

Script 75th Anniversary slide show (1985)

Boy Scouts was started in England in 1908. It was brought to the United States of America in February 1910 and quickly spread across the U.S. Troop 5 was started in September 1910, sponsored by "A Group of Concerned Citizens" in the Denver University / University Park Area. Its first Scoutmaster was an Englishman, Mr. Henry Hukins.

Some of the Troop's earliest activities included pulling a fire cart up and down East Warren Avenue, spraying water at Observatory Park in the winter to form an ice rink and going camping at Diamond Joe Lake, now known as Wellshire Lake at Colorado Boulevard and Hampden Avenue.

Since 1950 the Troop has been sponsored by University Park United Methodist Church and meets in the West Fellowship Hall every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. Thomas J. Noakes has served as the Scoutmaster of Troop 5 since January 1972. Richard Hann has served for almost as many years as the Assistant Scoutmaster. The youth leaders are elected by the Scouts in the Troop. Gregory Matchett, Star Scout, is presently serving in the position of Senior Patrol Leader. This month (January) the Troop renewed its charter for the 78th year and is one of the very few Troops in the nation in continuous operation since 1910! The Troop proudly calls itself "THE OLDEST TROOP WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER."

Presently, with twenty-five Scouts ranging in age from eleven to seventeen, and twelve adult leaders registered, the troop is enjoying a full range of Scouting activities. Troop 5 continues to instill Character, Citizenship and Fitness ideals in its members; "Be Prepared" continues to be its motto and "On My Honor. . ." continues to begin its pledge.

Troop 5 is proud to be associated with, and sponsored by, the University Park United Methodist Church and looks forward to many more years of serving youth and the church.

If you know of a boy who might be interested in the activities of an outstanding Boy Scout program and who would like to associate with a troop with tradition and pride, please contact either Mr. Noakes at 756-5904 or Gregory Matchett at 756-9352.

Troop 5, Boy Scouts of America, University Park United Methodist Church

ALL TOGETHER AGAIN

75th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, September 29, 1985

(Background, Troop 5 members tape recording of "We're All Together Again.")

(Background, Troop 5 members tape recording)

- A Scout is Trustworthy,
- A Scout is Loyal,
- A Scout is Helpful,
- A Scout is Friendly,
- A Scout is Courteous,
- A Scout is Kind,
- A Scout is Obedient,
- A Scout is Cheerful,
- A Scout is Thrifty,
- A Scout is Brave,
- A Scout is Clean,
- A Scout is Reverent

"We gathered around the Scout Oath, where we pledged, ". . . to do my duty to God and my country. . ." While helping other people, we promised to keep, ". . . physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

The values we learned have endured.

Troop 5 has a mission. It is the same as that of the Boy Scouts of America, ". . . to serve others, while helping to instill values in boys, in other words, to prepare them to make ethical choices over a lifetime."

Welcome to a day of celebration.

Welcome to the celebration of the 75th anniversary of our troop.

We are honored to have you join us.

And, welcome home . . .

THE FATHERS OF SCOUTING

Now join us.

Dream with us and remember with us, the early days of Troop 5 and the Boy Scouts of America.

This is a story about scouting and about Troop 5, the pioneer troop. You know this troop is one of the oldest in America and one of the few which has been registered every year since scouting began way back in 1910, 900 months ago.

It all began back in 1907 in England when General Baden-Powell organized a group of boys to study and practice games and activities to make them physically strong, self reliant and able to take care of themselves anywhere. The idea caught on quite well. Then in 1909 an American Publisher, Wm. D. Boyce was lost in a London fog. A boy approached and asked if he might be of service. He told the boy where he wanted to go and was surprised when the boy saluted him and said "come with me sir." Upon reaching the address, Mr. Boyce reached into his pocket and offered the boy a shilling. He was more than ever surprised when the boy refused it. "No thank you, sir, I am a Scout. Scouts do not accept tips for good turns."

"Good turns. Scouts. What are Scouts," asked Mr. Boyce.

The boy told him and took him to Lord Baden-Powell's Office nearby. There Mr. Boyce found out about scouts and then and there decided that American boys would like scouting. Mr. Boyce and others interested in the scouting idea formally incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910. February 8th is celebrated all over the United States as the birthday of the Boy Scouts. Scouting spread rapidly throughout this country. By the summer of 1910 it had already come to Denver and by September 1910 Troop 5 was chartered.

The first sponsoring institution from 1910 to 1914 was "A Group of Citizens." The first scout master registered was Henry Hukins who was followed by Clyde Norvall and H.G. Jay.

Troop 5 in those days did not have a meeting place like we have here in University Park United Methodist Church. They had to meet in some of the boy's homes and sometimes in the basement of the Illiff home. These scout groups frequently camped at Diamond Joe Lake now known as Wellshire Lake. The first Boy Scout mountain camp was a Silver Plume Colorado during 1912. Dr. Cutler who was scoutmaster from 1915 to 1917 emphasized nature study and bird study and for that reason held many very successful hiking and camping tours.

A scout who joined the troop in 1912, named Bob Milligan, wrote a letter to us in 1950. You will enjoy reading it and learning about the "volunteer fire department" which the troop operated out of a garage in the alley behind Saint Paul Street and which held practice alarms up and down Warren Avenue, next to the church. He stated, ". . . fortunately perhaps, we were never called upon to display our firefighting skill or to rescue anyone trapped on a window ledge by building our human pyramid."

The American Boy Scout uniform was similar to the U.S. Army uniform of World War I. The neckerchief was not used until the coat was discontinued.

All through this first decade, scouting had a very rapid growth. It was a period of beginnings. There was much pioneering to be done. It was during this decade that scouts were mobilized for a series of "civic good turns." They promoted a safe and sane Fourth of July. Boys' Life magazine was purchased and became the official magazine for Boy Scouts while Scouting became the official bulletin for scouters. Our U.S. Congress gave the Boys Scouts their federal charter in 1916. This gave special protection to the name, insignia and limits of membership.

In 1917, with war looming ahead, the full resources of scouting were placed at the disposal of the government under the slogan of "help win the war." Within 24 hours, all scouts throughout the U.S. were advised of the action. Under this slogan Scouts sold \$200,000,000 worth of Liberty Bonds and War Stamps.

Scouts also took an active part in the collection of peach pits and nut shells for the War Department to be used in the manufacture of carbon for gas masks. Scouts alone accounted for 100 car loads of fruit pits. The most significant result of this participation in the war effort by the Boy Scouts was the awakening on the part of the men of the nation as to the potential power of boys through organized effort. Needless to say, Troop 5 took a very active part in all the World War I projects. Boy Scout membership at the end of the first decade was 463,000.

The Scout uniform is a part of the romance of Scouting. It is a symbol of the ideals and outdoor activities for which the movement stands. It symbolizes the boy's obligation to measure up to a high standard of character of the Scout Laws.

The broad-brimmed hat (Smokey Bear hat), for many years was the unmistakable emblem of the Boy Scout. The neckerchief has now also become a characteristic badge of scouting the world over. The pioneers and cowboys wore scarfs around their necks to protect against the sun, snow and sand. So the neckerchief also protects the scout and at the same time serves many other purposes. So that it is always available, the Scout fastens it around his neck with a slide. Years ago, the ends of the neckerchief were tied with an overhand knot. This knot became known as the "good turn" knot and served as a constant reminder to do a daily good turn.

The neckerchief of Troop 5 is unique. Nowhere else in the Denver Area Council, nowhere else in the Scouting movement is another troop allowed to use our "pioneer design." We wear it with pride. . . and we earn the right to wear it. A Scout in Troop 5 earns the right to wear the neckerchief only after advancing to the rank of tenderfoot.

Troop 5 was very active during the 1920's. Walter Dodds, Samuel Lough, Orvil Huling, Robert Glover, Carrol Craven and E. C. Wright served as scoutmasters during this decade.

In the 1930's, the Depression laid heavy hands on youth. One of the responsibilities of the Scouting movement was to meet this depression with extra effort on youth's behalf.

President Hoover appealed to the nation and inaugurated a campaign for a \$10 million development fund. The Cub Scout program was also developed at this time. When the twenty—fifth anniversary of Boy Scouts was held in 1935, the membership exceeded one million. During the 1930's C. E. Wright, Bob Wade, Louis Hoeraff, Carrol Craven, James Grace, H.E. Johnson, and Harry Woodruff held the position of scoutmaster. The troop was full and active all the time.

During the 1940's Harry Woodruff, Thomas Allen, George Page, Fred Epps, M.B. Nagel, Richard Price, Art Krieger, and Howard Reed were our scoutmasters. During this period it became possible for Scouts in the 2nd class rank to earn merit badges. This gave Scouts a head start on their advancement toward star, life and eagle ranks. As for the troop, it was a very active organization. Dues were 5¢ per week, which the Scouts had to earn themselves. Hiking for merit badges, cooking, camping, building a flag signal tower, bridges, Indian tepee and other items were built for the annual Scout show which was held at the city auditorium. During the early 1940's the troop held its meetings at University Park School since the head custodian at the school, George Page, was also the scoutmaster for Troop 5.

The uniform also changed with the times and the long pants similar to G.I. pants as well as the overseas cap was adopted.

In 1950, a large celebration, probably attended by a number of you here today was held to recognize the 40th anniversary of Troop 5. In this church, probably in this room, the troop and friends gathered to remember their experiences in the troop. The invitation stated it cost \$1.25 for a catered dinner from Hummel's Delicatessen. A lot of effort was made to gather former troop members together to be present for the awarding of the Charter as the troop began its 5th decade.

Before we look at the 35 years from then (1950) until now, let's look at some other aspects of the Boy Scout movement.

GUIDEBOOKS / HANDBOOKS

The Boy Scouts have had a variety of books over the years beginning with one written by Lord Baden-Powell entitled *Scouting for Boys* which appeared in 1908. Baden-Powell added an element of humor to the guidebook with the introduction of Tommy the Tenderfoot. Each of Tommy's misadventures - including the error of smoking cigarettes - was underlined with a bright cautionary couplet.

In Dan Beard's *The American Boys' Handy Book*, an elaborate "art of tying knots" section included the statement, "The art of tying knots is an almost necessary adjunct to not a few recreations, especially is this true of summer sports, many of which are nautical, or in some manner connected with the water."

In Seton's, *Boy Scouts of America, A Handbook of Woodcraft, Scouting and Life-Craft*, scouts were shown how to carve recommended totem poles, how to build a wind-turned meat-roaster, how to tract large carnivores and it included sections on patriotism and citizenship.

The Scout books of today are certainly more colorful and contain much of the same information, plus a lot more.

SALUTING THE COLORS OF SCOUTING

The Eagle rank is obtained by almost 25,000 scouts each year. It has been earned by some boys who grew up to become famous. Gerald Ford was the first scout to become President of the U.S. He earned it in 1927, at the age of 14, and has remained active in Scouting ever since.

The merit badge program has helped Scouts set and attain goals for themselves throughout Scouting's history. A Scout is urged not to pitch himself against rivals but to select interest areas for his own growth. Today there are 119 merit badges available to all scouts of all ranks. Gone are Beef Production and Corn Farming and today available is Computers merit badge. The merit badge counselor is a "one-on-one arrangement in which the boy is not only judged on his performance of the requirements, but receives maximum benefit from the knowledge, skill, character, and personal interest of his counselor."

Each year Scouts can honor especially worthy members of their troop by electing them to the Order of the Arrow, also known as the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. The purpose of the Order is to promote Scout camping, and the honor is a way of recognizing those BSA campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Nobody can apply to join the Order - selection is entirely up to the members of the troop - and when a Scout is chosen, he knows it is a clear sign that he is held in the highest esteem by his fellow campers. At this time, Troop 5 has four active Arrowmen - Jesse Topping, Mark Harrell, Chris Lugo, and Barry Matchett — as well as a number of adult leaders who are Arrowmen.

Boy Scouts has its share of "famous formers". Men of all walks of life has learned the values taught in the Scouting program and have lived their lives by them.

Norman Rockwell Lends A Helping Handy

For many, the images they have of Boy Scouts is that which was painted by American Artist, Norman Rockwell. He served as the regular illustrator of Boy Scouts from 1912 until shortly before his death in the 1970's. More than 60 years and hundreds of pictures helped bring the spirit and ideals of the life of a Scout to the attention of millions. Many of his paintings are today near—classics.

Leaders of the troop.

These are two paintings of scoutmasters at work painted by Rockwell. In 1918, the scoutmaster at the campfire is offering straight talk to his troop. In the 1956 painting simply titled "Scoutmaster," Rockwell takes an unsurprising scene and creates within it a sense of magic. This is probably Rockwell's most beloved Scout painting.

Thirty-eight men have served as the scoutmaster of the Troop over its 75 year history. A good number of these men have been able to join us today. Over 60 years ago, Dr. Walter Dodds served our troop in its very early days. Bob Wade, Scoutmaster in 1930-31, has been involved in Scouting over half a century and has been awarded the silver beaver, the highest award presented to a Scouter by the Boy Scouts of America. As well as those already mentioned earlier, Troop 5 was served in the 1950's by George Cherry, Dale Prine, Don Marshall, Floyd Anderson, Norman McCray and Pasquello (Pat) DeBillis.

The 1960's scoutmasters included T. E. Stratton, James F. Hurlbut, Jim Wheeler, and John Ivey. Our present scoutmaster, Tom Noakes has served continuously since 1972, the longest tenure of any of the thirty-eighty.

We are honored and proud to have had you gentlemen serve in a leading role in our long tradition of excellence and pride. Every time we give the Troop 5 yell, we hope, no matter where you are, we hope you feel a little twitch. You and your assistants have helped make us what we are. Without volunteer leaders, scoutmasters and assistant scoutmasters, there is no troop. A special thanks also to Mr. Dick Hann, Assistant Scoutmaster, who has served long and faithfully in that position. For your dedication and help we thank you.

We only wish all of you leaders, scoutmasters and assistant scoutmasters, could I have gotten together to see each other, to share "war stories" about the troop and its boys. Please keep in touch with us. We plan to be here - in fact, we are already making plans for our 100th anniversary in 2010. Mark your calendars!

A GROWING AND SERVING

The War Years (WWII) and the Good Turn Tradition

On December 7, 1941, the United States was plunged into World War II when the Japanese Mounted a devastating bombing assault on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Troop 5 and the Boy Scouts were in the thick of things from the start. No U.S. Boy Scout participated officially in the war at first hand, but their home—front service enhanced the reputation of the BSA as a national resource for service. Nearly all those in the troop in the late 1930's and in 1940 soon joined the armed forces and by war's end in 1945 had served in the far-ranging theaters of the war.

Yesterday we received a letter from George Page, Jr., who was a member of Troop 5 during that period. I quote his letter, ". . . I was able to achieve the rank of Life Scout. As it was the year 1942 (my last year in the scouts), I didn't have the opportunity to go on for Eagle Scout, as the Navy occupied my time for the next 4 years. So much for that." (End of quote).

Troop 5's major home-front services were the collection of scrap materials, distribution of posters and pamphlets, and growing food.

In 1944, the troop was called on to collect milkweed floss as a substitute for kapok used in lifejackets.

While it was not to be found in the scrapbooks, Troop 5 very likely helped augment the nation's food supply while helping in the huge victory garden for this area which was located where the present—day parking lot at South High School is today.

Peace came at last in September 1945 -- exactly 40 years ago this month.

The Good Turn Tradition

The Good Turn Tradition of helping in a victory garden or offering assistance to a stranger lost in a fog did not end in 1945. It is very much alive today. Major helping projects are performed each year by Troop 5 members:

- Helping the Juvenile Court in 1948
- Helping get out the vote in November 1952
- The annual spring clean—up here at the church
- A forest reclamation project in the mid 70's
- Re-shingling a building at Beaver Meadow in the mid 70's
- The re-structuring of a camp trail at Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch

These are just a few examples of the recent good turns performed by Troop 5.

POST WORLD WAR II ERA

The post World War II era was a golden age for Boy Scouts of America. Millions of former GI's were marrying and starting families, and by the mid-1950's when their first sons were reaching Cub Scout age, the BSA was recording membership gains of 200,000 or more a year.

It was a time of constantly rising living standards - more single-family homes, more cars, more household appliances, more leisure time.

American families were increasingly child-centered in the 1950's, and so parental involvement in Scouting was strong. By today's standards, volunteer leaders were a dime a dozen; Troop 5 had a mother's auxiliary in addition to the regular troop committee.

Scouts were widely respected by their peers. Peer pressure pushed boys toward Scouting rather than away from it.

This era saw another important change in Scouting philosophy, that of lowering the age for entry and the development of a unified Explorer program for all scouts 14 and over.

A boy could now enter Boy Scouts at age 11 and all boys in Scouting 14 and over were considered Explorers. Post 5 was established here at University Park Church and it flourished for a number of years. After nearly a decade of the Explorer experience, Post 5 was disbanded and the older boys once again became members of Troop 5, and mostly served as the senior patrol - the Leadership Corps.

While the 1950's in Scouting, was an exciting and very growth-oriented era, by the end of the decade the baby boomer's effects were spent. Boys were no longer gravitating naturally to Scouting as a rite of passage toward adulthood. Little League baseball and other junior sports programs were beginning to affect the rate at which boys joined scouting.

The halcyon days were over for Boys Scouts of America and Troop 5, as they were for other mainline organizations in American life.

OFF TO HIGH ADVENTURE

Living off the land

For older boys, an excellent alternative to the local council summer camp - Camp Tahosa or more recently Camp Chris Dobbins at Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch, Philmont Scout Ranch at Cimarron, New Mexico. The 137,000 acres of wild country, much of which was given to the Boy Scouts in 1938 by Waite Phillips (the Tulsa, Oklahoma oil man), offers backpacking, horse riding, mountain climbing and other outdoor adventures for scouts from all parts of the nation. On numerous occasions, Troop 5 has sent a contingent. Plans are tentative at this time, but there could very well be a Troop 5 trip to Philmont in the next two years.

A SCOUTING IN-THE SPACE AGE

In July 1969, as 35,000 Scouts were assembled at the 7th National Jamboree in Idaho, most Americans were glued to their TV's to witness an impending historic event. All eyes were on Apollo II spaceship parked on the moon. The world then heard and saw the event - Neil Armstrong, American astronaut, stepped out on the moon. The world will long remember Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin for what they did, that of putting the first footprints on a celestial body other than earth. The scouts will always remember them as Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong, and Life Scout Buzz Aldrin. Those footprints on the moon were actually "scout prints." Those first footprints were made by two men trained in the Boy Scout Oath, the Boy Scout Law and in Scouting skills. The Astronauts then radioed back to earth that they had succeeded and were safely returning to their space craft. They also radioed the Scout Jamboree in Idaho, U.S.A. their greetings. Scouting had entered the space age.

But, was Scouting in tune with the times?

Bill Hillcourt, retired National Director of Scoutcraft, when asked this question responded, ". . . Scouting has never been in tune with the times. Even in 1908 it was idiotic to suggest that you should go out and do camping because everybody knew that the night air was bad for you - you might get malaria, for heaven's sake. The idea of cooking your meal over an open fire when your mother at home was perfectly willing to cook your meal; the idea of sitting around a campfire when you had a perfectly good living room at home - it was exactly because it was idiotic and out of tune with the times that made Scouting appealing. Perhaps every human being enjoys playing Tarzan and Robinson Crusoe a little.

The beginning of the Space Age of Scouting was also a time for re-examination. Was the Scouting program in touch with city boys, minority boys? Was Scouting developing away from the skills needed by boys as they developed toward maturity in the last quarter of the 20th century; The continuing civil rights revolution and its off-shoots - the women's movement, equal rights and access for Hispanics, American Indians, handicapped and other minority populations - raised challenges to the cherished beliefs, attitudes and practices of the Boy Scouts. American family life was changing, single parent families and those where both mother and father worked outside the home became commonplace.

A national study conducted for the Boy Scouts of America indicated, ". . . Scouting is too organized . . . Scouting is kind of out of date." A need for significant change was a high priority.

Not only was the label "Boy Scouts" replaced by "Scouting USA", but an overhaul aimed at making Scouting flexible enough to meet the needs and desires of boys everywhere - the inner city, the suburbs, rural, rich, poor, white and blacks - was implemented.

A drastic revision of the advancement plan, with greater emphasis on decision-making and less on outdoor skills came into being. Gone was tracking and stalking in the woods, signaling, lashing, pioneering. These had been replaced by advice on drug abuse, first aid for rat bites, and how to take a hike in the city. The Skill Award program was introduced along with the 12 beltloops by which the boys are recognized for achieving them.

The Scoutmaster's role became one more of a counselor and guide than that of expert in scoutcraft and of all things outdoors. The Scoutmaster's task was to help Scouts assess their own strengths and weaknesses and to set new goals for themselves, both in Scouting and in everyday life. Hundreds of

disaffected Scoutmasters dropped out, and the number of Boy Scouts declined precipitously in the years following the introduction of the revised program.

Scouters, both volunteer and professional, urged and protested that the Boy Scout program had strayed too far from its origins.

This brought about a reversal of course. In 1978, advancement requirements were changed again to make outdoor skills mandatory; Scouts would again have to earn the hiking, first aid, camping, and cooking skill awards for first class.

In 1979, the revised Scout Handbook was scrapped. It was replaced by The Official Boy Scout Handbook. Back was signaling, mapping skills, tracking and stalking, and other basic skills practiced by Boy Scouts since 1910.

Boy Scout's old emphasis on camping and life in the woods and field was back in force. A generally enthusiastic reception has been given to the revised – revised program. It is seen as more flexible and more relevant to inner-city boys.

Boy Scouts has been also making progress in serving handicapped boys. Special troops and literature are now available, and all Scouts may earn "Handicapped Awareness" merit badge.

Troop 5 never fully implemented the revised program. It held on to the outdoor emphasis. While the troop suffered membership loss, it continued to be a viable unit throughout the entire effort at relevance. We're glad to be back, today, with the more traditional program.

JAMBOREES -- SCOUTING SHOWCASE

The quarter century after World War II saw the development of national Jamborees into extravaganzas of Scouting. While the first National Jamboree had been a success when it was held in Washington, D.C. in 1937, by the 1960 Jamboree, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Scouting, and held in Colorado Springs, nearly 56,000 Scouts attended. That compares to half that number attending this year's event held in July near Fredricksberg, Virginia. Although only a small percent of Scouts are able to attend a Jamboree, the excitement of preparation and the spectacular scope of the encampments themselves breathes renewed vigor into the whole organization.

Troop 5 has been represented at almost every National Jamboree including Phil Anderson attending the 1950 event at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and Barry Matchett the 1985 event at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia.

1985 AND BEYOND

Not long ago, Sanford N. McDonnell, President of Boy Scouts of America, was asked why he was still in Scouting, even though his son - now in his thirties - was the original reason he joined. He responded as follows, (I quote) ". . . I'm still active because what Scouting is all about is character-building that helps youngsters find the values they need to grow up to be good men. Unfortunately, character and values are sometimes considered irrelevant in today's world. But not in my world, for character and values are the heart of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. They always have been - and I pray to God - they always will be." (End of quote)

Thanks to all of you who helped make the first 75 years of Troop 5 what it has meant to all of us.

May those of us who enjoying the benefits of your hard work be worthy of your continuing trust and support.

Thanks for the memories.

May we all get together again, soon!

(Tape of Troop 5 members voices, "All Together Again")