

Remembering Bill Kline

On January 9th Bill Kline left this earth to join the Scouters that have served youth before us. When one thinks of Bill we fondly remember an individual with the ability to make others laugh. Whether at a pack meeting, a troop campout, summer camp campfire, a dining hall skit, day camp, the Philmont Training Center, or National Camping School, Bill made us laugh.

Bill was gifted with ideas, wit, and wisdom. He had the ability to “think outside the box.” When Cubs were not coming to Day Camp, Bill took Day Camp to the Cubs. Bill’s Great Western Day Camp took center stage in *Scouting Magazine*, where the nation was able to see the workings and successes of the program. Many of our current Day Camps are a result of Bill’s innovation and efforts.

When we sing songs, tell stories, give a cheer, or share a joke it is often one that we have found in the Canyon Camp Campfire Companion. Bill authored two books that have become **the** reference for successful campfires in camps across the country.

The Native American dances performed by the Canyon Camp Staff continue each summer on Wednesday nights. This tradition was started in the 1950’s, a tradition that Bill embraced for forty years. Bill spent countless hours in the construction and repair of the regalia worn by the dancers. Dancing and teaching others to dance was a big part of Bill’s contributions to Scouting. When a dance was performed it was often Bill who would introduce the dance to the audience. We never knew what Bill was going to say, but he managed to put some humor into his introductions.

Growing up with Bill as childhood friends was quite an experience. Receiving our Eagle Award together is something I’ll always cherish.

Whether we sing a song, tell a story, or dance a dance, know that Bill likely had a part in teaching us to do them well. His infectious sense of humor was shared with many. We will always remember Bill as a devoted Scouter and friend.

Lee Binkley