

**Fall 2014 Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends Newsletter**  
**September 12, 2014**

**In this Newsletter:**

- **10 young men join the Canyon Camp Staff!**
- **Fall Woodcutters Ball – October 4 at Canyon Camp**
- **Tom Howe to speak on the Civil War**
- **FOUND -- the Leven's Brothers!!**
- **Also FOUND - Chuck and Della Moen!!**
- **2014 Summer Camp Report – by Lee Binkley and Dick Reynolds**
- **10 Spirit Scholarships awarded to 2014 Camp Staff members**
- **Paul Siple – Scout, Explorer and Vigil Member of the OA**

**10 Scouts Serve on the Canyon Camp Staff for Their First Year**

Each year new young men and women are offered the chance to continue the traditions established long ago at Canyon Camp. This year 10 individuals joined the Canyon Camp Staff for their first year from hometowns in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. Serving on the Staff for their first time were: Brandon Chindoni, Will Coots, Dylan Daws, Colton Galusha, Jarod Kannarr, Alex Kloepping, Alex Larson, Dawson Laubenstein, Kyle Marx, and Jacob Pacheco. Welcome to the Staff!! - and to the Canyon Camp Staff Alumni!!

**Wood Cutter's Ball to be held October 4**

The thirty-sixth annual Woodcutter's Ball will be held at Canyon Camp on Saturday, October 4, 2014. The Monroe Kiwanis Club is again sponsoring this event and is inviting Scouters and friends of Canyon Camp to participate.

This annual workday has the primary focus of cutting, splitting, and delivering the winter supply of firewood to the cabins used by Scouts throughout the winter months. Scouters are asked to bring chainsaws, splitters, and appropriate work clothes to work in the woods. (*Note:* Only trained operators may use chain saws).

For those who cannot work in the woods, attendance is still encouraged as this workday is used as a time to do routine maintenance to buildings and to ready the camp for the winter camping season. Hammers, saws, and paintbrushes are all tools to be put to use this workday.

Fall is a great time to visit Canyon Camp. You will enjoy the clean fall air and enjoy the fellowship of others interested in perpetuating the Spirit of Canyon Camp.

The Monroe Kiwanis Club will again provide breakfast and lunch for all volunteers. A continental breakfast will be available from 8:00–9:00 a.m. with work projects starting at 9:00. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. Projects will continue through late afternoon.

Kiwanians, troops, and individual scouters are invited to participate!

Contact Lee Binkley or Dick Reynolds with questions or reservations:

Lee Binkley: Home phone number 608/325-5540 or email [leebinkley@hotmail.com](mailto:leebinkley@hotmail.com)

Dick Reynolds: Email at [richardjreynolds@juno.com](mailto:richardjreynolds@juno.com)

### **Tom Howe to speak on the Civil War**

Former Staff member, educator, historian, and author Tom Howe will speak on two topics he knows well – the Civil War and Green County, WI. Tom will speak at the Monroe Theatre Guild, 910 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Monroe, WI, at 7 PM. The dates and topics for Tom's presentations are:

March 18, 2015: A New Birth of Freedom: Why the Civil War Matters

April 29, 2015: The Last Act: Green Count Men and the End of the Civil War

Tom is part of a larger series of events called Bugles, Bayonets, and Beyond: Green County and the American Civil War that commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Civil War. This event is organized in part by former Staff member Ron Spielman with support from the Monroe Arts Center and the Monroe Theatre Guild.

### **The Leven's Brothers found!!**

Bob Levins, originally from Stockton, stopped at Canyon Camp this summer. Bob and his brothers Jack (deceased) and Edward all work at Camp in the 1940's. Bob had this to say about his visit after nearly 70 years!!

*My visit to CC June 18<sup>th</sup> was a trip back in memory to a time of few cares. The relived experiences were immeasurable and included the "Great Flood", the year the camp lost its pick-up truck. I watched it floating down the lake and go quietly over the dam and continue down river. Afterward, there was talk of destroying the dam and leaving it go back to nature. I am so happy to see that there was a reprieve for the structure. My brother, Jack, and I had many hours on the lake as "JLs" [Junior Leaders] instructing scouts in the finer arts of canoeing, rowing and Life Saving. He and I, in fact, won the two man canoeing race two years running (I believe the years were 1946/7, or thereabouts.) Alas, we have no pictures of those events but, who needs photos when I keep a good record in my head. In answer to your question concerning where our home town was: Stockton, just a few miles from camp. Incidentally, we had used the Headquarters lodge as a base during some of those heavy winter snows, cutting wood for the fire place, enough for several days stay. I recall going to the lakeshore during some vicious cold, knocking a hole in the ice and getting our drinking water. The EPA and the Health Dept. of today would have had several kittens with that revelation. Our Troop #31 (I believe it was?) had a Scout Master who happened to be the best man for that position in the entire Council named Glen Garvin. He worked for the Soil Conservation Agency out of Stockton, so he was well versed with nature and the out-of-doors. I have a couple of pictures of my Brother Ed during his time at the camp in which he served as a Staff Member. I have sent him your contact memo and feel certain that he will be in touch with you soon. He, too, has some poignant recollections of those days, and we still like to share and relive them all.*

*Thanks to your present staff for being so kind and agreeable with their flow of information. I am thankful to be able to share this with you, and I hope the pics will offer you no problems in viewing. In the olden days one of our weekly outing would include a hike up Apple River Canyon, following the old stagecoach trail along that canyon wall and past Tower Rock, then into the Park itself.....is that hike still part of the agenda? Life Member, Bob Levins*

### **Also found - Chuck and Della Moen!!**

Also ‘found’ were Chuck and Della Moen from Freeport – friends of Canyon Camp. Chuck works for the Stephenson Soil and Water District but he was also a co-worker with Ralph Pratt (Denny Pratt’s father) at Kraft Foods, and he canoed with Stan Hayes and fished with Doc Held. Chuck and Stan Hayes were part of the team that removed the large brass bell from City Hall in Freeport, dug the footing and installed the bell on cement pillars that stand outside the Dining Hall to this day!

Welcome to all the Levins brothers and the Moen’s!

### **2014 Summer Camp Report - Where the Scout Handbook Comes Alive!**

It is hard to believe that another calendar and Scouting year has passed since we updated you on the happenings at Canyon Camp. The 2014 season was very successful. The summer season as we have known it has changed in many ways over the years. The Boy Scout schedule was shortened from six to five weeks of traditional camping. The weather was great minus the three floods in four days during staff week. We are happy to report that there was no damage...just some inconveniences and challenges during the process of setting up camp. The 2014 camp staff will be remembered as one of those “special staffs.” The group worked extremely well together and gave above and beyond “for the good of the boys.”

With the decline in Boy Scout membership efforts continue to make camp more self-sustaining. For many years Canyon Camp has been home to many local school district outdoor education programs. This past August 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Society used Camp for its annual training site. Over 170 participants from New York to California and even Canada came to camp for a four-day religious training program. All seemed to have a great time and experience along the banks of Coon Creek.

A few highlights of the 2014 camping season...

- 660 Scouts and leaders attended camp
- 10 New camp staff members
- Over 90 NYLT (National Youth Leader Training) staff & campers
- New merit badges included Climbing, Sustainability, Oceanography, Movie Making, Theatre, Chess, Scouting Heritage, and Photography.
- 4 new Stand-up Paddle Boards were added to the Aquatics program.

Since August the Darlington, WI cross country teams held a mini-camp, which will be followed soon by the Shullsburg and Cuba City Schools outdoor education programs.

Canyon Camp continues to provide special memories for youth as well as adults. All in all 2014 has been a great year for Canyon Camp.

Lee Binkley and Dick Reynolds, Co-Camp Directors

### **10 Spirit Scholarships awarded to 2014 Camp Staff members – by Ron Spielman**

The Canyon Camp Spirit Scholarship program began in 1992 with staff alumni contributing funds for the first scholarships. In recent years an endowment has been accumulated to generate a majority of the scholarship funding distributed each year.

There are now four named scholarships awarded each year: Troy Larson Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2005, Dennis Pratt Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2006, Lee Binkley Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2007 and Ronald Spielman Spirit Scholarship first awarded at the 2014 Staff Dinner.

At the recent Staff Dinner Camp Directors Lee Binkley & Dick Reynolds presented ten new scholarships:

Troy Larson to Dan Kurth attending Western Illinois University  
Dennis Pratt to Dan Dick attending Northern Illinois University  
Lee Binkley to Russell Erickson attending Elmhurst University  
Ron Spielman to Alexander Semenchuk attending University of Minnesota  
Spirit to Connor Daws attending Ambrose College  
Spirit to Kody Dickerson attending SW Tech College  
Spirit to David Drefcinski attending University of Wisconsin Platteville  
Spirit to Anthony Kurt attending Lewis University  
Spirit to Mark Schaer attending University of Illinois  
Spirit to Austin Simons attending Winona State University

Through 2014 scholarships totaling \$39,300 have been awarded to 123 recipients. The Spirit Scholarship Endowment Fund has grown to over \$70,000 with an ultimate goal to exceed \$125,000 in the endowment.

Scholarship funding comes from staff alumni, Scouters, and Friends of Canyon Camp. Individuals making tax deductible contributions may select prints of pen and ink drawings of Canyon Camp scenes. To date, artist Elaine Bethke of Monroe has generated ten different prints:

Canyon Camp Bells  
Held Nature Center  
Stagecoach Trail Sign  
Jamboree Cabin

The Chapel  
Vickery Health Lodge  
Rawleigh Headquarters Building  
Hess Farmstead Barn  
Founder's Lodge  
Dining Hall Historical Signs

If you are interested in supporting the Spirit Scholarship Fund contact Ron Spielman @ 608-325-6490 or spiel335@tds.net

**Paul Siple**

Paul Siple was one of the speakers at the dedication of Canyon Camp. Read more about his accomplishments in Scouting and as an explorer of the South Pole at: <http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3261>