



Vol. 25 Dedicated to Preserving the Memories of T.M.R. Campers #1

The Newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum - January 2025

This issue features a letter from the 2025 Eastern Region Chief, Kintecoying Lodge #4's 2025 Winter Banquet and some Scouting and TMR History

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

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is getting excited about Scouting in 2025. Camp is around the corner.

We are always looking for new volunteers or trustees. If you cannot commit to being a trustee, I hope you can commit to doing some volunteer work with us. Work can include website development, attending trade-o-rees,



and maintaining our buildings. There is a lot that can be done during the summer camp season. Email me at chairmantmrmuseum@gmail.com to learn more.

A Note from our 2025 Eastern Region Chief - Elijah Aiken

On **January 5th**, I had the fantastic opportunity to attend the 2025 Kintecoying Lodge banquet, my first event of the year. The fellowship, food, and people were all amazing and reminded me that our organization is in great hands. As for this upcoming year, our Region is full of exciting opportunities— We will be hosting 4 NLS/DYLC in the calendar year, our Section Officer Seminar, and an exciting NCOC at Philmont. More information about these can be found on the [OA website](#) or our [Eastern Region webpage](#). I look forward to building our Region's identity, remembering our past, and ultimately building a future where our Arrowmen can continue to grow, thrive, and excel in this program that has given us so much to be thankful for.



2025 Kintecoying Lodge # 4 Winter Banquet By Mitchell Slepian

Jan-5-Bayside, NY - Matinecock Chapter has hosted Kintecoying Lodge #4's most successful winter banquet. Over 100 people were in attendance. We were fortunate to open with a speech by Elijah Aiken, 2025 eastern region chief. Vincent Mirabella, section chief, E18; Fiona Greaney, lodge chief, Kintecoying; Jake Harmon, section secretary, E18; and many other youth leaders addressed the audience. Several people were honored, and this year's Vigil candidates were called out by Finley Bartkowski, Aquehonga chapter chief, former lodge chief, and section officer. The 2025 Vigil Honor Candidates are Tom Dono, Brian McGrath, Jake Harmon, Deborah Caviness, Chris Dono and Leah Scott. Mirabella presented Alex Halligan, former chapter, lodge, and section officer with the [Founder's Award](#).



Images (top to bottom):

Seated: Vincent Mirabella and Fiona Greaney

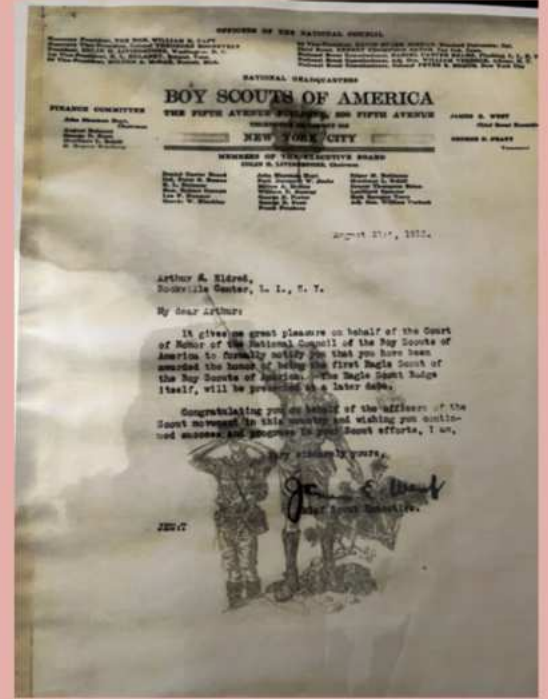
Founder's Award Presentation: Alex Halligan and

Vincent Mirabella

Vigil Callout: Finley Bartkowski, Tom Dono, Brian McGrath, Jake Harmon, Deborah Caviness, Chris Dono and Leah Scott

Arthur Eldred's Eagle Letter By Mitchell Slepian

Current Tampa resident **Stan Weinstein**, a longtime Brooklyn Scouter, Brooklyn Arrowhead Member, active Scouter in Theodore Roosevelt Council, Nassau County, and longtime member of the Jewish Committee on Scouting, sent the museum a copy of a letter sent by Chief Scout Executive James E. West to Arthur Eldred the first Eagle Scout of the BSA in 1912. The original is in the National Museum at Philmont Scout Ranch. The copy will be displayed this summer in the TMR Scout Museum. The copy of letter was donated to Weinstein by Eldred's sister. Thanks, Museum Founding Chair Dr. Eugene Berman, for coordinating with Weinstein.



A Picture Postcard History of Crystal Lake By David M. Malatzky

The Museum has an extensive collection of post cards covering TMR before its purchase by the N.Y.C. Boy Scouts starting in 1927. These are often the only known images of buildings and scenes from this era.



Postcard publishers were authorized to issue cards with Postcards starting in 1901. Before 1907, the entire back of the postcard was reserved for mailing and return addresses. The front often had space for the sender's comments. Starting in 1907, the back was divided into message and address sections, with a full photo or illustration on the front. In the early 1900s, picture postcards cost one cent each to mail and were wildly popular with the public. Postcards were issued for many notable buildings and scenes throughout the U.S.

Crystal Lake House, New York Post Card (Auburn Greeting Card Co.)

The "Van Allen Residence" or "Big House" was constructed from 1893-1900 near today's Camp Keowa COPE Course. Its capacity was 100 persons, and nearly every room had hot and cold running water and gas for lighting. It stood in Camp Keowa until the early 1960s.

In 1916, Otto Grassmann, part owner of the Half Moon Lake House, purchased the 4,000-acre Van Allen Grange from George Van Allen for \$30,800. In 1917, the Van Allen Residence reopened as a boarding house called the Crystal Lake House with the remainder of the property used as a hunting preserve.

This will be an ongoing series.

Origin Story of TMR By David M. Malatzky

The NYC Scouts acquired TMR by negotiating options to buy land from local owners, who were unaware of the NYC interest. In 1927, thirty-two landowners signed deeds in Monticello, at least as reported by historian James Burbank in 1952. However, recent research tells us that the Scouts actually gained ownership of 9,776 acres on October 8, 1927, through twenty-three deeds involving diverse landowners from locations as far as Chicago and Philadelphia.

These deeds were signed between September 26 and October 7, 1927, and were certified by a Notary Public. Milton U. Gaul, of Gaul & Kampfer, completed the transfer to the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York, with all documents recorded on October 8, 1927. For the original TMR deeds, visit the [Museum's website](#).



TMR Trail Tools Available at Headquarters Camp By David Malatzky

The **Friends of TMR** have installed an aluminum cabinet at Headquarters Camp filled with tools for units doing trail work at TMR. The cabinet is adjacent to the Weekend Office/Trading Post down the hill from the TMR Scout Museum. Tools include cross-cut saws, large loopers, bow saws, hammers, axes, and safety goggles to outfit a large unit doing trail work. The cabinet is unlocked. Units borrowing tools should fill out the sign-out book in the cabinet. Weekend Units are encouraged to do trail work at TMR.



Kunatah Memory from '65 By Wayne Tzall

It was the summer of 1965, I was on staff at Kunatah. The particular incident happened about halfway into the second period. I had my one-week day off and had my father's car. But that's another story. Anyway, upon deciding what to do on a precious day, we decided to drive to Monticello. Upon reaching our destination, we encountered a fried chicken joint. The manic sign in the window said, "All you can eat." We did, and after 2 hours of six of us constantly eating, we were unceremoniously kicked out of the joint. I can't even look at a plate of fried chicken to this day.

Tzall was Suanhacky Lodge #49's treasurer and a member of its Catawba Chapter. He is a Brotherhood member and reached the rank of Life Scout. He was the steward on the '65 Kunatah staff.

ORDER OUR FAMOUS PEOPLE IN TMR CSPS, [Purchase Here](#). THERE ARE ONLY A FEW SETS OF THE GOLD BORDER PATCHES 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.

Flashbacks and our Trading Post

Right Image - Barry Esbin, scoutmaster, Brooklyn's Troop 202, Ralph Daddi, 202 member, Eagle Scout and museum trustee and Randy Esbin, 202 member and Eagle Scout at foot of Chappy Hill. You Can't Beat The Hill!



Lower Image: Old Scout uniforms for sale at our trading post.



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](#)?

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](#)



Mitchell Slepian