The day was cold, windy, and rainy, and it took every bit of strength and determination to get that flag up that tall

flag pole. I was getting it done – perhaps slowly - when another Scout came over to assist me, a very much-appreciated pair of helping hands. I was hired to be on the staff at the BSA World Fair exhibit for the summer of 1965, another great experience. I was the youngest staff member there, and I may be among the last of the surviving members of that crew. My job was at the information booth where I sold Boy Scout literature, books, and souvenirs. We lived at the old army base by the Throggs Neck Bridge, Fort Totten.

I worked with some great people including Bill Scollay, Ed Gamble, John Vila, Wayne Ferguson, Ed Black, Peter Teige, and Dave Slocum. I met Boy Scouts and visitors from around the country and the world. When I think of the most positive experiences in my youth, my time with the Boy Scouts at the New York World's Fair stand out. I will always be appreciative for the opportunities I was given and for the people with whom I worked. I am incredibly thankful for the support of Bill Scollay, a scout executive who always showed faith in me.

Nick Gelbard's first year in TMR was 1959 when he attended Chappemat, one of the Rock Lake camps. The above image features Gelbard at the World's Fair Globe.



1964 World's Fair Mug



The Guys

A Bit About Sanita Hills

by Michael R. Weinman
PTSI Transportation

Sanita Hills, a Department of Sanitation rest camp for employees, was a significant transformation that took place around 1940. This was a time when the city, led by the LaGuardia administration, was dismantling the elevated networks in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and beginning to disassemble the streetcar networks. It's important to note that Robert Moses, a key figure in the LaGuardia administration, was a strong advocate for automobiles over public transportation, which influenced the city's transportation landscape.

So, a lot of wooden elevated cars were surplus. The Department of Sanitation got several for free and then put the arm on the New Haven Railroad to haul them to Holmes, NY. Holmes was on the New Haven to Maybrook, NY route, then a critical

freight line for east-west traffic to and from New England. Its noteworthy structure, the Poughkeepsie Bridge, is now The Walkway Over the Hudson, and all freight must make a 300-mile detour to cross the river near Albany, NY.

The New Haven hauled the elevated cars from The Bronx to New Haven (or possibly via Bridgeport or Danbury) and then to Holmes, on Whaley Lake, where they were taken off their trucks (wheels) and bulldozed up the hill toward Little Whaley Lake and set on block foundations. These became cabins with bunks and sinks (likely no stoves nor running water - they certainly did not have these after the Department of Sanitation turned the camp over to the scouts).

While scout cabins were exceedingly comfortable with space heaters, the wooden car bodies did catch fire, especially when campers would dry their wet clothing on the space heaters. Several were lost in this manner.

After the Department of Sanitation relinquished control, a portion of the camp became the property of New York University. However, it is now believed that all remnants of both the Department of Sanitation rest camp and the majority of the scout cabins have been removed, marking the end of an era. One was restored.

However, similar wooden elevated cars can be seen preserved in the electric railway museum in Short Beach, CT (Branford), and at Rio Vista Jct. CA..

Michael Weinman, TMR Arrowhead member was a TMR camper at Kunatah and Davis Lake in the late 50s and early 60s. He attended the 1961 NOAC in Bloomington, IN and was active in Achewen Schingue Chapter of Shu Shu Gah Lodge #24.

Kintecoying Lodge BBQ by Fiona Greaney, lodge chief

On June 1st, Kintecoying Lodge had its general meeting. The day was packed with good food, fun activities, and a friendly kickball competition. Congratulations to Beatrix Bisceglia, Saul Cohen, and Matthew Regan for receiving their Vigil Honor. Robert and Vincent Mirabella received the Founders Award. Jake Harmon received the James E. West Award. We also elected our new lodge officers. Fiona Greaney was elected lodge chief, Declan O'Brien was elected vice chief of inductions, Thomas Dono was elected vice chief of administration and AJ Correa was elected secretary. Since a treasurer was not chosen, the new lodge chief will appoint a brother to serve in this role with the approval of the lodge adviser. A special thanks goes out to those who took on leadership roles for this event, including Chair John Esposito, food service led by Ed Harmon, and the NO NAMES cooking crew. Shoutout to our Section and Lodge Officers for conducting elections, and all the brothers who helped with event registration, logistics, and clean up. What a fantastic way to wrap up the lodge's calendar year.



Above image: (From left to right) Current Vice Chief of Inductions and Incoming Vice chief of Administration Thomas Dono, Current Lodge Treasurer and incoming Vice Chief of Inductions Declan O'Brien, Incoming Lodge Chief Fiona Greaney, Current Lodge Chief Jake Harmon, Current Lodge Secretary Sawyer Pratt, incoming Lodge Secretary AJ Correa

Before TMR

New for 2024: "Before TMR" tells the story of how the 10,000+ acres TMR property was used before purchase by the NYC Scouts in 1927 & 1929. Find out how your camp was used before it became a Scout camp. Four showcases filled with pre-TMR history.



Kosher Chaos in Ranachqua C by Len Fintzy

I attended Ranachqua C as a camper and staff member in the early to mid-1950s. And here I am in 2024, still wearing my scout uniform. Well, it's bigger in the belly.



I vividly recall the polio scare in 1954, the hurricane in 1955, and the kosher chaos when Royal Scarlett sent us cans marked spaghetti in tomato sauce. When the waiter brought our food to my table, I saw meat in the sauce and ran into the kitchen to stop service when the Rabbi also walked in. The kitchen pots, serving utensils, plates, eating utensils, and even the tables were no longer considered kosher.

We were very fortunate that it was a scout camp. Private camps would have gone crazy. We issued supplies and sent all the scouts and their leaders on a campout while "unattached" staff lost their days off. We spent the day and night re-koshering everything by boiling them and saying prayers that the Rabbi insisted on. We could not do that with the plates because they were made of material that could not be boiled. So we sent them to Ranachqua E, which had older plates, and headquarters sent us new stuff, which must have come from the military since they were packed in a thick, greasy substance (cosmoline?).

I know it sounds like my summers were one calamity after another, but those years

were the most memorable of my youth, and I wish I could repeat them. They are right up there with my 1960 cruise to the Mediterranean and most of the countries surrounding it. It lasted almost nine weeks, and I led 68 Sea Scouts.

Len Fintzy is a member of the TMR Arrowhead. Above image is the 1954 Ranachqua Staff.

Note from Nick Dale, Jr., Ph.D.

You can only imagine how thrilled I was to receive the latest issue of Smoke Signals and see the new patches. Along with my dad and godfather ("Uncle" Morty Hyman), I knew several other leaders, several of whom I remember being at our house. The Sollers were, of course, our neighbors. Susan Flora (Roland's daughter) was my classmate in school in Narrowsburg. What an honor to be included in the same set as FDR.



Image: Nick Dale and son, Nick Dale, III with the patch.

Freeloaders

by Dr. Gene Berman, museum founder and chairman emeritus

Over the years, I've been intrigued by the mystery surrounding the three patches I stumbled upon on Ebay in the Early 2000s. These patches, which I managed to acquire for a mere \$10, were a puzzle to many. However, I was fortunate to have a key to their origin, thanks to the insightful Bernie Learner. He had shared the story behind these patches with me long before I even laid eyes on them.



To understand the patches, you first have to understand the times. These were used in the mid-to-late 1930s. The 36 represents 1936. The BFS patch represents the BROOKLYN FREeloadERS SOCIETY patch, sported a bunch of members, and the "F" was, I believe, passed around and presented each period (2 weeks at the time) to the biggest FREeloadER for that period and reclaimed when the Freeloader went home. Now I said you had to understand the times. The country was beginning to emerge from the depression. Many older youth who would have loved to spend the whole summer, all eight weeks at camp, could not do so due to circumstances in their lives.

In those days, the camp ran for four periods of 2 weeks, each for eight weeks. Some excellent scouts and great staff members could only stay 1/2 the time or a month, which would have been two periods or four weeks. At the time, TMR had a policy to hire some for half the season. But those who loved camp even though school or job obligations did not allow them to continue on staff, took every opportunity to come

back to camp to "hang out" and be willing volunteers. This did not sit well with the powers running camp at the time. Are people not paying? Unheard of. Freeloaders? Not to be allowed. However, the working staff at Camp Brooklyn disagreed. They loved having their friends come back to visit and help as volunteers.

The working staff would "miscalculate" the headcount in any given week to get extra food for the FREELOADERS. They would take smaller portions so everyone could be fed. The Freeloaders earned their keep with lots of work around Camp Brooklyn. There were so many of them that they organized their society, the Brooklyn Freeloaders Society, and had their patch made. As stated above, the biggest FREELOADER, each period of the summer, got to hold the big "F" until it was passed on to the next period. And in this case, 1936.

When I won the patches on eBay, I realized it was a great story, but they did not fit into my collection. I gave them to Curator Bernie Sussman on an "indefinite loan" or Quasi-Permanent Loan. I never had any intentions of removing them, nor do I have any intentions now. If the display is broken up in the Camp Brooklyn showcase or something happens to the Museum, I would want them back. Otherwise, they will be there for as long as they are displayed. A better place for the BROOKLYN FREELOADERS to be is at TMR rather than in my collection. So as Paul Harvey used to say, "THAT'S THE REST OF THE STORY."
Firmbound in Brotherhood

Freeloaders Patch is above.

ORDER OUR FAMOUS PEOPLE IN TMR CSPS,
<https://www.tmr-museum.org/online-museum-store>. THERE ARE ONLY 17 SETS OF THE GOLD BORDER PATCHS LEFT. WE WILL NOT MAKE MORE.

FAMOUS PEOPLE IN EARLY TMR HISTORY CSP SET



The Ten Mile River Scout Museum is pleased to announce we will be selling sets of CSPs honoring early famous people and places in TMR history starting some time in June. We are waiting for the patches to arrive and when they do, how-to-order information will be posted in Smoke Signals and on Social Media and be available to you. There will be two 10-CSP sets, one with different colored borders (above) and a very limited quantity special gold border set.

The Museum's Website Store

Did you know that the Museum sells a variety of T.M.R. and Museum



merchandise from our Website Store: <https://www.tmr-museum.org/online-museum-store>?

This includes most every patch set issued by the Museum in recent years, the 2021 *Guide to Memorabilia of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps*, Indian Cliff puzzles, Scout Service Corps CSP's from 1996-2003, and the two new booklets on Brooklyn and Queens Council emblem histories.



TMR Wall of Fame

Do you want to recognize some individual, group or organization for their contributions to the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and/or New York City Scouting? A custom-engraved tile on the T.M.R. Wall of Fame might be right for you.

[Wall of Fame - Learn More](#)

Donate Scouting Memorabilia

Donations of T.M.R. and other Scouting memorabilia to the Museum by individuals like you are the main way the Museum grows.

These include, but are not limited to: photos, color slides, 8-mm film, videos, patches, neckerchiefs, neckerchief slides, uniforms, banners, menus, paper items, etc. We can also photograph items and return them to you, or photograph notable items at your home.

[Learn More](#)



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