

FIFTY YEARS OF SCOUTING

IN

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

by

FRED L. TREAT

THIS HISTORY IS PRESENTED

WITH AFFECTION AND GRATITUDE

BY FRED L. TREAT

to the

SUNNY LAND COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

JANUARY 16th, 1961

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgements	
Foreword	
I "Back in the Good Old Days!" - 1910-1925	1
II The New Councils' First Toddling Steps - 1926-1929	7
III The Depression Years - 1930-1937	12
IV Consolidation - 1938-1941	26
V The War Years - 1942-1945	32
VI Post-War Years - 1946-1950	38
VII The Amazing Years - 1951-1960	44
VIII "Where Do We Go From Here?" - A Look Ahead	56
Appendix:	
Council Presidents - 1926-1960	
Council Executives - 1926-1960	
Silver Beaver Awards - 1931-1960	
End-of-year Boy-membership	
Membership Graph	
Bibliography	
Miscellaneous	

THANK YOU!

Grateful acknowledgement is made to the following persons who gave information that was of very considerable assistance in the preparation of this history. Some contributed photographs and newspaper clippings. Others reached far back into the recesses of their memory for items that might be of interest.

George T. Blakeley	Palmetto
C. J. Braymer	Bradenton
Clyde Fenton, Sr.	Bradenton
Miss Eva Gates	Bradenton
Harry C. Groff	Palmetto
Russell C. Hild	Fort Myers
Harold Johnson	Bradenton
Paul Kemp	Arcadia
H. O. Kight	Fort Myers
Mrs. A. C. K. Killffer	
Dr. L. B. King	Bradenton
D. W. Lawrence	New Brunswick, New Jersey
John F. Owen	Palmetto
William M. Snyder	Palmetto
N. G. Stout	Fort Myers
V. Carl Sullivan	Tampa
George Thacker	Sarasota
Dan Thorpe, Sr.	Bradenton
Honorable James A. Haley	Sarasota and Washington, D. C.

My very special thanks go to Mrs. William Gibson, Sunny Land's able and efficient secretary, who, at her own suggestion, undertook the typing of this manuscript. She also corrected as necessary my numerous errors in spelling. Thanks a lot!

FOREWORD

Fifty years ago is, to a child "ages ago!". To the young man, it is "before my time". To the man of 60, it is "Back during my childhood". But to the man of 75 and beyond - "I remember it well. It happened just fifty years ago, in 1910". So it's just a matter of point of view.

Certainly no one, William D. Boyce least of all, could foresee, in 1910, that the organization for which he was preparing an application for incorporation, would blossom and grow in fifty short years, to a membership of 4,700,000 boys and leaders -- and that, during those same fifty years, 34 million persons would have enjoyed and benefited from such membership. Even less would anyone have suspected that this new "baby" would have an impact on American life, second only to that of the church.

All this, just fifty years ago!

Fifty years ago, south Florida was a land of tangled jungle, pine forests, vast swamps and scrub palmetto savannahs. Its chief inhabitants were alligators, coral and rattlesnakes and moccasins, plus a tremendous variety of birds. The abundant animal life included panther, wild cats and great numbers of deer.

Bands of Seminole Indians made their home in the vast reaches of the Everglades, but of white persons there were few. The first hardy pioneers had come to South Florida in the 1840's and 50's and had settled in small villages that were to become Manatee (present Bradenton), Sarasota and Fort Myers. Even in 1910, Bradenton, including Manatee, had a population of but 2,874 persons; Sarasota had 840 and Fort Myers, 2,463.

These, together with Arcadia, Punta Gorda and Naples, were not only small, they were difficult to get to. There

was neither railroad nor highway to link them together. Bradenton and Sarasota were a little better off than the others for they did have access to each other by means of a railway put through in about 1903, and a sand road that wound through the pine-land.

The building of the 261-mile Tamiami Trail south and east from Tampa to Miami changed this whole picture. It was several years in the construction stage. Feats of engineering never before attempted, were brought to successful conclusion. Great sections of Everglades swamp, hitherto unseen by white men, were surveyed and dredged. A new type (for then) of road-laying equipment had to be designed for this particular job. (It's work accomplished, it is now on display at Royal Palm Hammock State Park, between Naples and Everglades City.)

The official opening of the Tamiami Trail on April 28, 1928, brought great celebration in every town through which it passed. The motorcade, headed by the Governor, began with a send-off banquet in Tampa. Every village added its delegation, as the group passed through, so when it reached Miami, two days later, scores of cars were in the parade.

The opening of the Trail accomplished two purposes: it linked two large cities and, just as important, it made possible friendly (and, at times, not so friendly) interchange between the villages and towns along its route.

The Trail "dreamers" and planners, among them, Barron C. Collier, could never even in their wildest imaginings, have foreseen the growth of South Florida's west coast that their road made possible.

Now the motorist, hurtling south from Tampa or St. Petersburg over the Tamiami Trail (U. S. Highway 41) slows for the towns of Palmetto and Bradenton, and the thriving city of Sarasota. Then comes on-the-Gulf Venice; then the unbelievable Port Charlotte community, so recently hacked from the wilderness and already numbering several thousand homes. Beyond that, sleepy Punta Gorda and then hustling Fort Myers; forty miles further and Naples, the rapidly-growing community where more than seventy millionaires maintain Winter homes. From Naples the Trail curves south-eastward through the 'Glades to Miami.

This motorist, in the Summer season, will make the Tampa-Miami run in an easy eight hours; in the Winter tourist season, however, the same trip may require as much as twelve hours.

If he can overcome his impatience at the congested, slow-moving traffic, he may use the extra hours in considering the growth of this section of Florida during the past fifty years, and in speculating upon "Where do we go from here? What lies ahead in the next fifty years?"

The writer has been gathering material for this "history" for a decade. He has spent most of his spare time for the past four and a half months in sorting and cataloging it, consulting old records, reading minutes of meetings and interviewing former Scouts and Scouters. The experience has been both interesting and rewarding.

It is hoped that the reader will find some degree of pleasure and information from this "labor of love" for the Sunny Land Council.

I

"BACK IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS! 1910 - 1925

How often the writer has heard, as he has talked with old-time Scouts and leaders, "Those were the good old days. You don't do Scouting like that any more." We don't, and it's a good thing we don't. Possibly less adventurous, Scouting is definitely less dangerous now than then. Certainly a kindly Providence protected the boys. Camping trips with rifles and shotguns, but sans adult supervision, were common. A leader might show up about dark to stay over-night with the campers; if he did, he generally left right after breakfast to get back to his work. On their own, the boys hunted, fished, swam and had a good time, generally.

I have before me a copy of the first official handbook, published in 1910 by Doubleday, Page & Company. The title page reads

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

A HANDBOOK

of

Woodcraft, Scouting, and Life-craft

by

ERNEST THOMPSON SETON

with which is incorporated by arrangement

General Sir Robert Baden-Powell's

SCOUTING FOR BOYS

This book was given to the Sunny Land Council by C. J. Braymer, Bradenton. Mr. Braymer's date of becoming a Scout, as shown on the fly leaf, is September, 1910.

The National Council troop registration procedure did not come into existence until 1913. Several groups of boys had organized previous to that time, however.

As nearly as can be determined, the very first group of Scouts in the territory now served by the Sunny Land Council was the one in Bradenton of which Braymer was a member. As mentioned above, it would appear that this troop came into existence in September, 1910. It met in the old, frame high school that stood at the corner of 9th Avenue and 14th Street, location of the present tourists' lawn-bowling courts. The Scoutmaster was a Mr. Maus. Braymer is of the opinion that the troop did not last long, and can recall no special activities.

Miss Eva Gates, Manatee County historian, thinks that there was a short-lived troop of Scouts in the village of Manatee, organized in June of 1911. L. P. White, an Englishman and bridge-tender of the Palmetto-Manatee bridge, was the Scoutmaster. Parents objected for some reason, however, so the group disbanded.

First definite knowledge of a troop comes by way of copies of three newspaper clippings from "The Arcadian" that were sent to the writer by Paul Kemp, Arcadia, who was a member of the troop. These are most interesting. The first tells of the organizing of the troop on July 14, 1911, and gives the complete charter-membership roster. The troop bore the number, 5044, and Ed Scott is named as Scoutmaster. The second clipping is from "The Arcadian" of January 12, 1912, and the third, May 15 of that year. These latter give the highly-entertaining details of two camping trips which really must have been fun! Kemp (signing himself as "Corporal, Bob White Patrol") wrote the three articles and was certainly gifted when it came to making stories "live".

The Scoutmaster, Ed Scott, must have been a remarkable man. Kemp, in sending his material, wrote the following (and this, some 45 years after he became a Boy Scout): "I would like to pay a tribute to our first Scoutmaster, Mr. Ed Scott. He was a man with the necessary assets of a good Scoutmaster, and the attributes that made him liked, admired and respected by all types of boys. In addition, he was never too busy to tend to his Scout work, which he enjoyed as much as the boys. Such men as this are hard to find. He later became the first chairman of the Florida State Road Department and I believe has a bridge named for him, somewhere in north Florida."

There is no information as to how long this Arcadia troop lasted. A yellowed, mimeographed sheet of about 1926 or '27 "vintage" calls upon men and boys there to join in organizing a troop to be known as the "Ed Scott Troop" in



FIRST TROOP IN THE TERRITORY OF THE SUNNY LAND COUNCIL
Troop 5044, Arcadia, Florida

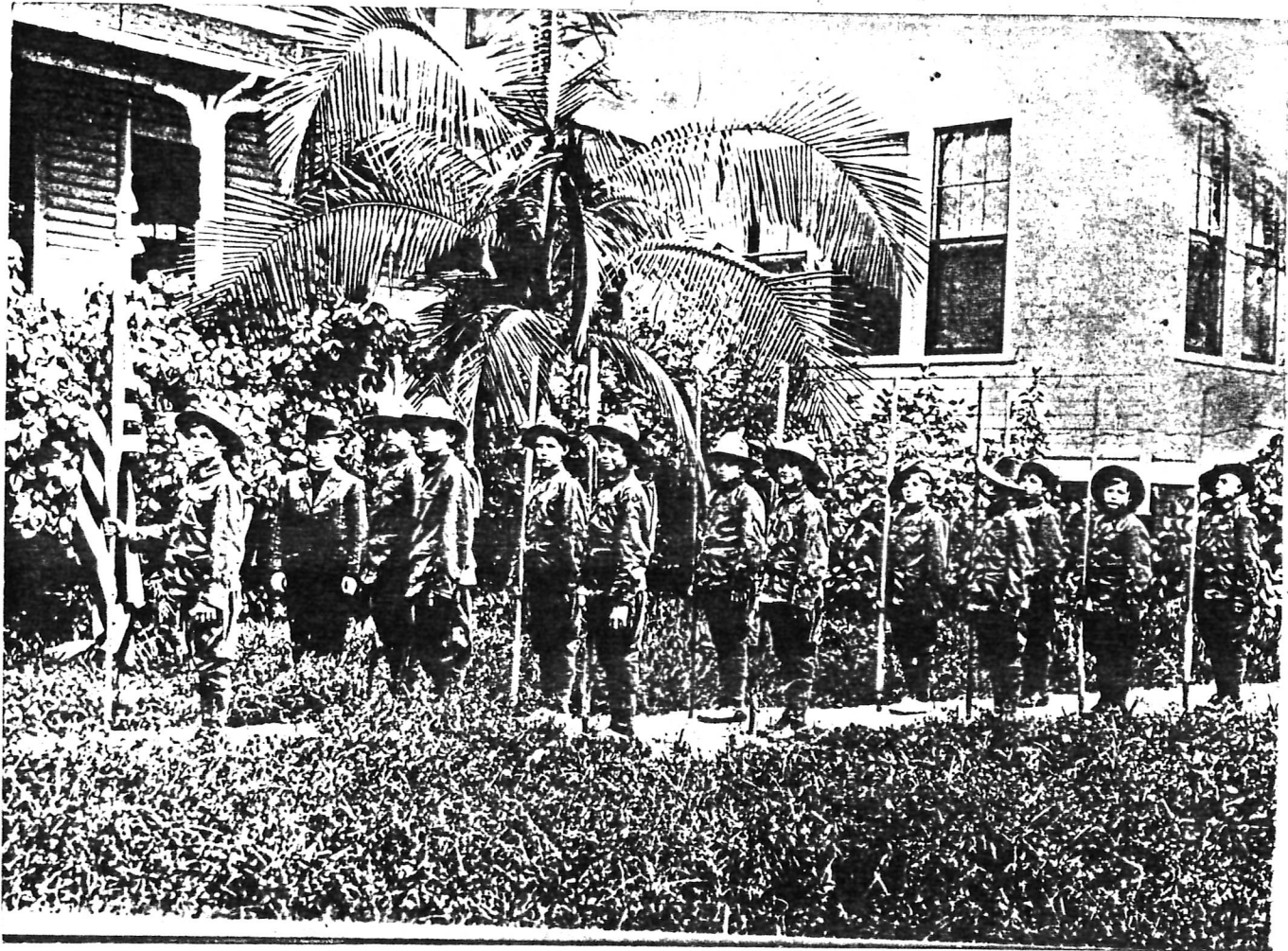
Organized July 14, 1911

Picture taken on camping trip of January or May, 1912, to
Lemon Bay.

From left to right: Paul Kemp, Ed Scott, Scoutmaster, Virgil
Kellam, Paul Ley, Fletcher Smith, Ernest Moye, Lowndes
Treadwell, Unidentified, Rev. Edward F. Ley, Sam Lawton,
Marshall Dancey and Oakley Lanier.

honor of "The late Mr. Ed Scott who pioneered Scouting in DeSoto County and whose memory is revered by many business men who were once his Scouts."

The second troop of which we have definite knowledge was a group organized in Fort Myers on November 9, 1911. Rev A. M. Hildebrand, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, was the Scoutmaster. A photograph of this troop appears below.



At least three other troops came into being in the years 1912-14, but there are few details. Sarasota's first was one of which Clarence E. Hitchings was Scoutmaster and George Thacker, Assistant. It was probably organized about 1913 or '14. Incidentally, both of these gentlemen were active in Scouting for many years. When the Sunny Land Council was organized in 1926, Hitchings became its first president.

The widow of the late Rev. A. C. Killeffer, in a letter to the writer, states that he had a troop in his Christ Episcopal Church, Bradenton, at some time between 1911 and 1914.

Palmetto, too, had an early troop, but former members differ as to the exact date. William Snyder thinks that it was organized about 1914 and had ten or twelve members, with Virgil Willis as Scoutmaster. John F. Owen, who later became an Assistant Scoutmaster, is of the opinion the troop began in the Summer of 1912. Other members of the troop still living in the area are Lyman McLeod, Stuart Howze and John D. Stewart. The troop camped at Piney Point for a week or so each Summer. It sold Liberty Bonds during World War I, and disbanded in about 1919.

Incidentally, Wilbur C. Owen, John's older brother and a member of this troop, became an Eagle Scout -- probably the first in this Council's territory.

Clyde Fenton, Bradenton, who was a Scout in 1917-18, was a member of a troop which met in a wooden building on the Methodist Church grounds. The troop was probably sponsored by the Methodist Church. Fenton has an old photograph of several of the Scouts standing before a tent on the Court-house lawn, with a Liberty Loan poster. The tent was headquarters in a bond-selling campaign.

Fenton believes that a Lawton Moon was Scoutmaster, early in 1917, and that he was later killed in action in France. There were about 20 boys in the troop, and they camped, in the Summers of '17 and '18 on the Braden River near Braden Castle.

Roscoe Scott was Assistant Scoutmaster. Among the boy-members were Ennis and Bill Rush and Dan Stewart.

There were no other troops so far as Fenton can recall, in Bradenton, Manatee or Palmetto at that time.

We have a copy of the application for charter of Troop 1, Punta Gorda, dated March 5, 1918, with some indication that this is a charter renewal. Charles G. Cochran is shown as Scoutmaster, with W. D. (?) Wilson as his predecessor. Registration expiration date is given as December, 1918. It appears that this troop dropped at that time.

To its successor, Troop 5, Punta Gorda, goes the honor of being the Sunny Land Council's oldest troop in point of continuous registration. It was organized in March, 1920.

The Council's second-oldest troop is #1, Bradenton, sponsored by the First Methodist Church. This was chartered in June, 1921, with Rowland Shannon as Scoutmaster. (Many years later, his son, Joseph, became Scoutmaster of Troop 1 and Shannon served three terms as Council president.

Among other troops in existence in the 1922-5 period were Troop I, Palmetto, of which George Blakely was Assistant Scoutmaster. The latter then organized another troop in Palmetto and served as its Scoutmaster from 1926 through 1932. He was later quite active in several other capacities and was one of the first recipients of the Silver Beaver.

Harry C. Groff, Palmetto, was another of the "pioneers". He became Council Commissioner in 1922 or '23. He relates that signaling was a very real activity in those days. The Scouts would practice by sending messages across the mile-wide Manatee River by wig-wag and semaphore from a roof-top in Palmetto to a building roof in Bradenton.

Groff remembers a publicity stunt that was staged during one Boy Scout Week. The mayor of Palmetto sent a message of greeting to the mayor of Sarasota, 15 miles distant, by both Western Union and Boy Scouts. The latter, using Scout's pace, bicycle and signal flags, delivered their message just one and one-half minutes after Western Union.

As a feature of 1925 Boy Scout Week, a group of Sarasota and South Florida notables were brought together for a ceremonial at the band-shell in Bayfront Park. After being taught the Tenderfoot knots, Oath, Law, salute, etc., by Boy Scouts, registration fees were collected and they were organized as a troop. Scouts gave them their membership cards and pinned on their Tenderfoot badges.

The Council office has several photographs of this affair. Shown taking part are John Ringling, partner in Ringling Brothers circus; Prince Michael Cantacuzene-Speransky, a Russian major-general in World War I; Albert Keller, Sarasota winter visitor and managing director of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel chain; Andrew McAnsh, Chicago capitalist; Samuel Gumpertz, another capitalist and part-owner of Coney Island; and several others.

The eight-county territory now embraced by the Sunny Land Council was, until 1926, served by a council (now out of existence) that had its headquarters in Lakeland. V. Carl Sullivan was the Scout Executive. It is about 250 miles "as the crow flies" from Lakeland to Everglades City, southern-most community of the area. Roads to large sections were then non-existent. Coastal steamers were relied on heavily for transportation in those early days.

Sullivan tells of a time when he was invited by Barron G. Collier, a member of the National Council's Executive Board, to visit the latter's Winter headquarters in Everglades City. Sullivan drove to Fort Myers and there boarded

a freighter for the over-night trip to Everglades. With Collier, his host, he spent three or four days at the "swanky" Rod and Gun Club, organizing a Scout troop and training its leaders. Collier had a Model T Ford there that he wanted to get back to Fort Myers. Sullivan offered to drive it up over the uncompleted Tamiami Trail. The 80-odd miles were through rank jungle and swamp. Dredging and filling had been completed part-way, but much had still been surveyed only.

It was an interesting trip!

On the night of December 11, 1925, a group of one hundred active Scouters of Manatee and Sarasota counties met with Sullivan, Field Executive Truman A. Horton, and E. J. Mellan, a Deputy Regional Executive, to see what could be done about organizing a separate council to serve the counties of Manatee and Sarasota. The late Judge William T. Harrison served as chairman for the session that met, following supper, in the Oaks Hotel, Palmetto.

After a presentation of the need, it was unanimously voted to apply for a charter. C. E. Hitchings, Sarasota, was elected president of the new council. George T. Blakely of Palmetto was named secretary and S. H. Fifield, Bradenton, the treasurer. Vice-Presidents were Judge Harrison, Major H. P. Munck, Bradenton, and W. G. Sparkman, Manatee.

The name "Sunny Land Council" was adopted and Horton was engaged as the council's first executive. A budget of \$7,500.00 was set, with Sarasota County to raise \$3,500.00 and Manatee County \$4,000.00.

Subsequently, a headquarters office was opened in the Manatee Arcade Building.

In this same month of December, 1925, a similar group of Scouters met in Fort Myers for the purpose of organizing a council to serve the counties of Lee, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades and Hendry. There is, unfortunately, no definite record of this organization session. From the application for charter it is noted that Al. C. Williams, for many years a main-stay in Scouting, and of Fort Myers, was president; M. W. Horne, treasurer; Colin English, secretary; and John M. Danton, Scout Executive. Vice-presidents were J. N. Sikes, W. E. Dunwoody and Walter S. Turner. The name of this council was to be "Royal Palm".

(The dedication page of the report given at the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Sunny Land Council, on December 11, 1950, gives a complete list of the Scouters for these two councils for 1926. The report and the list are parts of the Board Meeting minutes.)

II

THE NEW COUNCILS' FIRST TODDLING STEPS - 1926-1929

There were, in 1926, six Scout troops in the Royal Palm council's territory; two in Fort Myers with Macon G. Williams and Alton Moore as Scoutmasters; one each in Boca Grande, Arcadia, Moore Haven and Punta Gorda. Mrs. F. B. (duPont) Crowninshield, one of the wealthiest women in the country and a Boca Grande Winter resident, was named as the Scoutmaster there! The Punta Gorda troop is still in existence as this is written and is the Council's oldest troop. William Persons was Scoutmaster in 1926.

The council held its first camp that summer at Breezy Point in Highlands County, near the village of Lake Placid.

On September 17, one of the most disastrous hurricanes in the history of the state ripped through South Florida killing or drowning an estimated 3,000 persons. In the words of H. O. Kight, a later Executive, "It about tore Fort Myers to pieces". Coming so soon after the deflation of the "boom" of the early twenties, the storm ruined the economy of the area. The newly born council was able to continue only through financial aid from the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

In November, DeSoto County made an effort to withdraw from Royal Palm to start a council of its own. It was not, however, successful.

The Royal Palm Council had, at this same time, 191 Scouts in an undetermined number of troops.

There are no records of 1926 activities of the Sunny Land Council, other than that the year closed with a membership of 295 Scouts in 14 troops.

1927

The year opened in the Royal Palm Council with the resignation, January 31st, of Executive Danton. He was succeeded by H. O. Kight. Kight had served in Scouting in Atlantic City, New Jersey from 1916 until 1919, when he moved to Lakeland, Florida. He had been Scoutmaster of Troop 4, there, from 1922 through 1926.

The first problem Kight had to face was the raising of funds to meet a \$5,000.00 budget. This was no easy task, following so closely not only a disastrous hurricane but also three vegetable-crop freezes of the Winter.

Daniel Carter Beard, one of the organizers of the Boy Scouts of America, was a warm friend of Barron G. Collier and he was a frequent Winter guest of Collier's at one of the latter's plush Florida hotels. He was, at this time, chairman of the National Court of Honor. He and Mrs. Beard arrived in Punta Gorda on February 18th for a month's stay at the Charlotte Harbor Hotel.

There is quite a bit of correspondence between Beard and Kight in the file. In addition to thanking the latter for courtesies extended, Beard encourages Kight in his efforts to organize a troop among the Seminole Indians. He offered to give an American flag. Kight replied that the Seminoles, never having sworn allegiance to the United States, take a dim view of the flag. He countered with the suggestion that a troop flag be given. So far as can be learned, the troop never officially registered, though a group of Indian boys did receive some Boy Scout training given them by Kight.

A council camp, was again held at Breezy Point, site of the 1926 camp. It was called "Camp Ropaco" using the first two letters of the three words - "Royal Palm Council".

Scout Executive Kight, assisted by Capt. George F. Kinzie, and several others, took about 125 Scouts and leaders to Cuba during the 1927 Christmas holidays. This was but the first of several such year-end trips.

The Council closed the year with a membership of 304 boys.

There are no Sunny Land Council Board minutes for the year 1927. The report given at the Annual Meeting, however, mentions the following activities: Scout service totaling 2,400 hours at the Manatee and Sarasota County fairs, service at the Baptist State Convention, distribution of Christmas baskets to the poor, Scout demonstrations during Anniversary Week, and an ax field meet held in December.

There was a six-weeks Summer camp at a site on the Braden River, about 1½ miles South of the Oneco bridge. 37 boys attended for a total of 62 boy-weeks. Truman Horton, the Executive as the director, with Russell B. Woodfin, of Sarasota, as his assistant.

The year-end report shows expenditures of \$5,800.00 and a membership of 275 Scouts in 14 troops.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Oaks Hotel, Palmetto, just two years and two days after the two counties of Manatee and Sarasota had met at the same place to organize a council. It now heard the Sarasota group report "that because of financial conditions, it seems advisable that the council be divided". There is no information to give a background for this proposal, nor is there any evidence of ill-feeling. Those attending the meeting acquiesced, however, and it was agreed that the split should become effective on April 1st, 1928.

1928

The Sunny Land Executive Board met on March 19th for the purpose of making final arrangements for the division of council property between the two county organizations. Inventories in minute detail (viz: "1 cleaning brush for typewriter, 10¢") were carefully reviewed. It was agreed that the Sarasota group would pay \$131.32 in full discharge of its obligations to the Council.

Executive Horton offered his resignation at this meeting but at the Manatee County group's reorganization session, eleven days later, he was retained as was the name, "Sunny Land Council". Judge W. T. Harrison was elected president.

The new Sarasota County Council was organized in March. Clarence Hitchings, who had been president of the two-county council and was a resident of Sarasota, became its first president. Russell Woodfin was named Scout Executive.

Nothing is known about the council's activities that year. It closed 1928 with a boy-membership of 135.

In the Spring, the Manatee council bought the locker-house of the Bradenton Country Club to use as a headquarters office, paying \$400.00 for it. This was torn down several years later, the lumber taken to camp and used to build the cabin presently known as the "Charles N. Wilson Lodge".

Executive Horton evidently did not like to keep Minutes for there are no further ones bearing his name.

The year did not do so well, membership falling from 275 boys in 14 troops, on December 31, 1927, to 181 boys in 10 troops on the same date, 1928.

The whole Royal Palm council was saddened on July 10th when Thomas Goolsby, 15-year-old Eagle Scout of Troop I, Fort Myers, died of ptomaine poisoning. Even as funeral orations were being made over his grave, the Civitan Club started a movement to build a memorial to him. Barron Collier, honorary president of the council, contributed \$50.00, civic clubs joined in and soon sufficient funds were on hand to erect a building to house the council office. It is known to this day as the "Thomas Goolsby Memorial Scout House" and a portrait of young Goolsby hangs over the fireplace.

Another destructive hurricane hit the area in the fall of 1928. A great many people lost their lives by drowning when easterly gales blew the water out of shallow Lake Okechobee. Moore Haven was particularly hard hit. Older Scouts served as messengers, following the storm.

1929

I have no information on Royal Palm activities other than that a Scout, William H. Berry of Troop 17, Everglades, was later awarded a gold medal for saving a woman's life in July, and that another Cuban good-will tour was made during the Christmas holidays. Scouts of Palmetto, Bradenton and Sarasota also attended. There were 28 from Sarasota in the party. Dr. L. B. King, Bradenton, led the Sunny Land delegation.

Sunny Land Council, late in 1928, had located an ideal camp-site. It was a 140-acre tract about fifteen miles East of Bradenton, in the Rye Bridge section. Most of it was heavily-timbered and dense jungle. The upper reaches of the Manatee River flowed through the property.

The Council was but three years old, had never been incorporated, and consisted, now, of but a single county with a very small Scout membership. The Executive Board was fearful that the Council might, at some future date, dissolve. It was skeptical of the National Council's pledge in such an event, to take over Council property only until such time as a new Council could be formed. The Board, therefore, authorized the incorporation of a new group to be known as the "Manatee County Boys' Development Association" to purchase, hold title to, and administer the camp property. The 1929 Executive Board members became the incorporators, officers and members of this Association, State charter for which was granted on January 18, 1929. These men were Judge W. T. Harrison, president

of the Council as president and Dan S. Blalock, Council treasurer as secretary-treasurer. Members of the association were L. F. Vaught and S. E. Simmons, Council Vice-presidents, A. F. Wyman, the Council's representative on the National Council, H. C. Groff, Scout Commissioner and Scouters R. B. Whitney, O. W. Shelton, D. L. Thorpe, W. H. Tucker and J. P. Harlikee.

The property was purchased on January 19, 1929, for \$2,000.00. The money was to be raised by the "sale" of individual acres to donors. The suggested donation was \$15.00 per acre, but any amount was gratefully accepted.

Executive Horton resigned at the end of February and was succeeded on March 15th by Charles N. Wilson; who had been the Scout Executive at Waycross, Georgia.

The next few months were busy ones, with preparations for the first camp at the new site as the major item. The Bradenton Rotary Club built the dining hall, three sleeping cabins were erected by the Bradenton Kiwanis Club, one by the Bradenton Elks Club and another by the Palmetto Kiwanis Club, and a 600-foot well was drilled.

The name "Flying Eagle", used at the preceding camp on the Braden River, was continued. 48 Scouts attended the camp's first two-weeks season.

The counties of Highlands and Hardee were taken over by Sunny Land for administrative purposes, in the late summer of 1929. Service was on a mail basis only. The plan did not work out, however, due to the inability or unwillingness of the new territory to support the council financially. A year later the two counties were "dis-engaged".

Through the kindness of George L. King, Bradenton attorney, the headquarters office moved into rooms in the American National Bank Building, Bradenton (the present Meadow Court Hotel) in September.

Quite a variety of activities and service projects were carried out and the year closed with a membership of 245 Scouts in 14 troops.

Three of these were Hardee-Highlands Counties area, with one each in Wauchula (largest troop in Council), Sebring and Lake Placid.

III

THE "DEPRESSION YEARS" - 1930-1937

The "Florida Boom" of the early twenties was not only fully "deflated", the three struggling councils now had also to face the new problem of the Depression. The Sarasota County Council, early in 1932, became unable to pay its Executive, released him, and made a desperate effort to raise \$2,371.00 with which to pay off its debts and carry on. It was unsuccessful in this, so, in April, went on direct service from the National Council, with no local supervision. In November, 1932, it merged with the Sunny Land Council.

The Royal Palm Council, however, fared better. It was not until 1937 that it found it expedient to merge with Sunny Land.

The beginning of 1930 found a total of 729 boys enrolled as Scouts in the eight-county territory - 287 in the Royal Palm Council, 151 in the Sarasota Council and 291 in Sunny Land (Manatee County).

An old list of the Royal Palm Council shows J. Dan Dunaway as being Commissioner and the following as troop leaders during the years 1930-31. Unfortunately, it does not give the location of the troops.

Troop	1	- Robert L. Newman, Jr.
"	2	- C. G. Nelson
"	5	- R. T. Lyman
"	9	- Park R. Lewis
"	11	- Fred Campbell
"	13	- Bryant Fugate
"	14	- M. Ayres and Frederick Johnson
"	17	- J. H. Farbes and James. L. Glenn

Troop 19 - Chas. E. Foster and G. C. Powell
 20 - Jay C. Gainer
 21 - Alton L. Moore
 23 - W. F. Cotharn

In the Sarasota Council, Dan Beard talked to the Scouts as a feature of the 1930 Scout Anniversary Week celebration, and the Council's second annual bicycle race, (40 miles to the Myakka River and back) was held on February 8th.

In March, the Sarasota Sea Scout Ship "Southern Cross", Judge Arthur Clarke, Skipper, was named Regional Flagship for the second successive year.

A tragic motor accident took place in April as Scouts were enroute to a district camp. Billy VanDane and George Matheny were killed and three others seriously injured. VanDane had achieved the Eagle award just a month before his death.

Camp Tonkawa, at the same spot on Siesta Key as the 1929 camp, operated for six weeks and had a total attendance of 80 boy weeks.

A group of 38 Havana Boy Scouts visited in Sarasota, August 26-27. They were repaying the earlier visit of Sarasota Scouts to Cuba.

The Sunny Land Council was having "hard sledding" financially, too. While this year (and for many subsequent years) the Manatee County commissioners contributed \$1,000.00 from county funds, the Board minutes of January 10, 1930, state that payments and interest on the recently-acquired Camp Flying Eagle would consume most of this.

Two other items of interest from these same minutes: a Scout Leaders' Association was in operation and may not have been cooperating too closely with the council; a rule was in effect that "Any member who misses three consecutive meetings without reasonable excuse . . . will be automatically suspended". This rule was read at the close of every Board meeting.

A tight rein was held on troops, and weekly reports of meetings were expected. A stiff inspection and rating system was also in effect.

As an Anniversary Week feature, The Bradenton Herald published a special Boy Scout souvenir section. This pictures the leaders of that time and many of the activities. The Council-owned copy is being placed in the museum.

Following a visit to the Council by Mr. Stanley Harris of the Inter-racial Service of the National Council, two experimental Negro troops were organized in June and July, one each in Bradenton and Manatee. The members were not, however, permitted to wear the Boy Scout uniform.

79 different Scouts (30%) attended Flying Eagle during its second season, with a total of 110-camper weeks.

A 1931 budget of \$4,500.00 was adopted, including \$2,400.00 for executive's and \$200.00 for office salaries. The Council's operating expenses for 1930 were \$2,761.00.

1931

61 Sarasota and Tampa Scouts spent the 1930 Christmas holidays in Havana, returning January 4th, 1931. Judge Arthur R. Clarke, Skipper of the Sea Scout ship, and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hughey, representing the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, were in charge of the Sarasota delegation. The trip was made by the P. & O. steamer S. S. Cuba, sailing from Port Tampa.

As a part of the Sara de Soto pageant, Sarasota Council Scouts played host to some 250 Scouts from neighboring Councils. They led the parade that marked the closing day of the festival.

The following appears as a part of the same newspaper clipping:

"Annual meeting of the West Coast Scout Executives Association will be held at 6 P. M. Russell B. Woodfin, local executive, is president of the association. Executives who will attend include Gilbert Brush, St. Petersburg; C. M. Wilson, Manatee; H. E. Spangler, Tampa and H. O. Kight, Fort Myers."

In May an effort was made to organize Sarasota Scout mothers to help with Council financing, but it fell far short of success.

On June 3rd, William E. Whiteside, Council president, announced the signing of an option to buy an 11-acre tract at the south end of Siesta Key, and extending from the Gulf to the bay. There were two houses on the property. Scouts and the county convict crew cleaned away the underbrush, mothers scrubbed the interior of the buildings and, on Sunday, June 28th, 35 Scouts appeared for the first week of the camp's first season. A deeply-tragic note was

struck, however, when, on that same day, Whiteside died of a sudden heart attack. He had been largely instrumental in securing the site.

The camp, named Camp Tonkawa, operated for four weeks and the Girl Scouts used it for two weeks in August.

35 Scouts and officials from Havana arrived on July 28th for a week's stay at the new camp, repaying the visit the Sarasota boys had made during the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Ralph C. Caples, an advertising man from the North who wintered in Sarasota and who was quite interested in Scouting, gave a Thanksgiving eve dinner to the more than two hundred Sarasota Scouts. It was prepared and served by Scout mothers, with Caples footing the bill. As a token of appreciation, Executive Woodfin gave him a First Class badge.

Though the book of 1931 newspaper clippings continues on to December 15, the last to mention Woodfin by name as Scout Executive (and practically every clipping does contain his name!), is dated November 29. The inside back cover bears the penciled "Finis (?)" which leads the writer to believe that Woodfin left at some time during December of that year.

The audit report for the year shows that, beginning with a 1930 carry-over of \$577.92, 1931 receipts amounted to but \$358.84, with expenditures of \$936.71, leaving a balance on hand on December 31st of five cents! The annual report shows a total of ten troops - six in Sarasota and four outside the city.

In this year the National Council made the Silver Beaver award available to local councils. Royal Palm gave its first two Beavers to Ernest L. Prior, Fort Myers, and Grover C. Parsons, Punta Gorda. The Sunny Land Council made its awards to Judge W. T. Harrison, Palmetto and Daniel L. Thorpe, Sr., Manatee.

Very little is known of the 1931 activities of the Royal Palm Council. There is a note that it took part in Region Six's first annual camporee, December 29-30, at the Central Florida Council's Camp Wewa, near Orlando. The Council closed the year with a membership of 377 Scouts.

Scout Executives lived almost on a meal-to-meal basis, back in those rugged days. Minutes of the Sunny Land Council show it as owing, on January 1st, \$398.00 on Executive Charles N. Wilson's salary, but that this had been reduced to \$288.00 on March 31st.

A letter from Regional Scout Executive Kenneth G. Bentz with reference to possible consolidation of the Sarasota and Sunny Land Council was read at the April 24th meeting. It was received as information.

Sunny Land Scouts attended quarterly, in a body, the evening service of some local church. The minutes of the May 8th meeting gently chides Board members for not showing up at these union services. 117 Scouts and leaders had attended the last, but few men from the Board.

Appearing almost as frequently as finance on Board meeting agendas, was the problem of breaking and entering, pilfering and vandalism at Camp Flying Eagle.

The death of Mortimer L. Schiff, president of the National Council, in June, 1931, caused the Executive to order all Sunny Land troop charters to be draped in mourning for thirty days and the flag at Flying Eagle to be flown at half-mast for the same period.

The Bradenton Rotary Club donated \$200.00 towards the camp acreage fund, substantially reducing the balance owed on the property.

The camp operated for two seven-day periods, during which time the American Legion, assisted by some of the junior staff members, built its cabin-donation. A campers' honor society, known as "The Tribe of Manatee", came into being with this season of 1931. Authored by Executive Wilson, it had an impressive ritual and campers coveted the chance for election. Many Bradenton men still remember well the night on which they became a member.

72 different Scouts, 48% of the registered white membership, attended camp for a total of 105 boy-weeks.

Civic service carried much more weight then than now. This may have been due, partly, to the fact that many councils, including Sunny Land, gave special awards for such service. The community-service committee's report for 1931 shows a total of 3,798 service-hours. A partial list of services mentions ten different organizations that were aided, not including churches and schools.

Though then, as now, most publicity releases originated in the Council headquarters office, careful measuring and reporting of such publicity was required. Thus, Robert Ford, publicity chairman, reports, month by month, 1931 lineage and comes up with a total of 3,411 column-inches of space - certainly a right respectable amount.

Considerable improvement was noted in the Council's financial affairs, and the year closed with the Board's adopting a \$3,100.00 budget for 1932.

The only available information on the Royal Palm Council for 1932 is that Richmond Dean served as president and also received the Silver Beaver, and that the year ended with a membership of 247 Scouts.

It was a confused year for the Sarasota Council. It was without an Executive and had debts amounting to \$2,400.00 staring it in the face as it began the year. There is even some uncertainty as to who was Council president: a roster of membership lists Ralph C. Caples as president, C. E. Hitchings, George L. Thacker and W. S. Harris as vice-presidents. A letterhead of the period, however, shows Hitchings as president.

A rough draft of a letter addressed "To all Believers of the Boy Scout Movement" and signed "Paul W. Bergman, Finance Chairman of the Sarasota County Boy Scout Council" is dated March 22, 1932. It makes an urgent appeal for funds with which to pay off the debts and hire an Executive. \$2,371.17 would be necessary. He said that, otherwise, 170 boys "would be thrown out of Scouting and sent out to drift wherever they may".

Bergman's effort was unsuccessful and in April the area went on direct service from the Home Office in New York. It continued in this state until May 19, 1933, when a tentative proposition for service was submitted to the Sunny Land Council. The National Council, however, did not wait for formal agreements, but transferred Sarasota County's eight troops to Sunny Land on November 28, 1932.

It might be interesting, at this point, to give a brief resume of the circumstances surrounding the acquisition of the Sarasota Council's Camp Tonkawa.

The 11-acre property at the Sount end of Siesta Key had sold for as high as \$50,000.00 during the Florida "boom" of the early twenties (and would probably bring ten times that amount in 1959!), but in the Spring of 1931 it could be had for the amount of the mortgage - \$4,500.00. The Sarasota Kiwanis Club, with a Scout camp as its main object, took an option on the property and made a down-payment of \$525.00. Dr. Joseph Halton of the club was one of the "spark-plugs" in the deal. In 1932, Samuel Gumpertz, gave \$3,500.00, the club raised the balance, and the tract was deeded to the Kiwanis Club as trustee for the Boy Scouts.

Former Executive Russell Woodfin told the writer,

some years ago, the following story. True or not, it is interesting and, from what I have heard from other sources, might well be fact.

John Ringling, Ralph Caples, Sam Gumpertz and a few other friends would frequently get together for poker games. The men all being wealthy, the pots, sometimes, reached astronomical size. It is likely, also, the men being of convivial habits, that a moderate amount of imbibing took place.

At one such session one of those present (not, I'm told, Mr. Gumpertz) announced "The Boy Scouts need a camp. If I win this pot, I'll give the money to the Scouts." The others all agreed they'd do the same if they won the pot. The betting continued until chips representing \$3,500.00 lay in the middle of the table. Someone "called" and Sam Gumpertz won.

Sarasota newspapers, next day, headlined "GUMPERTZ GIVES \$3,500.00 FOR SCOUT CAMP". Some of the other players were a bit "put out" because the pot represented only a small portion of his "contributions", and, besides "Whose idea was it in the first place!".

The place was used as a Summer Scout camp only that first season of 1931. The Kiwanis Club held a 19-day health camp for twenty under-privileged children, there, in 1932. Efforts were made by Dr. Halton, in June, 1933, to raise money for another such camp, but whether or not it was held is unknown. Charles N. Wilson, Executive of the Sunny Land Council, and Capt. William H. Young were to be in charge.

Incidentally, Dr. Halton signs his appeal letter "Chief Executive of the Boy Scouts of Sarasota".

The name was changed from "Tonkawa" to "Camp Gumpertz" by the Sunny Land Executive Board, February 23, 1934.

Camp Gumpertz was used, off and on, as a week-end camp-site by Sarasota troops for several years. An inlet on the bay side silted over, however, and the place became polluted with mosquitoes. Boys finally refused to go there.

For the account of the final disposition of the property, see Chapter IV.

There were, in January, 1932, eleven troops in the Sunny Land Council, two of which were inactive. Of the remaining nine, seven were white and two Negro.

The Regional office having advised Executive Wilson that,

due to conditions, Sarasota would hold no camp for its Scouts, he sent invitations to their leaders to bring their boys to Camp Flying Eagle. The record does not show that any availed themselves of this opportunity, however.

Reflecting the financial situation of the year, while the camp fee was but \$6.00 per week, only 52 boys attended and they for a total of but 73 camper-weeks. It was the poorest season since the first one in 1929.

Tallant & Groff was named as official Scout distributor in September, 1932, and continued to serve in this capacity until 1957 - a period of 25 years.

A Scout circus was staged in November with 700 persons attending and a Council camporee was held in November, also.

Four patrols of Sunny Land Scouts attended the Regional camporee in Orlando, in December, all achieving very creditable scores.

1933

Again we have little information about Royal Palm Council activities. 54 Scouts made a trip to the "Century of Progress" Worlds Fair, in Chicago, August 8-31.

The Council closed the year with the smallest membership in its 12-year history - 133 boys.

Though the Sarasota County territory had been officially turned over by the National Council to Sunny Land, as of November 28, 1932, the area remained "neither fish nor fowl" - seemingly no request for service or affiliation had come from responsible Sarasota leaders and no service was given.

Sunny Land opened 1933 inauspiciously with only eight troops. Financially, it was \$871.00 "in the hole", with \$667.00 of this owed to Executive Wilson on back-salary.

The Executive presented, at the Board meeting of May 19th, a tentative proposition for service to Sarasota county as a district of the Sunny Land Council. A committee was appointed to meet with a committee from Sarasota to discuss the plan. It was evidently accepted by both parties for, in the minutes of the June 14th Board meeting appears the following: "The Scout Executive reported that a district organization had been formed at Sarasota and that prospects were good for carrying on a very extensive program". Thus, it appears, the merger is now complete - if you want to call it a "merger".

Wild hogs were a real problem at Camp Flying Eagle. In May, 1933, the Board authorized a telegram to State Senator M. O. Harrison asking his support of a bill in the Legislature to prohibit hogs from roaming in the township where the camp is located. Either the bill wasn't passed or, if it was, the hogs never heard about it, for they continued to roam - and leave their fleas under the sleeping cabins!

(Incidentally, when the hogs finally disappeared, in 1944, they were succeeded by equally wild goats!)

The camp's 1933 season lasted but two weeks, with a total attendance of only 26 boy-weeks.

An agreement was worked out in July, with the Manatee Chapter of the American Red Cross whereby older Scouts who had had life-saving instruction would serve as a life-guard patrol at Bradenton Beach on Thursdays and Sundays. The Red Cross was to provide transportation and "Meals are to be furnished by the Chapter at Todd's Restaurant at 20 cents per meal". (Again, 1933 depression price.)

The beach patrol gave outstanding service and Fred Mills, of the National Council, made inquiry as to how it was organized and operated. It was credited with saving many lives that Summer.

Record high water at the camp was reported at the meeting of September 8th. The river rose to a point where at least two feet of water was over the area now occupied by the North Selby troop unit. Extensive damage was done, through the undermining of piers, and the new dock at the waterfront was washed away entirely.

At this same meeting George L. King was appointed to look into the matter of the Sunny Land Council's obtaining title to the Camp Flying Eagle property from the Manatee County Boys' Development Association, a special corporation set up in January, 1929, when the land was purchased, and composed of the then members of the Executive Board. At the meeting of the following month, King read a letter from the National Council stating that it would never, under any circumstances, take over the property as its own - only, should the Sunny Land Council ever dissolve, hold it in trust until a new council could be organized.

At each subsequent meeting, King would ask for additional time. At the September, 1934, session, three additional men were named to his committee. Again, more time asked for. At the November meeting, still another man was added --- and nothing further was ever heard of the matter!

The Council's first Cub pack, sponsored by the Sarasota Moose Lodge and with Mr. Cecil Maus as Cubmaster, registered in November, 1933.

A "Whooporee" (Scout Circus) was staged November 2nd, with five troops participating and an estimated 850 persons in attendance.

The third annual camporee was held at Flying Eagle, December 1-2.

The Annual Meeting, on December 15th, re-elected D. L. Thorpe, Jr., Manatee, as president, Paul W. Bergman, Sarasota, first vice-president; George B. Gallup, Bradenton, second vice-president; and Fred H. Gould, Bradenton, treasurer.

A 1934 budget of \$2,600.00 was adopted, \$1,690.00 of which was to come from the Manatee district and \$910.00 from the Sarasota district.

The year closed with a membership of 193 Boy Scouts and eleven Cubs.

1934

At the request of President Franklin Roosevelt, the Boy Scouts staged a national Good Turn during Anniversary Week, collecting old clothing for the destitute. The Sunny Land Council took part and collected articles valued at \$393.00.

The camp season at Flying Eagle was about as bad, from an attendance standpoint, as the preceding year. 18 boys attended the first week, so the second was cancelled in favor of troop camps. Two troops showed up but without adult leaders, so the Executive remained to take care of them. One had 7 boys, the other, 9. The latter, however, didn't appear to care for camping and departed after three days.

Another attempt was made to operate an additional week. 24 boys signed up but only 17 appeared.

In his report to the Board, the Executive said he was at a loss to know why so few came to camp - that it wasn't, he was sure, entirely due to family finances. He asked that the camping committee make a study of the situation.

A council camporee was held at Camp Gumpertz, September

13-14, with 44 Scouts and five leaders taking part.

33 Royal Palm Scout and several leaders participated in a motor trip to California from July 6 to August 25, with a visit to Hollywood as one of the high spots. Among the leaders was Executive H. C. Kight, A. H. King of Clewiston, William Persons, Fort Myers, and Edward L. Cassels and W. A. Neal, Arcadia.

A Council swimming meet was held in Punta Gorda on October 14th.

The Royal Palm Council closed 1934 with a membership of 225 boys.

1935

"Uncle Dan" Beard spent the Winter as Barron Collier's guest at the Charlotte Harbor Hotel, Punta Gorda. It would appear that he was kept pretty busy. He attended a Court of Honor there on February 7th and a father-and-son dinner in Arcadia on the 22nd. He was also present for the Royal Palm Council's annual meeting, and gave the council's Silver Beaver award to William A. Neal of Arcadia. On March 2nd, he was honor guest at a field day and dinner at Boca Grande, given by that "grand old lady of Scouting", Mrs. F. B. Crowninshield. At the latter affair, "Uncle Dan" taught the Scouts to throw the tomhawk and javelin.

Scout Executive Kight, in his report of the year's activities states that five districts held father-and-son dinners in celebration of Scouting's Silver Anniversary.

The annual meeting, mentioned above, was held at the Innokalee ranch of District Chairman Sam Thompson, in the form of a venison barbecue. Seventy persons attended.

An athletic meet was held on May 3rd in Arcadia, and a "jamboree" at Camp Kopeao on July 4th.

Over the Christmas holidays, 22 Scouts and leaders made the trip to Cuba. While there, the President of Cuba presented their Eagle badges to Scouts Bennie Malone, Albert Quednau, John E. Johns, Maurice Parabee and Francis Magill. The awarding took place in the Crystal Room of the Presidential Palace. It must have been a "red-letter day" for the boys.

At the January 11th meeting of the Sunny Land Council

Board it was reported that "A nudist colony is about to start operations at Englewood, at a point which will interfere with camping by the Scouts of Troop 3" A committee was appointed to look into the matter and take such steps as might be necessary.

On April 21st, Scout Executive Wilson resigned, effective May 15th, to become Executive of the Northeast Georgia Council, Athens.

The auditor's report for the year ending December 31, 1934 had showed accounts payable amounting to \$1,521.48, of which \$1,322.66 was back-salary due Executive Wilson.

While there is some dispute over the matter, the audit made at the time of Wilson's leaving clearly indicates that the Council owed him \$907.89. Unfortunately for him, he did not require a statement from the Board to this effect. When a few years later, he made an attempt to collect, he was told there was nothing due him. The writer, when he became Executive some years after, "went to bat" for "Uncle Charlie". A one-man committee was appointed, interviewed some of the 1935 Board members and brought in a negative report.

In 1954, Bradenton Scouters made up a purse of \$200.00 and gave it to Wilson as a Christmas gift, he having then retired from professional Scouting and making Bradenton his home. About that time, also, the Sunny Land Council awarded him the Silver Beaver for his service as a volunteer following his retirement.

He died February 14, 1957. His passing was noted with sorrow by the thousands of people who knew and loved him.

Wilson was succeeded by George M. Riley, of Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was a young man of most likeable personality and immediately endeared himself to leaders and Scouts alike. Less than two months after taking office, and while directing Camp Flying Eagle, he contracted pneumonia. He died in Bradenton General Hospital, July 18th.

There was universal sadness at his passing and a moving set of resolutions of sorrow appear in the Minute Book.

James A. Gaskin, an applicant for the position of Executive, appeared before the Board for interview on August 8th. He was hired at a salary of \$100.00 per month, plus \$25.00 expense money, and took office as of that date.

The first national Boy Scout Jamboree was scheduled to be held in Washington, D. C., in August, 1935. Extensive preparations had been made to house them there in a huge tent-city. Every council in the country had been at work for

months, selecting and training its Jamboree Scouts and their adult leaders. Then, due to a polio outbreak in the city, President Roosevelt cancelled the affair, by radio, less than a week before it was to have opened. The decision, though wise, left thousands of disappointed Scouts, including Sunny Land's delegation that was to have gone under the leadership of Scoutmaster Clarke Berney. In cooperation with Tampa and other nearby councils, a trip to Cuba was hurriedly arranged as a substitute.

There is no record of further activities for the year, which closed with a registered membership of 160 boys in nine troops - two of which were inactive.

1936

The Royal Palm Council's second annual field day was held at Boca Grande on March 14th, with Mrs. F. B. Crowninshield again the hostess. At the conclusion of the evening, she gave a Chevrolet automobile to H. O. Kight, the Scout Executive.

At some time during that summer, Mr. Kight resigned, and a successor was not selected.

The Council closed the year with a membership of 233 Scouts and 28 Cubs.

The Sunny Land Council, in January, adopted a budget of \$3,640.00 for the period to November 1st. The Executive's salary was increased, at the same meeting, to \$150.00 per month.

Dan Beard, wintering somewhere in the territory, possibly at the Manatee River Hotel, Bradenton, spoke to the Sarasota Kiwanis Club on February 6th.

Camp Flying Eagle, in the season of 1936, had an enrollment of 61 boys compared with 31 the preceding summer.

Sunny Land closed the year with 244 Scouts.

1937

Paul W. Bergman, Sarasota, was elected president of the Sunny Land Council, succeeding D. L. Thorpe, Sr., who had served five terms in that office. George L. King, Bradenton, and Frank Stewart, Sarasota, were elected vice-presidents, and Fred H. Gould was re-elected as treasurer.

A feature of Boy Scout Week was a parade on February 13th. Dan Beard was to have been a participant, though it appears that he was either late in arrival or didn't get there at all.

Mr. J. C. Spooner, chairman of the Fort Myers District of the Royal Palm Council, attended the February 25th meeting of the Board of the Sunny Land Council. He presented the desire of the former to affiliate with Sunny Land and asked that it be accepted.

Deputy Regional Scout Executive Herbert Stuckey, a visitor at the session, pointed out the desirability of receiving the old Royal Palm Council from several standpoints, especially the Scouting spirit of fellowship and the extending of a hand to a neighbor in need of help.

It was voted unanimously to welcome Royal Palm into Sunny Land, but with the understanding that only the Lee County portion would be organized that year; other districts, later.

Mr. Richmond Dean, for several years a president of Royal Palm, was elected third vice-president of the Council, and Mr. Spooner as a member of the Board.

At the time of the merger, the Royal Palm Council had six registered troops, with a total boy-membership of 143. There was one troop each in the towns of Arcadia, Boca Grande, Punta Gorda, Everglades and two in Fort Myers.

The 1930 census showed a population of but 35,885 in this added six-county territory. The same census showed a total of 34,942 for Manatee and Sarasota counties.

Camp Flying Eagle operated for three weeks, with 108 Scouts attending.

The National Jamboree that was to have been held in Washington in 1935, but cancelled because of a polio outbreak, was staged, there, from June 30 to July 10. 24 Boy Scouts and three adult leaders from the combined Sunny Land territory attended.

The council closed the year with a membership of 395 boys.

IV

CONSOLIDATION - 1938-1941

Council officers for the year 1938 were George B. Gallup, president; Herbert W. Booth, Sarasota, James C. Spooner, Fort Myers, Dewey A. Dye, Bradenton, Louis Griffith, Arcadia (?) and F. B. Crowninshield, Boca Grande, vice-presidents; Daniel L. Thorpe, Commissioner and Fred H. Gould, treasurer.

Sam Gumpertz, Sarasota; Richmond Dean, Fort Myers and O. B. Mueller, Bradenton, were listed on the Council letterhead as Honorary Presidents.

The membership of F. B. Crowninshield is an interesting case. Actually, it was Mrs. Crowninshield who was the vice-president and Board member. Crowninshield, himself, had little use for the Boy Scouts, terming it "damned nonsense", and the interest and effort given by his wife, "wasted time". Mrs. Crowninshield, before her marriage, was Louise duPont, of the Wilmington duPonts. One of the country's wealthiest women, she maintained palatial homes at Montchannin, Delaware and Marblehead, Massachusetts, in addition to a fine Gulf-shore Winter home at Boca Grande.

Efforts were made to secure a Silver Beaver for her in recognition of her interest in Scouting and her great help. The National Council refused, however, saying that the award was for men only.

Another Council field meet was held at Boca Grande, again with Mrs. Crowninshield as hostess, on March 18th.

A father-and-son banquet, given by the Punta Gorda Rotary Club on January 26th, had Dan Beard as principal speaker. He also awarded at least one Eagle badge.

George Brewster Gallup, 1938 president, was an eccentric character. He was an elderly gentleman, impractical and

ne'er-do-well inventor of household gadgets that never seemed to "catch hold", and a man with the obsession that Boy Scouts should concentrate on merit badges having to do with the home and home-construction. In a lengthy, written speech, couched in the most erudite terms, which appears with the July 12th Board minutes, he urged the Council to push the adoption by the National Council of a new merit badge, Home Building Crafts. This was, actually, carried all the way to the National Council, but nothing came of the effort. Some years later, he wanted the writer to spearhead an effort to have adopted a merit badge on City-planning! Until the time of his death, in 1950, at the age of 85, Gallup considered that he had made a tremendous contribution to the Boy Scouts of America. Confined to a rest-home in his later years, he 'phoned the Scout Executive at intervals to ask for cigarettes, razor-blades, etc. A few months before he died, he reminded the Executive that he would be 85 in July and that the Boy Scouts would probably like to give him something on his birthday. The Executive was at a loss. Gallup had been incapacitated for several years and none of the current "crop" of boys had ever heard of him. Gallup passed away, however, a few weeks before the birthday, thus solving the problem.

He was, in many respects, a remarkable man. An amateur astronomer, he wrote a daily column on the subject that appeared for many years as a regular feature of the Bradenton Herald. Gallup could never quite understand why others did not share his own intense interest in and enthusiasm for this and his other pet subjects.

1938 camp attendance totaled 107 boys, including Arcadia Scouts who held their own troop camp, near Lake Placid.

With the easing of the Depression, Council finances improved. Receipts for the fiscal year closing October 31st, including registrations and supplies, totaled \$5,256.89. There was a balance of \$7.68 in the bank, with no unpaid bills. This was a far different situation than had obtained in previous years.

96 persons were in attendance at the Council annual meeting held at the First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, on December 8th. Frank Stewart, Sarasota, was awarded the Silver Beaver.

The year ended with a membership of 516 Scouts and 82 Cubs.

1939

Officers for this year were Walter N. Munroe, Sarasota, president; Ernest L. Prior, Fort Myers, commissioner and

Fred H. Gould, treasurer. Vice-presidents were Richard Schaddlee, Fort Myers; Earl D. Farr, Punta Gorda; W. A. Neal, Arcadia; D. L. Thorpe, Sr., Bradenton; and Kenneth Koach, Sarasota.

"Dan" Beard spent the month of February at the Manatee River Hotel, Bradenton. Jim Gaskin, the Executive, took him out to see Camp Flying Eagle and, on the evening of the 5th, a delegation of long-active Scouters paid him a visit at his hotel. In the course of the conversation, it developed that "Uncle Dan" did not have the Silver Beaver award, since this is given only upon recommendation of a local council. After taking leave of Beard, the men got together outside the hotel and decided, in view of his keen interest in South Florida and his many helpful suggestions to the Sunny Land Council in particular, to ask the National Council for special dispensation that the Council make the award to Beard. Letters to this effect were dispatched to Dr. George J. Fisher of the National Council the following day. There is, however, nothing to indicate that permission was granted and the award given.

Ernest L. Prior, Council Commissioner, Fort Myers, was director of Camp Flying Eagle for the 1939 season. There are no records to show the number of campers attending, nor are there, most unfortunately any other details of this season - unfortunately because a situation reputedly arose which is still a matter for argument as this is written, twenty years later.

Camp swimming has always been done in the Manatee River, which flows through the property. This is, normally, a placid stream, but after storms in the Summer rainy season, it rises rapidly, becomes very swift and carries a lot of trash and debris. At some point in the 1939 camp season, an epidemic of dysentery broke out. Dr. W. H. Wentzel, Bradenton physician that attended most of the campers, blamed this upon the river water in which the boys swam, and promptly closed the camp. The action stirred up quite a controversy; natives pooch-pooched the idea, saying they'd swam in the river all their lives - high water and low - and never gotten sick. Parents, on the other hand, were understandably taking no chances.

Parenthetically, the writer adds the following as his own personal observation, after having directed camp at Flying Eagle through 16 seasons: Camp food at that time was stored in a huge ice-box that had been discarded and given to the camp in the early 30's by a Bradenton hotel. To keep the box going several hundred pounds of ice had to be trucked daily 15 miles to camp under a broiling Florida sun. The theory was advanced to the writer by a member of the United States Public Health Service who was visiting the camp, that tainted food from the ice-box might well have caused the out-break --- more likely than swimming in polluted water.

Credence to this theory was added when, during the season of 1945, the bottom of the ice compartment fell through. Before the situation was discovered, something stored in the refrigerator caused another epidemic - fortunately, very mild.

Needless to say, an electric, walk-in type refrigerator was secured before the next season's camp, even though this involved the renting of a gasoline-powered electric generator.

Another unfortunate experience of this season was a drunken brawl that took place at the camp. Though the site had been purchased as a Boy Scout camp, the Council did not hold title to it and had very little control over it. A man, Fred Stewart, lived in a cabin on the grounds but was not paid for acting as caretaker, so his main interest was his cattle, some of which roamed on the property. As a consequence, a great many people, and groups - some with permission, but most of them without - used the place for picnics and less-lausable purposes.

The Bradenton Junior Chamber of Commerce held its annual picnic at Flying Eagle on May 15, 1939. Liquor was abundant and some fights broke out. In the course of one of these, Potter d'Orsey Palmer, Sarasota, play-boy son of the Chicago Potter Palmer's, was hit on the head with a bottle. He died two days later in a nearby hospital.

Due to the prominence of the young man's parents, this brought nation-wide publicity, and added to the bad reputation that Flying Eagle was getting.

The Council's Annual Meeting was held at the Town Club, Fort Myers, on December 7th, with 112 persons attending. Albert L. Yarn was the Silver Beaver recipient.

The year ended with a membership of 568 Scouts and 149 Cubs.

1940

Walter Munroe continued as president and Fred Gould and Ernest Prior as treasurer and commissioner, respectively. The year's budget was set at \$6,000.00.

Due to the 1939 Flying Eagle situation, the 1940 Council camp was held at Myakka State Park, with two t-day periods. It was strictly a wilderness troop-camp, using army pyramidal tents borrowed from the National Guard. Ernest Prior, again, was director. There is no record of the number of participants other than that 130 Scouts from 12 troops camped during the month of June.

Very little else of consequence is recorded for the year. Summer activities reported were two each of swimming meets, field meets and fishing contests, a bicycle hike, a treasure hunt and ten industrial hikes.

A budget of \$8,435.00 was adopted for the fiscal year, November 1, 1940 - October 31, 1941.

At the annual meeting of December 12th, held at the Manavista Hotel, Bradenton, Commissioner Prior presented the Silver Beaver to Chealey F. Perry, Fort Myers. The former and President Munroe and Treasurer Gould were re-elected for an additional term.

The various district chairmen were elected as vice-presidents. They were Clarke Barney, Bradenton; Arthur E. Esthus, Sarasota; Gilmer Heitman, Jr., Fort Myers; W. A. Neal, Arcadia, Dr. W. B. Clement, Punta Gorda, and F. B. Crowninshield, Boca Grande.

The suggestion was made at this meeting that the name should be changed but nothing ever came of the idea.

Funds now being in sight for the employment of a field executive to serve the former Royal Palm Council territory, John L. Shutt, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, and a recent graduate of the National Training School was hired. He took over his duties on December 15, 1940. His home base of operations were to be in Fort Myers.

Scout Executive Gaskin having accepted the Executive-ship of the East Carolina Council with headquarters at Wilson, North Carolina, he resigned on December 16th, effective 30 days later.

1941

Fred L. Treat, Assistant Executive of the Gulf-Ridge Council, Tampa, was selected to succeed Gaskin, and reported for duty on January 16th.

Swimming meets were held, by districts, during April and May.

On June 8th, the Council's Summer camp opened. It was held at Bear Point on Lake Childs, near the town of Lake Placid - 100 miles from the Council's three largest towns. It was truly a "wilderness camp", hacked out of the Florida jungle, and with a minimum of conveniences. Scheduled to operate for two weeks, an additional week was necessary to accommodate all who wanted to come. 134 different Scouts attended for a total of 145 camper-weeks. Field Executive

John Shutt was the director.

On June 11, Daniel Carter Beard died. His passing was especially mourned throughout the Sunny Land Council where he had spent so many Winters and numbered thousands of friends among boys and adults, alike.

With the approval of Mr. Gumpertz and the Council, the Sarasota Kiwanis Club sold the Camp Gumpertz property in July for \$5,000.00. For years the site had been mosquito-ridden to an extent that boys no longer wanted to camp there, even over-night.

In the latter part of June, Scouts distributed 990 United States Savings Bond posters. The following month, they collected nearly four and a quarter tons of aluminum in the government's drive for this metal.

During the Summer months plans were set in motion to incorporate the Council and these were consummated on August 14th, when the State of Florida issued a charter to "The Sunny Land Council of the Boy Scouts of America".

After a series of district camporees, a council-wide camporee was held in Gillespie Park, Sarasota, on November 28-29. 28 Patrols with a total of 145 Scouts participated. 20 adult leaders also attended.

At the October 9th meeting, Judge W. T. Harrison, president of the Manatee County Boys Development Association, said that now the Council was incorporated, there was no reason why it should not assume title to the Camp Flying Eagle property.

Following Japan's December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor and the formal declaration of war the next day, the Council immediately began to gird itself for intensive "behind the lines" service. Its first "War Bulletin" was released to leaders on the 10th; the second, listing four specific areas of service, was mailed out on the 19th.

Eleven leaders were lost to Scouting, that year, through their entry into the country's armed forces. This now became the Council's major problem, and it continued until a year after the war's end.

The 1942 budget was set at \$9,345.00.

The year closed with a membership of 728 Scouts and 152 Cubs. The 880 total was the largest in the Council's history thus far.

V

THE WAR YEARS - 1942-1945

The Annual Council Meeting, held at the Mira-Mar Hotel, Sarasota, January 12th, brought out a total attendance of 101 persons. Walter N. Munroe was re-elected as Council President for his fourth term. Arthur E. Esthus and Fred H. Gould were awarded the Silver Beaver.

The necessity for a swimming pool at Camp Flying Eagle appears in the Board Minutes as of January 12th.

During Anniversary Week, a test of the Council's Mobilization Plan was held. It disclosed that 32% of the Scouts could be assembled within fifteen minutes, 44% within half an hour, and 50% within an hour.

A Camporee, held in cooperation with the Gulf-Ridge Council at Bok Tower, Lake Wales, in April, had 123 Sunny Land Council Scouts and leaders participating.

Twenty-two Sea Scouts and five leaders attended the Sea Scout Rendezvous at St. Petersburg in June.

The Manatee River received the Health Department's approval for swimming, so a two-week camp at Camp Flying Eagle was held. It had 106 Scouts attending.

During the Summer the first War casualty among former members of the Council took place. Grieson Prince of Troop 8, Bradenton lost his life when his ship went down.

On September 21st, Ernest L. Prior, Fort Myers, and one of the oldest Scouters in point of service, died. He had served in many different capacities, was one of the first (1931) recipients of the Silver Beaver, and had been elected, at the January annual meeting, as an Honorary Life Member of the Council. He was camp director in 1939 and 1940.

Merit Badge Expositions were held in early October in Bradenton and Sarasota.

During the latter part of October, through November and into the early part of December, the most successful finance campaigns of the Council's history were completed. Striving to achieve the \$9,544 budget for the fiscal year of 1943, a total of \$10,800.00 was secured, with at least an additional \$950.00 in prospect.

In the field of War Service, 90,700 pounds of newspaper and magazines and 17,898 pounds of rubber were collected. It is impossible to even estimate the quantity of scrap iron secured, but it was immense. In addition, 12,000 copies each of two government war publications were distributed from door-to-door throughout the Council territory.

December 31st found 46 registered Sunny Land Council Sea Scouts and leaders serving with the Armed Forces. Among these was Assistant Executive John L. Shutt, who resigned October 1st to enter the Navy.

The year closed with a total membership of 712 Scouts and 224 Cubs, for a grand total of 936 different boys -- a new membership peak in the history of the Council.

1943

On January first, Walter Munroe began his fifth term as president.

Due to war-time transportation problems, no central Council annual meeting was attempted. In its place, district annual meetings were held at which the annual report for 1942 was approved and Council elections held.

The second annual pilgrimage to Bok Tower, Lake Wales, for a camporee took place in April with 141 Scouts and leaders participating.

The Manatee River having been once again condemned for swimming by the State Board of Health, Camp Flaming Arrow, near Auburndale in Polk County, was rented. It opened on July 31st and 130 Scouts with eight leaders participated in the three-weeks season. The Council footed the bill for the extra transportation expense. (The Council had money, in those days!)

The war, with its food-rationing, brought a great many new problems to running a camp. Each boy had to bring his ration book and a quarter pound of sugar. No cook could be found, so the Scout Executives wife took over this

job, in spite of the fact that she also had a 15-month-old baby to look after. The child had plenty of "baby-sitters", however - in fact, too many!

Buying food for camp involved removing exactly so many blue stamps and so many red stamps from each boy's ration book. Then, armed with a bagful of these stamps, trips to every food store in every town within a ten-mile radius. A few needed items might be found in one store, one or two more in another, then several "duds". But wherever food was purchased, those annoying little blue and red stamps had to be counted out, one by one, and given to the clerk. (Like as not, she'd count 'em again - just being sure.)

War-time feeding of a Boy Scout camp was a 5:30 A. M. to 10:30 P. M. job!

Mr. George E. Judd, of Fort Myers, some years earlier, had given the Council twenty acres of wild land, north of the Caloosahatchee River. Scouts rarely used the place, however, so in July he suggested that the property be sold and the proceeds used to improve any other site that might be selected. The Board concurred and the twenty acres were sold for approximately \$500.00.

At about this same time, a ramshackle "Scout house" that stood on two Council-owned lots on Hoople Street, Fort Myers, was sold for \$50.00. The buyer was a "squatter" who'd "taken over" the shack some time before. He was given a month in which to move it, and the lots were subsequently sold.

The Council was host, in early September, for a rendezvous of South Florida Sea Scouts. The three-day affair was held at Fort Myers with 96 boys and leaders from six councils participating.

The fiscal year closed on October 31st with a \$2,000.00 surplus in the bank at interest. Money was so plentiful that, when a man from the Home Office staff came down to put on a week-end Senior Scout institute, the Council paid each leader's hotel and meal expenses - and the affair took place at a "swanky" Winter-resort hotel!

When Field Executive Robert E. Holladay left, December 24th, for induction into the army, he brought to 69 the number of registered Scouts and leaders serving in the armed service.

The year's war service included farm work, planting Victory gardens and distribution of the Office of War Information's weekly posters.

Due in large part to the loss of leaders to the armed forces, the year closed with a net loss of five troops. There was, however, a net increase in registered boys, with 991 on the rolls on December 31st - a new "high".

1944

A convention-type annual meeting was held in Sarasota on January 27th, with the afternoon business session being held in the First Methodist Church and the evening dinner session at the Mira-Mar Hotel. Walter N. Munroe was re-elected president for his sixth term.

For the first time in Council history, the 1,000-boy-membership mark was reached in February with the enrollment of Scout Jack Gilbert in Troop 3, Sarasota. In recognition of this, young Gilbert was given a complete Scout uniform.

On March 31st, 279 Scouts and leaders, representing 38 patrols from seventeen different troops, went to Bok Tower, Lake Wales, for a two-day camporee with the Gulf-Ridge Council. Total attendance from the two councils was more than eleven hundred.

The Council was saddened when, on April 15th, tragedy struck Bradenton's colored troop #44. A truck transporting Scouts to Bok Tower's annual Negro Day, overturned near the village of Brewster. Two of the boys were killed and five others were seriously injured. Twelve hours after the accident, voluntary contributions for their care started pouring in and, when, some months later, all bills were paid, nearly \$200.00 still remained in the fund. This was given to the Gulf-Ridge Council towards the establishment of a Negro camp.

The Sunny Land Health and Safety committee made searching inquiry and came up with the finding that the accident was due solely to mechanical failure of the truck's steering gear. It recommended future pre-use inspection of all vehicles used in the transportation of boys.

An extensive sampling of Manatee River water, from five miles above camp to five miles below, was made by a representative of the Florida State Board of Health, in the Spring of 1944. His exhaustive report gave approval to the river for swimming except in times of high water. The recommendation was made, however, that a camp swimming pool be provided just as soon as funds would allow.

Immediately upon receipt of this report, machinery was set in motion towards securing from the Manatee County Development Association a long-term lease on the Flying Eagle property. A 99-year lease was executed on June 25th. A two-room cottage on the near-by Hutchinson property was purchased, moved to the camp and about \$2,500.00 spent on repairs and additions. This then became the care-taker's home and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Williams were hired as the care-takers.

Camp opened on June first and ran with a capacity attendance for four weeks. 169 campers were there for a total of 249 boy-weeks.

District swimming and field meets were additional Summer activities.

The Sarasota Kiwanis Club, which had served as trustee for the money arising from the sale of the Camp Gumpertz property, had asked the Council, in 1943, to assume this trusteeship. The Executive Board consented and the transfer was made, by Court order, on April 15, 1944. \$5,274.30 was turned over to the Council - \$5,000.00 arising from the sale, plus accumulated interest.

The old Royal Palm Council had used, for many years, a five-acre camp-site on the Caloosahatchee River, about fifteen miles east of Fort Myers. This was by permission of the owner. The latter decided, in 1944, that he wanted to sell, and offered the tract to the Council for \$1,500.00. Details of the transaction and subsequent developments are too involved to go into at this point. It is sufficient for the present to say that the purchase was made and the property became a "king-size headache", with misunderstandings, rumors, accusations and denials that persist to this day.

On October 19th, a destructive hurricane swept Florida's west coast. The Scouts, particularly those of Bradenton, did a fine service job. Working under the direction of the Red Cross, they served as messengers, warned beach residents, worked at refugee centers and made refugee-housing surveys. Several older Scouts worked with the State Highway Patrol right through the storm.

In the field of war service, Scouts and Cubs sold a total of \$71,610.00 in bonds, during the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth War Loan campaigns. Uncounted tons of scrap paper were salvaged and thousands of O. W. I. posters distributed. Scouts worked on farms in the North, in home gardens and in canning plants.

The adult leadership of the Council was stabilized somewhat through the use of older men who were beyond draft age. Several of our Senior Scouts enlisted, however, and the Honor Roll on December 31st bore 88 names compared with 69, a year before.

The year closed with a membership of 781 Scouts and 249 Cubs - a total of 1,030 different boys.

1945

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held on January 23rd, in the First Presbyterian Church. It was strictly a business session and the attendance was small.

The Council's oldest Troop, No. 5, of Punta Gorda, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a community party and Scout Field Meet on March 30-31.

Assistant Scout Executive, Don B. Benzie, resigned as of March 31st, and the Council was without a field man for the balance of the year. The Scout Executive spent a portion of the first and third weeks of each month in the southern part of the Council, until a successor could be found.

Considerable work was done on Camp Flying Eagle during the spring months. The old wooden bunks were torn out and steel cots were substituted, the kitchen was enlarged, the First Aid room was ceiled, the dock was raised and a new flag pole erected.

Camp opened on May 31st and ran for a period of four weeks, during which time 157 different Scouts, representing 19 troops attended for a total of 245 boy-weeks. In addition to this, Troop 33, Naples, held its own camp for a period of one week, with ten Scouts and Scoutmaster attending.

The Council celebrated its twentieth anniversary at the annual meeting held on December 14th in Palmetto. Regional Scout Executive W. A. Dobson was the speaker. Walter N. Munroe, who had served with outstanding success as president for seven years, retired from this office. In recognition of his long record of service, Mrs. F. B. Crowninshield presented him with a Scroll of Appreciation bearing the names of 88 Scouters.

Scouts continued their war service, during the year, by collecting paper, tin cans and other material, working on farms and by selling war bonds. The Council contributed \$50.00 to the World Friendship Fund to help with the reestablishment of Scouting in recently-liberated countries.

The year ended with a membership of exactly one thousand boys - 746 Scouts and 254 Cubs.

VI

POST-WAR YEARS - 1946-1950

1946 brought a let-down in interest and enthusiasm on the part of both Scouts and leaders. Chief among the factors contributing to this was relief from the tensions of the war years. Suffering in the general decline were advancement and attendance at District and Council-wide activities.

Membership went down badly during the year, but in the last three months rallied to quite an extent.

On January 16th, W. R. "Bill" Ennis, Jr., became Field Executive, with responsibility for the southern part of the Council territory.

Considerable work was done on Camp Flying Eagle during the Spring months. The kitchen was widened by fourteen feet and a second hand, walk-in type refrigerator was installed. The Palmetto Methodist Church gave a sheet-metal building to the camp. This had stood, for many years, on a lot at the corner of 8th Avenue and 4th Street, where it served as the meeting place for the church's troop. At camp, it became, first, the staff's cabin and, later, after considerable alteration, the present Health Lodge.

The annual Council camp operated for four weeks, in spite of a widespread polio epidemic. The largest percentage of white boys ever to attend camp from Sunny Land Council was present -- an even 25%.

The interests of Clewiston and Moore Haven being more closely tied with the East Coast and the fact that the West Palm Beach office of the Gulf Stream Council is some one hundred miles closer to them than the headquarters of

the Sunny Land Council, led these two communities, in the spring of 1946, to seek permission to withdraw and affiliate themselves with the Gulf Stream Council. This permission was granted by the Executive Board on June 12th, and a new boundary line between the two Councils was established.

Swimming Meets were held in the Fort Myers and Sarasota-Manatee Districts during July, August and September. A Council-wide meet was held in Fort Myers on Labor Day, when a fine new trophy, donated by R. A. Henderson, was put up for competition for the first time. It was won by Troop 18, Fort Myers.

A Scout leaders' Pow-Wow was held at Camp Flying Eagle in October, with thirty men taking part.

The Council closed the year with a membership of 233 Cub Scouts, 677 Boy Scouts and 28 Senior Scouts -- 938 different boys.

1947

The year opened with the re-election of James A. Franklin as Council president, at the annual meeting held in January in Fort Myers. Fred H. Gould retired after sixteen years of service - the last ten of these as Council treasurer. The Council elected him to honorary life membership, but he did not live long to enjoy this distinction. He died, less than two years later, on December 17, 1948.

In March, a two-day Scoutoree was held at Boca Grande, with Mrs. F. B. Crowninshield and Troop 13 serving as hostess and host. More than three hundred Scouts and leaders took part.

Considerable work was done at Camp Flying Eagle in preparation for the 1947 season. A butane gas range and tank were installed, a new dock was built at the waterfront and an infirmary was added to the Health Lodge. But, best of all, electric power was brought into the camp, doing away with the necessity for a gasoline-powered generator to keep the refrigerator going and doing away with the hazard of kerosene lanterns to light the cabins and dining hall.

The Florida Power and Light Company staged an elaborate beef-barbecue at the camp on June 25th to celebrate the extension of its lines. All of the customers served by the extension were invited - and came.

Judge W. T. Harrison, former Council president, gave the camp two old lanterns that have an interesting history. They originally hung from the draw-bridge that spanned the Manatee River from 9th Street, East, Bradenton, to Palmetto. The bridge was built in 1910 and torn down in 1922. The lanterns were then moved to the old Snead's Island cut-off bridge and hung from the draw, there, until 1932. They now hang over the fireplace in the camp dining hall.

23.9% of the registered white Scouts attended camp for a week or more.

Four district swimming meets were held during the Summer, culminating in the annual Council Meet, held at Lido Pool, Sarasota.

Seven Senior Scouts, under the direction of Field Executive Bill Ennis and Tom L. Burgess, went to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico for a two-week's stay.

Eagle Scouts Harlan Farrar and Bill Shultz, Fort Myers, went to the International Scout Jamboree in France, in August.

Most regreably, because of her age, Mrs. Crowninshield found it necessary in August to resign from active participation in the Council's activities. The Executive Board immediately conferred upon her an honorary life membership. (She passed away, at an advanced age, in May, 1958.)

The Council was saddened by the death of two of its finest leaders -- William S. Leak, Committeeman of Troop 3, Sarasota, who was drowned while swimming at Lido, on June 19th; and "Uncle Dan" Smith, Committeeman of Troop 6, Sarasota, who died on October 24th.

The Calusa Lodge, Order of the Arrow, dedicated, on Sunday, December 28th, a camp memorial to Mr. Leak - a drinking fountain with shelter.

The Council's Annual Meeting was held at the Sarasota Bay Country Club, Sarasota, early in December. C. Rowland Shannon, Bradenton, was elected president and Fred L. Betterton, Fort Myers, was awarded the Silver Beaver.

The Council closed the year with a membership of 325 Cub Scouts, 641 Boy Scouts and 39 Senior Scouts -- a grand total of 1,005 different boys.

1948

The Council was honored with a three-day visit, in January, by Dr. and Mrs. John A. Stiles, former Chief Scout Commissioner of the Canadian Boy Scouts Association. Dr.

Stiles was the speaker at a meeting of Scouts, leaders and parents at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, January 22nd, and the following night at the Royal Palm District's annual dinner.

The second annual Scoutoree was held in Arcadia on April 22nd. About 225 Scouts and leaders took part.

Camp Flying Eagle opened on Sunday, June 13th, and ran for a period of three weeks. 112 different Scouts attended for a total of 172 boy-weeks.

An "Old-timer" reunion was held at the camp on June 30th, with a great many former campers and Scouters attending.

The annual Council swimming meet was held in Fort Myers on September 4th. The R. A. Henderson Swimming Trophy was permanently retired, having been won three times by Troop 18, Fort Myers.

Junior Officers Training Conferences were held at Camp Flying Eagle on October 23-24 and at Camp Ropaco, October 16-17. A total of 110 junior leaders attended and received certificates.

On Tuesday afternoon, November 1st, a test of the Council's Emergency Mobilization Plan was called. It was quite successful in that just slightly less than 50% of the total Scout membership was assembled within one hour.

As a service project, in connection with the Emergency Mobilization, the Scouts distributed 15,000 "VOTE" handbills throughout the entire area. These were provided and paid for by the Council.

Three Camporees were held on Friday and Saturday, November 26-27 - one each in Fort Myers, Punta Gorda and Bradenton. Attendance and participation were small.

An "Adventure Expedition" for Senior Scouts was held on December 28-30. Forty-two young men and their leaders set up a base camp at Everglades City. The affair, first of its kind held by the Council, was quite successful.

The Annual Meeting of the Sunny Land Council was held in Bradenton on December 15th. The banquet portion was attended by 120 persons. Dr. H. W. Hurt was the speaker. C. Rowland Shannon was elected to a second term as Council President, and the Silver Beaver Award was presented to Dr. L. B. King, Bradenton.

Fred H. Gould, Council Treasurer for more than ten years prior to his retirement in 1946, died December 17th. Scouts of Bradenton, on the 20th (day of his funeral) planted 1,500 slash-pine seedlings at Camp Flying Eagle.

and named the planting "The Fred Gould Memorial Grove"..

The National Council credited Sunny Land with the following December 31st membership: 14 Cub Packs, 36 Scout Troops, 5 Senior Units; 364 Cub Scouts, 685 Boy Scouts, 62 Senior Scouts. Having shown a gain over the January 1st figures on all six items, the Council received the coveted H. Smith Richardson Award.

1949

The first Everglades Senior Scout expedition took place during the 1948 Christmas holidays, with 42 young men and leaders participating. Based on the Everglades City golf course, a boat tour was made into the Ten Thousand Islands area and a trip by logging train through the Swamp to the Lee Cypress Company's operations, deep in the heart of the 'Glades. Also visited were Royal Palm Hammock State Park and the oil field at Sunniland.

The Area J (Florida) meeting of the Order of the Arrow was held at Camp Flying Eagle March 25-27, with the Council's Calusa Lodge as host.

On December 20, 1948, the day of the funeral of former Council treasurer Fred H. Gould, Bradenton Scouts planted 1,500 pine seedlings at the camp and called the planting "The Gould Memorial Grove". Not to be outdone, Sarasota Scouts, early in January, planted 3,000 seedlings to be known as "The Dan Smith Memorial Grove". Smith, for many years before his death, had been one of Sarasota's most enthusiastic leaders. Unfortunately, the Winter and Spring of 1949 were unusually dry and many of the seedlings did not survive.

162 Scouts attended the Summer season at Flying Eagle for a total of 191 boy-weeks.

Mr. T. H. Burgess, chairman of the camping and activities committee, reported at the June 22nd meeting of the Board that 249 Scouts had attended a Council Scoutoree in Punta Gorda, posters had been distributed for the Treasury Department and the Florida Forestry Association, and that 22 Senior Scouts and three leaders were, at that time, attending a Senior Scout Rendezvous at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station.

A Council Rendezvous for Senior Scouts was held on Sarasota beach on the week-end of October 8-9. A painful, yet somewhat humorous affair of this activity was the ball which the Sarasota Seniors put on for their out-of-town visitors. The Lido Beach ballroom was rented, a

fine orchestra engaged, a good floor-show arranged, and a great host of sweet young ladies invited to serve as dancing partners. On the fateful night, however, the orchestra arrived, the floor show arrived, the nice young ladies, all in their best party dresses, arrived - but the Senior Scouts -----! Ashful, they hung back and refused to dance. The occasion ended with the girls dancing with each other. (But the floor show and the refreshments were excellent!)

1950

A Scout circus, joint venture of the Manatee and Sarasota Districts, was held in March with excellent participation and attendance, and the annual camporee took place in Arcadia on April 28-29. The latter, however, was a fiasco, with only four troops taking part.

The sheet-metal building that had been given to the camp by the Palmetto Methodist Church a few years before, and used as the staff cabin, was, in the spring of 1950, moved to its present location and rebuilt to serve as a Health Lodge. Twenty individuals, clubs, churches and businesses made this possible.

214 Boys attended camp, that summer

The Second National Jamboree took place at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, from June 30th to July 6th. Thirty-five Sunny Land Scouts participated with Dr. James G. Goodyear serving as Scoutmaster. The Assistants were A. K. Williamson and John Hagan, Jr. Field Executive LeRoy Starrett was a member of the Jamboree Sectional Staff.

Other activities of the year were two district and a Council swimming meet, district and Council Scoutorees and participation in the annual Explorer Rendezvous at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Council was held in Sarasota on December 11th. The banquet took place at the Orange Blossom Hotel with MacKinlay Kantor and Regional Executive W. A. Dobson as the speakers. Honored guests were some twelve men who had pioneered Scouting in the area in the early days of the Council.

VII

THE AMAZING YEARS - 1951-1959

Mrs. Alice L. Steele, widow of a Chicago physician and surgeon, died in Sarasota in 1950 and left \$500.00 in her will "for the benefit of Sarasota Boy Scouts". It was received early in 1951 and put aside for future use as "The Alice L. Steele Memorial Fund".

Another bequest came by the will of Malcolm S. Edmond, of Bradenton and Richmond, Virginia. This amounted to \$3,650.00. Both bequests were placed in a savings and loan account.

There was a considerable refund to 1950 Jamboree Scouts. The latter agreed to turn this over to the Council for some needed camp project. The Camp Committee suggested that a new and more adequate dock be built, and this was done in time for the '51 camp season.

By Board action in November, the Boca Grande, Charlotte and DeSoto Districts were combined into one to be known as the Peace River District, effective January 1, 1952. (The plan did not succeed, however. Charlotte County Scouters would not drive the 25 miles to Arcadia, nor DeSoto men the same distance for meetings in Punta Gorda - and Boca Grande never attended anywhere!)

1952

What to do with the Gumpertz Trust Fund, now grown to \$6,692.94, came up at a meeting of the Board in February, 1952. It was agreed that a training center at camp was needed and would be a fitting memorial to Mrs. Gumpertz. Plans and a water-color sketch were obtained from the National Council's engineering service. Mr. Gumpertz died

however, before they could be shown to him for his approval. It was decided to proceed anyway, but the effort was blocked by the Court. When approached for an order to release the Fund, it said that in its opinion the intent was that the money should be spent in Sarasota County only - and the camp is located in Manatee County.

DeSoto County, the Council's "problem child" since the Royal Palm Council merger in 1937, was put on a "mail-service only" basis, on June 18, 1952. The county's troops and Scouters had never participated to any extent in the Council's activities, nor had it at any time made attempt to carry its share of the financial burden, though several hundred dollars collected in the name of the Boy Scouts of America lay idle in an account in the DeSoto National Bank. Several building lots, willed to the "Arcadia Boy Scouts" were also available for sale.

The Board in October agreed to use the Edmond bequest to bridge Manatee River, at camp, to open up the large, wooded area on the peninsula for an Explorer camp.

A bequest from the estate of the late Oscar B. Mueller, amounting to \$1,267.00 was received in October, but action as to just how it should be used was postponed until a later date.

Among the year's activities were Explorer encampments at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, and the Jacksonville Naval Air Station, the placing of 400 "Register and Vote!" placards and of 16,000 "Vote!" door-knob hangers on the eve of Election Day. Other services, as usual were performed for several organizations.

1953

The camp bridge, built from the Edmond bequest at a cost of \$3,517.00, was completed in early June - but not according to the original design approved by the Corps of Army Engineers. It was to have been of the cable-suspension type, the designer assuring the Council that he could secure used cable from the Otis Elevator Company. Cable was unavailable, however, from this or any other source. This necessitated an application to the Corps of Engineers for approval of the bridge as built, with four pilings in the river's channel. The Engineers, after much correspondence and submission of new drawings, finally approved, but with considerable reluctance.

The designer had also made an error in his calculations as to length of the bridge. When completed, the two ends lacked some eight feet of reaching the river banks. Scouters built the approaches of used lumber. The contractor,

for his part, mis-calculated on the time it would take to build the bridge and it was not completed until three days after the Explorer camp began. Food and water, during that period, were sent by boat.

The bridge, by reason of poor design, poor workmanship and poor materials, continued to be a serious problem until the Summer of 1958, when, by Board action, it was condemned as dangerous and taken out of use.

224 Scouts attended the 1953 Summer camp, including thirteen Explorers at Camp Edmond, for a total of 337 boy-weeks.

Eighteen Scouts went to California for the Third National Jamboree, held at Irvine Ranch near Los Angeles. They were led by U. S. Cleveland as Scoutmaster and E. V. Bailey, Assistant. The Scout Executive served as equipment officer on the Region Six sectional staff.

A delegation of DeSoto County citizens, headed by Hugh G. Jones, Arcadia, appeared before the Executive Board at its September meeting. Jones said that Scouting had ceased to exist in the county since the day, fifteen months before, when it had been put on mail service. The group wished to reorganize the district and become a participating member of the Council. Convinced of the group's sincerity, it was "welcomed with open arms and without reservation".

1954

Extensive work was done on the camp in the Spring of the year. Using the Mueller bequest and a \$700.00 gift of the E. E. Bishop Foundation, a concrete-block building for the camp office and trading post, and a similarly constructed tool-storage and pump-house were built. Three of the sleeping cabins were moved to give a wider dispersal.

Through the efforts of long-time Board member and Council past-president George E. Judd, a \$2,500.00 donation from his firm of Judd & Detweiler was received. This was placed in the Reserve Account.

Walter M. Munroe, Council president for the seven years - 1938-1945 inclusive - died March 24, 1954. Following his retirement as President, he served as Sunny Land's representative on the National Council from 1946 to his death. He was a thoroughly good man. Much of the Council's present firm foundation is due to his thought, patience and effort.

Six troops sent a total of 14 patrols to a joint camporee with the Gulf-Ridge Council at Bok Singing Tower, Lake Wales, in the late Spring. The affair was not too successful.

Nine Explorers, led by A. S. "Bill" Zoller, Bradenton, went to Philmont in July.

During this same month, Scouts collected a quantity of new and used uniforms and equipment and shipped these to the Scouts of South Korea.

After many months of careful investigation and planning the Sarasota District came before the September 28th meeting of the Board with a proposal. It was, in brief, to build a Council headquarters office on the North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, on property to be had on long-term lease from the Florida Power and Light Company. It would use, for the purpose, the Gumpertz Memorial Trust Fund, now amounting to \$7,210.17, the Alice Steel bequest which, with accrued interest, amounted to \$550.77, and would secure whatever extra money might be needed from interested Sarasota citizens and businesses.

The Council headquarters having existed for many years in two small, hot and crowded rooms on the second floor of a downtown Bradenton building, the offer was accepted enthusiastically. It was agreed that the new building should be known as the Gumpertz Memorial headquarters, and that the conference room, as the Alice L. Steele Memorial Room.

At the request of President Eisenhower, the year's national Good Turn was conservation. Sunny Land members carried through an astonishing number and variety of projects in this field.

1955

Summer camp attendance had grown to a point where additional accommodations were absolutely essential. Consequently, the shack that had been used as a handiwork shop was equipped with double-deck bunks, and the front wall of the dining hall was knocked out so that what had been a porch could be used for additional tables. 1954's Explorer camp in the wooded area on the peninsula, across the Edmond bridge, had proved unsuccessful. Only eight boys had attended. The tent camp there was, therefore, expanded in 1955 to care for two Scout troops, and has been immensely popular ever since.

313 Scouts attended Flying Eagle during the Summer season - a new "high".

Four Explorers and a leader spent twelve days at Philmont.

Three Explorers and the Scout Executive attended the World Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada, in August.

"Growing pains" also necessitated, on November 1st, the merger of the Peace River District with the Royal Palm District.

Herbert Braren, a contractor and one of the Council's most conscientious Board members, offered to take over and supervise the erection of the headquarters office building. Not content with this, he personally approached his friends in the builders' supply business and secured the necessary materials at cost. Other friends of Scouting contributed about \$2,000.00 in cash. Added to the memorial funds available, a building valued at more than \$15,000.00 resulted. Sufficient money remained to furnish it with new desks and equipment.

Work was begun on July 15th and the office was moved to the new building on September 26th. The first meeting held in the Steele Memorial Conference Room took place the following evening, when the Executive Board met there. The official dedication, with a reception and "open house", came on Sunday afternoon, November 27th.

1956

Eight Sunny Land Explorers and the Scout Executive joined with a group from a North Carolina Council for a trip to Cuba in July. A little over a week was spent in Havana and in touring the island.

Five Explorers and an adult leader went to Philmont and sixteen boys and leaders took part in the annual rendezvous at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station. 108 Explorers and leaders spent three days at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa.

At the Annual meeting of December 11th, the elective year of the Council, until this time on a calendar-year basis, was changed to a September 1 - August 31 term, with annual meetings to be held in June. Officers and Board

members elected at this December 11th meeting were to serve only until August 31, 1957.

21,000 door-knob hangers, in the shape of a Liberty Bell and reminding citizens of their duty to vote, were placed by Cubs, Scouts and Explorers on Election Day eve.

There had been, for a long time, the need for some form of a dignified award on a District level, for Scouters that had rendered outstanding service. This need was met when, at this same annual meeting, authorization was given for a citation to be known as "The Live Oak Award". The requirements and qualifications for this were approved at the same session.

1957

A two-story structure that had once housed the pulpit and choir rooms of the Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church - one of the country's first drive-in churches - was given to the Council early in the year and was moved to camp. The following year it was renovated, a porch added, furniture secured, and now serves as a "family cabin" for the wives and children of Scout leaders while the latter have their boys in camp.

The 28-year-old camp had had no major building replacements since its first season. The roofs and floors of the sleeping cabins were in such state that, as one Board member put it, "We're now putting patches on the patches!".

The camping committee, with the enthusiastic help of Mr. George E. Judd had prepared a comprehensive brochure of camp needs, and this had been widely distributed. It was felt that if a "pilot model" troop-unit could be built and exhibited, it would help secure others. Mr. Judd gave approval, for this purpose, of the use of the \$2,734.00 Reserve that he had made possible in 1954. Modified adirondack-type shelters were contributed by the Bradenton Lions Club, the Sarasota Rotary Club and Mr. Lawrence K. Jennings, a wealthy neighbor. The new unit was used that Summer for the first time.

At the June annual meeting, the officers and Board members then in office were re-elected to serve a full year, beginning September 1st.

33 Scouts and four adult leaders attended the National Jamboree at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in

July. The leaders were George E. Weeks, Scoutmaster; Fred Riegel, Jr., and Raymond Edge, Assistants, and the Scout Executive. The latter served as Commissary Officer on the Regional staff.

Camp Ropaco, built as a district week-end camp in 1944 by Royal Palm District citizens at a cost of some \$11,000.00 for land and buildings, had been the subject of lively controversy almost from its beginning. No caretaker living on the place, the elaborate cabins were the frequent targets of vandals, and less-desirable elements of surrounding communities used the camp for wild parties. There was also, at times, considerable pollution in the river where the boys swam, necessitating the erection of signs forbidding swimming.

At various times the Board was urged to dispose of the camp, but when word of this got back to Fort Myers, old-timers would "rise up". Conditions reached such a state in 1957, however, that the Board delivered an ultimatum to the District - take care of the place or the buildings would be torn down. At the October 7th meeting the Royal Palm District formally asked that the buildings be removed and the site maintained in a "raw" state". The Board authorized this action.

Mrs. Marie Selby, Sarasota, widow of the late William P. Selby, offered \$10,000.00 with which to build two complete troop-camp units at Flying Eagle. This was announced at the November Board meeting. Coupled with it, was the additional offer from the trustees of the Selby Foundation of \$5,000.00 towards the building of a swimming pool at the camp. This was, however, conditioned upon the Council's securing the balance necessary (about \$31,000.00) within one year.

Mr. Lawrence Jennings, owner of an estate adjoining the camp on the east, wished possession of one acre of the Council's lease, nearest to his house, offering in exchange five acres that were, from the camp's standpoint, very much more desirable. The "swap" was effected in November.

The year closed on a happy note. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson, of Chicago and Fort Myers Beach, gave their 34-foot boat, with a replacement value of \$35,000.00, to the Council to be sold and the proceeds used for camp improvements.

The Council's major "Good Turn" project of the year came in early December when a used-clothing drive was put on for Goodwill Industries of St. Petersburg. An estimated 19,750 bags of material were collected.

1958

The two new troop-camp units furnished by Mrs. Selby were completed in January and used that summer.

The winter and spring were the coldest and most miserable in the memory of the oldest Florida resident. There just wasn't any market for boats, no matter how fine nor at what price. The Board was compelled to dispose of the Andersen vessel for \$10,000.00.

The annual three-day encampment at MacDill Air Base, which, year after year, had greater attendance, brought our 137 Explorers and leaders for the September affair.

Concluding the national safety "Good Turn" project, the boys distributed 20,000 Home Emergency pamphlets for the Civil Defense Authority in October.

Only about \$12,000.00 of the necessary \$31,000.00 for the camp pool having been secured by the November 10th dead-line, President Harmon asked for and secured a six-month extension from the trustees of the Selby Foundation.

1959

This year opened on a note of sadness with the tragic death, on January 10th, of Gordon B. Knowles, Jr., in an automobile accident. He was an Eagle Scout, had served as a camp staff member and was a member of the Executive Board, serving several terms as chairman of the camping committee. He was to have been given his 15-year veteran award at the Recognition Dinner that fell on the evening of the day of his funeral.

Six weeks later, on February 22nd, Judge W. T. Harrison, another Scouter of many years service, died. The judge, active since 1922 had been one of the 1925 organizers of the Sunny Land Council. He served two terms as president, 1928-9, during which time Camp Flying Eagle was purchased and built. He was president of the special corporation set up to hold title to the property. Later he became Council Commissioner - a post that he held until 1944. He rarely missed a Board meeting during his nineteen years of active service.

A new, all-time membership peak was achieved on March 31st, when for the first time, 2,900-boy point was passed and still another peak was reached the following month when 2,933 boys, plus 1,191 adult leaders were reached.

On May 14th, realization of a 25-year dream was made possible through a \$10,000.00 gift from the Selby Foundation of Sarasota. This contribution, plus those of several other individuals and companies, and utilizing the \$10,000.00 resulting from the sale of Mr. Andersen's boat made possible the building of the much-needed swimming pool at Camp Flying Eagle. Construction began the following day.

The camp swimming pool, though not completed, was used for the first time on Saturday morning, June 27th, when second week campers got in for a 10-minute "dip". It was used by the third- and fourth-week campers and then closed down completely until work could be completed and State Board of Health approval secured.

In November, a "college preview" for Explorers was held at the University of Florida, Gainesville. 44 boys and eleven adult leaders attended the three-day affair.

Roy L. Henderson, Jr., formerly of the Philadelphia Council, was employed as District Executive for the Royal Palm District, on December first. Russell Hild, who had served that district for six years was moved to the Manatee District and became its first District Executive.

When Christopher Key joined Troop 17, Bradenton, early in December, he became the Council's 3,000th member. He was the grandson of Charles N. Wilson, who served the Sunny Land Council as Executive from 1929 until May, 1935.

The year closed with a boy-membership of 3,109, plus 1,255 adult leaders - a 9.8% net increase for the year.

1960

The year's activities began with the Council's annual Recognition Dinner, held in Fort Myers on January 12th, with more than 160 persons in attendance.

The drive for used clothing for the Goodwill Industries was a Scout Week activity and resulted in the collection of 17,365 bags of material.

72 Explorers and leaders attended a 3-day Explorer Encampment at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, February 26-28th.

A 22-foot boat donated by Mr. Harold J. Cruger, Sarasota, was sold for \$2,000.00 and the money used to make up an operating fund deficit.

Sarasota packs and troops put on a most successful "Scouting in Acting" show in the Municipal Auditorium, in May. A net profit of about \$700.00 resulted. The money was used to buy a new movie projector, filmstrip projector, electric duplicating machine and five used rowboats for camp.

Eleven Sea Explorers and two leaders of Fort Myers attended the six-day Explorer Rendezvous at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station in June.

Extensive work was done at Camp Flying Eagle before the opening of the Summer camp season. Among these projects were the re-roofing of the dining hall; re-plowing of our fire lanes; building a road to the Family Cabin; and grading and rebuilding the Council Ring.

New camp projects were as follows:

Scouts and leaders of Troop 83, Fort Myers, built a fine obstacle course that will serve for many years;

The Bradenton Kiwanis Club built a rifle range;

The Sarasota Rotary Club provided funds with which to build an outdoor camp chapel on the bank by Hidden Lake. This, by action of the Executive Board, was named the "Gordon B. Knowles, Jr., Memorial Chapel". It was consecrated as such on Sunday evening, June 26th, by the Rev. Fred T. Kyle, Bradenton, rector of the late Gordon Knowles' church. Members of the Knowles family attended.

The camp swimming pool, begun in May, 1959, by the Burgstiner Construction Co., was a continuing problem and source of expense. It had not been built according to plans and specifications that had been approved by the State Board of Health, so, except for the last two weeks of the 1959 camp when it had been used without Board approval, it stood idle. Repeated telephone calls to, and meetings with, Burgstiner resulting in no action, the Council Executive Board authorized completion of the work by outside contractors. The Board of Health gave its approval just in time for the opening of the 1960 season on Sunday, June 12th.

The season was the most successful in the camp's history. A five-week season was necessary to accommodate all of the campers, 394 of whom attended for a total of 475 camper-weeks. 20 troops came under their own adult leadership. Accomplishments, too, in the matter of advancement, etc., were outstanding.

The first step in a continuing camp conservation program was undertaken, with the thinning out of 500 pines. These were sold for pulp-wood.

The Council's Annual Meeting was held at camp on Wednesday, July 6th. Elected as officers for the new year beginning September 1st, were as follows:

President	William G. Price	Fort Myers (re-elected)
1st Vice-president	James Spencer, Jr.	Sarasota
2nd Vice-president	Judge Robert Hensley	Bradenton (re-elected)
3rd Vice-president	George Sanders	Fort Myers
Treasurer	Jack B. O'Neill	Sarasota (re-elected)
Commissioner	Chester Armstrong	Bradenton (re-elected)

A full-time Camp Ranger was employed for the first time, in the latter part of July. He was John Kellogg.

This being the 50th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, several special activities in commemoration of the event took place; a Golden Jubilee camporee was held at Warm Mineral Springs, on Saturday and Sunday, July 23-24th, with 223 Scouts from 21 troops participating. On Saturday, the 23rd, 19 Cub packs staged Cub Field Days. 493 Cubs participated.

The Fifth National Scout Jamboree was held at Colorado Springs, Colorado, from July 22nd to 28th, inclusive. 43 Scouts of the Sunny Land Council participated - 37 in our own troop and six additional being sent with other councils. Mr. Frederick Riegel, Jr., served as Scoutmaster of our troop. Assistant Scoutmasters were Charles Robertson and Don Hassler.

Saturday, September 10th, will be a life-time memory for thousands of Florida West Coast residents. On that day, the most destructive hurricane in the experience of the oldest inhabitants struck. Originating off the coast of Africa near Dakar, it had spent nearly two weeks crossing the Atlantic to the Florida Keys. It leveled Marathon, skirted around Cape Sable, and then curved North and North-east. It came in from the Gulf with winds up to 180-mile-per-hour in gusts. Everglades City, Naples, Bonita Springs and Fort Myers felt the full force of the storm and damage was terrific. Fortunately, only two lives were lost. The "eye" of the storm passed over Fort Myers, with a calm that lasted an hour and a quarter.

Further North, the storm's force was felt with lighter effect and consequently less damage. Punta Gorda, Englewood, Venice, Sarasota and Bradenton lost trees and had roofs ripped off.

Flying Eagle lost somewhere between 200 and 300 trees. One fell across the hood of the Camp Ranger's car. Camp building damage, however, was negligible.

The storm "played hob" with the Fall activities scheduled. Several had to be postponed until after Scouters could get their businesses straightened out and things back on an even keel. Twice-postponed Senior Patrol Leaders' and Commissioners' training courses were finally held at camp the week-end of December 3-4th.

As the year drew to a close, word came that the Bradenton Kiwanis Club proposed to build a new dining hall at camp to replace the 31-year-old structure provided, in 1929, by the Bradenton Rotary Club. The Selby Foundation of Sarasota, which had previously contributed \$10,000.00 toward the cost of the swimming pool, agreed to give \$3,400.00 for kitchen and dining hall equipment.

Preliminary, unofficial, figures indicated that the November 30, 1960 boy-membership would exceed 3,500. If this were so, it would represent a net increase of more than 500 boys in a 12-month period.

VIII

"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?" - A LOOK AHEAD

Florida's phenomenal population growth in the past decade makes almost any sort of prediction mere "guess-work". The Florida Power and Light Company, one of the State's most progressive and far-seeing enterprises, completed, in 1946, a generating plant of 18,000 k.w. capacity. Located in Sarasota, it was designed to serve the entire lower West Coast and was thought to be ample to serve the needs for ten years. Three and a half years later, however, the capacity was increased by 20,000 k.w.. Now a plant of more than four times its capacity, 165,000 k.w., has just been put into operation near Fort Myers.

The Sunny Land Council did not achieve a membership of one thousand boys until February, 1944 - 34 years after the first Scout troop was organized. The two-thousand-boy membership mark was reached in April, 1954 - just ten years later. The April 30th, 1959 membership was 2,933 boys and there seems little doubt but that the three-thousandth boy will be registered before the close of the year. 34 years to attain the first thousand, ten years to the second and six years the third!

The Statistical Service of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, gave to the Sunny Land Council in 1952, the former's carefully-worked-out estimates of the latter's annual boy-crop. These estimates, based on the 1950 Federal Census, took into account the national increased birth-rate and normal migration of the population.

The writer, at the suggestion of his Executive Board, made a survey on May 1, 1957 of all schools in the Council's territory. This disclosed that there were actually in school, that day, nearly double the number of Cub-Scout- and Explorer-age boys than the National Council's prediction! The increase ranged from 84% in Manatee County schools to 95% in Sarasota County schools.

Perhaps an even more dramatic picture of the West Coast's expansion lies in the increase in passenger car registrations since 1950. The latest figures available at the moment are those for 1957, published April 14th, 1958 - a year ago. Increases for the eight-year period are as follows:

Manatee County	108.7%
Lee County	128.3%
Charlotte County	151.9%
Sarasota County	155.0%
Collier County	471.8%

For the future, a recent Kiplinger Institute prediction is for 33% growth for the State for the next five years, a 74% population growth within ten years. Sarasota County is expected to increase by 111% in that period and Manatee County by 74%. Estimates are not given for the other counties of the Council.

In an effort to see into the immediate future, a Council Planning Committee was appointed in the Summer of 1958. Its chairman was James G. Spencer, Jr., Division Manager of the Florida Power and Light Company. Serving with him were Wilburn Leonhardt, Fort Myers banker, and Dallas W. Dort, rancher. The latter was, for many years, one of the U. S. State Department's experts on Far Eastern affairs, especially in the field of economics. He was the author of the Truman Point Four program of economic aid to Asiatic countries. All three men of the committee were well-equipped for their job of plotting the Sunny Land Council's probable growth and needs.

The committee's report, submitted at the November 24, 1958 meeting predicted a boy-membership of at least 4,700 by December 31, 1963, requiring no less than 188 units to adequately accommodate these boys. A professional staff of five men and an office staff of four would be needed, and a budget of \$57,450.00 would be necessary for 1963 operations.

Fortunately, our Council camp will present no problem for several years. Its long-range plan is geared to thirty-year needs.

South Florida's "senior citizen" economy is already presenting a financial problem to the council. Most retirees arrive with small pensions, adequate for modest living but with not too much left over for Community Chest pledges or Boy Scout contributions.

The retired folks are past the child-bearing and child-rearing stages. Their child-interests are centered on grand-children and Scouting no longer has a direct and very personal appeal.

For every thousand increase in senior citizens, however, there must be a smaller increase in younger persons to serve their needs - from physicians and grocerymen to radio and TV service men. These have children of Scouting age but, frequently, not too much money.

South Florida has no heavy industry and most residents want to keep it that way. As a consequence, we do not have the large payrolls that go with mills and manufacturing plants.

Other limiting factors are great dependence on the tourist and vegetable crops. The 1957-8 "recession" in the North resulted in a much smaller tourist season. To make matters worse, the Winter of 1957-8 was Florida's coldest in sixty years. It not only wiped out most of the Winter and Spring vegetable and citrus crops, it drove back home many of the tourists who had the money to spend the Winter here. (Few Florida hotels have heating plants adequate for severe cold.)

Boy Scouting, in the area served by the Sunny Lend Council, will meet the dual challenges of rapidly-expanding membership and higher budgets. It will accomplish the latter through supplementary and sustaining membership finance programs.

One could wish that one might peer into the future, thirty years hence, and catch a glimpse of Scouting as it will be done in 1989. In what sort of a world will it be an important part?

One thing only is certain: the basic philosophy upon which it is built will be just as essential then as now.

THE END

APPENDIX

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

SUNNY LAND COUNCIL

1926-7	C. E. Hitchings, Sarasota
1928-9	Judge William T. Harrison, Palmetto
1930-1	Robert B. Whitney, Bradenton
1932-6	Daniel L. Thorpe, Sr., Bradenton
1937	Paul W. Bergman, Sarasota
1938	George B. Gallup, Bradenton
1939-45	Walter N. Munroe, Sarasota
1946-7	James A. Franklin, Sr., Fort Myers
1948-50	C. Rowland Shannon, Bradenton
1951-2	George E. Judd, Fort Myers
1953-5	Dallas W. Dort, Sarasota
1956-9	W. M. Harmon, Sarasota
1960-1	William G. Price, Fort Myers

SARASOTA COUNCIL

1929	C. E. Hitchings
1930	Guy M. Ragan
1931	William E. Whiteside and C. E. Hitchings
1932	C. E. Hitchings or Ralph C. Caples

ROYAL PALM COUNCIL

1926-8	*A. L. Williams
1928-30	George F. Kinzie
1930-6	Richmond Dean

* - The above is from the recollections of former Executive H. O. Kight. N. G. Stout, Fort Myers, in a letter to the writer dated May 13, 1942, says that he was Council president, 1927-8. An article of the period appearing in the Fort Myers "News-Press", gives W. O. Sparklin as president in 1927.

COUNCIL EXECUTIVES

ROYAL PALM COUNCIL

John Denton	December, 1925 - January, 1927
H. O. Kight	January, 1927 - June, 1936

SARASOTA COUNCIL

Russell Woodfin	March, 1928 - December, 1931
-----------------	------------------------------

SUNNY LAND COUNCIL

Truman Horton	December, 1925 - February 28, 1929
Charles N. Wilson	March 15, 1929 - May 15, 1935
George M. Riley	May 15, 1935 - July 18, 1935 (died in office)
James A. Gaskin	August 8, 1935 - January 15, 1941
Fred L. Treat	January 16, 1941 - May 31, 1966 (retired)

FIELD EXECUTIVES

John L. Shutt	December 15, 1940 - October 2, 1942 (to Navy)
Robert L. Holladay	January 1, 1943 - December 31, 1943 (to Army)
Donavan B. Benzie	January 24, 1944 - March 31, 1945 (to business)
William R. Ennis	January 16, 1946 - February 15, 1948 (to Executive, Columbus, Ga.)
LeRoy H. Starrett	May 1, 1948 - February 28, 1951 (To Field Executive, Albany, Ga.)
Robert C. Gordon	April 1, 1951 - December 31, 1953 (to Field Executive, Wilson, N.C.)
Russell G. Hild	December 22, 1953 - April 15, 1966 (died)
Charles E. Tonkin	January 1, 1956 - July 15, 1957 (to business)
Robert L. Mosley	July 1, 1957 - October 6, 1960 (to District Executive, Miami, Fla.)
John Robert Tye	December 5, 1960 - Aug. 15, 1961

S I L V E R B E A V E R A W A R D S

1931	(Ernest L. Prior, Fort Myers *
	(Grover C. Parsons, Punta Gorda
	(Daniel L. Thorpe, Sr., Bradenton *
	(Judge William T. Harrison, Palmetto *
1932	(Richmond Dean, Fort Myers *
	(George T. Blakely, Palmetto
1933	L. D. Roberts, Bradenton *
1934	(W. A. Neal, Arcadia *
	(Paul Bergman, Sarasota
1937	George B. Gallup, Bradenton *
1938	Frank Stewart, Sarasota *
1939	Albert L. Yarn, Sarasota *
1940	Chesley F. Perry, Fort Myers
1941	(Arthur E. Esthus, Sarasota *
	(Fred H. Gould, Bradenton *
1942	J. Bryant Fugate, Boca Grande
1943	Walter N. Munroe, Sarasota *
1944	(George E. Judd, Fort Myers
	(A. K. Williamson, Punta Gorda
1946	Thomas H. Burgess, Fort Myers *
1947	Fred L. Betterton, Fort Myers
1948	Dr. Luther B. King, Bradenton
1949	Martin J. O'Neill, Jr., Sarasota
1950	C. Rowland Shannon, Bradenton *
1951	Charles N. Wilson, Bradenton *
1952	Walter D. Moody, Fort Myers
1953	U. S. Cleveland, Punta Gorda
1954	Chester W. Armstrong, Bradenton
1956	Jack B. O'Neill, Sarasota
1956	Ralph Lawrence, Sarasota *
	(C. S. Bridenbaugh, Jr., Bradenton
1959	(Dr. James G. Goodyear, Fort Myers
	(Judge John D. Justice, Sarasota

* - Deceased

S I L V E R B E A V E R A W A R D S

1960 (Philip Nuss, Sarasota ★
(Clarence Harvey, Bradenton
(Waymon England, Fort Myers

TOTAL END-OF-YEAR BOY-MEMBERSHIP

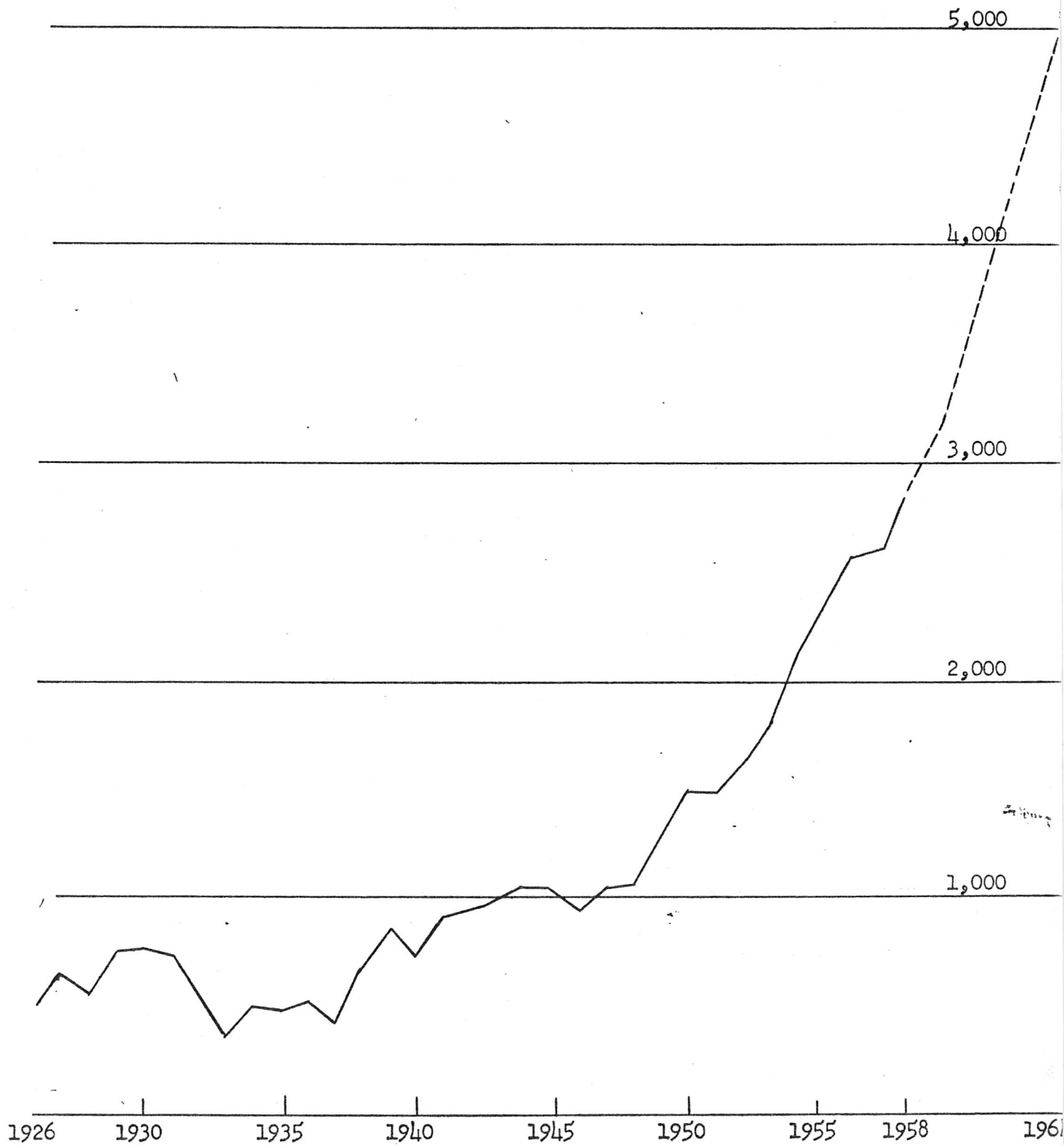
1926 - 517
1927 - 634
1928 - 519
1929 - 729
1930 - 741
1931 - 730
1932 - 517
1933 - 337
1934 - 461
1935 - 451
1936 - 505
1937 - 408
1938 - 672
1939 - 848
1940 - 718
1941 - 880
1942 - 936

1943 - 992
1944 - 1,028
1945 - 1,018
1946 - 938
1947 - 1,005
1948 - 1,050
1949 - 1,281
1950 - 1,469
1951 - 1,457
1952 - 1,594
1953 - 1,805
1,954 - 2,121
1955 - 2,311
1956 - 2,557
1957 - 2,592
1958 - 2,853
1959 - 3,109

SUNNY LAND COUNCIL, B. S. A.

BOY-MEMBERSHIP

Actual 1926-1958
Estimated 1959-1964



HIGH-LIGHTS OF 1961

The year opened on two unpleasant notes: one, the aftermath of an unauthorized trip to Guatemala which Troop 37, Fort Myers, had made in August, 1960, and, second, actions of Jack Kellogg, Camp Ranger, resulting in his dismissal by the Council's Personnel Committee. The Scoutmaster and Assistant of Troop 37 were also dismissed and barred from further participation in Scouting. The firing of Kellogg generated a considerable amount of dissention among Bradenton and Sarasota troop leaders, who had built up a considerable personal loyalty to him.

The Council's 33rd Annual Recognition Dinner was held at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, on January 16, with 266 persons in attendance.

"Scouting in Action" shows were staged in Sarasota and Fort Myers in the early Spring. The latter was highly successful, bringing out a total attendance of some 5,000 persons.

The Council's area-wide Good Turn was, again, the annual drive for clothing for the Goodwill Industries.

Under the leadership of Richard Hinze, Executive Board member, a Trust Fund was established in the Palmer First National Bank, Sarasota, in May.

On March 7, the Bradenton Kiwanis Club broke ground at Camp Flying Eagle for the fine, \$27,000.00 dining hall it was building for the camp. It was completed in time for camp's opening on June 11 and formally dedicated on the 27th, when about 60 Kiwanians attended and had supper with the campers.

The Selby Foundation, Sarasota, furnished over \$4,000.00 worth of equipment for the dining hall and its kitchen.

The summer camp season had the largest attendance in the camp's history. 28 troops came under their own adult leadership and a total of 521 camper-weeks was achieved.

A lodge of the Order of the Arrow was chartered in July, with 15 Scouts, five adult leaders and the professional staff as charter members. First initiation of members took place the last two nights of camp, July 13-14.

A Philmont Expedition, by chartered bus, had 34 older Scouts and Explorers and three adult leaders in attendance, in June and early July.

Robert Tye, District Executive for Sarasota County, resigned as of August 15th and was replaced by Hugh McPherson who reported on the job as of September 1st.

President William G. Price, Fort Myers, completed a most successful two-year term of office on September 1, and was succeeded by James G. Spencer, Jr., Sarasota.

The largest-attended camporee in the Council's history was held at Warm Mineral Springs, the week-end of October 13-15. An estimated 407 Scouts, adult leaders and judges took part.

On the same week-end, 66 Explorers and 15 adult leaders went to the Homestead Air Force Base for an encampment. A visit was paid to Everglades National Park, enroute home.

Biggest problem of the Council's year was that of finance. Every possible resource was tapped. When the Council still faced ending the fiscal year with a \$1,500.00 deficit, Finance Chairman George Sanders, Fort Myers, came to the rescue again, as he had several times in past years, with a contribution of this amount. Through his generosity, the fiscal year ended "in the black".

End of the previous year (1960) had disclosed a total boy-membership of 3,668 - by far the highest in the Council's history and an 18% increase during that calendar year. Membership fell steadily through 1961, however, until the end of August when a "low" of 3,368 was reached. An upturn then began, with a real spurt on November and December. The year closed with a December 31 membership of 3,815 boys, a net increase of 4.1%. The increase in total units, however, was only nine.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1962

Council's Annual Recognition Dinner was held in Bradenton on January 16th with nearly 300 Scouters and wives in attendance. A great many awards were made, including three Silver Beavers.

In the early spring, Mrs. Pierre Bontecou gave the Council three shares of International Business Machine stock, valued at the time, at \$555.50 per share.

In April, long-time Board member, George E. Judd, made a contribution of \$10,536.00 to the Council's Trust Fund.

In April, nine and one-tenth acres of the Camp Ropaco property was taken over by the Central South Florida Flood Control District, the Council being reimbursed for the net amount of \$16,311.05. It should be noted that practically all of this came from a twenty-five acre section that was bought at a tax deed sale in about 1946 for \$37.50!

The Council's usual "Spring Good Turn" for Goodwill Industries was the most successful thus far.

Sarasota District Executive Hugh McPherson resigned on March 23rd. He was succeeded on May 15th by David M. Dickson.

The Council's Annual Meeting was held in June at the North Port Charlotte Community Hall.

Summer camp attendance was somewhat less than in 1961 but the program offered was the best in the camp's history.

Twenty-two older Scouts and three adult leaders made the trip to Philmont, in August, but in order to make the trip financially feasible, it was necessary to include eight Scouts of other councils.

The Annual Fall Roundup was launched September 1st and this, too, was the most successful in the Council's history. Beginning with August 31st boy-membership of 3,430, the year closed with 4,201 boys on the rolls.

The 4,000th-boy mark was reached in early December with the registration of Thomas Wilkinson in Troop 24, Sarasota. Young Wilkinson was recognized as such by being given a Scout uniform and a free week at Flying Eagle.

Among the other activities of 1962 was a highly successful repeat of the Royal Palm District's "Scouting In Action" show. This netted the Council \$1,300.00.

As in past years the major problem was that of finance. The months of August, September and October were particularly "rough".

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1963

Joseph D. Edwards came on the staff as Royal Palm District Executive on March 1st. He took the place of Roy Henderson who left the District in December, 1962.

Mrs. Larence K. Kennings, who owns the Blue Bird Ranch that adjoins Camp Flying Eagle on the east, wrote that she and Mr. Jennings had made provision in their will for the gift of the acreage in the bend of the river to the Council upon their death. (Accompanying this letter was a check for \$1,000.00 to help with the Council's operating expenses!)

On Memorial Day, Scout Clayton "Scotty" Spainhower of Troop 51, Tice, saved 9-year-old Herbert Briggs from drowning. The National Council's Certificate of Heroism was presented young Spainhower on November 25th.

Camp Flying Eagle opened its 33rd season on June 16th. Originally scheduled to operate for five weeks it became necessary to lengthen the season to six, and the attendance set a new all-time record --- 524 different Scouts attended for a total of 540 camper weeks (not counting staff members). The 32 troops that came under their own adult leadership also set a new record.

A new camp health lodge was to have been completed in the early spring but was finally ready for use three days before the season closed. The fine building was made possible by the donations of a great many individuals, clubs and businesses.

Thirty older Scouts and Explorers, accompanied by three adult leaders, participated in the Council's annual trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, *in August*

Rank advancements also set a new record in 1963. They numbered 1,984 as compared with 1,792 the preceding year.

Membershipwise, the Council did not do so well, with a net loss of 5 units and 181 boys. Losses were due primarily to an inflated boy-membership at the end of 1962. A great many units were hastily organized in the Royal Palm District in December, 1961. Most of these were active for but a few months and did not resume meeting after the school vacation. The registration procedure, however, did not permit their being dropped until the spring of 1963. This was only the second time in 17 years that year-ending membership dropped.

HIGH-LIGHTS OF 1964

In the early spring, a boat basin was dredged at Camp Flying Eagle by Mr. Page Youngblood of Parrish as a donation to the camp. This filled a long-awaited need and will be appreciated for many years to come.

The Bradenton Kiwanis Club built two sleeping cabins and a latrine facility, and an additional two sleeping cabins were ~~added~~ built by the Council by means of a loan from the Selby Foundation.

As a joint venture, a boat-storage building was also built - approximately \$800 being given by the Bradenton Kiwanis Club and \$700 by Mrs. Marie Selby.

Mr. Joe Bill Rood, Bradenton, donated, just before the camp season opened, seven small tourist cabins that had been part of a tourist village in Sarasota. These were moved to the camp where four were converted into staff quarters, one was made into a camp office, another became the camp director's cottage and the seventh was made a workshop for the caretaker.

The Summer camp season had a total attendance of 535 paid camper-weeks. 34 troops attended with their own adult leadership.

A full troop of 37 Scouts and three leaders attended the Sixth National Jamboree at Walley Forge, Pennsylvania, in July. Two additional Scouts could not be accommodated in our troop, so were sent with the Gulf Stream Council delegation.

34 Scouts and Explorers, with three adult leaders, went to Philmont Scout Ranch, in New Mexico, in August. Three additional of our boys had to go there with the Tampa Council group because of lack of space on our bus.

318 Scouts, plus 67 adult leaders, took part in the annual Ross Allen Encampment at Silver Springs, in October.

The Council's long-range conservation program got under way in the late Fall with the dredging of a fish-propagation pond. Funds for this came from a donation by Mrs. Marie Selby. It was named the "Tom Wilson, Sr., Memorial Pond" in memory of the late Thomas L. Wilson, Scoutmaster until his death in July of Troop 55, Christ Episcopal Church, Bradenton. Mr. Wilson had been instrumental in securing a great many improvements at the camp.

Mr. George E. Judd, former president and 28-year-member of the Council's Executive Board, added \$10,500. more to the Trust Fund he established for the Council in 1962. Mrs. Pierre Bontecou gave an additional four shares of I. B. M. stock. These, several memorial and other gifts brought the total value of the Council's three trust funds to \$40,900.

The 39 Eagle awards ~~made~~ were, by far, the greatest number ever earned in this Council in one year.

Cub Scout Lanier Mathews, Pack 10, Oneco, won the Freedoms Foundation's Nathan Hale Award for submitting the best essay

written by Cub Scouts of Region Six, on the subject of "Why I Love America. Cub Scout John Summers, also of Pack 10, and Scout Larry Robbins of Troop 50, Sarasota, were Council winners of Nathan Hale Awards.

The year ended with the highest boy-membership in the Council's history --- 4,483 boys in 167 units. This was an increase of 11.5% in boy-membership and 19.3% in total units over the preceeding December 31st.

These increases, together with similar increases in re-registered boys and units and in "Boys' Life" subscriptions, brought to the Sunray Land Council the Section 5 (Florida) trophy, and made it runner-up for the William D. Campbell trophy of Region Six.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1965

Among the outstanding attainments of the year was most certainly the organization of the Collier District, and the selection of an outstanding District Committee and Executive to serve it.

Four of our fine Scouts were awarded certificates of merit by the National Council for having saved life -- two boys were saved from drowning and a woman was pulled from a burning house.

Summer camp attendance again set a new high mark -- 565 paid camper-weeks. 35 of our Scout troops attended under their own leadership. Camp inspections by National officials resulted in our scoring 95 points out of a possible 100. Our two fish-propagation ponds at camp were stocked with Bream, and several other conservation projects were carried out.

We had 30 Scouts and Explorers plus three adult leaders in our annual expedition to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

40 Scouts attained the rank of Eagle -- again, another new record.

Our most successful commissioner training course to date was put on by Council Commissioner H. Grady Moore, in September.

The Sarasota District staged a Scout Circus and the Royal Palm District a Scouting-in-Action Show in the Spring.

December 31st saw the highest boy-membership in the Council's history -- 4,697 -- an increase of 4.8% over 1964. The increase in the number of Scouting units was 4.2%.

DETAILS SURROUNDING THE ACQUISITION OF THE
PROPERTY KNOWN AS "CAMP FLYING EAGLE", PRESENTLY
OPERATED BY THE SUNNY LAND COUNCIL OF THE BOY
SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The Sunny Land Council was organized at a meeting in the Oaks Hotel, Palmetto, on December 11, 1925.

Late in 1928 the 140-acre tract, now known as Flying Eagle, was found and it was determined that, since it is on high ground, heavily timbered and contains a lot of jungle area, it would be an ideal campsite. The Council was, however, only three years old. It had never been incorporated and consisted of but a single county, Manatee, and had a very small Scout membership. The National Council of the Boy Scouts of America which issues a charter, renewable annually, to Scout councils, has a stipulation in its constitution and bylaws that, should a council dissolve, for any reason, its property will be taken over and administered by the National Council until a new council can be organized to take its place.

The Executive Board members of the Sunny Land Council were skeptical of this provision and feared that should the Sunny Land Council, in its weak state, have to dissolve the National Council might take over the property and sell it. It decided therefore, to organize a corporation to hold title to this property. This corporation, known as "The Manatee County Boys Development Association", was organized and the record shows in the Record of Corporations, Book D, pages 248 and 249, in the Manatee County Court House.

The officers of the corporation were officers and members of the Executive Board of the Sunny Land Council for the year of 1929. Incorporators were Judge W. T. Harrison, who was president of the Scout council, was president of the Manatee County Boys Development Association, Dan S. Blalock, Sr., who was council treasurer was named secretary-treasurer of the corporation. Other members of the council board named as incorporators were L. F. Vaught, S. E. Simmons, who were council vice-presidents, A. F. Wyman, the council's representative on the National Council, Harry C. Groff, who was Scout commissioner and Scouters R. B. Whitney, O. W. Shelton, D. L. Thorpe, W. H. Tucker and J. P. Harlike. Of these, at the moment, only L. F. Vaught, D. L. Thorpe, Sr., Dan S. Blalock, O. W. Shelton and Harry Groff survive, so far as can be learned.

The property was purchased by the Manatee County Development Association on January 19, 1929, for \$2,000.00. It was purchased from a Mrs. Minnie Harris. A mortgage was given for this, or at least a portion of it, and the money for the balance was to be raised by individual donations. The plan was that individuals and businesses would buy individual acres at a suggested figure of \$15.00 per acre, but any amount was gratefully accepted.

The Satisfaction of Mortgage is in our file and is dated December 15, 1931. This Satisfaction of Mortgage was filed for record on January 4, 1932 and appears in Satisfaction of Mortgage, Book W, page 60, in the Manatee County Court House.

A paragraph from the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board of January 10, 1930, reads as follows: "A. F. Wyman, for the Finance Committee, reported receipt of \$1,000.00 from Manatee County, but stated in view of the fact that note and interest on the campsite must be paid out of it, little would be left for operations, and that it would be necessary to secure additional funds immediately." Continuing the paragraph, "A discussion of the suscriptions for camp acreage followed and, on motion, the committee was authorized to proceed with collection of pledges. The president named on this committee W. J. Wray, George T. Blakeley, D. L. Thorpe. It was also voted that a committee be appointed to handle the matter of putting on an entertainment to raise additional funds. A. F. Wyman, George B. Gallop and L. F. Vaught were appointed on this committee."

Minutes of a special meeting of the Executive Board held March 3, 1930, read as follows: "A special meeting of the Executive Board of the Sunny Land Council was held this date pursuant to a call issued by the committee handling the camp acreage proposition. President R. B. Whitney presiding, S. E. Simmons, H. C. Groff, A. F. Wyman, O. W. Shelton, W. J. Wray, Charles Wilson, Scout Executive. Prospect cards were distributed to the members. The Finance Committee was authorized to negotiate a loan of \$300.00 for 90 days, contingent upon at least ten members of the Board endorsing the note. The members present all signed and the Scout Executive was directed to secure additional signatures."

At meeting of March 13, (a regular meeting of the Board), a paragraph states that George T. Blakeley reported sale of camp acreage and he lists four individuals and the Deekle Furniture Company as each purchasing one acre. Three of them paid \$15.00 each, one had paid \$10.00 and one \$5.00 - a total of \$60.00. Harry Groff reported at the same meeting that he had a number of pledges.

At the meeting of March 27 of the Executive Board, it was reported that two, E. G. Grimes and D. M. Courtney, had purchased camp acreage that totaled \$25.00, and that Mr. Simmons reported pledges of about \$60.00 and R. B. Whitney, of \$40.00.

The Board meeting of April 10 of the Executive Board of the Sunny Land Council had Mr. S. E. Simmons reporting seven purchases or pledges of \$15.00 each - a total of \$105.00, of which \$55.00 was in cash. The Scout Executive was directed to turn over to the treasurer all pledge cards, with the request that he collect all payments due.

Among the recommendations of the Scout Executive to the Executive Board, dated April 10, 1930, was this: further developments of Camp Flying Eagle, particularly in waterfront equipment and fire protection. This to be done before the 1930 summer camp season opened.

The finance report for the first quarter of 1930 shows under "Miscellaneous" that a note was paid amounting to \$200.00. Under "Liabilities Outstanding" is a note held by First National Bank of \$300.00. This presumably was the \$300.00 note, referred to earlier, that was signed by ten members of the Executive Board for Flying Eagle payment on mortgage.

The meeting of May 8, 1930 has this paragraph. George T. Blakeley reported on acreage sales as follows: Lincoln Marine and the Pearce Drug Company had each pledged \$15.00.

At that same meeting of May 8, the Scout Executive reported that preparations for camp were being pushed, that working parties were going to Flying Eagle every Saturday, that it would not be necessary to spend much money in preparation, but a truck is needed, some gas lamps, and at least two more sleeping cabins should be built.

That it was the intention of the Manatee County Boys Development Association to simply hold title to the property for the Sunny Land Council is borne out by the fact that the financing was done entirely through the Executive Board and the Council. Further, the Minutes of the Board meeting of June 13 read: "The request of the Girl Scouts for use of Camp Flying Eagle for the period of July 13 to July 27 was granted". It is very evident that the Council had control over the use of the camp in the year 1930, at least. This is still further borne out by a paragraph in the Minutes of the meeting of July 12, 1930, the Executive Board of the Sunny Land Council. This reads as follows: "The Kiwanis Club having requested the use of Camp Flying Eagle for the month of August for a camp for underprivileged children, this request was granted." The Board then names a special committee of the Board to prepare rules for the use of the campsite for organizations other than Scout troops. This committee was composed of W. H. Tucker, A. F. Wyman and W. T. Harrison.

Nearly two pages of the Scout Executive's report on the 1930 camp at Flying Eagle, dated July 23, are devoted to work that was done at the camp in improving facilities, etc., and work which was done by Scouters and the camp staff.

The financial report for the year 1930 given at the annual meeting of the Council on December 30 of that year, shows an item under "Capital Expense", "camp property, total expenditures, \$420.72; special receipts, \$434.50".

A paragraph from the Minutes of the Executive Board meeting of March 20, 1931: "After a discussion of ways and means for raising funds to meet a note due on the campsite, the Executive was directed to get in touch with A. F. Wyman, Chairman of the Camping Committee, as soon as possible in reference to putting on a show suggested by J. C. Huey of Sarasota.

The Minutes of the Board meeting of May 22, 1931 state that Mr. Wyman reported that the Rotary Club would sponsor an entertainment to be put on by the orchestra and students of the high school on June 5 for benefit of payments on the campsite. Minutes of the Executive Board of June 12 state that approximately \$250.00 had been raised for the campsite fund by this Rotary Club entertainment.

At the meeting of June 26, Mr. Wyman reported that the Rotary Club had contributed \$200.00 to the acreage fund and requested authority to have a voucher issued for the balance of the 1931 payment. This was granted.

The Minutes of October 27, 1931, state that the finance committee reported the Diamond Ball Association had turned over to the treasurer of the Scout Council \$128.00 to be used in the construction of a sanitary latrine at Flying Eagle.

Minutes of the meeting of November 13, 1931, in a paragraph therefrom, Mr. Wyman announced that the Rotary Club would sponsor an entertainment in February 1932, the proceeds of which will be given for Camp Flying Eagle.

This paragraph, from the Scout Executive's report at the Annual Meeting of the Sunny Land Council held on December 15, 1931, is of particular importance because of what it implies. It reads as follows: "It should be of interest to the community in general to know that Camp Flying Eagle was used this year by the Girl Scouts, the 4-H Club boys and the Kiwanis Health Camp. No charge was made these organizations for use of the campsite." It would appear that the Council, while not having title to Camp Flying Eagle - this being vested in the Manatee County Boys Development Association, whose officers were the same as those of the Sunny Land Council - had the direct responsibility of allowing the camp's use or disallowing such use by other organizations.

This paragraph is from the report of the camping committee made at this same Annual Meeting of December 15, 1931: "We expect to make the final payment on the camp ground before January 1st." It mentions two entertainments to be given in February of the following year then goes on to say: "The income of both of these entertainments is to be used in improving the camp grounds."

The Minutes of the Executive Board of the Sunny Land Council of January 8, 1932 state: "For the camping committee, A. F. Wyman reported that Birch, magician, would put on a performance on February 6 for the benefit Camp Flying Eagle. The funds to be used for fencing the grounds." (Incidentally, the Minutes of the following meeting of February 12 state that \$4.75 was received from this Birch entertainment, so. it is doubtful if very much fencing was done!)

At a meeting of the Executive Board on September 8, 1933, George L. King, a Board member, was appointed to look into the possibility of the Sunny Land Council's obtaining title to the Camp Flying Eagle property from the Manatee County Boys Development Association. The latter, as I stated before, was composed of members of the Executive Board of January 1929.

The following month, in response to his inquiry, King had a letter from the National Council stating that it would never, under any circumstances, take over the property as its own; only, should the Sunny Land Council ever dissolve, hold it in trust until a new council could be organized to administer it.

At each Board meeting thereafter, Mr. King would ask for additional time to talk to the Boys Development Association. This continued until the September, 1934 session, when three additional men were named to his committee. Again, more time was asked and at the November meeting still another man was added to the committee. Nothing further was ever heard of the matter. The committee evidently just failed to function altogether.

The camp was used by the Sunny Land Council and at times, with the Council's permission, by other groups, until the summer of 1939. At some point in the 1939 camp season an epidemic of dysentery broke out at camp. Dr. W. H. Wentzel, physician that attended most of the campers, blamed this upon polluted river water in which the boys swam and promptly closed the camp. This action stirred up quite a bit of controversy. The natives pooh-poohed the idea, saying that they had swam in the river all their lives, high-water and low, and never got sick. But parents on the other hand, were understandably taking no chances.

The following year, Flying Eagle was not used. Camp was held at Myakka River State Park, and, in 1941, camp was held at Bear Point, on Lake Charles near Lake Placid.

In the spring of 1942, however, an analysis of the Manatee River at Flying Eagle indicated no pollution and camp was held there by permission of the Manatee County Health Department.

In the spring of 1943, the Board of Health again condemned the water and so Sunny Land Council's camp was held at Camp Flaming Arrow, near Auburndale, in Polk County, rented for the purpose.

In the spring of 1944, a man from the United States Public Health Service who was on loan to the Florida State Board of Health, was sent by the latter to Flying Eagle. He made extensive tests of the water from the point known as Devil's Elbow, east to Rye Bridge. His voluminous report with his findings is on file in the Council office. He stated that it was his considered opinion there was no contamination in the river and that it would be perfectly safe for swimming in the foreseeable future. He did, however, offer two recommendations: that there be no swimming in times of high water and that a camp swimming pool be provided just as soon as funds would permit.

Legally the Sunny Land Council still had no hold on the property. It was decided by the Executive Board that extensive repairs and improvements should be made, plans be formulated for use, year-round, of the camp property and that a caretaker should be employed to look after the place. These things, however, should not be done until the Council was satisfied that it did have some claim on the place. Consequently, immediately upon receipt of the Health Department's report, machinery was set in motion toward securing a long-term lease on the Flying Eagle property from the Manatee County Boys Development Association.

A 99-year lease was executed on June 25, 1944. A two-room cottage on a nearby farm was purchased and moved to the camp. About \$2,500.00 was spent on repairs and additions to it. A caretaker was employed and this became his home.

Flying Eagle has been used continuously since that time, both for summer camp seasons and on a year-round basis, with troops going there practically every week-end.

So far as can be learned, the only surviving members of the Manatee County Boys Development Association at the moment are Dan S. Blalock, Sr., the secretary-treasurer, O.W. Shelton, L. F. Vaught, Harry C. Groff and Daniel L. Thorpe, Sr.

Since about 1956 approximately \$100,000.00 has been spent at Camp Flying Eagle by various individuals and Foundations for buildings and improvements and more buildings and improvements are contemplated for the near future as soon as funds are available.

The Sunny Land Council was incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida in the year 1941 and has since that time, as a corporation, been in a position to acquire and hold title to property.

The Council is governed by an Executive Board consisting at present of 30 members.

July 3rd, 1962

Arcadia, Fla.,
Jan.13,1969.

Mr.Fred L.Treat,
121- 31st.St.West
Bradenton, Fla.

Dear Mr.Treat:

You may recall that several years ago I furnished you with some information about the old Troop 5044 from Arcadia which you wanted for a book telling the history of the Boy Scout movement in this part of the state. At the time I could not locate some pictures which I had owned. One of these has come to light and while I do not see how they could be used at this late date I thought it worth a letter to inquire. If you could use it I will have a copy made together with the names of most of the persons in the picture. The picture is about the trip to Lemon Bay. You have a copy of the article which described the event.

Yours very truly,

Paul Kemp

Paul Kemp, Box 268
Arcadia, Fla. 33821

121 31st Street W
Bradenton, Florida 33505

February 3, 1970

Library
Schiff Boy Scout Reservation
Mendham, New Jersey

Gentlemen:

In January or February, of 1961, I submitted to the National Council as my Fellowship thesis "Fifty Years of Scouting in Southwest Florida." It was accepted and the degree awarded in June, 1961. I was told the manuscript would be placed in the Schiff library.

Page Two of the "History" mentions that the "first definite knowledge of a troop" in the Sunny Land Council's territory came from newspaper clippings sent the writer by Mr. Paul Kemp, a charter member of Troop 5044, Arcadia, Florida, organized July 14, 1911.

I had not heard further from Mr. Kemp in the ten years since he sent the clippings, until two weeks ago when he wrote that he had just come across a photograph of the troop, taken on its camping trip of January or May, 1912. He very kindly offered to have copies made for the "History", and to identify the members.

He has just done so and a copy is enclosed. If you still have the thesis, I wonder if you will be so good as to place this between pages two and three.

Thank you very much for your help, and the very best of good wishes to you all, up there.

Sincerely yours,

Fred L. Treat
Scout Executive, Retired

Arcadia, Fla.,
Jan. 30, 1970.

Mr. Fred W. Treat,
121 Thirty-first St, West
Bradenton, Fla.

Dear Mr. Treat:

I thought at first I would not be able to send you the pictures as I found the photographer who had made the film had gone out of business but fortunately he located it and another made the copies. They are not very good but the best available under the circumstances.

This picture covers the trip to Grove City on Lemon Bay. I do not know if you want the boys names or not but here they are as I remember them. Beginning at the left of the picture:

(1) Paul Kemp. (2) Ed Scott, Scoutmaster. (3) Virgil Kellam
(4) Paul Ley (5) Fletcher Smith (6) Ernest Moye (7) Lowndes
Treadwell (8) Unknown (9) Rev. Edw. F. Ley (10) Sam Lawton
(11) Marshall Dancey (12) Oakley Lanier

As to the cost I would not think of charging for them. I hope they will be of some benefit to Scout history.

Sincerely,

Paul Kemp

Paul Kemp, Box 268
Arcadia, Fla. 33821

Manatee County

FREDERICK L. TREAT

Frederick L. Treat, 75, 121 31st St. N., Bradenton, died Saturday at Manatee Memorial Hospital.

Born in Cannonsburg, Pa., he came to the Bradenton area from Pittsburgh, Pa. 38 years ago. He was a retired executive director of Sunny Land Council, Boy Scouts of America. He was also a member of Christ Episcopal Church; the Bradenton Rotary Club and Braidentown Lodge 99, F&AM.

He leaves his wife, Mary Treat; a daughter, Mrs. Mary Alice Rhea of Tampa; a son, John C. Treat of New Port Richey, a brother, Frank B. Treat of Minden, La. and a grandchild.

Friends may call this afternoon and evening at the Chapel. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Griffith - Cline Bradenton the Christ Episcopal Church or Sunny Land Council, Boy Scouts of America, or a favorite charity.

The funeral service will be Monday at 11 a.m. at the Christ Episcopal Church with the Rev. Canon Fred T. Kyle Jr. officiating. Burial will be in Fogartyville Cemetery.

require... of... but to early informal educa... ing children." President Nixon recently vetoed a bill designed to expand parents as the principal educators of their pre-school children.

Big...
Herald
Feb 13,
1972

ART SCHOFIELD'S Americana Scrapbook



There are few folks living in Bradenton today who were residents in 1910. On the calendar it was just sixty-two years ago, but in the nature of change, it would appear to be several centuries.

In the Florida of 1910 settlements were few, and most of these separated by dense jungle growth, palmettos and wild animals. There was a little single-track railroad connecting Bradenton and Sarasota, but roads to other settlements were just about passable. Bradenton's total population in that year long gone was 2,874 — and that included Manatee (now east Bradenton) a separate community at the time. Sarasota had but 840 total population, about the number living in a couple of their high rise condominiums today. Few people wished to live in a state with an unknown future.

However, into this rugged country in that year of 1910, came an organization that thrived on hardship. It did then, and does so today. This organization through the years was destined to influence the lives of more young men than any other organization in the history of the world, with the exception of the church. An organization that asks little and gives so much. It is, of course, the Boy Scouts of America. We pause to salute them on this the second Sunday in Boy Scout Month. And, while pausing, retrace some of the early days of Scouting in this area.

The Boy Scouts did not originate in America, but they achieved their highest development, numerical strength and influence here. Sir (afterward 'Lord') Robert Baden-Powell founded this boy's organization in England in 1908. Mr. W. D. Boyce, a publisher from Chicago, while touring England, saw this new organization, became interested in it, and brought the idea to America. Thus, on February 8, 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia.

The time was right, and the idea spread almost faster than the organizers could keep up with it. On June 21 of the same

year, thirty-four representatives of various boys' agencies gathered in New York and started plans for the creation of a national organization. Six months later, on January 2, 1911, the National Council office was established in New York city with just seven employees. By the following year Scouts were enrolled in every state. But back to Bradenton...

In 1961 Mr. Fred L. Treat completed a ten-year labor of love... a history he called "Fifty Years of Scouting in Southwest Florida". Mr. Treat had been a scouting official for many years, and came to Bradenton in 1941 as Scout Executive from the Tampa region. He served as top Scouter from 1941 until his retirement in 1966, so Mr. Treat knew whereof he spoke. He resides today in Bradenton.

As a scout and scouter of some forty years, the writer drove down to the Sunny Land Council, now located in Sarasota off North Trail, to learn of early scouting here. John Dibler, Scout Executive of Sunny Land, let us read Mr. Treat's wonderful record. It is from this we quote. We might add that at the time Mr. Treat became Scout Executive, the Council included eight counties and extended down to Clewiston. Today, with the tremendous growth, Sunny Land Council supervises just three counties.

Because the National Council troop registration did not begin until 1913, it is difficult to trace Scouting prior to that date. It seems almost unbelievable, but Mr. C. J. Braymer, of Bradenton, reported that he had been a member of a scout troop here in 1910, the year scouting arrived in this country. The troop appears to have met in the old frame high school building that stood on the corner of 9th Ave., and 14th St., where the tourists' lawn-bowling courts are now located.

It is thought that another troop was organized in June, 1911, and was located in the village of Manatee, with Mr. L. P.

White, the bridgetender on the Palmetto-Manatee bridge as the scoutmaster. However, the troop did not remain active very long.

The "Arcadian" reported a troop was organized in Arcadia on July 14, 1911. The scoutmaster, Ed Scott, must have been a remarkable man, for reporter Paul Kemp of that paper remembered him after some 45 years.

Sarasota's first troop was organized several years after that of Bradenton. It is thought the first troop in the community to our south came into existence about 1913 or 1914. It is recorded that Clarence E. Hitchings was the first scoutmaster, with George Thacker the assistant scoutmaster. Does anyone remember Wilber C. Owen? He is considered to have been the first Eagle Scout in the territory included in the Sunny Land Council.

When one considers the wild land in this part of Florida in that 1910-1914 period one's admiration increases for those early organizers of the Boy Scout troops. There is much to be said for their foresight and hard work.

Camping at that time included a few hazards. It was not uncommon for the Scouts to include rifles and shotguns in their equipment. And it must have been a kind Providence that protected the boys from both the dangers of the jungle and themselves.

In a publicity stunt staged during a Boy Scout Week in the early Twenties, the Mayor of Palmetto sent a message of greeting to the Mayor of Sarasota, a distance of 15 miles. The message was carried by both the Boy Scouts and Western Union. The Telegraph company used their wire equipment, while the Boy Scouts used "Scout's pace"... (ten wayking steps alternating with ten running steps), bicycle and signal flags. Western Union beat the Scouts by just one minute and thirty seconds.

To the hundreds of scouts, scouters, former members of the organization, and their parents, Americana Scrapbook says, "Happy Birthday".

THIS HISTORY IS PRESENTED

WITH AFFECTION AND GRATITUDE

BY FRED L. TREAT

to the

SUNNY LAND COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

JANUARY 16th, 1961