

The Spirit Lives On!



EARLY CAMP PHOTO INCLUDES CAMP FOUNDERS. STANDING, L TO R: EUGENE VICKERY, PAUL WATZ, CLAYTON CHAT-TERS.

SPIRIT OF CANYON CAMP THE PAINTING

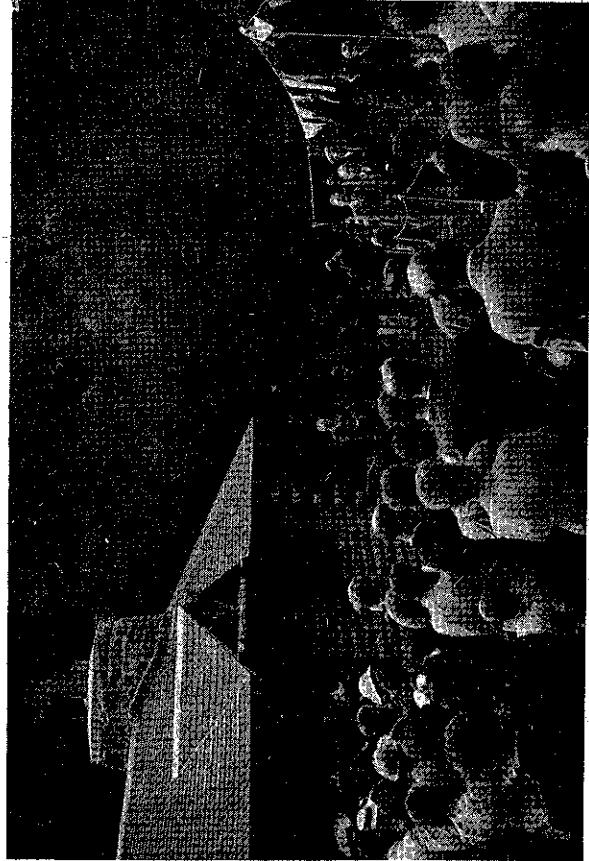
Let your eyes in pleasure roam
O'er the camp we all called home.
Lily Tolpo painted it
And pictured nearly every bit.
From Tower Rock on Apple River
To the arrows in the quiver,
Coon Creek stream and cliffs behind
The famling arrow you will find.
Rifle range and small camp zoo
Pioneering and crafts, too.
The Dining Hall and kitchen there
Feed the Scouts from everywhere
Who flock from scattered troop campsites
To feed their hunger with great bites.
Lodges, cabins, trading post,
All the things we like the most,
She's caught in biographic style.
Then, too, with soft nostalgic smile
We see the portraits of a few
Of the many persons who
Built the camp and say "Let's hear it
For the Cányon Camping Spirit!"

Eugene L. Vickery, M.D.

March 1, 1986



TREE PLANTING ON CAMP HILLSIDE, 1936



DEDICATION OF RAWLEIGH HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, 1938



SCOUTING/USA

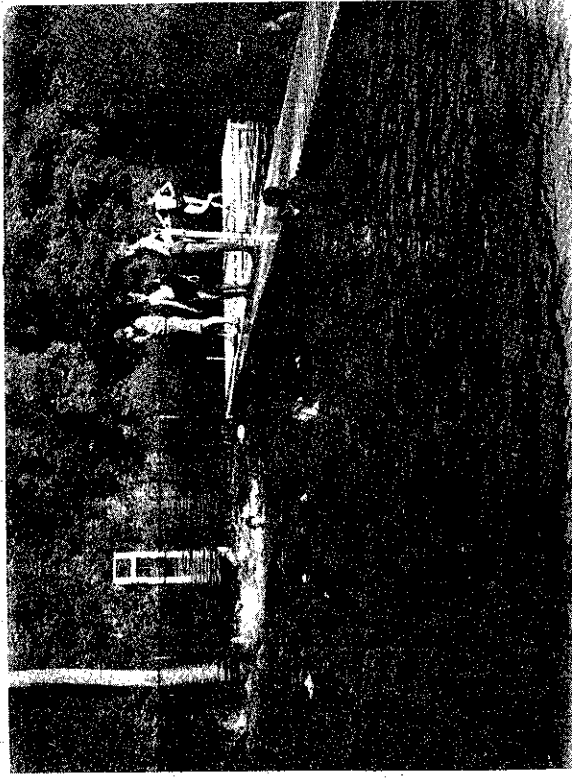
BLACKHAWK AREA COUNCIL

P. O. Box 4085 1800 7th Avenue, Rockford, IL 61110 815/397-0210
East Central Region, Council 660

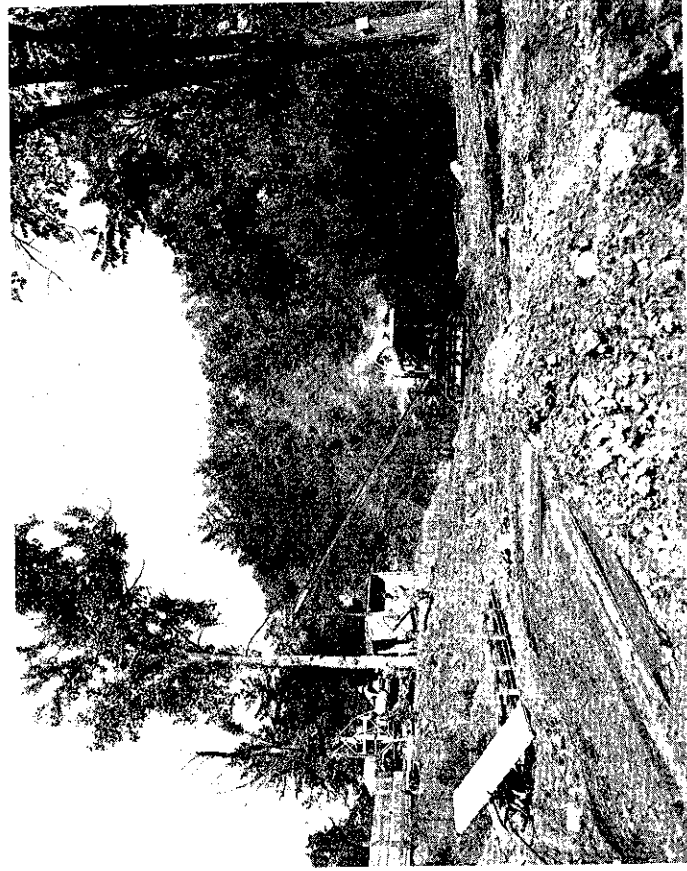
COUNCIL MISSION

TO PROVIDE PROGRAM, FIELD AND OFFICE SERVICE TO THE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR PACKS, TROOPS, AND EXPLORER UNITS IN THE 12 COUNTY AREA COMPRISING THE BLACKHAWK AREA COUNCIL BY MOBILIZING MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO THE END THAT ANY YOUTH WHO NEEDS OR WANTS SCOUTING CAN HAVE A QUALITY PROGRAM LED BY THE FINEST ADULT LEADERSHIP AVAILABLE

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 1598



SWIMMING IN COON LAKE, 1940's



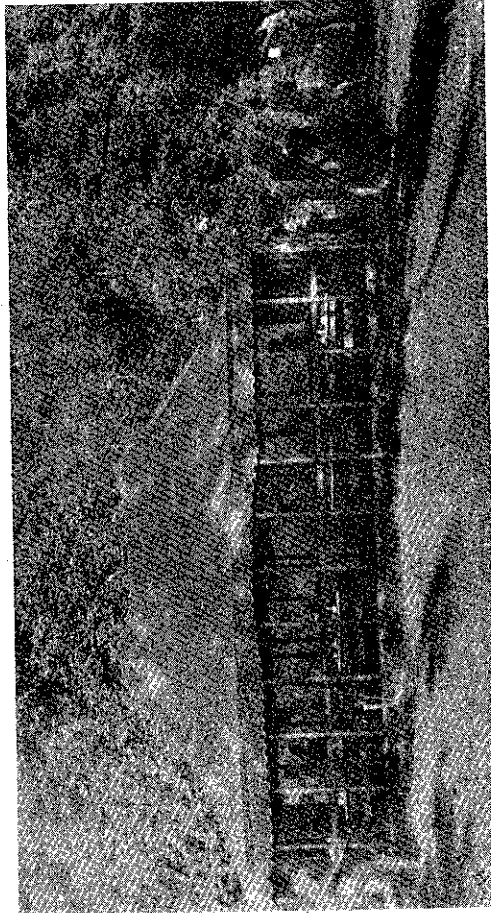
BUILDING OF COON CREEK DAM, 1940

The Heritage (cont. from p.1)

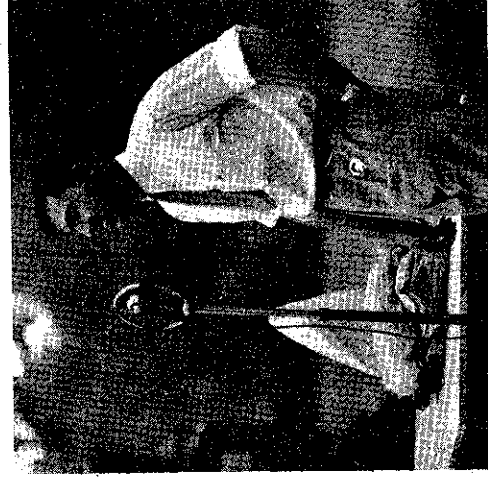
Paul Siple, a member of both Antarctic expeditions of Admiral Byrd, gave the address at the original dedication ceremony on Sunday, July 12, 1936 in record 110 degree heat. The public was invited, and the 28 piece drum and bugle corps of Stockton, Ill. gave an exhibition. The camp was dedicated in honor of Freeman Wittenmeyer, a veteran and respected scoutmaster of Freeport.

The camp developed quickly over the next few years. Permanent log buildings that fitted the natural appearance of the camp were gradually added as generous persons donated money, material and labor. The first building was the trading post, built in 1937. The Rawleigh Headquarters cabin was built in 1938 as was the camp gate, dedicated to A.J. Stukenburg. Mr. & Mrs. Koenig donated a "rain or shine" building that was later converted into the present dining hall with the help of Furst McNeess Company. Construction of a dam in 1940 created Coon Lake, which provided a swimming and boating area.

The spiritual needs of the scouts was addressed by the construction of a beautiful chapel in 1965 through the efforts of the Order of the Arrow, and the Monroe Kiwanis Club. The Wednesday evening family night and Indian dancing program became a traditional and popular event for area scouts and their families.



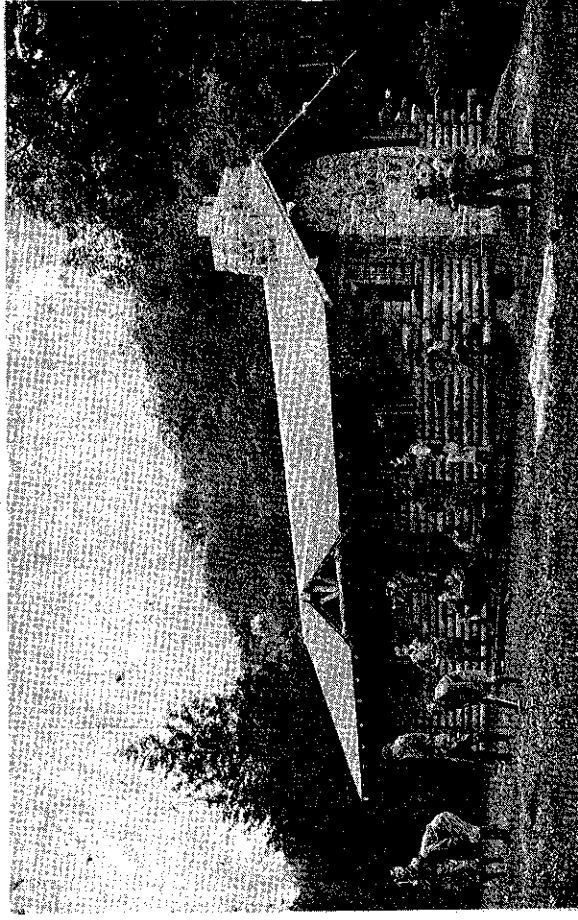
1930 ORIGINAL DINING HALL



**PAUL SIPLE
AT ORIGINAL CAMP
DEDICATION,
JULY 12, 1936**

Canyon Camp grew in stature, equipment and usefulness throughout the 60's. Denny Pratt became Camp Director in 1969, and the "Spirit of Canyon Camp" was recognized and nurtured under his direction. A renewed spirit was rekindled, and many volunteers such as Dr. Harold Held and countless other volunteer and professional leaders and builders were inspired to volunteer their time and talents at Canyon Camp. This devotion of dedicated people has made it possible for Canyon Camp to grow and to occupy enormous space in the hearts of all associated with it.

The camp is continuing to develop its facilities. The recently completed Founder's Lodge provides additional year around camping facilities. A new shower house and a remodeled kitchen



RAWLEIGH HEADQUARTERS CABIN, 1938

will be completed this summer. Construction of a new trading post/office has also begun.

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the camp, an original painting entitled "The Spirit of Canyon Camp" has been completed by local artist Lily Tolpo. It is a biographical portrayal of the fifty year history of the camp. Full color prints are available.

To quote Dr. Eugene Vickery, "The Spirit of Canyon Camp may be weightless and invisible, but it is a powerful force that has moved and motivated many persons for over half a century. It did not come into being overnight. Rather, it grew and became focused over a period of several years. Since then it has developed and its influence has been felt by succeeding generations of campers and leaders."



DEDICATION OF CAMP GATE, 1938

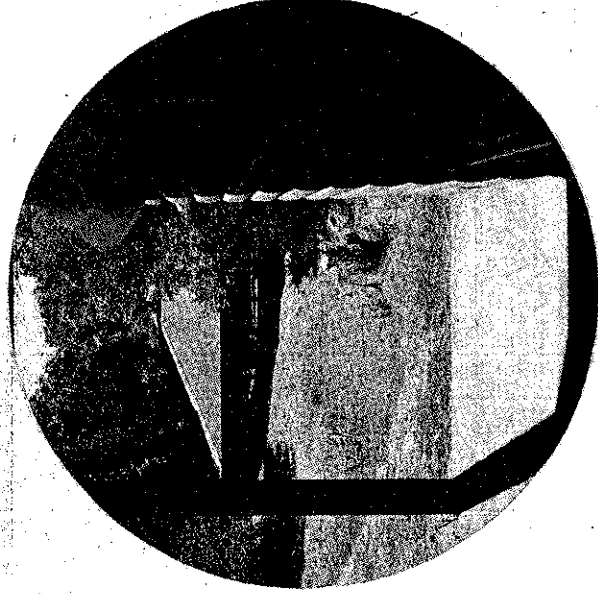
SCOUTING SPIRIT

A boy becomes a scout when he is young:
First a Cub, then working rung by rung
He becomes a Boy Scout proud and strong
And if he's faithful in the quest so long,
He'll be an Eagle Scout some fateful day,
And help the younger ones along the way.
The Spirit of the Scouting Plan is great
For many boys it does improve their fate.
It's lots of fun from one end to the other
And teaches boys each one can be a brother.
The promise made by ev'ry Scout today:
Be true to God, his country and obey
Scout Law and help all people when he can,
And be a physically strong young man,
Keep mentally awake and try to rate
Praise for being morally so straight.
Once learned, the Scouting Spirit lasts through life
And cuts through problems like the good Scout knife.
As a guiding principle the motto
Is better than a prize from playing lotto:
"Be Prepared" to cope with any trouble
Encountered traveling through life's tough stubble.
Doing "Good Turns" every single day,
A habit meant to lighten life's pathway,
Can lead to lives of good worthwhile achievement
And ease the sorrows following bereavement.
The Scouting program offers every lad
A chance to play, take part and feel so glad,
And then grow up with firm and solid guidelines,
To keep him off life's murky, soggy sidelines,
So he can earn and happily expect
From many friends their love and firm respect.

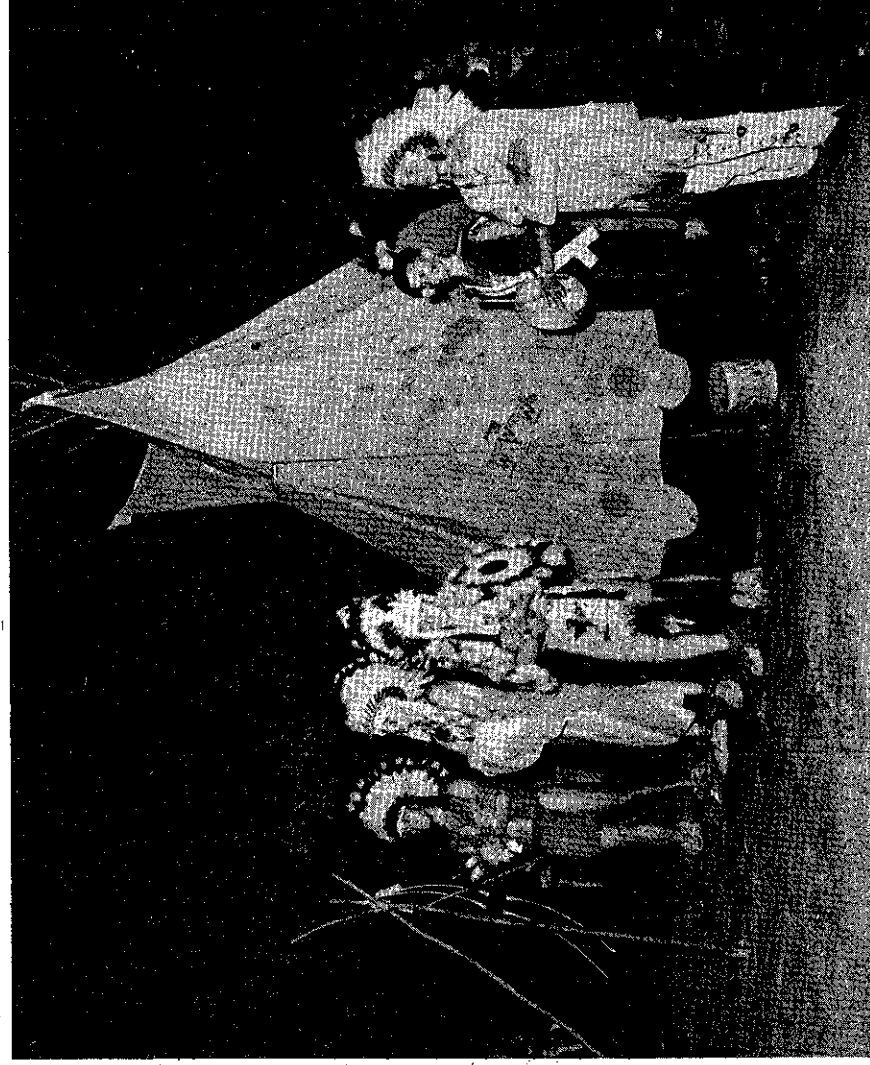
Eugene L. Vickery, M.D.

Catch the Spirit

"RAIN OR SHINE"
BUILDING FROM THE PORCH
OF THE TRADING POST



FLAG CEREMONY,
1930'S



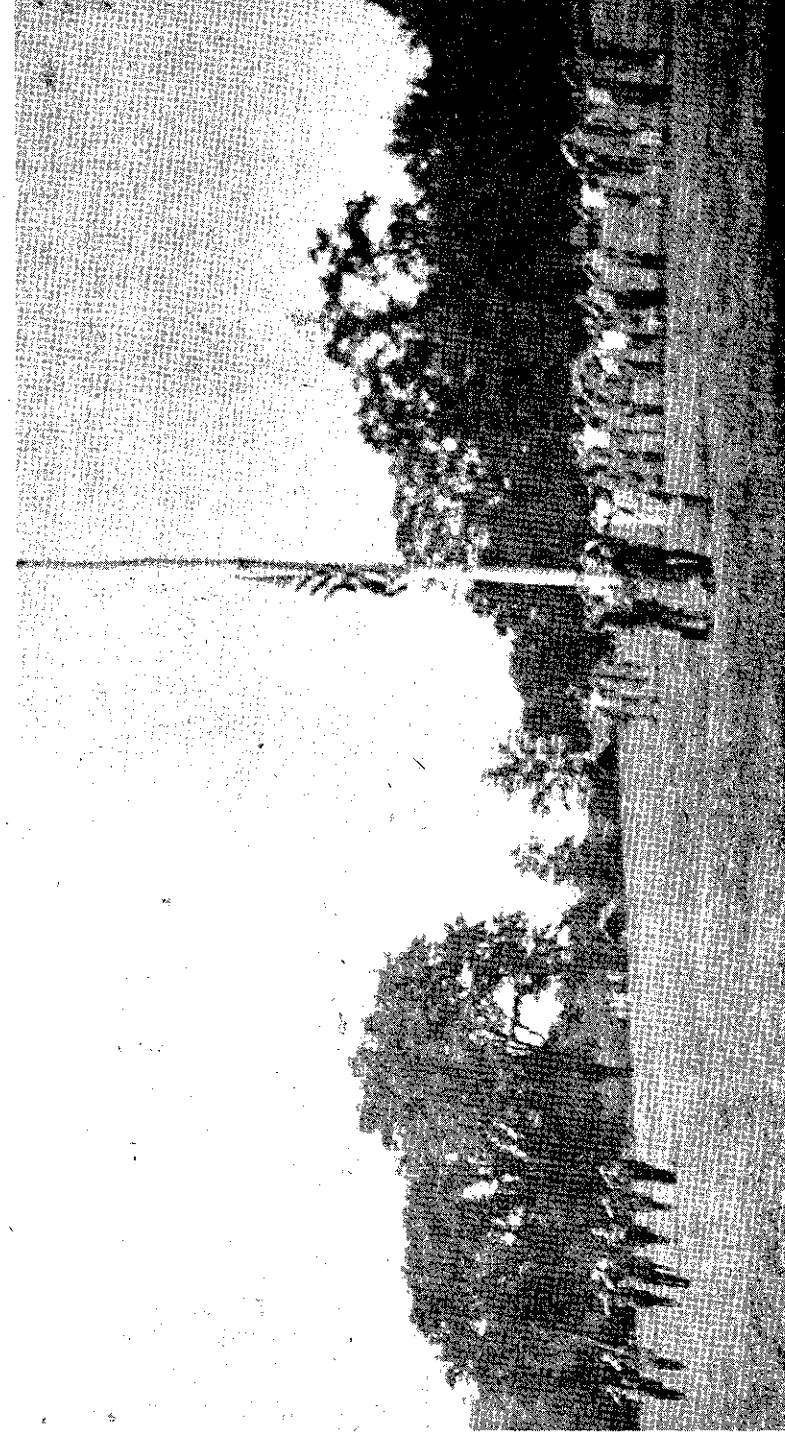
ORDER OF THE ARROW TAPOUT CEREMONY — 1950'S

SPIRIT OF CANYON CAMP

So blithe and airy is a spirit
We can try but don't get near it.
Enthusiasm is the word —
By all of us it's often heard
In close connection with the camp.
For loyalty it is the charm.
Denny's quarter century
Is nearly matched by Bill and Lee
And Ron and others of the staff.
New ones who have only half
The service make it count in skill
And Scouting with a right good will.
The native hills and quiet stream
Cliffs and woods and river seem
The background nature really
meant
For boys and camping in a tent.
We've got a trace of stage coach
road
Near an Indian abode
Still marked by two ancestral
mounds
Now listen for those ghostly sounds!
Small animals are all around
And lovely song-birds here are
found.
Scouting brings it all together
For fellowship in any weather.

Eugene L. Vickery, M.D.

March 1, 1986



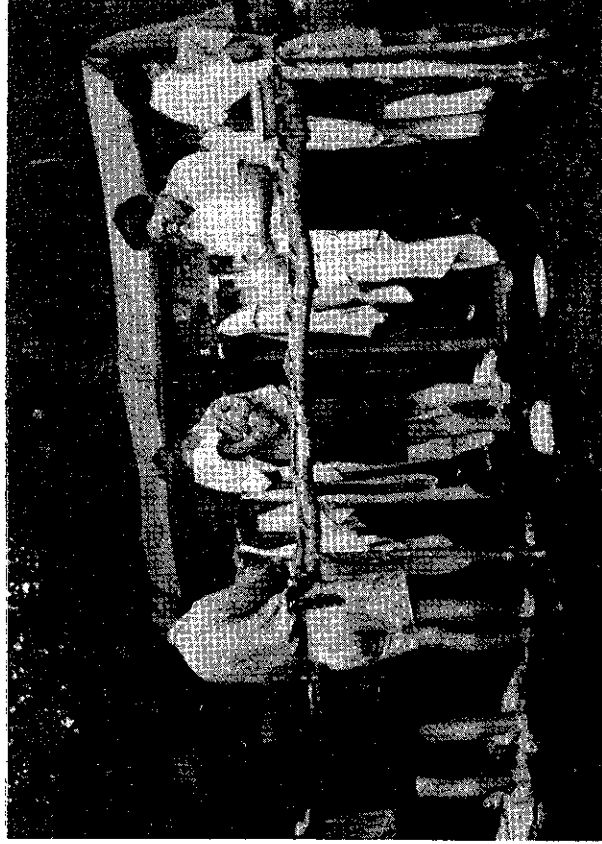
FLAG CEREMONY,
1930'S



Fifty years of scout camping will be celebrated on Saturday July 12th, 1986 when Canyon Camp boy scout camp observes its golden anniversary. Situated in the beautiful Apple River country of northwestern Illinois, the camp lies at the juncture of Coon Creek and the Apple River, seven miles southwest of Apple River Canyon State Park.

From its undeveloped beginnings in 1936 through its growing pains of present day, Canyon Camp has come to be the center of scouting for northwestern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin. Thousands of scouts and scouters have experienced the adventure of scout camping at Canyon Camp. With its combination of beauty and history, the "Spirit of Canyon Camp" has been experienced by generations of young men.

The first "canyon camp" was held near the site of the old town of Millville in 1930. When the state of Illinois purchased the area for a state park in 1932, the scouts were forced to search elsewhere for a camp site. Wishing to stay close to their "Apple River Canyon Camp," Scout Executive C. M. Chatters along with scouts Eugene Vickery, Fred Landdeck, William Seeman and Paul Watz explored the Apple River area, and chose the Coon Creek site. The site was



1930 MILLVILLE SITE WASHSTAND

rented in 1932, and Canyon Camp was begun. Stanley Grimm, the assistant camp director, moved equipment and supplies from the Millville site on a horse drawn wagon, and the staff arrived early to put things in order. The spirit that had characterized Apple River Canyon Camp found the new home to its liking and it has grown stronger ever since.

From 1932 to 1936, scout camping was held on the present Canyon Camp site. All drinking water was hauled to camp until a well was drilled in 1936. Though attempts were made to dam Coon Creek for swimming and canoeing, the dam leaked and the Apple River was used.

The original 148 acres of the camp were generously donated by Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Koenig of Freeport, Ill. V.E. Fishburn, chairman of the council camping committee in 1936 stated the location had been inspected by Harvey Gordon of New York City, national camp engineer for the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Gordon described the location as "picturesque and romantic," and, from the engineering standpoint, one of the best river sites that he had inspected in the entire country. The site included a half mile of the old stage coach road which first ran from Galena to Chicago via Freeport in 1836. Six Indian mounds, reminders of the prehistoric occupants of the territory, overlook the stage road.

The Heritage of CANYYON CAMP

Making Camp 1930 Style



**SETTING UP TENTAGE,
1930's**