

Narrative by: Eagle Scout Jim Barnes

Attached are a few notes about the early history of Troop 47.

1957

Rev. Wright, former Elizabeth Presbyterian church, minister started the Troop in the late fall of 1957. My uncle, Cyrus Barnes, was an assistant Scout Master. The meetings were held at the church building and in Rev. Wright's home (Manse) adjacent to the church.

1958

I joined the Troop in the spring of 1958 when I turned eleven. The Troop went to Tunnel Mill Scout Camp in Charlestown for the first time that summer. Because we were the new Troop, we were assigned to the most remote camp site. It was probably a half mile walk to the mess hall. I believe Rev. Wright left in late 1958. My uncle filled in for a short time until Jim Johnson took over in early 1959.

1959

Jim Johnson was Scout Master for only a couple of years. He left Elizabeth to take a position with the BSA national organization in late 1960.

During summer camp I completed my first merit badge in swimming.

Jim was an amateur spelunker. He took the entire Troop to Boone's cave for an outing. At the time the cave entrance was a hole in the ground about a quarter mile hike off the road with no stairs or electric lights only ropes and flash lights. We waded and crawled through 50° water all afternoon to explore the cavern.

1960

Rev. Anguer was the minister for the Elizabeth Methodist church and an assistant Scout Master. Rev. Anguer moved to Elizabeth in 1960 and became active in the Troop. He loved to camp but his two teenage daughters did not enjoy the activity.

The Troop attended Tunnel Mill Scout Camp in June of 1960. On Wednesday evening there was a heavy rain storm. We were awakened by Camp staff early Thursday morning and told to evacuate because of a flash flood. The creek had risen to within two feet of the bottom of the bridge. At that time the water front (swimming area) was about 100 yards down stream from the bridge and everything was lost.

David Barnes and I returned to Tunnel Mill in August for a second week to finish the lifesaving and rowing merit badges we had begun in June. This was to stay on track for Eagle.

Another gentleman who was involved with the troop was Sox Best. He was a former Army cook and enjoyed camping and fishing. In August he took part of the Troop on a

week long camping trip to the area adjacent to Boone's Cave. During the week we completed the requirements for the camping and cooking merit badges. We also snuck off and went cave exploring.

1961

Gene Salisbury then became Scout Master in 1961 and remained until after I left the organization.

Camping was a major activity for the Troop. We camped once a month year around unless there was snow on the ground. The Boy Scout owned land in Dogwood, Indiana was the most frequent location of these outings.

The annual Troop visit to Tunnel Mill was made more pleasant because Pioneer Village was our camp site for the week. At the time this was the most sought after site because it was closest to the mess hall and the swimming hole.

During summer camp David Barnes and I became the first two Troop 47 members to be inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

George Rogers Clark Council sponsored a trip to Philmont that summer and David and I attended with thirty other boys from around the area. During the bus trip out and back we stayed at air force and army bases eating and sleeping free. The \$90 fee for Philmont and six or eight lunches and gas money was the extent of the cost.

My father and uncle (Douglas & Cyrus Barnes) were both very active in the Troop acting as Assistant Scout Masters. They attended all camping trips and each spent a day or two at summer camp every year. They attended separately because they could not be away from work at the same time.

1962

1962 was significant for several reasons. David Barnes and I made Eagle. On the last day of summer camp there was always a water polo tournament for all the Troops. Troop 47 won the tournament that year through the use of a little deception (i.e. passing under water).

Troop 47 sponsored a trip to Region 7 Canoe Base in Northern Wisconsin in 1962. That's the photo David sent you. David and I were elected by the Troop to be Voyagers for the canoe trip. We went to Canoe Base a week early to receive training to be passed on the Troop.

In 1962 Harrison County sponsored the first annual County wide Boy Scout swim meet. Troop 47 won the event which caused some problems with the Corydon Troop leadership because they expected to win. I will forward a photo of the team with the trophy.

1963

I did not attend summer camp in 63. However, Dad and I did drive up to Tunnel Mill and spent a couple of days with the Troop.

Besides the normal camping trips David and I spent a great deal of time getting ready for the council sponsored trip to Europe.

This was the last year that I had any significant participation with the Troop. Girls, Cars and Work all seemed more important.