

MUSEUM DISCOVERIES

The Raven Knob Boy Scout Museum is
Operated by the Old Hickory Council, BSA/
Camp Raven Knob Historical Association

Boy Scouts at the Dixie Classic Fair, Again!

When the 118th annual Dixie Classic Fair opened in Winston-Salem on September 29, 2000 the Boy Scouts were there – as usual. Travis Gentry, Piedmont District Executive, arranged for the Old Hickory Council to occupy one of the log buildings in “Yesterday Village” near the grandstand. Several volunteers – including Tom Ratcliffe, Sharon Ratcliffe, Bill Batts, Gray Martin, youth members from Venture Crew 911, Jane Shouse, Sammie Reavis, Myrt Daniel and others – managed the Scouting materials that were on display, answered questions about Scouting from parents and children, and demonstrated cooking and other Scouting skills. Hundreds of people visited the exhibit, and contacts were made with a number of “old men” who were Scouts and/or staff members at the Old Hickory Council’s first permanent summer camp, Camp Lasater. Camp Lasater operated from 1924 until 1953 and was located near Walkertown, just north of Winston-Salem.

The work during ten days at the year’s fair was very successful, but really cannot be compared with the work that the Boy Scouts performed at the event during the early decades of Scouting in Winston-Salem. From 1915 until 1942, Scouter William N. Vogler furnished ambulances and equipment at the fair’s Boy Scout First Aid Station; he also trained the men and the boys who provided first aid to the visitors that needed assistance. Vogler was the president of Vogler & Sons Funeral Home, which provided emergency transportation to local hospitals in the days before Emergency Medical Service units were established. Funeral homes across North Carolina were pioneers in the development of emergency medical services for people in need.

During the fair in 1925, twelve Boy Scouts served on Mr. Vogler’s ambulance detail, which answered two emergency calls and provided first aid treatment for 101 minor injuries. According to the detailed service report that the Winston-Salem Council of the Boy Scouts of America submitted to the Winston-Salem Community Chest (now known as the Forsyth County United Way) for the same year, 194 Boy Scouts representing 16 different troops also reported doing 267 “Good Turns” and “restoring” 74 lost children to their parents at the fair. Anyone who attended the 2000 Dixie Classic may remember hearing public address announcements that stated a phrase similar to the following quotation. “Would Joe Smith please report to the clock tower? Your parents are looking for you.” From 1915 until the early 1940’s, one could safely assume that a local Boy Scout would have been doing the job of the public address announcer and would have returned the boy to his parents.

[Note: A rumor has been circulating that Myrt Daniel got lost in the concession area at this year’s fair while trying to find the tenderloin biscuits. He was last seen somewhere between the homemade ice cream booth and the root bear booth. When he is found, please “restore” him to his home on Bolton Street!]

If you have any questions, need information or want to make suggestions, please contact Ken Badgett, Association Historian, by e-mail at sckbadgett@surry.net or via regular mail at 884 Rockford Road, Dobson, North Carolina 27017.