

A History of Boy Scout Camp Hook

by
Everett W. Sherron



Cover Photo

Everett W. Sherron (the author), George M.V. Hook, Linda and Dave Clayton (Caretaker of Camp Hook). Picture taken January 11, 1997, in front of the Thunderbird Gate.

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HISTORY OF BOY SCOUT CAMP HOOK

8539 Morningstar Road, Franklin, Ohio 45005

by Everett W. Sherron

Boy Scouts came to the United States from England in 1910. They came to Middletown about 1915 as troops **individually chartered** directly to the National Boy Scout Office. An earlier boys' organization was "Sons of Daniel Boone" under Daniel Carter Beard. Most of them converted to Boy Scouts.

The present Boy Scout Troop 1 dates back to 1918 with **continuous** membership. It had an earlier start in 1915 but was re-organized. Troop 4, sponsored by Broadway Methodist Episcopal Church (now First United Methodist Church) on Broad Street, was chartered on March 15, 1917. I was a member from September 12, 1928 to 1938. Elza Abraham was Scoutmaster.

The Middletown Council was chartered in March, 1920, with three troops and sixty-three Scouts. Mr. H.W. Sinclair was the Scout Executive from 1920 to September, 1925. Lee R. Chamberlain was Scout Executive from September, 1925, until late in 1926. Mr. Hook was council president from 1924 to March 9, 1931. My father, Emmett S. Sherron, was Scout Executive from February 1, 1927, until October 1, 1932. He was followed by R.H. Beck. The Scout office was in the rear part of the Civic Association Building, 101 North Broad Street, where the United Way Building is now.

My present Troop 18 was started in 1927 at Garfield School by A.H. Furgeson. It lapsed for 1 1/2 years, but has been continuous since January, 1936. It now has a 61 year continuous record. I joined it in September, 1955, as Assistant Scoutmaster after my son, John, turned 11.

EARLY CAMPS

- 1917** The first camp was on Seven Mile Creek between Collingsville and Somerville. It was a YMCA camp and it was called Camp Shaundosee (per Jimm Fay). Another spelling was Shawondassee.
- 1918** In the woods near Gratis. This was camp Wawanasse. Another spelling was Wawonaissa.
- 1919** On Seven Mile Creek. Camp Shaundosee. Last of camping with the YMCA until about 1929.
- 1920** On Little Miami River near Kings Mill. This was Camp Orchard Hill. There was trouble with right-of-way back to the camp and the site was used only one year.

- 1921** Sunset Ridge. This camp was on the Little Miami River but was five miles upstream from the Orchard Hill Campsite. It was near South Lebanon.
- 1922** Sunset Ridge. Ross Allen, Hawkeye Harvey, Joe Caldwell and Leroy Greathouse were some boys in attendance.
- 1923** On Seven Mile Creek near Gratis. Same as in 1918.
- 1924** Orchard Hill. On the Little Miami River near Kings Mill. This was not the same exact location as the 1920 camp.
- 1925** Orchard Hill. On the Little Miami River near Kings Mill. This summer two Orchard Hill camps operated. The second one was near West Alexandria.
- 1926** New Boy Scout reservation on Twin Creek between Poastown and Carlisle. The first year it was called **HO-PA-TO-OG**. This stood for Charles **HO**ok, Frank B. **PA**uly, R. C. **TO**dd, and Mr. **OG**lesby. It wasn't called Camp Hook until 1927. Sleeping, cooking and eating was all done in tents.
- 1927-1991** Camp Hook with from 4 to 8 weeks of organized program every summer. Weekend camping. Available all the time. From time-to-time it was used by high school bands, 4-H, and church groups.
- NOTE:** In 1972 a two week camp was held on Brush Creek, near Locust Grove in Adams County. This was for older Scouts only and was in addition to Camp Hook.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
CHARLES R. HOOK
1880 - 1963**



Mr. Hook was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 12, 1880, the son of a carriage maker. By 1948 he was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of ARMCO Steel Corporation.

Immediately after graduating from Walnut Hills High School in 1898, he secured a position as office boy in a small rolling mill plant in Cincinnati at a salary of \$2.00 per week.

Shortly afterward, this small company was purchased by a large tin plate company. Realizing that he should acquire a practical knowledge of the production of steel, Mr. Hook voluntarily requested to be transferred to one of the company's plants as a workman. While at this plant, he learned the difficult art of roll grinding. The rolls had to have the proper crown (a larger diameter in the middle) so that the steel that was rolled between them would be exactly the same thickness clear across the sheet. This is because the rolls flex under pressure. At the time, roll grinding was a secret performed only by the most highly skilled workmen who were mainly Welsh. Mr. Hook soon gained their confidence and they gladly taught him the secrets of their trade.

In November, 1902, he joined the American Rolling Mill Company in Middletown, Ohio, as night superintendent. At that time the company employed only 325 men having started operations just 2 years before in 1900 by Mr. George M. Verity.

Mr. Hook advanced successively through the positions of Sheet Mill Superintendent, Assistant General Superintendent, General Superintendent, Operating Vice President, Vice President, then Assistant General Manager. By 1927 he was Vice President and General Manager. On January 7, 1930 he was elected President of ARMCO and served eighteen years before becoming Chairman of the Board in 1948. He served as Chairman until 1959.

He had married Mr. Verity's daughter, Leah, and had two sons, Charles Junior and George M. V., and a daughter, Jean (called Dolly). Both boys were Eagle Scouts and attended Camp Hook.

Mr. Hook was President of the Middletown Council, Boy Scouts of America from 1924 until March 9, 1931, when he was appointed Honorary President. He received the Silver Beaver Award from the local council in 1931. He received the Silver Antelope Award in 1944 for service to boyhood in Region Four and the Silver Buffalo Award in 1949 from the National Boy Scout Office for service to boyhood in the nation. He died November 14, 1963, at the age of 83.

EARLY CAMP HOOK

Mr. Charles R. Hook purchased the 133 acre Mave Farm and donated it to the Boy Scouts on May, 19, 1926. The *News Signal* and the *Journal* had full page articles and pictures. The original pictures and two scrap books are in my possession.



The Camp site

*One of six pictures in the
Middletown Journal and
the Middletown News
Signal on May 20, 1926
announcing that Mr. Hook
had donated the camp site
along Twin Creek*

Fourteen committees were appointed to improve the farm and get ready for summer camp to start on June 28--in just 6 weeks.

Water	R.S. Shoemaker	A 4" well, 50' deep with 25' of water was drilled and fitted with a pump and an electric motor. Water lines and a drinking fountain were installed. An electric power line was built from the east side of Twin Creek for the pump and for security lights.
Sanitation	Dr. H.S. Murat	A toilet with showers and a septic tank was built.
Roads	J.P. Flanagan	A gravel driveway was built up the hill from Morningstar Road.
Contact for Miami Conservancy District	B.F. Harwitz, Lawyer	Legal work
Pool	Herb Boren	
Tenant	C. G. Crist, Realtor	
Insurance	C. G. Crist	
Protection of Property	William A. Raymer, Middletown Police Chief	
Location of camp buildings	Charles R. Hook and Frank B. Pauly, Postmaster	

Permanent buildings Harold W. Goetz. Architect

Forest Protection Mark Denny

Colored Camp A. B. Green

Juvenile Protection Judge W. Gideon Palmer

Property lines and fences J. P. Flanagan

The farm was surveyed and gates 1, 2, & 3 were built along Morningstar Road.

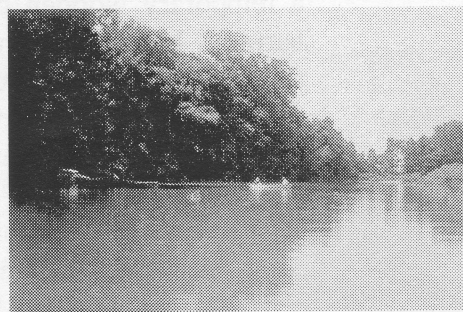
Camp entrance from Morningstar Road. Camp Road graveled and gate #2 installed in 1926.



There were two tenant farm houses, a stock barn and a large tobacco barn along Morningstar Road. Mr. Rubush was the tenant farmer and he was followed by Aubrey H. "Blue" Mulberry.



The first camping at the new camp in 1926 was in pyramid tents with eight scouts to the tent. Pyramid tents were also used in 1927.



Swimming hole in Twin Creek above a temporary dam. Used in 1926, 1927 and 1928. The dock is shown to the left.

1926

The first summer camp at the Scout Reservation opened June 28, 1926 with 24 Scouts the first week. The maximum capacity was 48 Scouts. There were 4

weeks of camping. They had 30 the second week, 37 the third week, and 41 the last week- for a total of 132 Scouts. Camp ended on July 25. All camping was done in a total of 10 tents - Army type, 8 man pyramid tents. They swam in Twin Creek behind an 18" high sand bag dam which provided a 6 1/2' deep swimming hole. Camp fee was \$4.00 per week.

Emmett S. Sherron was Boy Scout Executive and Camp Director from February 1, 1927 to October 1, 1932.



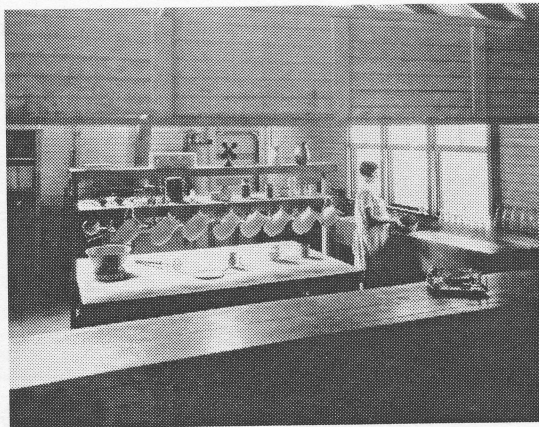
1927

Emmett S. Sherron came to Middletown February 1st, 1927 as Scout Executive. Again, they camped in the 8-man pyramid tents and swam in Twin Creek above a temporary wooden dam. There was now a Mess Hall. A World War I barracks building was used in Middletown for temporary school rooms while they built Lincoln School and also while they built Garfield School. It was dismantled and taken to Camp Hook for a Mess Hall. They had four weeks of camp with 280 different Scouts enrolled. Scouts were from every troop in the council except one. Six permanent bridges for trails were built. The camp served 10,067 meals and spent \$1,672.72 for groceries. The camp fee was \$4.00 from Sunday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. At that time, the Scout Executive was also the Camp Director. Camp fees now are about \$125.00 from Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning.

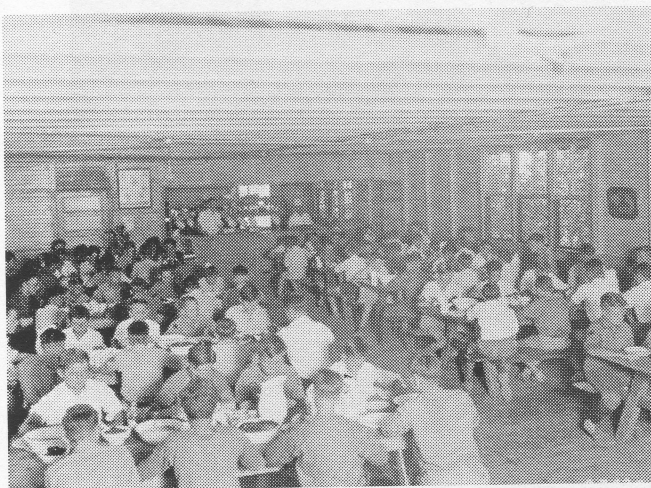
There was a winter camp between Christmas and New Year and the camp was used for meetings and week-end camping. Troop 4 built a 12 bunk cabin that was finished in April, 1927. The cabin was in the ravine near the spring. It was used by that troop.



The front of the 1927 mess hall. It was on Hickory Point. The window for the camp store is shown in the wall near the left end of the porch. It was torn down in the mid fifties.



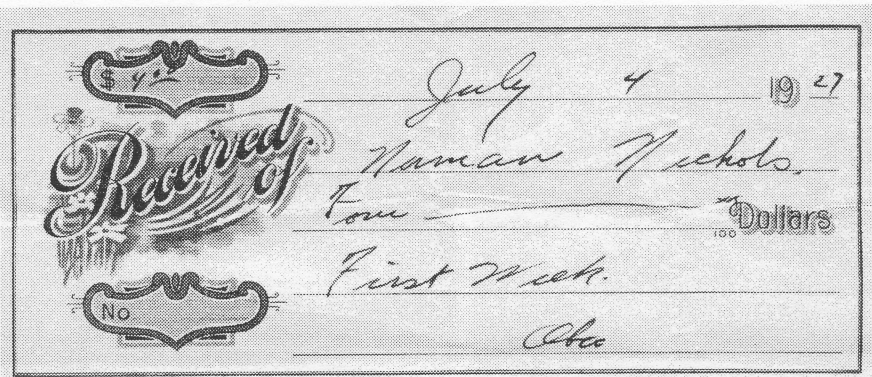
The kitchen was in the South end of the mess hall, the walk-in icebox to the left, the sink to the right and the coal burning stove to the back.



Scouts eating in the mess hall.

Back side of mess hall taken from camp road looking toward Hickory Point. The first pump house is shown to the right. It was built in 1926.





Norman Nichols receipt for \$4 for first week of camp in 1927.

Scoutmaster's Association 1928 Shown Inside The Mess Hall



Front Row - Art Moon, George Farenholtz, William Coyle, Leonard Barker, Elmer Schneider, Celestine Frye, George Wilson, Robert Edwards, Eddie Patton

Second Row - Jim Shepherd, Walt Spindler, Elza Abraham, Robert Funston, Emmett S. Sherron, Charles R. Hook, C. H. Dent, Jack Wilkinson, A. H. "Blue" Mulberry, Tom Cahill

Third Row - J. Earl Conover, Charles R. Adams, Joe Shepherd, Victor Yenser, O. B. Walker, Alvin J. Troutman, William Babbington, unknown, Donald Brown, S. D. Benedict, Alvin H. Ferguson, Gilbert Edgar, Albert J. Hester

Back Row - Richard Morgan, Art Smallwood, Ray Young, Dayton Gadgil, Don Holstein, Charles Lang, Arnold Weaver, Lawrence Andrews

Campers Reunion ~ for 1927 Campers at Camp Hook

M E N U .

Veal Loaf

Boston Baked Beans

Cole Slaw

Preserves

or

Coffee

Ice Cream.

P R O G R A M

Invocation.....	Lead by Jack Wilkinson
Chief Sherron.....	Welcome to Campers and Leaders
	Introduction of Leaders
	Introduction of All Summer Campers
	Introduction of Honor Campers
	Presentation of Patrol Leaders' Certificates
Camp Songs.....	"Fergie"
Camp Yells.....	Jr. Barker
Vaudville Show.....	One act from each tent
	Grand Spectacle from Headquarters
Tragic Operas "Carmen".....	Camp Hook Opera Co.
Next Year's Camp.....	Chief Sherron
Scout Benediction	"Softly now the light of day"

LOOKING BACK INTO 1927

H I G H S P O T S

Headquarters Staff--Camp--Hook--1927

Camp Director

Camp Director.....Chief E.S. Sherron

Adjustant.....John Cahill

Camp Clerk, Storekeeper, Banker, Author, etc....Obie Walker

Music Director.....Wilber Crist

Camping.....Chuck Thompson

Nature Study.....Pokie Griffith

Camp Fire.....A.H. Ferguson (Fergie)

Buglers.....Wm. Mathews, Terrence William

DIVISION LEADERS

Sunny-brook	Bob Gruver	Pokie Griffith	Big "Shep"
	Bob Edwards	Roy Diver	George Wilson

Mid-way	Leonard Connott	Bob Funston	C.R. Adams
	Bob Shots	Joe Shepherd	C. Frey

Springdale C.H. Dent W.F. Scott Al Hester
Wallie Frayer Vic Yenser

Look-out	J. Wilkinson	E. Nanness
	Elza Abraham	Don Doty

TENT LEADERS

FIRST PERIOD

John Cline
Calvin Lloyd
Walker Lewis

Charles Malott
Lewis Yoder
Wyllie Mitchell

Ellison Young
Steve Slamka
Darwin Benideet
~~Steve Slamka~~
JOHN

SECOND PERIOD

Walter Schmidt
Eugene Schule
Calvin Lloyd
Miles Reed
Norman Knott

Leslie McGuire
Walker Lewis
Charles Hook
Tom Farquer
Bill Snyder

Jr. Banker
Steve Slamka
James Sparkes
Darwin Benideet
Wyllie Carmichael

THIRD PERIOD

Ray Johnson
Calvin Lloyd
Miles Reed
Kenneth Shultz
Norman Lindsey
Walker Lewis

Charles Hook
Tom Flanagan
Mark Kirschbaum
Irvin Wise
Jr. Banker
Don Peiffer

Steve Kimmel
Al Ober
James Sparkes
John Slamka

FOURTH PERIOD

Darwin Benideet
Calvin Lloyd
Miles Reed
Carl Bauer

Walker Lewis
Dan Corsin
Tom Flanagan
John Slamka

Steve Slamka
Jessie Reed
Joe Ritter
Steve Kimmel

LONG DISTANCE CAMPERS.

Six Weeks.

Donald Shoemaker

Five Weeks,

Walker Lewis
Darwin Benideet

P.G. Banker, Jr.
Steve Slamka.

Four Weeks.

Carl Bauer
Jack Brunn
Bill Bunnell
Tom Farquer
Paul Gonde
Charles Hook

McKnight Kinno
Bill Kirk
Calvin Lloyd
Charles Malott
Norman Nichols
Milford Pendleton
Chester Darif
Walter Schmidt

Evertt Sherron
Bill Snyder
Woodrow Wilkinson
Irvin Wise
Ellison Young

HONOR CAMPERS.

Calvin Lloyd	Tom Flanagan
Walker Lewis	Bob Keiser
Steve Slamka	Carl Bauer
Truman Grey	Howard Hayes
Darwin Benideet	Donald Shoemaker
Walter Baker	Max Russelo
Milos Reed	Dan Corsin
Ben Thirkield	John Slamka
Charles Hook	Irvin Wise
Mark Kirschbaum	Bill Bunnell
Arthur Root	Leo Madraffari
James Sparkes	Jessie Reed
Roy Johnson	Joe Ritter
Tom Neal	Junior Banker
Norman Lindsey	Steve Kimmel

CAMP GOAT.

First Period.....Bill Kirk,
Second Period.....Walter Schmidt
Third Period.....Bill Snyder
Fourth Period.....Bill Kirk

GRADUATES OF THE PATROL LEADERS' TRAINING COURSE

Roger Albrandt	Fred Conover	Donald Shoemaker
P.G. Banker, Jr	Vaughn DuVall	John Slamka
Darwin Benideet	Walker Lewis	Steve Slamka
James Bray	Wayne Glass	Charles Updyke
Robert Burtonett	William Malott	John Vigor
Wylie Carmichael	William Mathews	Ellison Young
	Russell Prossler	

THINGS YOU NEVER SAW OR HEARD AT CAMP

1. Roy Diver talking in a whisper.
2. Joe Shepherd eating 'Ominy.
3. Elza without his whittling knife and a peice of wood.
4. Ned Otterbein singing "Sweetly sang the donkey".
5. Scottie and Bennie with their hair combed.
6. Pokie withhit his Jew's harp.
7. Joe with his walking stick.
8. Bill Snyder working.
9. Jimmie Lawrence moving fast.
10. John Cahill's pajamas after the election of the Camp Goat.
11. The chief loafing around with his hands in his pockets.
12. "Ice-wagon" stealing base in a base ball game.
13. Tommie O'Connell not saying "Youse Boids".
14. Don Doty sparing advice on bridge building.
15. Walker Lewis without his Von Hindenburgh haircut.
16. Elza's strong coffee.
17. Big Shop running a foot race.

18. Leonard Connett mowing weeds in his high boots.
19. Vic Yenser without a pink envelope in his pocket.
20. The Camp Team beating the Leaders in base ball.
21. Roy Diver in Camp on Thursday evening.
22. Hick Shultz betting on Sharkey.
23. Micky agreed that "Christy" is justified in going to Columbus.
24. Chief eatinh beans with his knife.
25. "Goat" Schmidt butting in.
26. "Hick" Shultz collecting his quatter from "Fergy".
27. Door Boy returning from town on time.
28. Horace Margerum's adz after his too was out.
29. Joo's Red-head from Germantown.
30. Chief saying "Whoop-e-e-e ride 'em cowboy."
31. Raymoe Young missing a ditch with "gillie".
32. "Whitie" Forrest under the museum.
33. Big Shep refusing to eat.

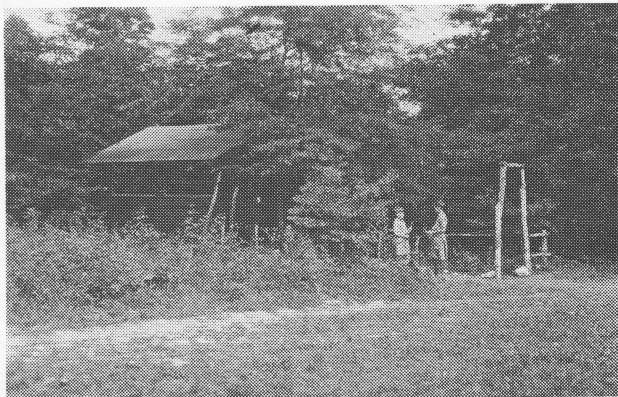
DID YOU KNOW THAT AT CAMP----

- 86 Scouts learned to swim ?
- 100 Merit Badges were passed ?
- \$5,769.20 was spent for improvements ?
- 10,067 meals were served ?
- 280 different Scouts were enrolled ?
- Every troop in the Council was represented, except one ?
- 6 Permanent bridges were erected ?
- 28 leaders attended for at least one week, totaling 77 weeks ?
- Scouts were present from Middletown, Franklin, Miamisburg, New York, Blanchester, Lobanon and Columbus ?
- 1,619 visitors attended camp ?
- 1,210 loaves of bread were used to feed the gang ?
- 4,172 eggs were used ?
- 1,696 quarts of milk were used ?
- \$1,672.72 were spent for groceries ?

This book and this program has been arranged by "Fergie". We wish to express our most sincere appreciation for his contribution to our camping program and to the Scout Movement as a whole.

1928

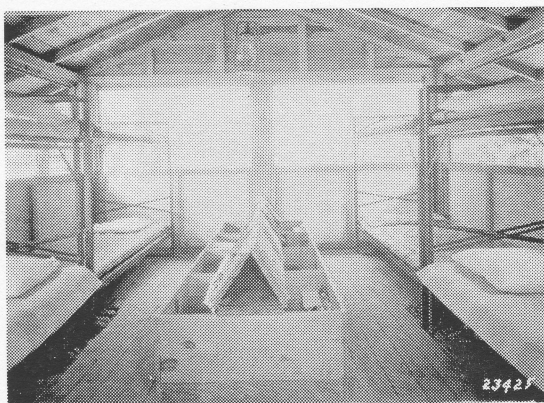
For the 1928 camping season 13 8-man cabins were built: 4 in Midway, 3 in Sunnybrook, 3 in Springdale and 3 in Lookout, plus a 2 man leader's cabin in each division or stockade. A combination camp director and first aid cabin was built next to the council ring but it was later relocated and is now half way between the council ring and White Ash Lodge. One cabin is still in use as the Camp Office. The rest were torn down in the late seventies. They swam in Twin Creek above a second temporary wooden dam as the first one had washed away. Additional bridges and trails were built by the Scouts.



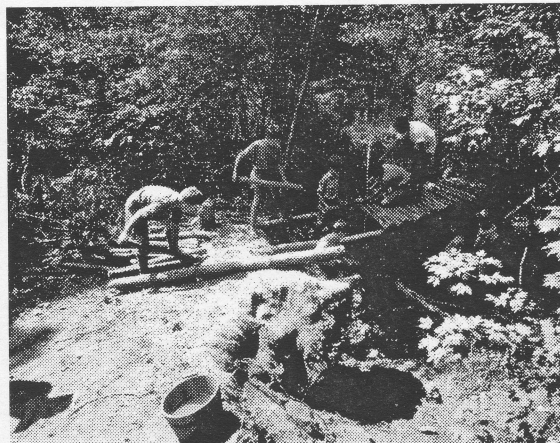
One of the thirteen new cabins in 1928 Cabin No. 4 in Midway. Cabins 1, 2, and 3 were also in Midway.



Cabin No. 7 was in Sunnybrook along with cabins 5 and 6.



Inside of a cabin showing the eight bunks and the lockers. There were six large counter-weighted sliding metal windows.



Six permanent bridges and trails were built by the campers in 1927.

1929

Summer camp in 1929 was much like the year before. Slept in cabins. Swam in Twin Creek only at "Wyndle Beach" by the Chamberlain Road bridge. On June 16, 1929, the camp was supposed to be officially dedicated but it rained so hard it had to be put off two weeks until June 30. A large stone had been dragged out of the ravine in back of Cabin 1 by block and tackle and placed near the council ring where it is today. A bronze plaque reads "In appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Hook whose gift made possible this reservation for the development of better and nobler boyhood of this and future generations. Middletown Council Boy Scouts of America, June 16, 1929". This was a big production. The ARMCO Band, under the direction of Frank Simon, played a new march, "The Camp Hook March" which was written for the occasion. Perry Lint from BSA, New York spoke.



Swimming in Twin Creek in 1929 at Wyndle Beach at the Chamberlain Road Bridge (formerly known as the Union Chapel Road).



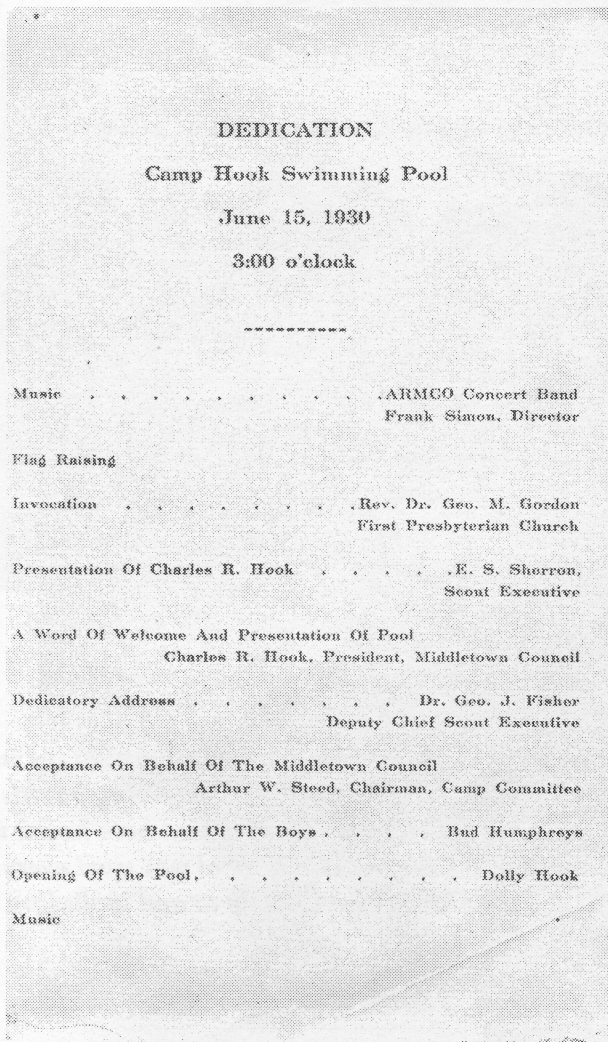
Mrs. and Mr. Charles R. Hook. Camp Hook was formally dedicated on June 30, 1929 (postponed from the original date of June 16).

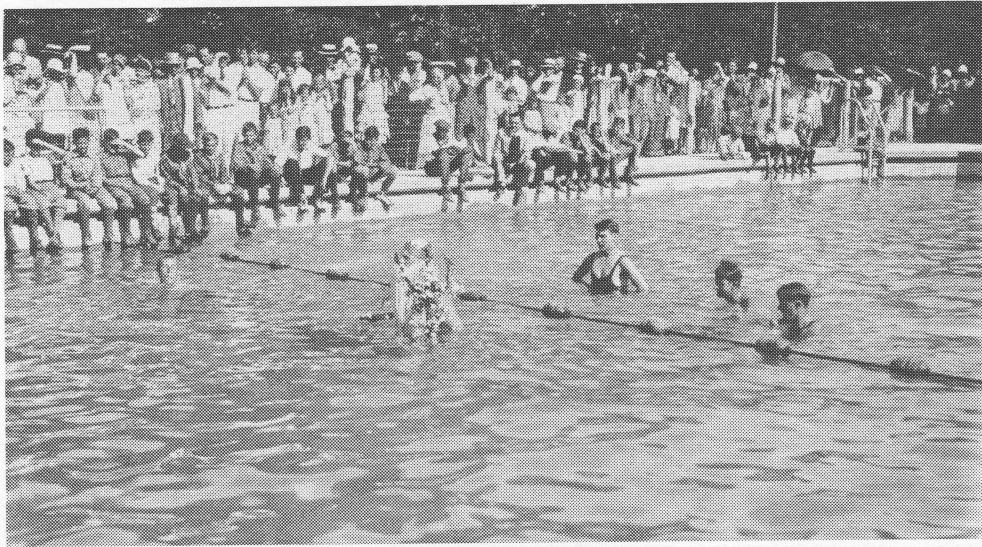
Summer camp opened on June 17. The first two weeks were open to all boys 10-12 years of age. These were boys too young to be Boy Scouts or YMCA members. From July 1 to August 10 was for Scouts and YMCA boys, making a total of 8 weeks, the last two weeks of which were for colored Scouts. Boys were from Middletown, Lebanon, Franklin, Carlisle and Kings Mills.

The staff consisted of the Scout Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners,

Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters. R. L. Mosshart, Boy's Work Secretary of the YMCA, Scout Field Executive R. P. Shotts, and Scout Executive Emmett Sherron. Health and safety were supervised by Dr. H. S. Murat and Dr. N. A. Hamilton. Also on the staff were Leonard Connett, Paul Wilson, Charles Rybolt, Ellison Young, Robert Burnett, Glen Offenhayer, and Harold Schultz.

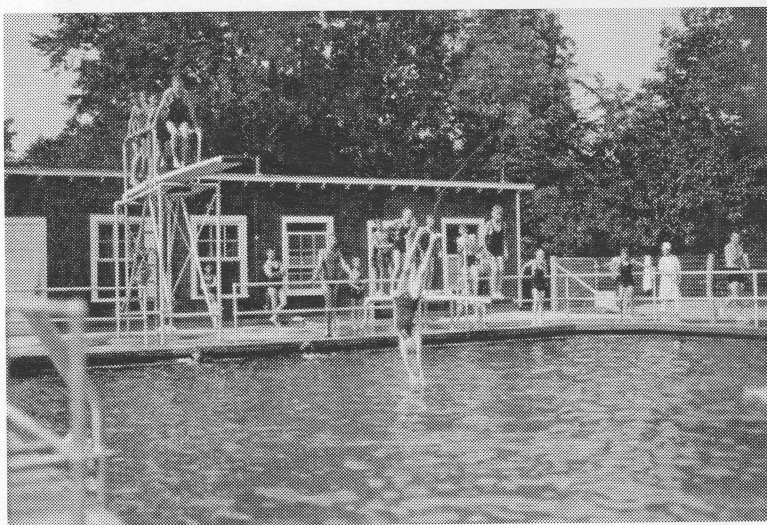
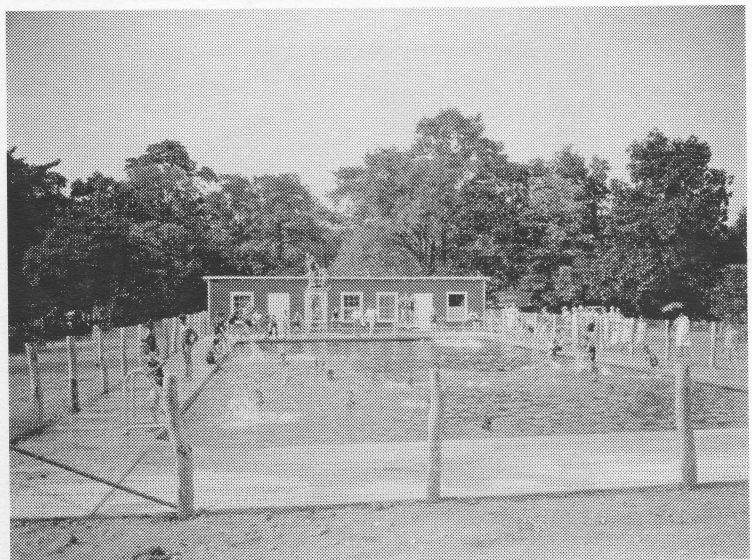
In late summer of 1929 Mr. Hook gave the Middletown Scout Council some ARMCO stock and advised them to sell it right away with the proceeds to be used to build a swimming pool. The stock was sold. Black Friday was in October, 1929. The stock market collapsed and the Great Depression began. The pool was started that fall. It was dug with mules and scoop shovels. With the \$20,200 gift, they also bought 43 acres to the north.



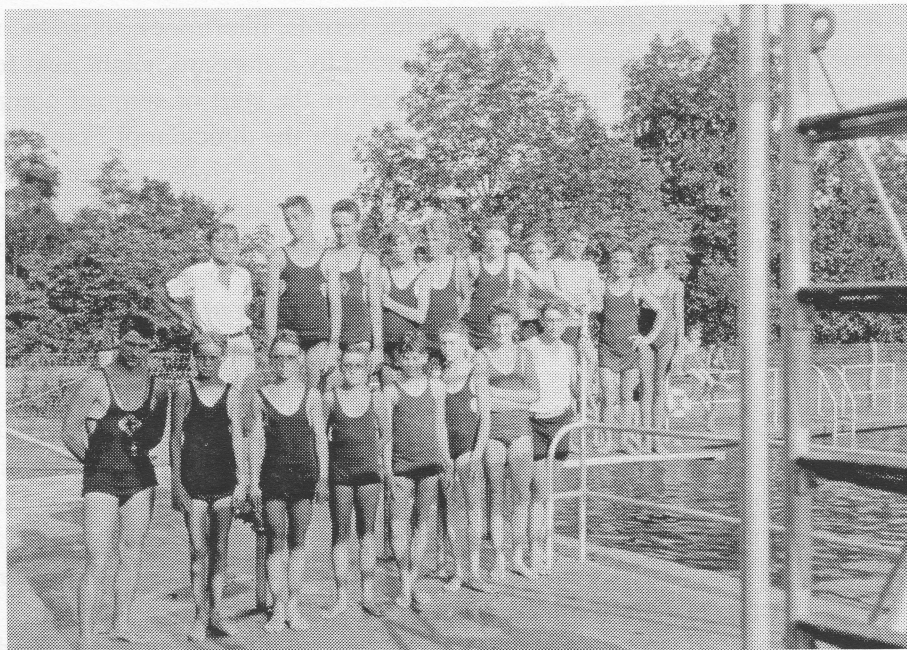


Dedication of the new pool. Neptune is greeted by Alvin Deiss who was on the camp staff in charge of the pool.

View of the new pool.



Swimmers in the deep end of the new pool. Shows the two diving boards with the filtration and bath house in the back. The pool was used every summer 1930 up to and including 1991.



Alvin Deiss, at the left, was in charge of swimming in the new 1930 pool and boating in Twin Creek.



At dedication address for the new swimming pool June 15, 1930. Scout Executive and Camp Director Emmett Sherron is shown standing at the right with his 3 ½ year old son, Harold. Mr. Charles R. Hook is seated first row at the right. Photograph was taken at the Council Ring.

1930

The new pool was 40' x 90' with 2 diving boards, filter room, showers, a toilet and a foot dip for athletes foot. It was surrounded by a standard height field fence. It was dedicated on June 15, 1930, one week before the start of summer camp. This was also a big deal. ARMCO Concert Band under the direction of Frank Simon opened and closed the program. Mr. Hook welcomed the crowd and presented the pool. Dr. George J. Fisher, Deputy Chief Scout Executive from the New York BSA office gave the dedication address. It was accepted by Arthur Steed, Chairman of the Camp Committee on behalf of the council and by Howard "Bud" Humpreys on behalf of the boys. The pool was opened when Jean "Dolly" Hook jumped in. Mr. L. L. McDonald, Perry A. Lint and Ted Foley also came from the national office.

The nature lodge, known as the Mansion, was built in 1930 and was right behind the pool. The Sherron family lived in it that summer. It was torn down in 1996. The west tenant house on Morningstar Road was remodeled in the summer of 1930 with running water, septic system, bath, bottled gas, hot water heat, bank garage, chicken house and an orchard. The Sherron family moved in late in the summer and my sister, Marie, and my brother, Marvin and I rode the school bus and went to the brand new Carlisle consolidated school. I was a freshman. We lived there until August, 1933.



West tenant house along Morningstar Road. It was remodeled in 1930. It was burned about 1990 as a training exercise for the Carlisle Fire Department. The east tenant house by the stock barn was torn down in the early 80's.

CAMP HOOK TENTH ANNUAL CAMP SEASON 1930

Middletown Council Boy Scouts of America

Charles R. Hook - Council President
A. W. Steed - Chairman Camp Committee
E. S. Sherron - Camp Director
R. L. Mossheart - Asst. Camp Director

No one in Middletown Area needs an introduction to Camp Hook, which will be "bigger and better" this year in every way. There will be eight one week periods, opening and closing on Monday mornings.

Beginning June 23, the first two weeks will be devoted to boys from 9 to 12 years of age. All Cubs and members of the Y.M.C.A. are entitled to this period. A limited number of boys who are not members of either organization will be accepted.

From July 7, to August 4, the Camp will be open to Scouts and members of the Y.M.C.A. who are 12 years of age or beyond. August 4, to 18, is reserved for colored scouts only.

FEE

The fee will be \$5.00 per week.

WHAT TO BRING

Plenty of scout uniforms or serviceable clothing, four blankets or their equivalent, raincoat, bathing suit, coat or sweater, towels, soap, comb, tooth brush and paste, note book, pencil, scout handbook, Bible or Prayer Book, Scout knife, and flash light. Pack equipment in a duffle bag or gunny sack. Lodges are provided with lockers and suit cases or boxes will be in the way.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

There will be a senior medical student as resident in the camp, who will be supervised by Drs. H. S. Murst and N. A. Hamilton. The hospital is equipped with all necessary emergency facilities, which guarantees every protection possible to campers.

EATS

Mr. E. H. Napier and wife, will have charge of the camp eats. The kitchen has a new mechanical refrigerator, new silver ware, new dishes, new hot water system, and improved ventilation system. These improvements bring our kitchen up to the best. The camp garden was never so good as this year.

NEW POOL

The new pool will be in operation when camp opens. It is modern in every detail, has a "spoon-dip-bottom" to a depth of 10 feet, has all necessary equipment such as towers, spring boards, ladders, life ropes, etc. The shallow end will be roped off for those who cannot swim. The pool is equipped with a re-filtering, re-circulating, chlorinating system. It is fed from a deep well which means that the water is pure. Alvin Deiss who won a reputation several seasons ago as a swimmer and instructor, will be in charge.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome at Camp Hook on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons and evenings until 9:15. Please make your visits on these days.

REMEMBER

Everything is done to make every camper happy and his stay profitable to him, but no fee will be refunded except in case of illness.

RULES

The Scout laws are the laws of the camp.
A Scout is Trustworthy - Loyal - Helpful - Friendly - Courteous - Kind - Obedient - Cheerful - Thrifty - Brave - Clean - and Reverent.

PROGRAM

Geo. W. (Bill) Babbington will have charge of the craftwork, which will consist of silver, copper, and brass work. Woodwork, wood carving, basketry, leather work, cement, archery, etc. "Doc" Gordon Savage will have charge of camp fires and First Aid. Other subjects of interest to boys will be presented, i.e., birds, trees, wild flowers, insect and the various tests in scout-craft. Hiking, games, etc., will be a part of every days program.

NEW DIVISION

There will be a new division of camp opened this year that will be under tents. This division will consist of 32 campers who will prepare most of their meals. Have their own Bugler, conduct their own programs, in fact, will be almost an independent camp. This division has not been named, but will be by those who are eligible to camp in this new division.

In order to be eligible one must have camped at Camp Hook for at least two seasons of two or more weeks each since becoming of Scout age and must be a first class scout with at least three merit badges or have had an active membership in the Y.M.C.A. for at least one full year.

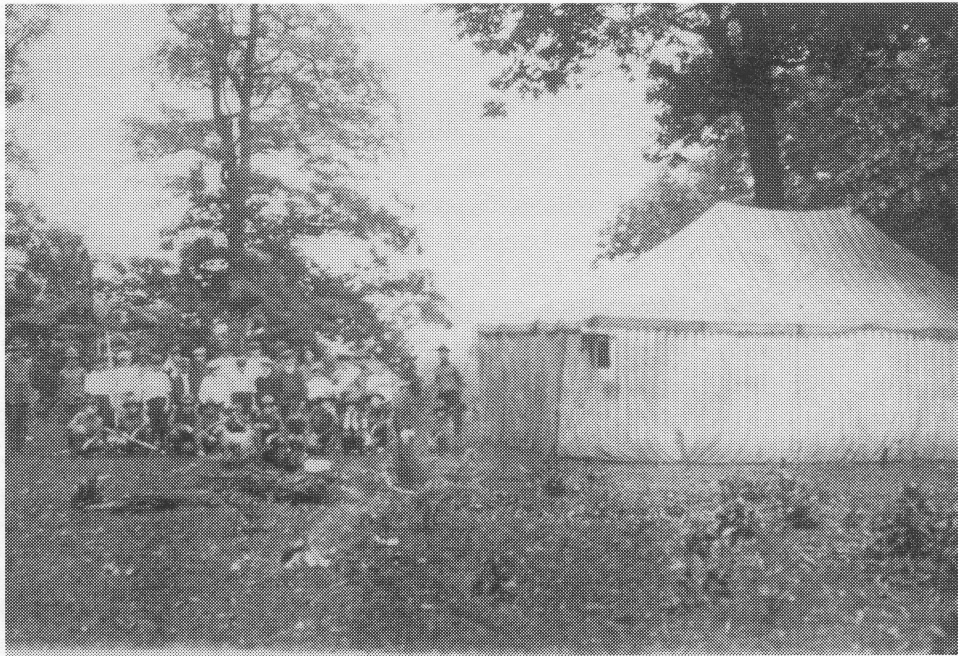
The first 32 to register will be the campers for this division, provided they meet the above requirements.

REGISTRATION

Registrations are now open for the entire camp. A deposit of \$1.00 for each week you wish to attend will be required to reserve a place for you. Every Scout is expected to attend Camp Hook for at least one week. All must register at Boy Scout Headquarters.

SUNDAY

Church services will be held at Camp each Sunday. Permission will be granted to those who desire to attend their own church. Those who leave camp for church are asked to return to camp. No camper is expected to "check out" before the close of the Sunday evening camp-fire.



A new "Indian Division" for seasoned campers was located where Oak Mound Camp Site is now. The tent shown was the Mess Tent.



White Ash Lodge build in 1930-31

The 1930 summer camp was from June 23 to August 18. Two weeks for 9-12 year old boys (Cubs) and YMCA. Four weeks for 12 years old or older Scouts and YMCA. Two weeks for colored Scouts. The fee was \$5.00 for a seven day week. There was a new division for seasoned campers located at what is now known as

Oak Mound. They camped in 8-man pyramid tents and prepared their own meals. This was the first year for a paid staff and there were 19 on the staff. In August the footers were dug, mostly by colored Scouts, for White Ash Lodge. It was built from Cincinnati Gas & Electric utility poles by men sent out by the Civic Association Welfare Office. It was constructed that winter and spring. Bill Babbington was the caretaker the first winter, 1931-32. A road was built from camp to Chamberlain Road which was known as the North Entrance. It was never used very much, but remnants can still be seen.

1931 Camp went on about the same for 1931. I was there but I don't have many clippings or bulletins

1932 The 1932 summer camp was for seven weeks, from June 13 to August 1. The fee was \$5.50 for a seven day week. YMCA members and other boys in the community were invited to attend. The first week was for leadership training. The second week was for Cub Scouts and YMCA boys who were under twelve years old. Weeks three, four, five, and six were for boys over twelve and week seven was for colored Scouts. Scouts from Dayton came to Camp Hook as Dayton did not operate a summer camp in 1932. Scouts from Hamilton came for the third straight year.

Camp leaders and their duties were as follows:

Emmett S. Sherron	Scout Executive of Middletown Council	Camp Director
J. Paul Ahlbrandt	Assistant Scout Executive	Records
John O. Fry	Head of Biology at Hamilton High School	Nature study
Carl B. Kolbert	Scout Executive of Hamilton Council	Activities
Mr. And Mrs. Clyde Hackney	Director of Middletown High School Cafeteria	Food service
Edwin Tyson	Middletown	Handicraft
H.L. Myers	Franklin High School Manual Arts Teacher	Handicraft assistant
Arthur Albaugh	Middletown Auctioneer	Leather work
Alvin Deiss	Middletown	Water front
Bruce Byard	Germantown	Physical arrangements
Alvin H. Furgeson	Philadelphia	Campfire leader

Jack Linzie and Paul Wilson of the YMCA, along with William Engler, Jr., Norman Lindsay, Elza Abraham, and others were part time staff.

Total operating expenses were \$ 1980.88 and total income was \$ 1911.57 for a net operating loss of \$ 69.31. See separate report below.

The Warren County 4-H Club came to camp on August 1.

CAMP HOOKOPERATING FINANCIAL STATEMENTJUNE 13-AUG. 1, 1932.SUMMER CAMP

Compiled September 28, 1932 - J.P.Ahlbrandt

INCOME

Butler County			\$ 345.00	
Camp Fees:				
Campers' Savings	\$ 180.25			
Collected 1932	1,060.80			
Uncollected:				
Individual campers	\$ 17.70			
Troop #23	4.50	22.20	1,255.25	
Visitors' Meals			45.50	
Sundries:				
Trading Post	136.63			
Uncollected Troop 12	6.45	142.96		
Supplies		.75		
Telephone		3.65		
Food		24.92		
Tool checks		.28	172.66	
Warren County 4-H Club				
Food		19.18		
Telephone		2.47		
Electricity		36.89		
Depreciation charges		56.62	115.16	\$1,911.67

OPERATING EXPENSES

Salaries		431.73	
Feed		755.55	
Sundries:			
Supplies	120.89		
Store	156.02		
Garden	12.90		
Hospital Supplies	19.04		
Electricity	162.84		
Publicity	25.96		
Insurance	29.68		
Repairs	211.72		
Swimming Pool	45.76		
Stationery	31.96		
Telephone	22.18	618.63	
Transportation		31.41	
Warren County 4-H Club		44.01	
Campers' Savings' Club Expense		54.68	2,094.01

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Cook Shack	71.27	
Kitchen Shower	.85	72.12

PROFIT & LOSS

Total Operating Expenses	2,094.01	
Less Troop Camp Expenses	115.13	1,980.88
(June 13-20)		
Less - Total Income		1,911.67
Net operating loss for six weeks camp		\$ 69.21

Scout Executive.

Financial report for 1932 Summer Camp

1933 The 1933 camp staff was headed up by the new Scout Executive R.H. Beck and a staff consisting of A.H. Stubbs, George Harvey, James Young, Joe Hogan, George H. Sims, Walter Kuenzel and Mrs. J. Rothwell as cook.

1934 Blacksnake Lodge was built in 1934 by Troop 10 which was sponsored by the Church of God. It was in Ravine #2 about half way up from Morningstar Road. Only the chimney is still standing. The cabin disappeared in the late forties.



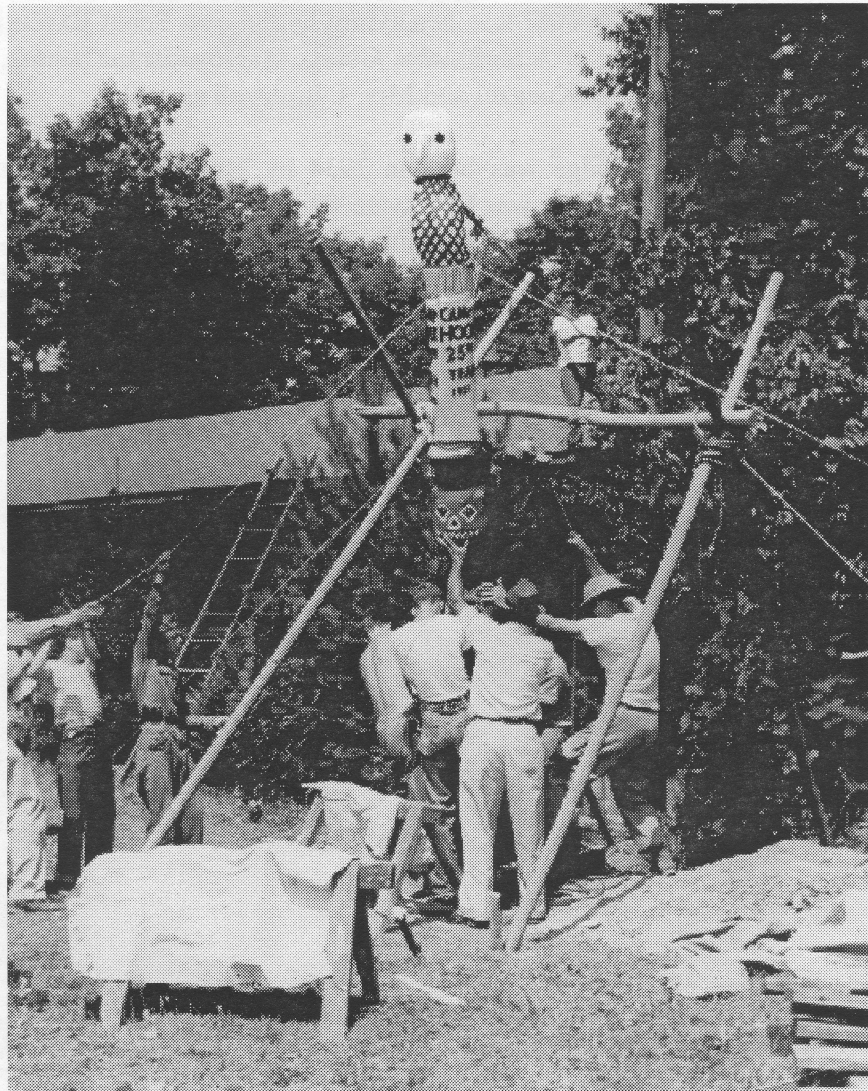
Blacksnake Lodge, built in 1934 in Ravine #2 by Troop 10. Troop 10 was sponsored by the Church of God. Only the chimney of Blacksnake Lodge is still standing.

In 1934, the camp fee was \$5.00 a week for the Cubs. Scouts were to camp as a troop and do their own cooking. Their fee was \$1.00 plus the cost of food. Attendance was down and the cost of operating the camp was up. Staff consisted of R.H. Beck, Al West, Allen Betzler, Lawrence Kenyon and Tom Flanagan. The old Indian fort on the Leichty Farm was discovered and was brought into national prominence. It is within a 10 minute walk north from Camp Hook.

1940 In 1940, the camp had a record attendance of 1,350 boys attending summer camp.

1944

A new mess hall was built and was dedicated July 11, 1944. The old one was used for storage but was torn down in the mid fifties.



A new mess hall was dedicated July 11, 1944. Picture by A. Keith Tannehill shows Scouts raising a totem pole in 1951 at front corner to mark the 25th anniversary of Camp Hook. The Mess Hall was later know as "Hawkeye Hall" in honor of George A. Harvey.

1945

The four Adirondack shelters were built in 1945 and are still in use.

1947

Lake George was dedicated in May, 1947, in honor of 1st Lt. George M.V. Hook. He had attended Camp Hook as a Scout. He presently lives in France but revisited Camp Hook on January 11, 1997. Perle Whitehead came from the regional office and was the main speaker at the dedication. Camp director was Scout Executive Paul O. Parker and a staff of 21. Fifty-six Canadian Scouts and leaders from Petersborough, Ontario, attended Camp Hook for a week starting July 6, 1947.



Perle Whitehead at Dedication of Lake George in May 1947.

Plaque reads "This name is given in appreciation of the services rendered to the youth of this area and the services rendered his country in World War II by 1st Lt. George M. V. Hook. ...May 1947"



Lake George dedicated May 1947. Looking toward the dam.



Lake George from the dam looking up Ravine No. 2.



Scouts in canoe on Lake George



Campers and staff for the second week in 1948. Dick Hopper is at top left standing next to a cook in white. Elza Abraham, Scoutmaster of Troop 11 is standing near the center wearing his white OA Sash. The mess hall, built in 1944, is shown in the background.

The original Thunderbird Gate was built in 1948 as an Order of the Arrow (honor camper group) ordeal project. The gate and the stockade were rebuilt in 1962, again as an Order of the Arrow project. The gate was replaced in the late eighties. The stockade fence on each side was rebuilt in 1993, mostly by Dave Clayton, the caretaker.

Early 1950's photograph of Thunderbird Gate. The buffalo head on the left pole was later replaced by a raccoon. The Nacheum Lodge totem.



THUNDERBIRD GATE

Camp Hook
Mound Builders Area Council
Boy Scouts of America

August, 1962

The entrance gate has just been rebuilt by the Nachenum Lodge, Order of the Arrow. It is 62 feet across and the main gate is 12 feet wide having a 14 foot clearance. The stockade part is made of Beech slabs. The main gate is hung on utility poles set in 6 feet of concrete.

The shield emblems are authentic Indian designs. The turtle design on the shield on the right hand pole is from the Order of the Arrow Mother Lodge in Philadelphia. The racoon design on the shield on the left hand pole is the emblem of the Nachenum Lodge.

The main gate is in the form of a Thunderbird. The design was chosen because of the religious significance to the American Indian. Patterns, symbols, and colors came to the Indians as dreams and, hence, were believed to have magic powers or to be "good medicine" for that particular Indian. The colors for this gate was taken from Navaho Indian sand paintings. Some of the symbols and designs are Sioux, while others are from the local Hopi Indians. For instance, the design of the feet is Hopi.

The head is a medicine man head used to drive away evil spirits. Originally, the head was made of colored patches of leather and worn by the medicine man. The sun on the head is the symbol of the origin of all life. The circle around the sun is the circle of life and it is broken for the entering of life and for the leaving of life. You leave life by the same entrance as you entered life. This head is not designed to tell a story.

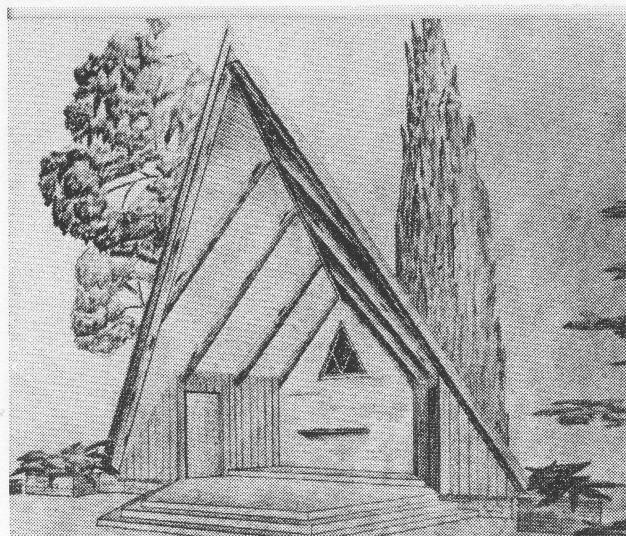
The rainbow is from the Navaho Indians. The small figures underneath the head, and the red, white and blue lines around the outside, are symbols of the Rainbow Goddess to protect everything. She was the goddess of all nature.

The crossed tomahawks are emblems used by our Mound Builders Area Council.

The paint used was donated by the Porter Paint Company. The design and the painting was done by Mickey Dennis.

The council ring was rebuilt and enlarged in 1951. A warehouse was built in 1955.

The chapel was built in 1958-59 and was dedicated July 22, 1959, in memory of Rev. Edward R. Hammon (1904-1958). Scott Zollett from Troop 18 was on the program.



"A Scout Is Reverent"

This Chapel is Dedicated to the Memory of

EDWARD H. HAMMON
1904 1958

As A Contribution to the Religious Life of the Boys of the
MOUND BUILDERS' AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Made Possible by the Leadership and Assistance of
KIWANIS CLUB OF MIDDLETOWN
INTERESTED GROUPS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS

Erected by

Volunteer Workmen and Members of
Middletown Trades & Labor Council

Dedicated

July 22, 1959

THE EDWARD H. HAMMON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

DEDICATION PROGRAM

Camp Hook

W. T. Adams, Presiding July 22, 1959

Presentation of Colors Troop 26, Middletown

Invocation Rev. Robert W. Ward
First Presbyterian Church
Middletown, Ohio

Reading of the Scripture Mr. Ronald Brisker
Camp Chaplain

Acceptance and Appreciation Mr. Charles E. Stutenroth
Council President

Prayer of Dedication Rev. Robert J. Monnin
St. Peter Claver Church
Middletown, Ohio

Presentation to the Scouts Mr. Charles E. Stutenroth

Acceptance in Behalf of Scouts Ricky Schlatter, Tr. 88
Scott Zollett, Tr. 18
Tom Sant, Post 77

Benediction Judge Fred B. Cramer

Organ Music by Paul Bell, Music Director
Church of the Ascension, Episcopal

Chapel Dedication July 22, 1959.

The Ranger's House, by the parking lot, was built in 1960. There was a new water system with a tower. The new well was near Twin Creek. A new 20' x 40' swimming pool with showers and toilets was dedicated June 19, 1960. It is adjacent to the shallow end of the original pool.

The Bob Gardiner Lodge was built in 1967. Originally, it had two large open porches which were later enclosed.

The Klondike Derby started in 1967 (actually in 1966, but no patch was given) at Camp Hook. It was held every January or February and continued up to and including 1996. In 1997 it was held at Caesar Creek. The Derby attracted over a hundred sleds and with a large staff and visitors, there were about 1500 at camp for the day. It is still a big deal and something every Scout likes.



Matthew Ford, Raymond "Buddy" Hall, David Hofer, not identified, Scott Grau, and Danny Myers all from Troop 18 in January 1975.



Troop 18 Scouts Jamie Dunn, Mike Dennis, Chris Stumpf, Chris Purdum, Mark McIntosh, Eric Duell, and Dave Evans in February 1986.



Troop 18 Scouts Greg Voyles, Ed Worbis, Josh Arvin, William Boyer, Steven Taylor, Mark Birdwell, Kevin Baird, and Luke Garrett January 1997.

The large red tobacco barn on Morningstar Road burned in 1974.

Six staff cabins were built in 1981 with a total capacity of 160. They were also used for band camps and for church groups.

A new toilet and shower house was built in 1986. It is between the staff cabins and the warehouse.

There are 15 campsites with running water at the wash stands. They have pit toilets. About 12 are supposed to be in use with 3 at rest.

Camp Hook has had a formal summer camp program every summer up through 1991. It has been used for weekend camping, as a place to prepare and practice for national jamborees, district camporees, a training camp for Junior Leaders-known as JLT and Brown Sea (the last one being held in 1995), and training for Adult Leaders-known as Woodbadge. The Cub Scouts usually have a summer day camp for one or two weeks. Also, there were 4-H Clubs, high school bands and church camps.

I camped at Camp Hook for 6 years as a boy for most of the summer and for at least one week a year for 40 years straight from 1956 to 1995 inclusive. For the last several years (1993, 94, 96, 97) I have camped with Troop 18 at Chief Logan Boy Scout Camp near Chillicothe. The Dan Beard Council does not operate a summer camp with a program for Boy Scouts. They operate Camp Freidlander and Camp Craig for Cub Scouts and for Scout Camporees. They also have Camp Michaels in Kentucky.

The Mound Builders Council had financial problems in the eighties and, after much discussion, they finally voted, effective July 10, 1985, to merge with the Cincinnati Dan Beard Council. Organized summer camping with a Scout program stopped at Camp Hook after 1991. For the last year, the water system has not been operational.

There are all kinds of rumors as to the camp's future, but the council has not yet confirmed anything.

The original title was to the Civic Association for use by the Boy Scouts into perpetuity.

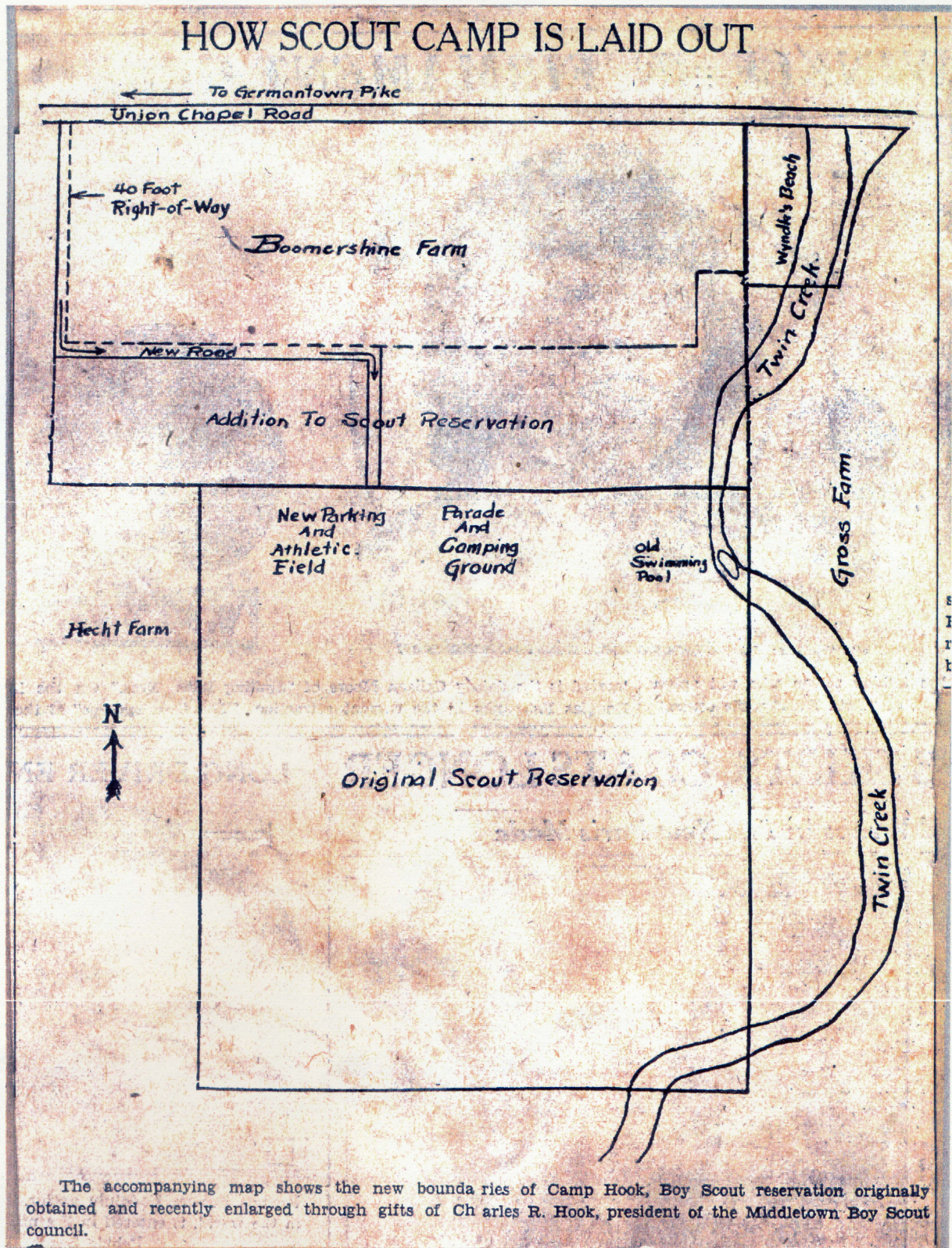
SIZE OF CAMP HOOK

The original farm was 133 acres. In 1929, 43 acres were added to the north. In the early seventies, 59 acres were bought north to Chamberlain Road. This was the Bert Boomershine property, except the corner at Morningstar Road where Eileen Boomershine Davis lived until recently when she sold and moved away. They also bought 32 acres to the west from Willard and Alyce Ledford in 1974. The camp grew to the present 267 acres.

Everett W. Sherron
Middletown, Ohio
July, 1997
513-422-4781

P.S. On June 17, 1997, the *Middletown Journal* reported it appears that Camp Hook will be sold to Five Rivers MetroParks of Montgomery County for \$320,000.00.

Everett Sherron has authorized
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Map in September 8, 1929 **Middletown Sunday News Journal** with article about the 43 acre addition and the swimming pool to be built at Camp Hook.

