

# Building a Legacy



## A History of Wilderness Camp

**1961 to 1973**

**Creve Coeur Council, BSA**

## INTRODUCTION

Wilderness Camp holds a special place in my heart. I grew up at Wilderness Camp. I learned most all my Scout skills and a lot of life skills there. I was a wide-eyed 11-year-old Second Class Scout when we set up camp in Arrowhead campsite on a hot July afternoon, in 1966 – my first year as a Boy Scout. The camp was only a half hour from my house, but it seemed like I was stepping back in time into a true wilderness! No electricity. No TV. No modern conveniences. I was excited about this new adventure! The week ahead seemed a bit daunting, but I was anxious to begin!

I learned to swim in the lake. I learned to cook in a campsite. I learned how to (and how not to) live alongside others for an extended period of time. I learned my limitations. I also learned my ability to achieve more than I thought possible. I learned to identify trees, plants, stars, and animal tracks. I learned pioneering and woodcraft skills. I learned to paddle a canoe and row a boat. I learned to find my way with map and compass. I learned to follow . . . and I learned to lead.

I was a camper there for at least a week every summer through 1970, and in 1971, I landed my first real job as a Wilderness Camp staff member. I returned as a camp staff member for 1972 and part of 1973. I continued to return to camp for one or two weeks every year thereafter, until about 1981, when I was married and my son was born. Family and career kept me from summer camp for several years, but I still managed to come out to Ingersoll a few times every year to hike the trails, hunt morels in the spring, or spend a night or two at an OA event or camporee. When my son became a Scout, I started the cycle over again, spending a week at camp each summer.

My experiences as a Scout at Wilderness Camp were not unique. Thousands of other Scouts had the same experiences as I, and thousands more after Wilderness Camp became Ingersoll Scout Reservation, in 1974. Today's Scouts benefit greatly from the legacy left them by the people who envisioned Wilderness Camp, who worked tirelessly to make the vision become a reality, and then continued to build the program and enhance the facilities to provide one of the highest quality outdoor programs available anywhere in the Midwest.

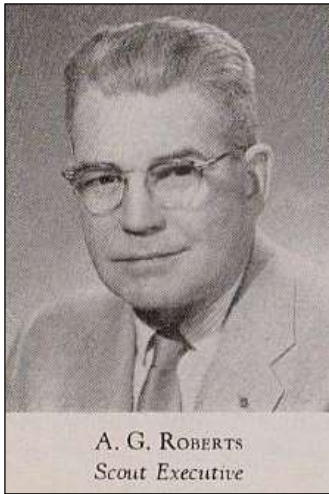
In 2025, Ingersoll Scout Reservation will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – nine years as Wilderness Camp and another 51 years as ISR. A lot has changed since that first year of camp in 1965. ISR has a rich history, which is unknown to many. This historical work tells the story of how Wilderness Camp was built and developed, and brings to life some of the key people who made it all happen. In writing this account, I found numerous sources that document the who, what, when, where, and why of the camp's development, from its conception in 1961, until the name changed to W. P. Ingersoll Scout Reservation in 1974. Those sources are from written records, written historical accountings, newspaper articles, and oral recollections from the people who were there – including myself. The men who envisioned Wilderness Camp and made it a reality left a lasting legacy for Scouts to enjoy well into the future. So, before the story of that legacy is lost to the ages, I gathered all the information I could find to tell the story of the camp's history. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it. And I hope you also get to know a little bit about the people who built Wilderness Camp . . . and the place we now call Ingersoll Scout Reservation.



*Author, Mike Stobaugh -1971*

## In the Beginning . . . Vision of a New Camp

Alfred G. (Al) Roberts became the Scout Executive of Creve Coeur Council in 1957, and continued as the Council Scout Executive with the formation of the William D. Boyce Council in 1973, until his retirement in 1977. Al (or A. G., as he was widely known) implemented many upgrades at Camp Wokanda and drove the building of a new Scout Office (the current Service Center) in his early years, but also saw the need for a new camp in Creve Coeur Council – a camp that provided troops with facilities and program offerings designed to be a truly “wilderness” type of Scout camping experience. The new camp would be unlike Camp Wokanda, with its dining hall, swimming pool, and “Scout-centered” program geared mostly for earning merit badges and rank advancements, which was typical of most Boy Scout summer camps. “Wilderness Camp” would offer a “Troop-centered” program, with patrols camping and cooking separately within the troop site, with swimming and boating on a lake, and all of this in a rugged and remote environment. This camp would give Scouts a week’s worth of opportunities to fully develop and hone their Scout outdoor skills.



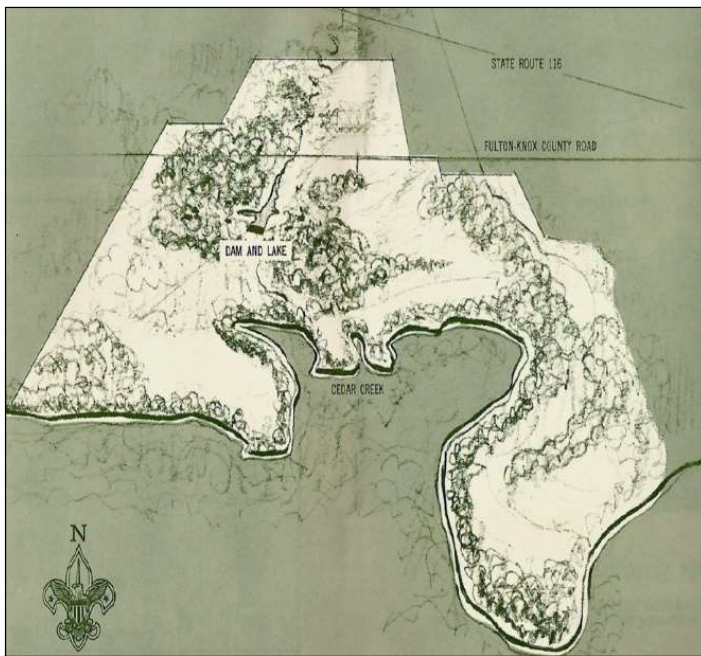
Al envisioned a Wilderness Camp where boys' camping and survival skills would truly be tested. “It should be far enough away from town that it be a little isolated and yet close enough to be reached in less than an hour so daily and weekend usage are practical. He wanted the camp to have a lake for fishing, swimming, and boating, access to a creek or river for canoe trips, and enough land that campsites had some semblance of privacy and community within themselves. He also hoped that it would be “wild” enough that deer and other animals could roam freely.”<sup>1</sup>

By 1963, Camp Wokanda was firmly established and recognized as a premier summer camp in the region. But Wokanda was being hemmed in by the expansion of Peoria, suburban sprawl, and continued expansion of the Caterpillar Mossville plant. Wokanda had no room for growth and land prices were high. Wokanda was filled with Scouts every summer and troops were clamoring for more campsites and expanded programs. The boating and canoeing program at Wokanda was difficult, at best. Transporting Scouts back and forth to a landing along the Illinois River had become increasingly difficult over the years due to commercial and residential developments along the river. Increased river traffic was also a safety concern, and occasional flooding prevented the use of the river landing for weeks, from time to time. In 1963, the council camping committee even considered eliminating canoeing from the Wokanda summer camp program due to the lack of facilities and because of safety concerns.<sup>2</sup> (This position changed in a few years when Davis Lake was constructed at Wokanda, in the early 1970s.)

As early as 1961, Al Roberts began looking for property within the Creve Coeur Council boundaries which would be suitable for his vision of a wilderness-type camp. He enlisted the help of William (Bill) Littell, who was Spoon River District Charman at the time and also a member of the Council Camp Committee. Bill lived in London Mills and knew the area and the people. In 1962, Bill told Al about several pieces of property that had recently become available, a few miles west of London Mills. “The land's rolling hills, valleys, and extensive natural woodlands were made even more attractive by the fact that Cedar Creek, which fed into the Spoon River, of Edgar Lee Masters' fame, ran right through the property. Parts of the land had been farmed for many years, but the vast majority of the 600+ acres was truly a “wilderness.” Not only was wildlife plentiful, there was even a large den of beavers that consistently built dams on Cedar Creek.”<sup>1</sup>



William “Bill” Littell



Artist's conception of Wilderness Camp layout, from the 1963 Capital Campaign brochure.

In early 1963, these pieces of farm property were identified as the target for the camp. With the blessing of the council Camp Committee, Al contacted National Council and requested their scout camp specialist inspect the properties, which he rated as highly favorable.<sup>3</sup> Bill knew the owners of the desired properties and told Al he could make the acquisitions happen, but the council lacked the funds to purchase them. Bill Littell told Al that he knew someone, who knew someone that might be able to help. In early 1963, Bill Littell got Al Roberts introduced to William P. Ingersoll through a common acquaintance – Russ Plank. Mr. Plank and Mr. Ingersoll had been friends for years and frequently spoke over short-wave radio. Mr. Ingersoll piloted his own plane and loved excursions to see Mr. Plank in the north woods.<sup>1</sup>

Soon afterward, Al Roberts cautiously approached Mr. Ingersoll about the funding to

purchase the property, which spanned the Fulton and Knox County line not far from Mr. Ingersoll's home, in Canton. After Al explained the council's need for the new camp, its wilderness-like focus, and the new troop-centered summer camp philosophy, Mr. Ingersoll said he would seriously consider the proposal, but wanted time to think about what he wanted to do. The original proposal was for 600 acres, which could be purchased at \$100.00 per acre - for a total of \$60,000.00. Now, this was a very large sum for the times. After he did some investigating into the validity of the project and the character of Al Roberts (the man who would be spending the money), William Ingersoll agreed to completely fund the purchase of the camp property, with the stipulation that his donation remain anonymous. And so, the initial pieces of camp property, totaling 360 acres, were purchased in early 1963 from seven individuals.<sup>4</sup> Another 156 acres (the Cedar Dell Farm property) was purchased in 1964, bringing the total to 516 acres. Along with the Cedar Dell Farm property came a fairly new ranch-style brick home on Cedar Creek.

Dale Roberts' (Al's son) written historical recollections of Ingersoll Scout Reservation mentioned this brick home and confirmed the "ghost stories" Scouts had heard for years at camp - of the woman who hung herself in the basement of that house. Dale wrote, "The house was so remotely located that the owner's wife had become despondent from the isolation and committed suicide in the house."<sup>1</sup> Understandably, the owner wanted to leave the house and its memories behind, prompting the sale. (The brick home was moved to the camp entrance in 1974, and now serves as the home for the Camp Ranger/Property Manager.)



Al Roberts stands in the future lake bottom in early 1963, prior to any camp and lake development. The creek in this photo (at the north end of the present lake) was dammed up further downstream to form the lake, along with several springs. (Photo by Paul McKim)

wilderness camp construction			
Lake and Dam .....		\$30,000	
Troop Unit Equipment			
14 - 2 boy tents @ \$38 .....	\$ 532.00		
3 - 2 man tents @ \$38 .....	114.00		
4 - dining flies @ \$20 .....	80.00		
4 - patrol tables @ \$35 .....	140.00		
4 cook sets @ \$25 .....	100.00		
4 patrol equipment chests @ \$20 .....	80.00		
28 air mattresses @ \$10 .....	280.00		
1 washstand & latrine .....	300.00		
Total .....	\$ 1,626.00		
10 units @ \$1,626 .....		\$16,260	
Water Supply			
Well drilling .....	2,000.00		
Well housing .....	500.00		
Storage Tank (12,000 gal.) .....	8,000.00		
Piping through camp .....	5,000.00		
Pump (6" Cent.) .....	1,200.00		
Total .....	\$16,700.00	\$16,700	
Waterfront			
Boathouse - Docks .....	3,000.00		
Swim Pier - Beach .....	4,000.00		
(Tower, diving board, sand, fences)			
Rowboats - 10 @ \$125 .....	1,250.00		
Canoes (24 @ \$200) .....	4,800.00		
Total .....	\$13,050.00	\$13,050	
Administration			
Headquarters Bldg. ....	5,000.00		
Supply Center .....	5,000.00		
Camp Director's Cabin .....	5,000.00		
Health Lodge .....	5,000.00		
Staff quarters .....	2,000.00		
Central Shower .....	4,000.00		
Walk-in Refrigerator .....	3,000.00		
2 central latrines @ \$400 each .....	800.00		
Total .....	\$29,800.00	\$29,800	
Maintenance			
Year-round caretaker cabin .....	8,000.00		
Maintenance Shop & garage .....	2,000.00		
Truck .....	2,500.00		
Tractor .....	2,500.00		
Total .....	\$15,000.00	\$15,000	
Miscellaneous			
Craft and Indian Center .....	1,000.00		
Electric Power .....	200.00		
Road Development .....	3,000.00		
Total .....	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200	

The projected costs for Wilderness Camp construction are shown above - from the 1963 Capital Campaign brochure.

## Making the Vision a Reality

Purchasing the property was the first step. Step 2: The camp must be developed! Existing roads needed to be improved and extended. Old, unwanted farm buildings had to be demolished and new camp structures had to be built (commissary, office, washstands, health lodge, etc). Old wells and cisterns had to be located and filled and many fences removed. A reliable drinking water well had to be dug on the west side of camp and a pressurized water system needed to be designed and installed.

A dam needed to be built, the lake bed cleared and dug out, and the swimming and boating areas developed. Electricity had to be extended, water and septic systems developed, and camping and maintenance equipment purchased. Campsites had to be cleared and developed, which required the construction of latrines and wash stands, as well as water lines to each campsite for drinking and sanitation. All this development would cost a lot of money that Creve Coeur Council did not have. Accordingly, in early 1963 the council launched a capital campaign to raise funds for improvements to Camp Wokanda and also for providing the funds needed to build the proposed Wilderness Camp infrastructure and develop the program areas.

No historical data hunting turned up the amount of money that was actually raised, but the funds were

evidently sufficient to start construction of the camp in the summer of 1963. In August of 1963, a contract was signed for the construction of the camp with the Ed Williams Construction Company, in Trivoli, IL.<sup>4</sup> Camp Committee Chairman, Charles E. "Red" Carter, who owned Associated Engineers, Inc, in Peoria, provided the designing and engineering for the camp to BSA standards. They, in turn, contracted local companies for development, such as road building, lake construction, buildings, and a water system.

In September of 1963, the Marine Reserves from Galesburg arrived at the new Wilderness Camp property with bulldozers and other heavy equipment and carved out the bottom of the (yet to be named) lake<sup>4</sup>. The entire valley was heavily wooded, so all the trees were felled, harvested, and the tops piled for burning. Al Roberts went to the volunteer well and recruited several troops to come out to the new property to burn all the downed trees and brush, and to put the finishing touches on brush clearing around the lake perimeter.<sup>5</sup> Paul McKim, then a young Scoutmaster for Peoria Troop 31, took extensive photos of the lake development when he brought his troop out to camp for several weekends of service work - clearing brush and burning it in the lake bed. As a young engineer at Cat, he took many photos of the Cat equipment at work. (A few of his photos are shown on the next page.) About that same time, Ed Williams Construction company began carving out campsites, extending camp roads, and building the dam. (The dirt used to build the dam was borrowed from the hillside that used to extend southwest from the south ridge lake overlook, below the Lake Roberts dedication rock. That "borrow" site is now the present-day Tomahawk campsite.)



Al Roberts stands in the bottom of the new lake bed during the clearing and burning of brush and trees, in 1963. Al is standing in the future swimming area and is pointing up toward the north end of the lake. In January 1965, the council announced it was naming the lake after Al Roberts, in commemoration of his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a professional Scouter.

The roadway seen at Al's fingertip is County Line Road, which used to connect the north ridge with the east side of camp. The road was covered by the lake when it filled with water.

Al Roberts (tan hat at right) talks with the Scouts and Scouters of Troop 31, Peoria, IL, as they eat lunch during a service day in 1963. This was Paul McKim's troop, which came out on several weekends to clear brush around the lake and burn the brush and the tree tops in the lake bottom.



The heavy equipment of the Ed Williams Construction Company is working to construct the earthen dam that spans the valley. This view is from the present-day Tomahawk campsite, where all the dirt was borrowed to build the dam. The hill at the left used to extend into the borrow site, down to Cedar Creek.

*Photos by Paul McKim - 1963*

By the late fall of 1963, the lake bed and perimeter were cleared of trees and brush, with the large oak and hickory logs sold to local lumber mills. The earthen dam was completed, with the help of the Balagna House Moving Co, from Farmington, which was hired to move the large, heavy concrete spillway tubes into place during various stages of dam construction. (In 1974, Balagna House Movers would again be hired to move the brick home from its original location at Cedar Dell Farm, to a prepared basement at the site of the current Camp Ranger's home.<sup>6</sup>) Galvanized steel pipes were sunk and anchored into the lake



Lake Roberts – January 1964. (Photo by Paul McKim)

bottom (seen at right). These pipes were the lower support posts for the F-shaped swimming dock. Instead of sand, several hundred tons of pea gravel were dumped and spread in the beginner and non-swimmer areas, in order to create a swimming beach. During the winter of 1963-64, the stream at the north end of the lake, plus several natural springs in the valley, began to fill the lake with water.

Jim Sampson recalled, "The first building to go up was actually a donation from Caterpillar Tractor Company. It was built from two large sheds moved from the Peoria Technical Center. They were assembled and placed on a prepared foundation and fashioned into the camp commissary (Country Store), a quartermaster, and a trading post for the troops that would come to camp." (This work was performed by William "Bill" Soddy, a Council Camp Committee member who was a carpenter and who owned a construction business in Peoria. He used a crew of men to build the commissary/trading post from the two sheds donated by Caterpillar). Bill Soddy's men also built the wooden sections for the docks at the waterfront.

Caterpillar Tractor Co. also donated another large storage shed, which was located near the main flag pole, as well as a prototype D4 bulldozer, which the camp used for many years to maintain roads, clear Cedar Creek trail, and bury garbage on-site. A prototype industrial tractor, with hydraulic end loader, was donated by the International Harvester Co., in Canton, IL.<sup>6</sup>

Harlan "Hike" Johnson was the longtime Scoutmaster of Troop 79, in Farmington, IL. Hike was the owner of the H L Johnson Plumbing and Heating Co there. Hike was a dedicated Scouter and supporter of the camp in its early years and was the plumbing contractor for all the original plumbing and water lines throughout the camp prior to its opening, in 1965. Hike continued to volunteer his services for camp maintenance for many years, as well as serve as the first Adviser for the Order of the Arrow ceremonies at Wilderness Camp.<sup>6</sup>



"The second building constructed at the camp was a four-room log house donated by the widow of a Colonel, Dr. Charles DeRevey. Mrs. DeRevey wanted to build a monument to her husband. It was known as the DeRevey Health Lodge and was designed to be the camp infirmary, with a large living room and stone fireplace, a kitchen, bathroom, and two bedrooms. The cost at the time was \$15,000 and I remember Pop (Al Roberts) actually feeling that it was a bit too grand for its purpose or for its setting, but Mrs. DeRevey was most insistent that it be as nice as possible."<sup>1</sup>

## Defining the Wilderness Camp Program Philosophy - 1963

Al Robert's vision for a camp with a Troop-Centered program required a camp program philosophy completely different than that used for decades at Camp Wokanda and other standard "dining hall style" camps that were prevalent around the country at the time. In the December 1963 Camp Committee meeting minutes, the Wilderness Camp camp program philosophy was spelled out in detail, re-created below.<sup>2</sup>

- The camp is fundamentally a training ground.
- The entire nomenclature and operation of the troop is preserved. The sole function of the Camp Staff members is to assist the Scoutmaster and the troop in having a successful experience at camp. Thus, the Waterfront Director becomes a "helper" to the Scoutmaster, offering the waterfront and all its equipment to the unit for that unit's special aquatic needs. Training of the Scoutmaster and his staff is the prime objective of the Camp Staff members, who retain a background position at all times. Pre-camp training of all unit leaders and unit staffs thus becomes of utmost importance.

Also in those minutes was the "1965 Camp Plan." The highlights of the camp plan follow:

- **High Quality Program:** Wilderness Camp must be launched on a high-quality basis with sufficient facilities available to ensure a full, well-rounded program operated on a true Scout Camping basis.
- **Requirements For Participation:** Requirements for participating in the "1965 Pioneer Wilderness Program" shall be simply stated and aimed at the unit which by quality of previous unit performance will adapt well to the "pilot" aspect of camp, as well as to the new thinking and methods. (To the recollection of several Scouters from the 1965 summer camp, no qualifications were ever stipulated, other than be prepared for a rugged, backwoods experience.)
- **Basis For Application:** Applications will be accepted from qualified units with emphasis on the theme "Only the Qualified may attend." Council to work toward a position of units eagerly asking for space. To this end a breakdown of district allotments might be in order. (This speaks to their vision of Wilderness Camp being treated in much the same way as national High Adventure experiences, but never manifested itself.)
- **Food Supplies:** The council will operate a Country Store with adequate refrigeration. Food may be purchased at the Country Store or may be brought from home. In any case, menus must be submitted for approval in pre-camp training. Sample menus to be mailed to those units registered for camp.
- **Troop Campsites Available:** Six campsites will be available for 1965 camping. Thus, a total of 24 units may be accommodated during a four-week period. A seventh site may be in the planning, to be pressed into action if necessary.
- **Cooking Equipment:** Units adequately outfitted with good cooking equipment may bring such equipment for use at the camp. The Camp Supply center will have available a supply of standard cooking equipment which can be rented. It is understood that units some or all needed equipment upon arrival at Camp must rent accordingly. This will depend on complete proposed menus. A patrol unit for cooking will rent for \$6.00 per week.
- **Wilderness Camp Periods:** It is contemplated that Wilderness Camp be operated for four succeeding, one-week periods beginning July 4 and ending July 31 (1965). Units to enter camp on Sunday afternoon and leave the following Saturday afternoon.
- **Meals:** All meals eaten by campers will be prepared in units by the campers. They will be under the supervision of the Scoutmaster.

- **Tentage:** Units owning adequate tentage may use their own. However, the tentage and dining flies, etc., must conform to a basic requirement to be allowed. The two-man tent is considered the best all-around unit, combining ease of handling and transporting, training for the boy, and good health practices. For these reasons they will be the required unit of tentage. A minimum of 30 square footage is required in each tent.
- **Cots:** Cots will not be used by Scouts except through special permission for health reasons. (Leader tents may be 7X9 with canvas cots.)
- **Costs:** Cost per tent will be \$\_\_\_\_\_. (Cost not determined yet). A base fee of \$5.00 per Scout Camper will be charged. This will cover the costs of overhead camp operations (Staff, gas, power, daily maintenance items, truck, etc.) No food, cooking equipment, or tentage is included in this fee.
- **Staff:** Staff for Wilderness Camp is looked upon as “helpers of units.” To guard against “taking over” the unit leader’s job, it will necessarily be at a minimum. The first year (1965) with four units in camp each week it will consist of the following:
  - **Camp Director** – general program
  - **Program counsellors:**
    - **Water Front** – Director and 2 assistants (all boating, fishing general aquatics)
    - **Activities** – 1 counsellor each for nature, field sports, hiking and cooking
  - **Supply Center Manager** – Food and supply issue.
    - **1 Assistant** – Trading Post, etc

Based on a \$50.00 per week average salary per staff man and 100 campers in attendance, a base fee of \$5.00 per week would be necessary as shown below:

<b>Expenses:</b>	Staff Salaries	\$300.00
	Staff food	75.00
	Soc. Sec.	25.00
	Gen Overhead	20.00
	Camper Ins.	<u>50.00</u>
		\$500.00
<b>Income:</b>	100 boys @ \$5.00	= \$500.00

For the most part, the committee’s proposal was adopted, with the exception of the Supply Center Manager, who ultimately had no Trading Post assistant in 1965. The supply center (commissary) manager filled both positions. The income and expenses figures look like paltry sums today, but were appropriate for the times. (My first year of camp staff, in 1971, I was paid \$50 for the five weeks of camp, plus staff week.<sup>6</sup>)

#### The Country Store

This building was constructed from two sheds donated by the Caterpillar Tractor Co. Technical Center. They were assembled and finished onsite. The left end was the camp Trading Post, the center section was the Country Store (commissary), and the right end served as the camp’s quartermaster. Food was delivered to each campsite from 1965 through 1971. Beginning in 1972, each patrol sent two “Grub Hustlers” to retrieve food supplies and ice, then carry them back to their campsites in specially built pack frames.



## 1964 - Development Continues and First Organized Scout Camping

Adjacent to the present-day staff shower house (near DeRevey) was a large, green water holding tank, which provided the gravity powered water pressure for the camp drinking water system. The tank was approximately 15 feet tall and about 10 feet in diameter. (The concrete pad is still there.) The shower house was not built until 1966. In 1965, troops fashioned their own shower facilities by connecting garden hoses to the water hydrants in their campsites.<sup>5</sup> There were no hot showers for campers in 1965. That was true wilderness camping! (And of course, there were no females at camp in those days.)

The original drinking water well was dug by a Pekin, IL company.<sup>3</sup> The electric well pump was located beside the holding tank and had to be manually started to fill the tank each evening. The tank had an open top, so the pump was run until water spilled over the sides, to skim off leaves, sticks and other debris which nature may have deposited over 24 hours. Each fall the tank was drained for the winter. Before it was refilled in the spring for the next camping season, the tank was cleaned of sediment and debris, via a small access door in the tank wall, near the bottom.<sup>6</sup>

The well was fairly shallow and provided an ample supply of water, but contained a lot of naturally occurring sulfur gas that gave the water a smell and taste similar to rotten eggs. It was not popular, to say the least, but it was all there was.

Most troops learned to fill large, open containers each evening, and by morning most of the foul smell had dissipated, but was still not particularly tasty. Each evening, in 1966, (my) Troop 79 filled two 50-gallon US Army lister bags that were suspended from tripods. That water was only to be used for drinking and cooking. The Pillsbury “Goofy Grape” drink mix from the commissary was the worst! Loudmouth Lime was the only drink mix that would mask the taste. And even after using Irish Spring soap when showering, the rotten egg smell still lingered, causing some Scouts to question the need for showering.<sup>6</sup>

In the spring of 1964, Spoon River District held its Cub Scout Field Day at Wilderness Camp. A well with an electric powered water pump was located at an old farmstead and stables on the east side of the camp (just below the present-day Horseshoe Bend outpost building, which was previously a hog barn). As a Cub Scout in Farmington, I remember hiking to the dam to see the new lake, which was nearly filled by then.<sup>7</sup>



Jubilee District Fall Camporee encampment, October, 1964 - East side of camp, above Horseshoe Bend. (Photos by Paul McKim)



The first known organized Scout camping at Wilderness Camp occurred in October, 1964, when Jubilee District (Peoria) held its 1964 Fall Camporee on the east side of the camp. Parking was just inside the east gate, in a pasture along County Line Road, at the top of the present-day Boot Hill. Troops backpacked a half-mile to the large, level field for camping, located above the present-day Horseshoe Bend outpost. Wide games and activities were scattered around the new property so everyone could see and explore the new camp!<sup>5</sup>

Jim Sampson, the first Wilderness Camp Director, was also the Assistant Scout Executive and Director of Camping and Activities for Creve Coeur Council. Jim was assigned to oversee the day-to-day development of the camp and its program, beginning in 1964. In his written accounting, Jim recalled, “I organized and supervised a big crew of Order of the Arrow men and boys in the construction of the original campfire area. It was on a slope west of the commissary and health lodge. We had a supply of old telephone poles and boards delivered. Then with post hole diggers and carpentry tools, we put it together in one day.”

Later, Jim recalled, “Closer to the first year of camp in 1965, I got permission to name the six campsites, using pioneer names, in keeping with the “wilderness” camp theme. These were Conestoga, Buckskin, Doublebit, Gunflint, Powderhorn, and Diamond Hitch\*. Sometime before camp opened, I spent a full week spraying the campsites and some other areas for poison ivy. The campsites were just loaded with the stuff. Mounted on a platform attached to the camp tractor was a 55-gallon barrel filled with water and ivy killer concentrate that was connected to a water pump and hoses. The clothes I wore when spraying went directly into the washing machine! After the poison ivy died, I again used the tractor to mow the campsites. I remember carrying a chain saw to cut off tree stumps low enough to avoid breaking the mower blades.”

*\* There is a discrepancy between Jim Sampson’s memory of when Arrowhead campsite was available for camping (in 1966) and the memories of two 1965 campers I interviewed, who say they camped in Arrowhead in 1965.*

#### **A. G. “Al” Roberts**

Alfred G. Roberts was born on January 4, 1913, in Liverpool, England. He served as the Creve Coeur Council Scout Executive from the fall of 1957 to 1973. He then served as Scout Executive of the W. D. Boyce Council, from its formation in 1973 until his retirement in 1977. Al passed away on August 19, 1994, at the age 81, and is buried in Swan Lake Memory Gardens, in Peoria, Il.

Al Robert’s son, Dale wrote this, “When my father first came to Peoria in the fall of 1957, he immediately noticed two glaring needs the Creve Coeur Council had. First, their offices were totally inadequate. Second, their primary camp, Camp Wokanda, was small, out of date, and far too “civilized” to give Scouts a challenging camp experience. It had no lake or immediate river access and most of the facility dated back to the 1930’s. The other glaring fault that Camp Wokanda had was its proximity to the city and the Mossville Caterpillar plant. He believed it would only be a matter of time before one or the other would close in on them. Land wasn’t getting any cheaper, so despite resistance from scouters who loved the old camp, Pop began pushing for the building of a new one.”<sup>1</sup>

Later, Dale wrote, “Though I never cared much for fishing, some of my favorite childhood memories are of fishing with my Pop at dusk on the camp lake. Time spent on the lake was especially meaningful to us after January 1965 when it was announced that it would be called Lake Roberts in honor of Pop’s 25th anniversary in Professional Scouting. I have the original bronze plaque which was placed at the top of the dam. The one now there replaced it after the original was stolen and later found. Obviously, they didn’t need two, so Pop took the spare home. I came across it in his basement workshop when my mother sold our family home five years after Pop’s death in 1994, at age 81. It now hangs in my office.”

“After dark we would sit in front of the open fire in that cabin with no other light in the room and he would tell me the stories of his life. Since he was born in 1913 and was 41 when I was born, the years of his growing up sounded like a far-away world to me. He had come to America as a small child from England, and had lost his father and older brother to tuberculosis when he was 14. The surviving family subsequently lost their home. He survived the Depression, worked his way through the University of Wisconsin, married my mother in 1942, and served in World War II before resuming his Scouting career in South Bend, Indiana in 1946.”<sup>1</sup>

Besides making his dream of Wilderness Camp a reality, and steering the transition to Ingersoll Scout Reservation, Al was also responsible for many upgrades to Camp Wokanda, including a paved road through camp, construction of four new cabins and four Adirondack shelters in 1963, and building Davis Lake. Al was responsible for the construction of the new Council Service Center, at 614 N.E. Madison Ave, in Peoria.

Al was an avid fisherman and took every opportunity to wet a line at Ingersoll, or at nearby Little Swan Lake, in Avon, where he owned a couple parcels of lakefront property. Even in his late 70s, Al would drive out to Camp Wokanda and ask me (then the Camp Ranger) if he could take a boat out on Davis Lake to try his luck. I always helped him with the boat, in and out, and told him, “Just be sure to wear that life vest.”<sup>6</sup>

### **William Parlin Ingersoll**

The following story contains excerpts from the Ingersoll Scout Reservation historical accounting written in 2015 by Dale Roberts, son of Al Roberts. Dale paints us a wonderful picture of William P. Ingersoll, the man.

"In late 1962, pop (Al Roberts) began to hear about an elderly gentleman in the Canton area named William Parlin Ingersoll. In his mid-70's at the time, he lived in a gracious three-story home on the eastern edge of Canton and had an almost mystical reputation around the town. He was sort of a local "Howard Hughes type" - adventurous, a bit reclusive, and very wealthy. Everyone in town knew who he was, but he was often suspicious that people were only after his money, so he generally maintained a fairly low profile.

He was the only child and last surviving heir of two of Canton's most prominent families. On his father's side, the Ingersolls had made their money by owning most of the utilities in the Canton area. His mother, Alice Parlin, was the heiress to the Parlin Plow Company, which eventually became part of International Harvester Co. Civic-minded and philanthropic, the Ingersoll family put a lot back into the community of Canton, endowing the local airport, parks, and the high school gymnasium.

Ingersoll never married, but had a housekeeper named Ann Hollandsworth, who I believe was his cousin and also a former nurse. Whatever their relationship, she was a constant presence in the household on the occasions I was there and she always alluded to knowing far more than she told. Pop was introduced to Mr. Ingersoll by a mutual acquaintance named Russ Plank. Russ was aware of the Council's camp building project ... and that Mr. Ingersoll had the ability to help. Apparently, Mr. Plank and Mr. Ingersoll had been friends for years and frequently spoke over short-wave radio. Ingersoll piloted his own plane and loved excursions to the north woods."

"I have great memories of traveling with my Pop to Canton each year, on a Saturday afternoon near Christmas, to take Mr. Ingersoll and Ann a plate of my mother's homemade Christmas cookies and a small gift, such as a miniature orange tree. I loved riding up the long avenue of trees and especially going around the circular drive to his front door. We were always welcomed warmly and I was fascinated by the gracious old house which had a private "phone booth" off the hall, a butler's pantry, and a chair that glided up and down the stairway. It was like stepping back in time about 30 years. I'm sure the house was built early in the 20th century and had never been modernized much, but it was full of beautiful antiques and the finest of everything. Our visit never lasted very long, but on our departure, we would always be given a bag of home-grown popcorn from their field, which their caretaker had harvested, and perhaps a loaf of persimmon bread baked by Ann.

A car buff since early childhood, I especially enjoyed visiting his garage and sitting in his big Mercedes-Benz 600 SEL, a car he said he drove because it got much better gas mileage than the big Chryslers he'd driven for years! I committed a real "faux pas" once when I said I was waiting for him to get a Rolls-Royce, simply because I'd never seen one up close. He got a little indignant and stated that he could never afford such an extravagance. I could tell by my father's expression that I'd said something I shouldn't have. On the way home he gently pointed out that Mr. Ingersoll was a modest man who really disliked being thought of as being "rich."

"Throughout the mid to late 1960's Mr. Ingersoll frequently sent checks for various amounts of money that were never expected, but always welcome. Over the next several years, they were able to purchase adjoining property until they owned nearly 1,000 acres and deemed the camp completed. During those years Pop and Mr. Ingersoll became good friends. As his health declined, Mr. Ingersoll became increasingly reclusive and few were allowed in to see him. My father was one of those few and when he would visit, they would sit in comfortable silence for an hour, exchanging few words but enjoying being in each other's presence.

In the fall of 1972 William P Ingersoll passed away. His entire \$13 million estate went into a trust at First National Bank of Chicago, the terms of which were that the principal was never to be distributed. The interest was to provide income to the organizations he cared about. I remember how elated my father was when he learned that the camp was to be the beneficiary of 13% of the annual interest from that \$13 million trust, which conservatively gave the camp an income in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year range. That was something which always made my father very proud: knowing that he'd been a part of creating something so significant that would be a lasting legacy.

Following Ingersoll's death, Pop approached Ann Hollandsworth and asked how she thought he would feel about having the camp renamed in his honor. She thought that he would like that very much, so in May of 1974, Wilderness Camp was officially renamed W. P. Ingersoll Scout Reservation."

## 1965 – Ramp Up to Opening Day

In 1965, a Camp Ranger needed to be hired. Jim Sampson had to hire a staff and tie up a hundred loose ends before the first troops arrived on July 4. Al Roberts took on the task of finding and hiring a Camp Ranger – Neil Downard. Dale Roberts recalled, “The first full time ranger was hired during those years and he turned out to be a real character. He'd lost an arm early in life and had a prosthetic device that he could use to operate a chain saw, roll and smoke a cigarette, and drive the camp Jeep with it clamped to the wheel. He lived in the ranch house on Cedar Creek.” Jim Sampson said this, “Despite this handicap, he could operate the Caterpillar tractor, which a Cat official had donated to the camp. One of Neil’s jobs was digging a garbage pit in the field over on the west side that first year. He lived in a brick house way down at the far end of a gravel road near Cedar Creek on the west side of camp. He did some good work for us.”



Neil Downard – First Camp Ranger - 1965

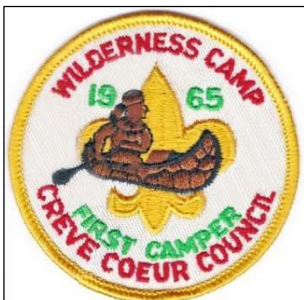
“Somewhere around this time we ordered some rowboats (Glen says six) and several canoes from, I’m pretty sure, the national council supply service. We also obtained some old fiberglass canoes from Camp Wokanda. For sure, from that source I ordered a number of two-person tents and big cooking kits. Also, air mattresses were obtained, but I’m not sure where they were bought, and they seemed to be in need of constant patching due to leaks. A Scoutmaster who was a commercial artist in Peoria designed our first camp patch – a pioneer paddling a canoe – and I ordered these along with camp T-shirts.

Al Roberts and I went shopping and had the misfortune to find a good deal on a used Jeep. You could have squeezed that creature (the Jeep) and collected a barrel of lemon juice. It seemed like it was constantly in need of repair, but I think it survived as the camp truck for quite some time. It had been determined early on that troops would do their own cooking. In preparation for this, a number of things had to be done.

I contracted with a handyman from Pekin to build ice boxes for the campsites. These we put in pre-dug holes before camp opened. We provided block ice, which was delivered by staff, for refrigeration.



The camp Jeep pickup pulling Troop 31’s troop trailer and gear to their campsite – 1965. (Photo by Paul McKim)



1965 Wilderness Camp Patch

We bought picnic tables for the campsites, but I can’t remember how many. Glen Phillips remembered that we had to carry numbers of them from campsite to campsite between camp periods to be ready for the incoming troops. We bought charcoal stoves for cooking. I can’t recall anything about them except that they worked very well.

Glen also reminded me that the staff had to organize and lay out all the camping and cooking equipment for the incoming troops before everyone could take their weekend break. Saturday was a very busy day.”<sup>3</sup>



Gunflint campsite – 1965. Scouts from Troop 31, Peoria, digging a hole for an ice box (seat for the Scout, above). Ice and food were delivered to each campsite twice a day - morning and afternoon. (Photo by Paul McKim)

Jim prepared lists of food that would be available from the commissary and sent them to the troops, along with sample menus. Laying in the food supplies was a huge task, so Jim ordered the food supplies the first year. He said he couldn't remember anything that stood out about that task - with one exception. "I ordered an over-abundant supply of dehydrated food packets, which hardly anyone used. After camp, I stored them in our Peoria office and tried to peddle them during the year. Al Roberts was a little testy about this due to the expense and lack of customers. I had better luck selling some of our used tents to troops at our cost, which gave them a real savings. Then I ordered new replacements for the next year."

The food lists were sent out in early March to troops that had registered for camp. Each troop then used the list to prepare its own unique menu for the week, then turned it in during the pre-camp training in April, along with firm numbers of campers. The Commissary Manager could then correctly assemble packages of food for each troop for two deliveries per day. Breakfast and lunch ingredients were delivered in the morning, along with an ice block for each ice box, and supplies for dinner arrived around 4:00 for supper, and any cracker-barrel supplies, if ordered ahead of time. Jim wrote, "As camp director, I hired seven people for the 1965 staff." They are pictured below.



**Back Row (L-R):** Jim Sampson (Camp Director), Augie Chiovatero (Commissary/Trading Post), Mike Volz (Field Sports), Randy Wheeler (Nature), Lyle Johnson (Waterfront Director)

**Front Row (L-R):** Glen Phillips (Waterfront), John Alesandrini (Waterfront), Tom Starr (Scoutcraft)

## The Final Countdown – One Week Before Camp Opens!

During the week preceding the first camp period, the staff was busy setting things up. In late 1964, the Peoria Kiwanis Club had donated the funds to build a pole-type shelter on the North Ridge, across County Line Road from Gunflint campsite. It was decided that the shelter would serve as the Field Sports headquarters, providing a dry place to meet and store the archery equipment box. (This shelter has since been partially enclosed, a concrete floor poured, and serves as the ISR Ecology/Conservation area.) The archery range was situated adjacent to the shelter. The rifle range was located eastward, down a long steep hill, and was situated alongside the north end of the lake.



Archery range on North Ridge - 1965. (Photo by Paul McKim)

Mike Volz was the Field Sports Director for both the archery and riflery programs. He spent most of the week figuring out the layouts for both areas. Not having a rifle range shelter that first year, overhead tarps were set up. Shooters laid on old tarps on the firing line for prone-type shooting. A large, lockable plywood box was placed under the tarps, used to store the rifles, ammunition, paper targets, and other necessary equipment. The firing line was laid out parallel to the lakeshore, shooting northward into a cut bank hillside. After setting up the range, it was discovered that deer ticks were abundant in that grassy area along the lake, prompting the nickname, "Tick Range."

Jim remembered buying some hay bales from a local farmer for the archery backstops. Another large wooden lockable equipment box was located under the Kiwanis shelter for the archery equipment. The field sports program required Scoutmasters to set up a morning period early in the week for riflery and archery orientations before a troop could sign up for "Troop Shoot" periods later in the week. Open shooting was scheduled for two hours in the evenings, alternating between archery and riflery. Orientations were for the Scouts and the leaders, because Scoutmasters ran their troop shoots for riflery and archery.

Randy Wheeler set up a nature trail. Since there was no dedicated Nature/Ecology area then, nature walks met at the main flagpole and wandered through grassy fields, forest edges, deep woods, and the lake's edge. Nature and conservation related Merit badges met on the Commissary porch.

Tom Starr set up his Scoutcraft area in a small niche he carved out in a spot west of the Camp Office and staff area (now the Brownsea area). The Scoutcraft area featured a model patrol campsite for Scouts and leaders to see. Merit badge classes for camping, cooking, pioneering, and wood carving, as well as Second and First Class rank requirements were also held here.



Tom Starr's Scoutcraft area - 1965.

Lyle Johnson was the 1965 Waterfront Director. He, Glen Phillips, and John Alesandrini had to prepare the waterfront. The decks on the swimming docks had to be installed and leveled and ladders lashed into place in the beginner and swimmer areas. The non-swimmer, beginner, and swimmer areas had to be outlined with yellow rope and orange floats. Reach poles and ring buoys had to be organized and installed. The area had to be roped off and a Buddy Board erected at the swimming area check-in/out gateway.



View of the boating and swimming area - 1965. (Photo by Paul McKim)

A wall tent was set up near the area entryway, which was used to keep paperwork and equipment dry, as well serve as a dressing area for the waterfront staff. (A more permanent building – “The Pillbox” – was built inside the swimming area and a steel boat house built by the 1967 camping season.)

At the canoeing and boating area, canoes had to be stacked on a rack, which was constructed from old power poles. The floating boat dock had to be placed and rowboats tied up. Paddles, oars, and life vests were organized and hung up. The boating area had to be roped off and a Buddy Board installed at the check-in gate for boats and canoes.

While these tasks are not unusual during a typical staff week before the opening week of Scout camping, this was anything but typical! None of these areas existed prior to the 1965 camping season. Only preliminary brush clearing had taken place to that time, so the waterfront staff also had to define the areas with fencing and clean up weeds and brush.

Anchors and buoys that held the floating lines used to outline the three swimming areas had to be planted for the first time. More pea gravel needed to be brought in and spread in some spots where settling had occurred over the first two winters.

(Pea gravel was used as beach material from the benches out to the far “F-section” of the swimming dock, rather than sand. The water runoff from the steep north ridge hillside above the swimming area would have continuously washed away sand, while pea gravel would better stay in place year-round.)



Lyle Johnson at the swimming area check-in gate - 1965. (Photo by Jim Sampson)



Augie Chiovatero – 1965 (Photos by Jim Sampson/Paul McKim)



and a limited supply of candy, ice cream, and soft drinks were available. The Trading Post was open only for a couple of hours in the evening. Augie rarely saw daylight. He was there from early in the morning until late afternoon preparing food packages, then opened the Trading Post for a couple hours after dinner.

The camp staff ate their meals together, usually at DeRevey Lodge, which had a small, but full kitchen. And since there was no shower house yet, the staff shared the shower at DeRevey Lodge and the single shower stall in the commissary. Jim Sampson wrote in his notes, “Glen Phillips and I were going crazy trying to remember who prepared meals for the staff. Augie finally came to the rescue. It was Mike Volz. We all took turns doing the after-meal cleanup.”

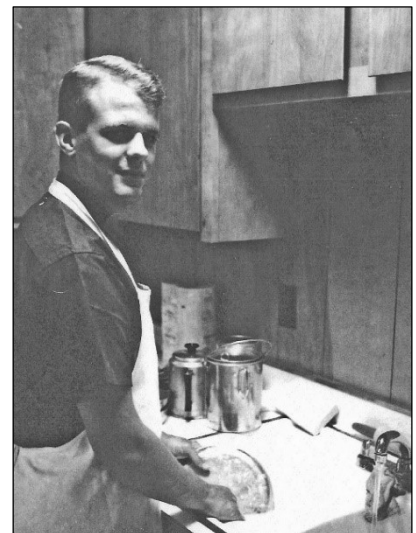
Augie further recalled, “Tom Starr and I slept in the commissary building, and the rest of the staff stayed in the health lodge where we also cooked and ate our meals.” (Five two-man staff cabins were erected behind the Camp Office for the 1966 camping season. Another three cabins were added in 1968 as the staff size grew with the camp program.)

Jim also wrote, “Staff salaries were pretty low, even for those days, and some even had to buy Scouting uniforms out of their own pocket.”

Augie Chiovatero wore two hats in 1965 as the Commissary Director and the Trading Post Manager. Augie had to organize and stock the commissary (Country Store) and trading post. There were truckloads of charcoal briquettes, toilet paper, food items, and other staples to be inventoried, placed on shelves, and organized. And a system had to be developed to keep track of what food, and how much, went to which campsite. (No computer spreadsheets then!)

The commissary was equipped with a walk-in freezer for ice and frozen foods, as well as a walk-in refrigerator. Since food and ice were delivered to each campsite, twice each day, organization was key! The correct supplies had to be delivered to each campsite, and at the correct time so the patrols could prepare, eat, and clean up in the allotted time slot, lest it interfere with their program time.

The camp Trading Post was located at the south end of the Country Store. Although the space was already defined, including counter, Augie had to create the layout. Luckily, an inventory list and pricing system was well established at Wokanda, so that task was pre-determined. Augie only had to stock shelves and set up displays. Handicraft projects and supplies, merit badge books, camp t-shirts, moccasin kits,



Randy Wheeler – 1965.  
(Photo by Jim Sampson)

## July 4, 1965 – Camp Opens!

On Sunday afternoon, July 4, 1965, the first campers came down County Line Road and around the corner into the grassy parking lot. There, they were greeted and officially checked into camp by Jim Sampson, who welcomed them and gave them a map of the camp and their day's itinerary. A camp staff member was assigned as a guide. It would be a busy day!

Each person packed their own personal gear to their campsite, or it was transported in your troop trailer. The correct number of tents, dining flies, charcoal stoves, patrol boxes with cooking and cleanup gear, and picnic tables had been pre-delivered by the staff. Upon arrival in the site, patrols set up their individual sites within the troop site. Leaders set up in a separate area, but ate with the patrols. The camp provided the standard 2-man Voyageur tents, unless a troop brought their own. No tent floor. No sod cloth. No mosquito netting.



Setting up camp in Gunflint campsite – 1965. Note the Kiwanis Shelter in the background. (Photo by Paul McKim)

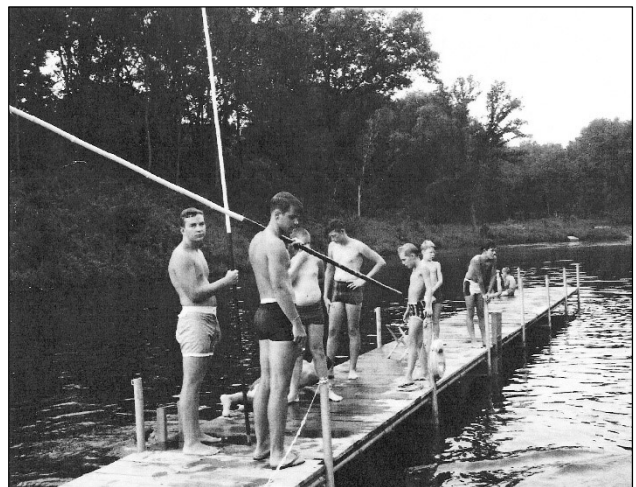
Sleeping bags were laid out on the ground, with ground cloths beneath. If a troop brought their own troop gear, the staff would transport it to the site. Once the tents were set up, everyone had to don their bathing suits and hike to DeRevey Lodge for the required medical re-check. Like today, the camp staff had to be aware of any medical conditions that may be of concern at some time during their weeklong stay. Just like today, each person was given a pair of buddy tags – one for the swimming area and one for the boating and canoeing area.



T-31 medical recheck at DeRevey Lodge, 1965. (Photo by Paul McKim)

waterfront where they took their swimming tests and placed their buddy tags on the boating and swimming buddy boards before hiking back to the campsite to finish setting up. The staff would make the first food and ice delivery around 4:00 and patrols had to have everything set up. Supper had to be prepared, eaten, and everything cleaned up before 8:00, in time for the Sunday evening opening campfire. Cooking was done by patrol on charcoal stoves. But water for dish washing and rinsing had to be boiled in buckets suspended from a tripod over a wood fire. So, firewood was always needed three times a day. (The patrols in the first weeks of camp had the easiest time collecting downed firewood.) Each Patrol was supplied with a blank duty roster and Patrol Leaders had to post the rotational duty schedule in the campsite for cooking, dish washing, fireman, wood and water, and campsite cleanup for each meal time slot.

After the medical re-check, troops hiked to the waterfront where they took their swimming tests and placed their buddy tags on the boating and swimming



Swim tests at the lake. (Photo by Jim Sampson)



Jim Sampson welcomes everyone to the 1965 opening campfire (above)\*. The camp staff performs the skit, "Who Spit on the Floor" (below). (Photos by Paul McKim)



Troops reported to the main flagpole at 8:00 pm for the walk to the camp-wide opening campfire. The staff provided the entertainment on Sunday evening, just like today. Staff introductions were made, along with announcements about where and when to meet for the various merit badges. A few lively songs were sung, and a silly skit or two was performed, of course. The evening ended with a Scoutmaster Minute and the singing of Taps, which is still a tradition at camp to this day.

Jim recalled, "After the opening campfire on the first day of each camp period, the troop leaders met on the porch of the commissary building to schedule events and facilities for the week. Each week I prepared a big chart for this purpose – something that was repeated the next two years I was there – although then we met in the camp office. Even in that first year I believe we might have been trying to move in the direction of a "camp commissioner" method of staff operation, limited though our numbers were. We went further in this direction during the second and third years as more staff were added.

Merit badge counseling, always an important offering in summer camp, was made available by the staff posting times they could meet with the Scouts. This applied to the non-aquatic merit badges. The aquatic merit badges were handled by the aquatics staff when troops came to the waterfront at their scheduled times."

Jim further recalled, "We had Order of the Arrow Tap Out ceremonies on Thursday nights and closing night campfires on Friday nights. Glen remembers that the Tap Out campfire was over on the east side of the lake that first year. He recalls that the ceremonial team was transported across the lake in canoes."

Jim Sampson also wrote that four weeks of camp were ultimately scheduled for 1965 and the response from troops was quite encouraging. Many troops that attended in 1965 signed up for a week in 1966 before leaving camp.

*\* Jim Sampson wrote in his notes that he and a crew of OA members built the (old) campfire area, but that must have been between the 1965 and 1966 camping seasons. That campfire area was established in 1966, but these 1965 photos were taken at a location below the hill from the present day dining hall.*



OA Tap-Out ceremony – 1965.

Shortly after Paul McKim moved to Peoria as a Cat employee in 1962, longtime Scouter Dr. Ralph Nelson recruited Paul to become the Scoutmaster of Troop 31, at University United Methodist Church, in Peoria. Troop 31 helped clear the lake bottom and they camped in Gunflint campsite in 1965. Paul took many photos of the camp's development, prior to the camp's opening (seen earlier). Paul also provided many pictures of his troop and daily camp life during their week at camp in 1965. A few more of his photos were shown earlier and a few more are displayed on this page, and later.



A patrol from Troop 31 is shown cooking on a charcoal stove (above) and eating their meal beneath the dining fly (at left). "Jamboree Style" camping and cooking was a new concept for summer camp in the Creve Coeur Council in 1965.

Each campsite was equipped with the most modern outdoor pit type toilets, with covered washstands. In 1965, not all the finish grading work was complete, as you can see below.



Although food and ice were delivered to the campsites, Scouts had to hike to the Country Store to get staple items, such as dish soap or paper towels. Watermelons, or ingredients for campsite Dutch oven cobblers for troop or patrol cracker-barrels could be purchased or stored at the Country Store. The Scout from Troop 31 (middle left) is packing a watermelon and a bag of ice from the commissary to his campsite (Gunflint).

Free Swim periods were scheduled in the afternoons. (Lower left) The trained Scoutmaster ran the check-in/check-out process for his troop and monitored the buddy board. The waterfront staff provided a lifeguard for each of the three swimming areas.

## Year Two - 1966



1966 brought more infrastructure development, a larger staff, ten additional acres, and the camp program was expanded to include overnight canoe trips down Cedar Creek and Spoon River. Arrowhead campsite was added on the North Ridge, and the official camp dedication was held in July of that year.

William Soddy's construction company got an early start in the spring of 1966 to complete all the planned buildings for the camp. By the opening of summer camp, they had built the Director's Cabin, the shower house, the camp office, and five 2-man staff cabins. The white shed that had been used to store building materials and construction tools, also donated by Caterpillar in 1963, remained, until it was torn down and removed by an OA work crew in 1970.

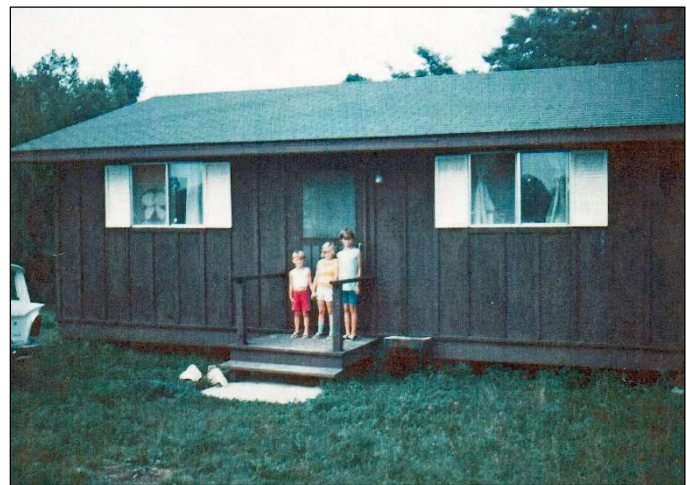
The shower house was constructed adjacent to the well pump and holding tank and serves as a staff shower house today. This made heated showers, a sink for shaving, and a single flush toilet available to the campers and staff. Quite an upgrade from 1965! The Camp Office (today's Trading Post) was constructed about 50 yards west of the shower house and contained a small kitchen. Five 2-man staff cabins were constructed just south of the office building. The staff then ate their meals in the office in 1966, near their quarters.

The Director's Cabin was built at the top of the large hill, with its "Million Dollar View" that overlooks the Cedar Creek valley and hills to the south. The cabin is still located there today (behind the present Dining Hall and is now called the Cook's Cabin). The dedication flag pole was erected across the road (west) from the Director's Cabin, positioned near the center of today's Dining Hall. Bill Soddy's crew also erected a temporary ceremony platform adjacent to the flag pole, which was used for the camp's dedication ceremony later that July.

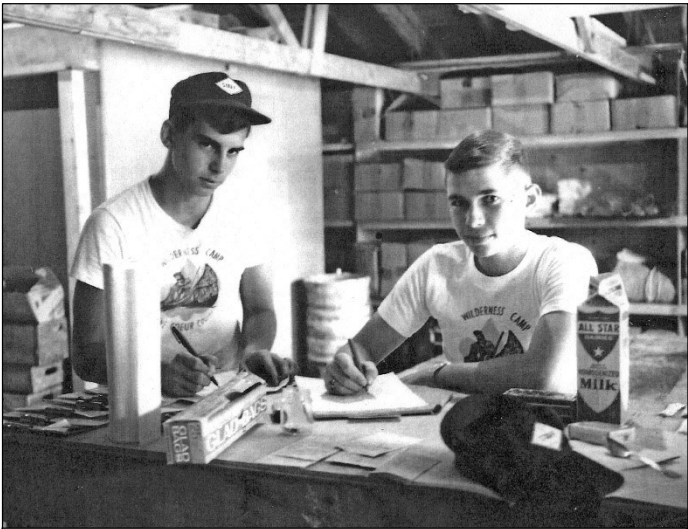
Tom Sampson returned as the Camp Director in 1966 and 1967 and he wrote this in his 2010 historical account, "In preparation for the second year, more structures were added. A camp office, several 2-man staff cabins, and a shower house were built in the vicinity of the big water storage tank. A cabin for the camp director was built south of these near the camp flagpole. Again, Bill Soddy was the builder."

Tom further wrote, "In the second year I was able to bring my family to camp, and we stayed in the newly built Camp Director's cabin. My family consisted of my wife, Barbara, and our three little girls. We put Barbara to work as the staff cook that summer in the camp office where we ate our meals.

She always complained (but in fun) that she received no salary, but she and the girls had a marvelous summer. We hired a young man who was a Scout for our staff cook the third year. A side note about my family's summer in 1967: Our camp ranger that third year was a young man (Garrad Shaw) who could neither hear nor speak. He was an excellent worker and was well liked by all, including my daughters. From time to time when mowing the fields, Garrad destroyed a rabbit nest. A baby rabbit was often the only survivor, and he would bring it to my wife and the girls to care for. Unfortunately, the poor creature invariably died. This resulted in a funeral and burial, causing sobs and tears. No doubt an archeological dig alongside that cabin would reveal a number of tiny skeletons."



Director's Cabin, with Jim Sampson's three daughters, 1965.  
(Photo by Jim Sampson)



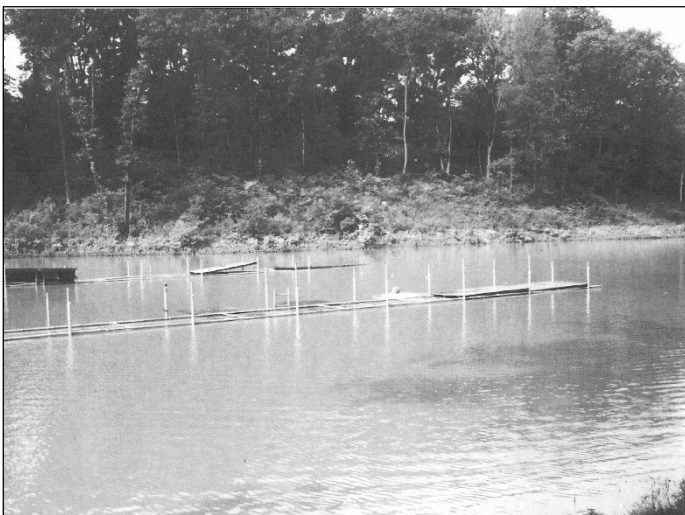
Gayle Sipes (left) and Doug Roberts (right), working in the commissary, 1966. (NOTE: Doug Roberts, Al Robert's son, died unexpectedly in 1975. The original ISR entrance gateway was dedicated to Doug when it was erected, in 1977.)

An official listing of the 1966 staff has not been located by anyone. Memories have grown dim, and no staff totems were made until 1968. Jim Sampson had this to say in his historical notes, "So far, Glen (Phillips) has not been successful in finding any information about our second-year staff." Since Jim's writing, Glen's widow (Vicki) found a list Glen had tucked away and provided it to me, along with a few other years.<sup>6</sup>

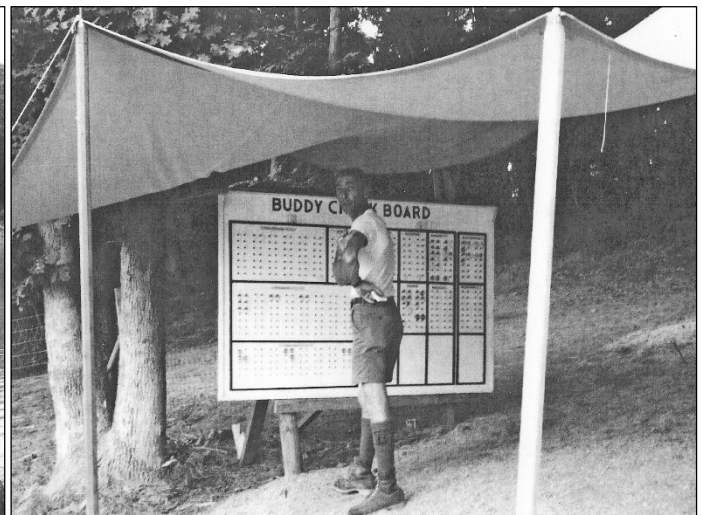
The staff was a little larger in 1966, due to increased interest and troop sign-ups, and from experience gained in 1965. "Tom Cowley, the District Executive in Spoon River District, became the business manager for the commissary/trading post either the second or third year. Glen became the waterfront director that second year, a position he held for several more years. Likewise, with John Reeves, our nature counselor."

No staff photo has been located, but the complete listing of 1966 Wilderness Camp Staff is reconstructed below:

- Jim Sampson - Camp Director
- Glen Phillips - Waterfront Director
- Steve Andrews - Aquatics Assistant
- Gayle Sipes - Commissary/Trading Post
- John Alesandrini - Scoutcraft
- Riflery – Rotating District Executives
- Garrad Shaw – Ranger (lived on-site at Cedar Dell Farm)
- Tom Cowley - Business Manager
- Bill Rowe - Aquatics Assistant
- John Reeves - Nature Director
- Doug Roberts - Commissary/Trading Post
- Barbara Sampson - Staff Cook
- Randy Mylott – Archery



Every winter the heaving ice made a jumble of the swimming dock. Each spring the staff used a special jack to level the steel frame. Then the wooden deck sections could be repaired and replaced. Sometimes, missing deck sections were found floating at the north end of the lake. (Photo by Jim Sampson - 1966)



The camp's program philosophy was to train troop leaders to run their own programs, such as their troop's free swim period. Chuck Milburn, of Pekin Troop 65, is shown above checking over the buddy board during a buddy check for their troop free swim. (Photo by Jim Sampson - 1966)

## Overnight Canoe Trips - 1966

In 1966, an overnight “Wilderness Canoe Trip” was added to the camp program. Although the trip took a bite out of other camp program and merit badge time for one day, it was very popular with the troops. “Back then, all Scouts could go on the trip – even non-swimmers. On the morning of the trip, we packed for overnight (a change of clothes and sleeping bag sealed in a plastic garbage bag), donned our swim trunks, then hiked to the gathering point, at the commissary. There, we loaded dining flies, provisions (dehydrated foods for lunch, supper, and the next morning’s breakfast), water jugs, paddles, life vests, and a first aid kit into the camp truck, for delivery to the launch point on Cedar Creek. The truck also hauled the canoes on a trailer, which we unloaded after hiking there with our personal gear.

The trip took us down Cedar Creek, along the southern boundary of the camp, then into Spoon River. From there, we floated downstream to a place called “Effland’s Landing,” just upstream from Ellisville. The camp had an arrangement with the landowner (Effland), who let the camp use his road and a campsite he kept mowed. The trip should have taken only a few hours, even when the river was low. But because most Scouts in our troop had absolutely no experience paddling a canoe, a few traveled twice as far from zig-zagging back and forth from bank-to-bank down the river. Once we arrived, we drug the canoes up the bank to the camping spot, rolled them over on one side, then draped a dining fly over them, making a very low lean-to shelter for the night. We slept four abreast. The mosquitoes were horrendous! Our leaders took turns staying awake through the night – each one keeping a fat cigar stoked so the smoke kept “Effland’s Air Force” at bay! (Smoking was socially acceptable for adults in the 1960s and not a Scouting no-no.)

The dehydrated foods back then left a lot to be desired. But we survived. After an early breakfast the next morning, a staff member came down a narrow lane along farm fields to pick us up in an old, small school bus, with the canoe trailer in tow. We loaded everything up and were returned to camp in time for normal program activities. I must say that of all my experiences that year, the canoe trip was the most fun.”<sup>6</sup>

Jim Sampson recalls, “It was either the second or third year that overnight canoe trips were added to the program offerings. (Glen and I have been having a terrible time trying to determine when. It was the third year for sure, but clues keep popping up that some sort of trips were made in 1966, too.)\* Anyway, we bought a used school bus and had it painted a tan color. This was used to carry the Scouts and their leaders back to camp. With help from Bill Littell, we found a farmer who allowed us to use a piece of his land for an overnight campsite. The canoes were carried on a trailer to a launching site on Cedar Creek. The Scouts and leaders paddled down Cedar Creek into the Spoon River and thence downstream to the campsite. Mike Stobaugh remembers turning the canoes over and using tarps for campsite shelters, thus eliminating the need to take tents. The canoe trips were a splendid program feature EXCEPT when lots of rain caused the level of the creek and river to rise.

Glen remembers Bill Littell and me taking trips to some bridges after big rains to judge water levels and currents. Even though everyone wore a life jacket, there was a concern about safety. The big worry was the log jams, because they were sometimes difficult to avoid due to the higher, faster water. The scariest occurrence was when the current once pulled a canoe into and under one of these log jams on the river. The Scouts escaped okay, but it was too close. Sometime later, when the water was lower, we recovered the canoe. It had a big crease in its side, right in the middle.”<sup>3</sup>

*\* As I wrote this piece on the canoe trips, I recalled our troop going canoeing in 1966 (my first year at camp), but could not be certain. So, I asked my father, who was an ASM and camped there only in 1966 and 1967, “Did we go on those canoe trips only one year or both years you were at camp?” Even though he is 90 years young, his memory is still pretty sharp. He replied, “Both years! And they were the highlight of the week!”*

## Order of the Arrow

In 1965, the Order of the Arrow Tap-Out ceremony was held on the east side of the lake. But the walk from the parking lot, down the south ridge road, across the dam and up the east hillside was quite a hike for visitors, especially on the way back after dark. So, the OA Tap-Out was moved to the bowl-shaped grassy field southwest of the present-day Winnebago campsite. Most of the camp staff, along with Kashapiwigamak Lodge ceremony team members, and a few OA campers, filled all the parts in the ceremony. This ceremony site was used through the final summer season of Wilderness Camp, in 1973.



OA Tap-Out ceremony, 1966. (Photo by Paul McKim)

“On Thursday evenings, troops and visitors gathered at the flag pole and were led by torch-bearers, with arms folded, and in silence, down the hill, then west along a well-established path. The pathway down the hill to the Tap-Out circle was lit by occasional firepots and ended with a tall gateway at the ceremony site with firepots on top. Inside the half-circle was a roaring fire and more firepots with a number of Indians standing and sitting by the firepots. I remember Glen Phillips, in uniform, was the narrator. I was in awe!

In those days, the runner actually “tapped” candidates three time on their right shoulder. A cupped hand against a chest in the damp night air made it sound like they were being severely beaten! They were not, of course, but I was glad he didn’t stop in front of me that first year! A few years later, in 1969, he did.”<sup>6</sup>

Jim Sampson wrote, “Glen remembers that the calling out campfire was over on the east side of the lake that first year. He recalls that the ceremonial team was transported across the lake in canoes. In the second and third years, we held the ceremony in a big field south of the flagpole.”<sup>3</sup> The big field Jim referred to is just west of the West Ridge troop campsites – Winnebago, Kickapoo, and Tonkawa.

“In 1969, when I became an OA member, and later as a camp staff member, I took part in the OA ceremonies at Wilderness Camp. Over the years I played most every part and can almost recall the entire ceremony today. In 1969 the OA lodge started holding Ordeals at camp. Any candidate called out on Thursday night that chose to take their ordeal at camp had to go back to their campsite and get their sleeping bag, ground cloth, and change into work clothes. The Ordeal started at 11:00 pm! We were taken down the hill to Cedar Creek Trail and strung out westward along the trail as far as needed. In the morning we returned to the commissary porch and waited for our breakfast (fried egg sandwich). During my Ordeal, we used a 2-man saw to cut railroad ties in half, then dig them into the steep dirt trail that descends from the south ridge road (above Doublebit) down to the waterfront. Before that, there was a cable stretched from tree to tree for assistance when the trail was wet and slippery.

The Ordeal ceremony site was carved out of the dense woods south of the present-day Sauk campsite. We were led back down the hill again, westward along Cedar Creek Trail, then northward, up a hill into the ceremony circle. This site, too was used through 1973.”<sup>6</sup>

No OA Conclaves or Fellowships were ever held at Wilderness Camp, because of the lack of a dining hall for food service and shelter from the elements. Starting in 1968, however, the Kashapiwigamak Lodge began holding an annual Wilderness Workday, which was a Saturday filled with camp work projects.

## Camp Dedication - 1966

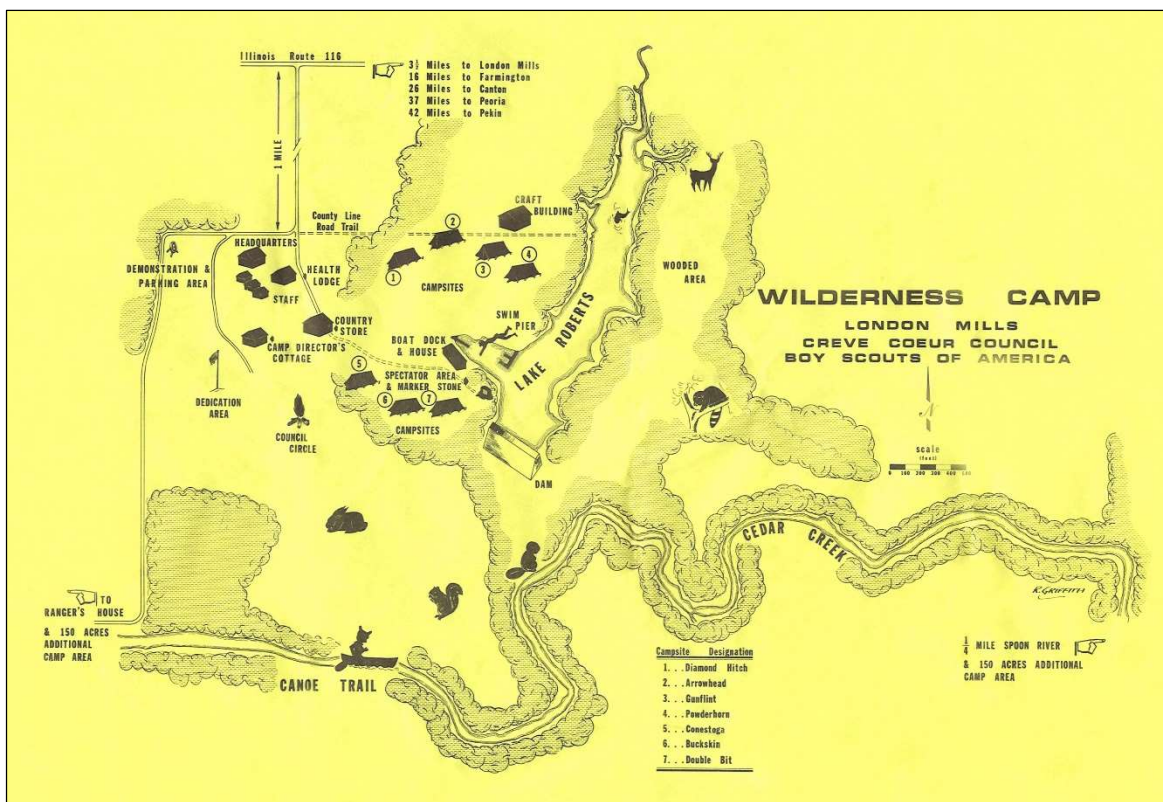
On Sunday, July 24, 1966, Creve Coeur Council held the official Wilderness Camp dedication ceremony. The platform was built by Bill Soddy, adjacent to the main flag pole. Master of Ceremonies G. E. Birks introduced Council President Ray A. Neumann, who welcomed everyone. Guest speaker William T. Lodge, State Conservation Director, spoke of the importance of preserving the wild land, and Judge Ivan Yontz told the story of Wilderness Camp.<sup>8</sup> The map, shown below, was made for the dedication day.



### Camp Dedication

Demonstrations by Scouts and walking tours of the camp were the highlights of the event, with many Scouts, Scouters, parents, and dignitaries present.

*(Photos by Paul McKim)*



## New Boathouse at the Lake!

In the off-season of 1966 – 67, a large metal boathouse was built atop a concrete slab at the bottom of the road/trail below Diamond Hitch campsite, located at the mouth of the swimming and boating bay. The building was approximately 30' by 50' and gave the waterfront staff a place to lock up valuables and store all the boats, canoes, PFDs, paddles, and oars during the off-season. It kept everything high and dry – except for one year in the early 1970s when monsoon-like rains raised the level of the lake so high it ran over the emergency spillway (where the present-day Fish Shack is located). The water was almost two feet deep in the boathouse. This occurred at the end of the camping season and all the trails around the lake were submerged, causing all foot traffic from the north ridge to go the long way around to the commissary, along County Line Road.

In his 2010 historical notes, Jim Sampson wrote, “It was either in preparation for the second or third year that the boathouse was built. A Scouter who owned a metal building business in Peoria was the donor. During the winter (1966 - 67) he and his adult son and I put the thing together at the lake on a number of Saturdays. Cold work! I remember waking up on many of those days hoping the weather was too bad to make the long drive to the camp. Glen tells me that a tree fell on it a while ago, and it had to be replaced.” In the late 1990s, a large red oak tree fell on the boathouse during a storm. The building was a total loss. Luckily, only a few boats inside were damaged or destroyed.



The new boathouse, aka “The Green Latrine” – 1967.  
(Photo by Jim Sampson)

The present boathouse would be built a few years later, along with a beautiful new boating complex where the swimming area used to be. (With the addition of the swimming pool in 1976, the swimming docks were reconfigured for boating.



1965 and 2010



### Glen Phillips

Glen Phillips was an Eagle Scout from Canton, IL, and was the single longest serving Wilderness Camp Staff member. He was an Aquatics Assistant in 1965, then served as the Aquatics Director in 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, and 1972. In addition to his aquatics leadership at camp, Glen ran an aquatics program for Spoon River District Scouts to earn Swimming and Lifesaving merit badges at the YMCA indoor pool in Canton. Each winter, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, from January through March, 20+ Scouts came to the pool and earned these merit badges. A few earned the Scout Lifeguard Award. Glen mentored many Scouts over the years and taught them how to swim and the recognized lifesaving techniques of the era – myself included. <sup>6</sup>

In his personal life, Glen was a school teacher, teaching Jr High Science in Canton and in the VIT school district (Vermont-Ipava-Table Grove). Glen was also an EMT.

Glen was also an avid RC enthusiast in those days and had a large, radio-controlled boat. About 3 feet long and gleaming white, he would operate it in the swimming and boating inlet on calm evenings. When Scouts inquired about it, Glen told them it was an armadillo chaser, to keep the Scout-eating armadillos out of the inlet. He told us the swimming areas were protected and to never swim past the marking buoys. As 11-year-old midwestern Scouts we had no idea what armadillos were, but we NEVER swam outside the buoys! <sup>6</sup>

## Year Three - 1967



1967 Wilderness Camp Patch

By the summer of 1967, word had spread among Scoutmasters around the council about the spectacular summer camp program at Wilderness Camp. So much so, that a fifth camping period was added that year. Jim Sampson stayed on as Camp Director in 1967 and oversaw expanded programs, and he added staff to support that effort. With the popularity of the camp came more campers, which required better organization and more staff to serve more Troops.

Field sports responsibilities were now divided between an Archery Director and a Riflery Director, which was run by a revolving door of District Executives. A Camp Commissioner was added, whose main purpose was to help the Scoutmaster with equipment and supplies needs and to give advice on how to have the best possible camp experience. He was the troops' "go-to" guy. Another 40 acres were purchased in 1967 (the present rappelling tower field), increasing the camp's size to 566 acres.

An Aide was added in the Nature area and also in the Scoutcraft area, allowing each to expand and enhance their program and merit badge offerings. A Business Manager was added and was in charge of the Trading Post and the commissary, which was run by two aides. A dedicated Staff Cook was also hired, along with an Aquatics Assistant to manage the popular canoe trip program, drive the bus, and help out the boating area at the waterfront when needed. The 1967 Wilderness Camp Staff is pictured below.



Left to Right: Craig Hellmers, John Reeves, Tom Cowley, John Alesandrini, Glen Phillips, Randy Mylott, Bill Rowe, Steve Andrews, Gayle Sipes, Bill Case, Gary Bishop, Garrad Shaw, John Keown, Frank Renner, Jim Sampson, John Crank

The complete roster of the 1967 Wilderness Camp Staff and their positions is provided below:

- Jim Sampson - Camp Director
- Tom Cowley - Business Manager
- Glen Phillips - Waterfront Director
- Gayle Sipes – Commissary
- Steve Andrews - Waterfront
- Gary Bishop - Commissary
- Bill Rowe - Waterfront
- John Reeves - Nature Director
- Craig Helmers – Waterfront/Canoe Trips
- John Keown – Nature Aide
- John Alesandrini – Scoutcraft
- Randy Mylott – Archery
- Frank Renner – Scoutcraft Assistant
- Riflery – Rotating District Executives
- Bill Case – Commissioner
- John Crank - Staff Cook
- Garrad Shaw – Ranger (lived on-site at Cedar Dell Farm)



1965 and 2010

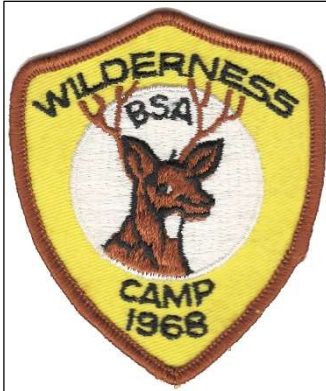


### Jim Sampson

Jim Sampson was a Professional Scouter who came to Creve Coeur Council in 1962 as the Tomahawk District Executive, serving Tazewell County. In 1964, Jim was promoted to Council Director of Camping and Activities. Operation of Camp Wokanda, as well as the development and operation of the new Wilderness Camp were his main focus, but he also had responsibility for council activities. Jim took a promotion in 1968 - a career move that took him to another council, but he happily returned to the ISR staff reunion, in 2010.

Jim served as Camp Director for the first three years of Wilderness Camp's history. He remarked at the 2010 ISR staff reunion how special the camp was to him. He molded it and shaped it at the beginning, keeping things headed in the direction that Al Roberts intended. In his historical notes, Jim concluded with this, "It was in my third and last year when all the staff had gone, and I was attending to the final chores of closing down the camp. With my wife and family, I saw a sight which seemed to be the perfect ending to another wonderful season at Wilderness Camp. Trotting down the road toward the commissary was a red fox, followed by a single file of five or six baby foxes. We were behind them, so they didn't see us. After a few moments they disappeared into the woods. It was a never-to-be-forgotten sight that I can still see in my mind's eye to this day. Thinking back, it was probably also a perfect ending to those great years of helping to develop the camp and to serve as its first camp director. Shaky though my memory of many of the details is, my overall recollection is that those years were some of the best of my life."

## Year Four - 1968



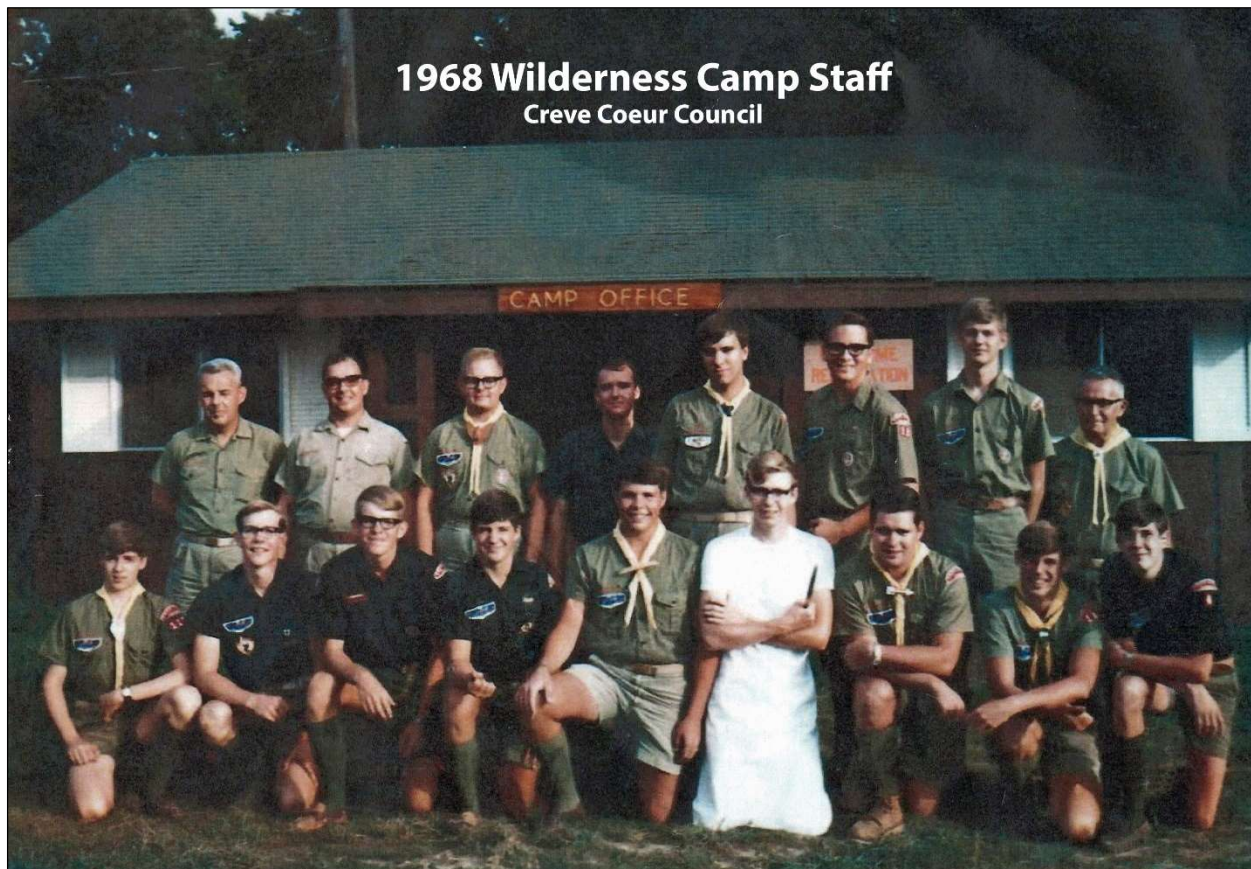
1968 Wilderness Camp Patch

Jerry Botts was the Camp Director for the fourth year of camp. Jerry was the new Creve Coeur Council Field Director and the position allowed him to get to know the camp and program for which he was responsible. (Jim Sampson took a promotion to another council for his professional Scouting career.)

In 1968 the commissioner staff was greatly expanded and enhanced, with two commissioners assigned to each ridge. Commissioners became more involved in training troops on how to live comfortably in camp, provide demonstrations, and handle new merit badge offerings, such as woodcarving, leather work, and pioneering. They also handled the typical Scoutcraft duties.

A Program Director was added to the staff administration, with responsibilities for aquatics, nature, scoutcraft, field sports, and other program-oriented aspects of the camp. The waterfront staff was expanded to five, with the director and two assistants at the swimming area and two more waterfront assistants in the boating area for the rowing and canoeing programs. The Business Manager was responsible for the commissary, trading post, quartermaster, garbage collection, food deliveries, and other service-related work. Both of these directors reported to the Camp Director. This organizational structure was used, mostly, through 1973.

The 1968 Wilderness Camp Staff is pictured below. Not all faces have been identified, but a complete list of the camp staff and their positions is provided on the next page.



Back Row, L-R: Jerry Botts, Tom Cowley, Glen Phillips, Jerry Swanson, Jeff Heckinger, ?, ?, John Reeves  
Front Row, L-R: Tim Cole, Steve Case, Bill Case, Ken Crawford, Gary Bishop, John Crank, Mike Coleman, Randy Mylott, ?

The complete Wilderness Camp Staff roster for 1968 is provided below:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| - Jerry Botts - Camp Director          | - Tom Cowley - Business Manager               |
| - Mike Coleman – Program Director      | - Bill Case – Commissary Director             |
| - Glen Phillips - Waterfront Director  | - Steve Case – Commissary Assistant           |
| - Randy Mylott – Waterfront (Swimming) | - Ken Crawford – Commissary Assistant         |
| - Ron Burke – Waterfront (Swimming)    | - Al Sebolt – Commissioner                    |
| - Gary Bishop – Waterfront (Canoeing)  | - Jeff Heckinger – Commissioner               |
| - Jerry Swanson – Waterfront (Rowing)  | - Tim Cole – Commissioner Assistant           |
| - John Reeves – Nature Director        | - Hal Barnes - Commissioner Assistant         |
| - John Crank – Staff Cook              | - Bill Littell – Camp Ranger (lived off-site) |

The overnight canoe trips were shortened to day trips in 1968. The overnight portion was cut out due to losing access to the campsite at Effland's canoe landing. I am not sure what caused the loss of access, but I have heard stories over the years about the landowner finally shutting off access due to the Scouts putting ruts in his road.<sup>6</sup>

Jim Sampson alluded to this same problem with the landowner through the first three years, writing this in his historical notes, "The farmer (Effland) was very particular about the condition of the long dirt road we had to take with the bus and canoe trailer to pick up the canoe trip parties. Again, rain was the problem. On one occasion we had to take a staff team to his farm with shovels to try to repair the minimal (in my opinion) damage that we had done. If he's still around, I wonder if he still has the camp patch I gave him that year. I don't know how many years after I left the council that those canoe trips were offered, but they were a very popular activity."<sup>3</sup>

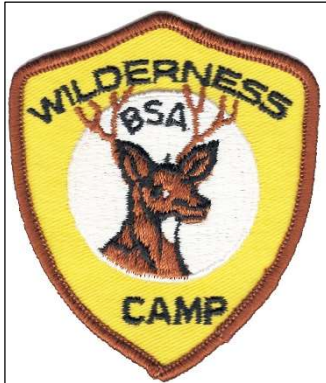
In 1968, canoe trips were launched from the landing at Cedar Dell Farm the first two weeks. But when water levels fell too low, Scouts had to drag canoes half of the way down Cedar Creek. And high water in the spring created a big log jam and dangerous portage. Beginning with the third week of camp, the Cedar Creek leg was cut out because of the log jam and the canoes were launched from London Mills. The canoe trips, which usually took five to six hours, depending on water level, ended in Ellisville.<sup>7</sup>



Jerry Worrell, Troop 31, makes a plaster cast of an animal track near creek's edge for Nature MB.

*(Photo by Paul McKim)*

## Year Five - 1969



1969 Wilderness Camp Patch

Mike Coleman was the Camp Director for the fifth year of camp. Mike was a young chemistry teacher and was the Wilderness Camp Program Director in 1968, so he was a good fit for the job. Mike was the first “non-professional” Camp Director at Wilderness Camp. Mike was an Eagle Scout from Troop 5, in Peoria, and was heavily involved in Scout leader training. In his later years, Mike would become Woodbadge trained and serve on numerous Junior Leader Training and Woodbadge Training staffs, including Woodbadge Course Director in 2000. Mike also trained hundreds of Scout leaders during the 30+ years he directed his district’s Scout Outdoor Leader Training program.

Mike wore two hats in 1969, also serving as the camp Program Director, which was the only done a couple years. The summer camp program operated for five weeks that year. In addition, a new program was added for a sixth week – Aquatics Camp. Most of the camp had shut down and the staff returned home after week five, except for the aquatics staff and a few others who were kept on for the extra week as cooks, and for support services. Aquatics Camp participants were housed in two rows of voyageur tents set up in a flat area near the lake (now Tomahawk campsite). Dining flies were set up over picnic tables in front of the camp office, creating an “al fresco” dining hall. Food was cooked on several wood-fired “shepherd” stoves. At check-in, each participant was issued an 8-foot length of 3/8” hemp rope, which served as their meal ticket for the week. A different knot was assigned for each meal and participants had to present the properly tied knot to be served. By the end of the week, every rope had an eye-splice in one end, a long-splice in the middle, and a monkey’s fist at the other end, which participants used to “throw” overhand knots, square knots, granny knots, and figure-eight knots.<sup>6,7</sup>

There is a humorous story regarding the 1969 summer camp patch design, and why it looks nearly identical the 1968 patch. In 1968, Camp Director Jerry Botts ordered a LOT of camp T-shirts – almost double the number that were actually sold that year. What do you do with a couple hundred T-shirts with the 1968 patch silk screened on the left breast? Jerry got pretty creative, and saved the council a lot of money. He sent the T-shirts back to the manufacturer, which silk screened a brown log over the date, and a fire and tipi on either side, then returned them. Accordingly, the 1968 T-shirts were recycled – as 1969 T-shirts, but with no date. The 1969 camp patch was also the same, minus the date.<sup>6</sup>



1968 camp T-shirt logo



1969 camp T-shirt Logo

During 1969, another 116 acres were purchased. This long narrow piece of property ran north and south along the west edge of the original tract, including the north/south stretch of County Line Road. It connected the Cedar Dell Farm property to the rest of the property, creating 682 contiguous acres.

No staff photo has been found, but the complete 1969 Wilderness Camp staff roster is provided below:

- Mike Coleman – Camp/Program Director
- Lee Schindler - Waterfront Director
- George Phillips – Waterfront (Swimming)
- Randy Warner – Waterfront (Swimming)
- Jay Johnson – Waterfront (Canoeing)
- Steve Spencer – Waterfront (Rowing)
- Larry Kirby – Field Sports / Archery
- Keith Crank – Staff Cook
- Rifle Range - run by a different Scout Professional each week
- Gary Bishop – Commissary Director
- Jerry Bucher – Commissary Assistant
- Rob Striegl – Commissary Assistant/Trading Post
- Jeff Heckinger - Commissioner
- Tracy Pitzen – Commissioner Assistant
- John Reeves – Nature Director
- Steve Coates – Nature Assistant
- Bill Littell – Camp Ranger (lived off-site)

Mike Coleman provided several photos from his years on Wilderness Camp staff, 1968 - 1970. The photos below and on the next few pages are from the 1970 summer camp season and the '69 -'70 winter season.



ABOVE: Troops were assigned to raise the flag at the main flag pole every morning and lower it in the evening. A rotational schedule for flag ceremonies was handed out at the troop leader meeting on Sunday evening. Troops also shared the duty of cleaning the shower house at the end of each day.



ABOVE: District Executive Marc Posner is shown directing the rifle range, in 1970. The rifle range was located along the west side of the lake, at the north end. Shooters laid prone on canvas mats, shooting northward into a cut bank, away from all camping and activity areas. Marker buoys were stretched across the lake to warn boaters from going any further.



RIGHT: Ice fishing on Lake Roberts was as popular then as it is now. The landscape looks completely different in winter than what is seen at summer camp. The Scout in the foreground is making his ice hole the old-fashioned way – chopping away with a hand tool.

## Year Six - 1970



1970 Wilderness Camp Patch

Mike Coleman was again Camp Director and Program Director for the 1970 summer camp season. Mike further adjusted his staff a bit by hiring three commissioners in 1970, based on his experience from the previous two years.

A new snag surfaced for the canoe trip program. The rickety old bus used to transport canoers back to camp had had its problems over the years, but was vandalized during the winter of 1969-70 and was deemed unsafe to drive. Without the bus, troops became responsible for transporting their Scouts back to camp from the Spoon River canoe landing, at Ellisville. The camp transported the canoes back on the canoe trailer, pulled by the camp truck.<sup>7</sup>

The summer camp program was again operated for five weeks, with most all seven campsites full each week. Aquatics Camp was held again in 1970, but this time a small circus tent was rented for feeding the participants. All went well until a mid-week storm blew through, taking it down and tearing the roof. Mike Coleman recalled putting his sewing skills to work to repair it so it could be put back up in time for the next meal.<sup>7</sup>

Another 42 acres were purchased in 1970 (the Gillotte farmstead property). This is the property upon which the ISR Ranger\Property Manager home now sits, at the entrance to camp. This purchase was the last piece of the puzzle, bringing the total to 724 contiguous acres.

Again, no staff photo is known, but the complete 1970 Wilderness Camp staff roster is provided below:



Camp Commissioner John Schmidt greets Daryl Parsons, SM of T-124 in Canton, upon their arrival at camp – 1970. This photo was taken in front of the Camp Office. (Photo by Mike Coleman)

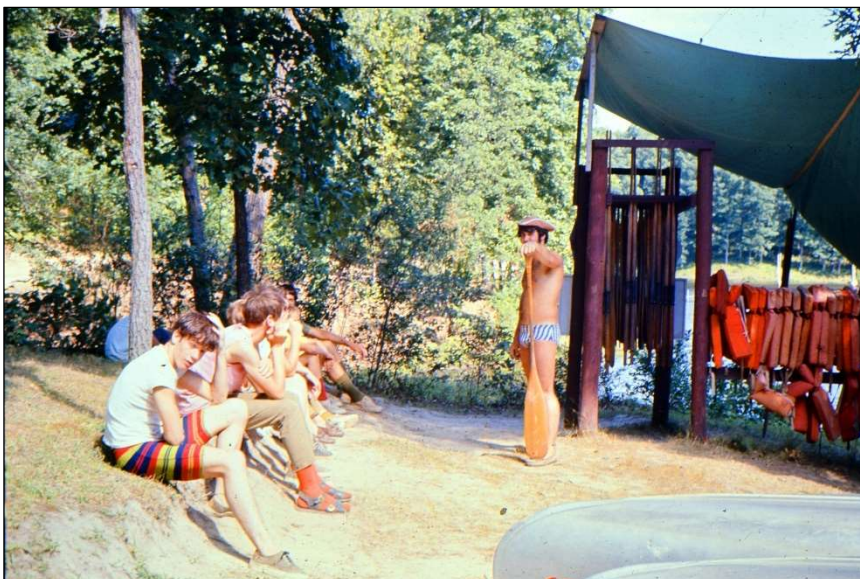
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| - Mike Coleman – Camp/Program Director                                      | - Tom Cusick – Commissary Director                |
| - Glen Phillips - Waterfront Director                                       | - Jerry Bucher – Commissary Assistant             |
| - George Phillips – Waterfront (Swimming)                                   | - Jim Johnson – Commissary Assistant/Trading Post |
| - Dave Brown – Waterfront (Swimming)  | - John Schmidt - Commissioner                     |
| - Jay Johnson – Waterfront (Canoeing)                                       | - Tracy Pitzen – Commissioner                     |
| - Steve Barth – Waterfront (Rowing)   | - Terry Mix - Commissioner                        |
| - Bob Krey (Jr.) – Field Sports / Archery                                   | - John Reeves – Nature Director                   |
| - Keith Crank – Staff Cook  | - Steve Coates – Nature Assistant                 |
| - Bill Littell – Camp Ranger (lived off-site, in London Mills)              |   |
| - Field Sports / Riflery - Run by an assigned Scout Professional each week: |   |
| o Marc Posner   |   |
| o Joe Bender  |   |
| o Bob Mittendorf  |   |
| o A. Bernstein  |   |

A few more of Mike Coleman's photos from 1970 (next page) show the waterfront in its hey-day. The waterfront today (2022) looks completely different. The old boating area and boathouse are gone, a new waterfront activity area and boathouse have been constructed, the swimming docks re-configured for boating, and a water slide is just around the corner from the boating bay.



The waterfront was a busy place in the mornings! In the photo at left, an instructional swim class is underway, as well as Rowing and Canoeing Merit Badge classes, in the distance – 1970.

At right is a view of the swimming area from across the bay. Note the “Pill Box” on the shore, with lookout area above, and the benches on the beach for towels, shoes, and other personal gear. A “tired swimmer rescue” is being demonstrated using a rowboat in the foreground, most likely for a Rowing Merit Badge class. (1970)



Canoeing instructor Jay Johnson is giving instructions on how to select the correct length canoe paddle – from your toe to your shoulder. The boating area was located directly below Arrowhead campsite, to the left of the swimming area shown in the photo above. (1970)



John Reeves  
1967

### John Reeves

John Reeves was a science teacher from Washington, Illinois, who loved nature and Scouting. John served as the Director of Nature for Wilderness Camp from 1966 through 1970. John was a soft-spoken Scouter who never met a person he didn't like and taught hundreds of Scouts the wonders of the natural world and how to conserve those precious natural resources.

John so loved Wilderness Camp and the Scouts he mentored over the years that he wrote a prayer in 1970 for the camp, the staff, and for the boys who came each summer. Thanks to Tracy Pitzen, fellow 1970 staffer with John, who kept a copy of the prayer tucked away all these years, and provided a copy for this story.

### Wilderness Camp Prayer

I God Bless this camp  
and those who love it!

Fair be the skies  
that bend above it.

Let none approach  
who would betray,

None with bitter  
words to say.

Grant that these boys  
from year to year,

May build their happiest  
memories here!

II God Bless this camp  
and those who keep it;

Grateful be the Scouts  
who make it.

Endow this council  
with lasting wealth;

the light of love,  
the glow of health.

In the sweet oils  
of gladness steep it;

God Bless this camp  
and those who keep it.

- John L. Reeves  
Director of Nature  
1970

## The Camp is Complete!

After the 42-acre Gillott farmstead property was purchased in 1970, the camp was deemed complete and was actually a bit larger than the 600 acres originally planned. The framed map below hangs in the W. D. Boyce Council office, in Peoria, and shows all the pieces of property that were purchased, along with the year of purchase. The total acreage shown on the map is 724 acres.



The purchase of the Gillott property paved the way for moving the brick home at Cedar Dell Farm to the place it now sits, at the entrance to camp. The current Ranger/Property Manager home sits almost exactly where the old Gillott farmhouse stood. The old house was razed in late 1973. Then a basement was dug at that spot and a foundation built to match the house at Cedar Dell Farm. Simultaneously, the Balagna House Moving Company, from Farmington, cut the house off its foundation at Cedar Dell Farm, raised it up on huge timbers and cribbing, then set it on large “trucks” to await the moving day.

In late January, 1974, when the ground was frozen solid, two Cat D9 tractors pulled the house across the lower farm field (now a prairie grass field with observation deck), over the hill through the present-day Tonkawa, Kickapoo, and Winnebago campsites, past the main flag pole (where the dining hall and pool now reside), then across two fields (present climbing tower road) to the basement that had been prepared at the entrance to camp. The house was placed on the foundation and finished in the early spring for the new on-site Ranger in 1974, the Bob Puckett and family.<sup>6,7</sup> Mike Coleman was there for the house moving and recalled, “The two D9s got almost to the top of the hill, below the flagpole, then started slipping. Bill Littell then hooked up the camp’s old D4 and that extra tug made the difference and the house began moving up the hill the rest of the way.”

## Year Seven - 1971



1971 Wilderness Camp Patch

Marc Posner was Camp Director and Ron Thoe the Program Director for the 1971 summer camp season. Marc was the District Executive for Pioneer Trail District and Ron was the District Executive for Arrow District. Marc and Ron brought several big changes to the camp program. And all were very popular and remained as traditions for the rest of Wilderness Camp's years.

The first change was a camp-wide chicken barbecue for the troops on Sunday evening. During staff week that year, an area was cleared at the edge of the woods, just west of the commissary. A barbecue pit was fashioned from concrete blocks, with springs from several old metal army cots as the cooking grates. The staff made coleslaw and baked beans in Dutch ovens. Each camper got half of a barbecued chicken, slaw, beans, and an ice cream cup for dessert. This change gave the troops a lot more time to get their campsites set up on Sunday afternoon, since they no longer had to prepare supper and clean up – it was all done by the camp staff!

The second big change was relieving troops of the task of making their own, unique menus for their week at camp. A standard menu was created for the whole camp, with several alternate meals that could be substituted in advance. This change allowed the camp to order food in larger quantities, which lowered the price and resulted in keeping camp fees lower and more affordable for Scouts.

The third change eliminated the staff cook position. Each camp staff member was assigned to eat breakfast and supper with a troop, in their campsite. Staff were to arrive at least 30 minutes



Fishing is always a very popular activity at the lake. (Photo by Paul McKim)

before mealtime to ensure proper cooking and to coach the campers when needed. (As a staff member that year, I soon learned I had to eat what was prepared, so the earlier I got there, the better!) This change, too, was popular with the troops because they experienced a big improvement in meal quality, thanks to coaching from the staff. And the Scouts benefited by learning how to be better cooks in the campsite. The staff met for lunch each day at the camp office, then for a short staff meeting afterward to get the latest updates and changes to camp program schedules. The archery range was moved from the Kiwanis shelter area to the flat area below the Lake Roberts dedication rock, which is now Tomahawk campsite. It was much easier to access from the south ridge sites, which previously had to hike around the lake and then up through Powderhorn campsite to the Kiwanis shelter.<sup>6</sup> The north ridge sites only needed to hike down the hill and around the lake. The rifle range, however, remained in the same place, alongside the north end of the lake, until the Harold Appel Field Sports Complex was built in the 1990s.

Wilderness Camp had become so popular by 1971 that Musket campsite was added on the South Ridge, in order to accommodate the ever-increasing number of troops each summer. This brought the total number of summer campsites to eight – four on the North Ridge and four on the South Ridge.

No staff totem has been located at the camp for the 1971 staff nor has any official roster been located. But from my memory, and the memories of 1971 Camp Director, Marc Posner, and Glen Phillips' list, the complete roster of the 1971 Wilderness Camp staff is provided below:

- Marc Posner – Camp Director
- Ron Thoe – Program Director
- Glen Phillips - Waterfront Director
- George Phillips – Waterfront (Swimming)
- Dave Brown – Waterfront (Swimming)
- Tom Cusick – (Swimming)
- Jay Johnson – Waterfront (Canoeing)
- Steve Barth – Waterfront (Rowing)
- Mike Stobaugh – Field Sports / Archery
- Field Sports / Riflery - Run by an assigned Scout Professional each week:
  - o Dub Washington
  - o Joe Bender, Sr
  - o Bob Mittendorf
- Jim Johnson – Commissary Director
- Terry Mix – Commissary Assistant
- Jim Vandiver – Commissary/Trading Post
- John Schmidt - Commissioner
- Dale Crank - Commissioner
- Steve Coates – Nature Director
- Dave Birks – Nature Assistant
- Bill Littell – Camp Ranger (lived off-site)



Sunset from atop the dam. (Photo by Paul McKim)



Orienteering on the east side of camp. (Photo by Paul McKim)

## Year Eight - 1972



1972 Wilderness Camp Patch

Jerry Botts was once again the Camp Director and Ron Thoe continued with a second year as the Program Director for the 1972 summer camp season. For the most part, the camp program was mostly streamlined after seven years. The day-long canoe trips continued as in previous years. Commissioners were eliminated, but three people picked up the slack in the Scoutcraft area. The Sunday evening chicken barbecues were a big hit in 1971, so they were continued in 1972, and baked potatoes were added to the menu. Picnic tables were lined up in the area between DeRevey Lodge and the Commissary building for dining tables. Racks of chicken were started about 15 minutes apart so the chicken was just as hot and fresh for the last served as the first. This strategy helped with the limited seating, as well. <sup>6</sup> (As a staff member, I remember spending a LOT of time moving picnic tables from site-to-site around camp!)

Nature forced a very unpopular change in 1972 causing food and ice deliveries to the campsites to cease. In the late spring of 1972, heavy spring rains completely washed away County Line Road on the north ridge, at the bottom of the hill, just west of Diamond Hitch campsite. This development left no way to get a truck to the north ridge campsites, which were the furthest from the commissary. (The north ridge road that winds past the field sports complex did not exist in 1972.) Consequently, each patrol had to send two “Grub Hustlers” to the commissary, twice a day, for breakfast and lunch supplies in the morning and supper supplies in the late afternoon. Bungee cords held 10-gallon plastic garbage cans to L-shaped Yucca pack frames for carrying the food supplies – two per patrol. Milk, juice, and ice were carried between the two Scouts in a heavy wire milk crate. Some troops came prepared with wagons, but they were of little use for the campsites on the north ridge.



Patrol dining in Arrowhead campsite. (Photo by Mike Stobaugh)

No staff photo has been found for 1972, but the complete staff roster is listed on the 1972 camp totem that hangs in the Wilderness Training Center (old commissary building). The complete 1972 Wilderness Camp Staff roster is provided below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| - Jerry Botts – Camp Director   | - George Phillips – Commissary Director |
| - Ron Thoe – Program Director   | - Dave Birks – Commissary Assistant     |
| - Glen Phillips - Waterfront Director                                       | - Joe Russell – Commissary/Trading Post |
| - Dave Brown – Waterfront (Swimming)  | - Steve Brown - Commissary Assistant    |
| - Roger Ogburn – Waterfront (Swimming)                                      | - Dale Higdon - Commissary Assistant    |
| - Kieth Holtzman – (Swimming)   | - Steve Coates – Nature Director        |
| - Alan Defenbaugh – Waterfront (Canoeing)                                   | - Bud Crawford – Nature Assistant       |
| - Mark Hinrichs – Waterfront (Rowing)                                       | - Terry Mix - Scoutcraft                |
| - Mike Stobaugh – Field Sports / Archery                                    | - Dale Crank - Scoutcraft               |
| - Bill Littell – Camp Ranger (lived off-site)                               | - Jim Gardiner - Scoutcraft             |
| - Field Sports / Riflery - Run by an assigned Scout Professional each week: |   |
| o Dub Washington  |   |
| o Jack Scott  |   |
| o Marc Posner   |   |

## Year Nine - 1973



1973 Wilderness Camp Patch

Jack T. Scott was the new council Program Director and served as Wilderness Camp Director for the 1973 summer camping season. Longtime Wilderness staffer Jay Johnson served as his Program Director. Five weeks of camp were held in 1973, with an average of about 120 Scouts and adults each week. The ever-popular Sunday evening chicken barbecues continued in 1973. The camp program was well defined by this time, so very few changes occurred. (Scoutmasters like knowing what to expect!) Saddlehorn campsite was added to the North Ridge in 1973, bringing the number of summer campsites to nine.

A new Camp Ranger, Fred Stockdale, was hired in early 1973. Bill Littell retired from his position, due to health issues. Sadly, he passed in August, 1974.

In 1973, there were rumblings about the future of Wilderness Camp, as negotiations were underway for the merger of Creve Coeur Council with Corn Belt Council, in Bloomington, and Starved Rock Area Council, in Ottawa. Those two councils had their own camps (Heffernan and Ki-Shau-Wau, respectively) and there were lots of opinions and rumors about what might happen to the camps after the merger. In November of 1973, the three councils merged to form W. D. Boyce Council. There were no immediate plans for any of the camps then, other than continuing to operate all four summer camp programs, as usual.

The complete Wilderness Camp Staff roster for 1973 is provided below:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| - Jack Scott – Camp Director                    | - Dee Hallows – Camp Nurse                 |
| - Jay Johnson – Program Director                | - Allen Corzine – Commissary Director      |
| - George Phillips – Waterfront Director         | - Steve Morgan – Quartermaster             |
| - Roger Ogburn – Waterfront                     | - Jim Sellman – Trading Post               |
| - Kevin Thomas – Waterfront                     | - Dale Crank – Commissioner                |
| - Ken Smith – Waterfront                        | - Joe Leibold – Commissioner Aide          |
| - Dan Maubach – Waterfront                      | - Dale Higdon- Commissioner Aide           |
| - Bob Cudworth - Scoutcraft                     | - Bill Fine – Commissioner CIT             |
| - Jim Pate - Scoutcraft                         | - Neil Southwood – Commissioner CIT        |
| - Chuck Behrens – Archery Director (3 wks)      | - Mike Stobaugh – Archery Director (2 wks) |
| - Jerry Hallows – Riflery Director              | - Jim Davis                                |
| - Fred Stockdale – Camp Ranger (lived off-site) |  |



Sunrise over Lake Roberts.

*(Photo by Mike Coleman)*



Camp-wide campfires were held at the old campfire bowl, located in the valley between the commissary and the main flag pole. *(Photo by Joe Leibold)*

## Cedar Creek Trail



First Cedar Creek Trail Patch,  
Nov. 1969 - Nov. 1973

Al Roberts vision for Wilderness Camp included a hiking and backpacking trail around the perimeter of the camp, with outpost campsites along the way. Cedar Creek is the southern boundary of the camp, winding its way from west to east, and offering some beautiful vistas from the bluffs above. In 1967, Jim Sampson and Neil Downard blazed a trail along Cedar Creek, which was the precursor to Cedar Creek Trail. Jim Sampson wrote this in his 2010 historical notes, "One Saturday between what must have been our second and third year, I enlisted Neil Downard to help make the rudiments of a hiking trail alongside Cedar Creek. He drove the Cat tractor with a lowered blade to clear trees and brush. With a flag attached to a long pole for visibility, I led the way to guide

his route. I think that in my correspondence with Glen, I've read that there's now a trail alongside the creek. Maybe our work that long-ago year was its genesis."<sup>3</sup>

Indeed, it was! It had yet to be named, but it was the beginning of Cedar Creek Trail. Two years later, during the summer of 1969, staffers Tracy Pitzen and Jerry Bucher hiked the trail and nailed up the first yellow fleur-de-lis markers around the boundaries of the camp to create a 14-mile loop, which he accurately marked out on a topographical map. "Later that fall, my Explorer Post 129, from Farmington, spent several weekends clearing and further marking Tracy's trail. Bill Littell led the way on the D4 dozer and our Explorer Adviser, Hike Johnson, followed on the camp tractor with a brush-hog mower on the rear. We Explorers followed on foot with bow saws and axes. We also packed a couple hundred of those yellow steel (fleur-de-lis) markers, which we nailed to trees along the trail. We also used green paint to add arrows on the markers, pointing left, right, or straight, when needed."<sup>6</sup>



Scouts from Peoria Troop 25 are hiking Cedar Creek Trail in the late winter, of 1970. Those known in this photo are Jeff Vallosio (back right) Tony Bill (back left), Greg Vallosio (front right). (Photo by Paul McKim)

In late 1969, the council announced that Cedar Creek Trail, at Wilderness Camp, was open for year-round hiking. The council created the first Cedar Creek Trail patch as an award for those who completed the 14-mile-long trail. It soon became a popular troop activity for fall and spring campouts and gave Scouts a chance to see places in camp they never knew existed. The trail still passes by an Artesian well, remnants from long-gone farms, past beaver dams, along limestone cliffs filled with fossils, through deep shaded glens, and beside natural prairies. Wildlife abounds along the trail, which is especially beautiful when the wildflowers bloom in the spring or when the oaks, hickories, and maples change color in the fall.

Over the years, the course of the creek has changed, which also changed the course of the trail. One particular flood in the late 1990s caused a major re-routing of the trail, which reduced the trail's length to 12 miles. Each year the trail must be re-cleared from the annual spring flooding, which sometimes deposits whole trees across the path.

When the councils merged in November, 1973, the trail patch was changed to say, "Wilderness Camp – W.D. Boyce Council." But in May, 1974, the camp was renamed to Ingersoll Scout Reservation and the patch was again changed to say, "Ingersoll Scout Reservation – W.D. Boyce Council."



Second Cedar Creek Trail Patch  
Nov, 1973 – May, 1974

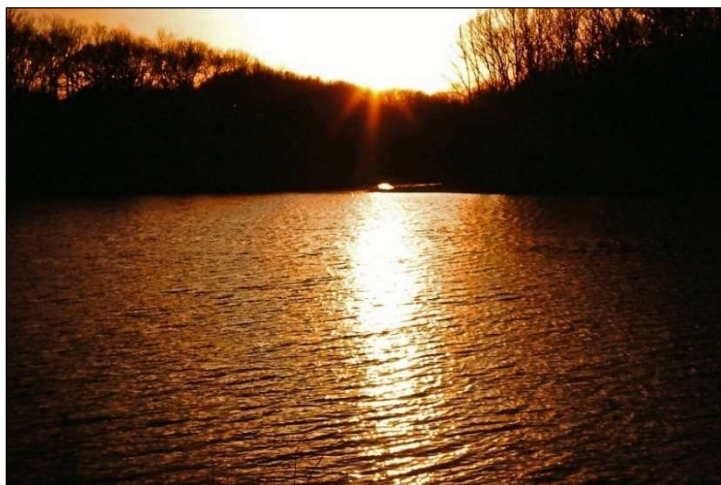
## 1974 - Into the Future as W. P. Ingersoll Scout Reservation

Although William Ingersoll provided the money to purchase the camp with the stipulation that his donation be anonymous, after his passing in October, 1973, Al Roberts “approached Ann Hollandsworth and asked how she thought he (Ingersoll) would feel about having the camp renamed in his honor. She thought that he would like that very much.”<sup>1</sup> In May, 1974, Wilderness Camp was re-dedicated and officially renamed W. P. Ingersoll Scout Reservation. Beginning with the summer of 1974, camp patches said Ingersoll Scout Reservation. This was altogether fitting, since William Ingersoll funded the camp’s purchase and continued to send money over the years for camp development, and also because of his generosity after his death. He had no heirs, so his entire estate was placed in a trust, with the principle never to be distributed, but with the interest to be distributed annually amongst 13 different causes that he cared about. “The camp west of London Mills” (Wilderness Camp) was designated to receive 13% of that interest distribution each year.

In 1973, the Ingersoll Trust “conservatively gave the camp an income in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year range.”<sup>1</sup> But through the years, some of those organizations named in the Ingersoll trust have dissolved, re-allocating the interest distributions. Also, the trust has been very conservatively invested by its managers, which has greatly increased the value of the principle over nearly 50 years. A recent inquiry of the trust and its distributions (public information) showed the camp received roughly \$268,000 in 2020. I’m sure William Ingersoll is smiling down from heaven at how his money is being used.

In late 1975, after several years of bearing the losses from simultaneously operating summer camping programs at ISR, Camp Wokanda, Camp Ki-Shau-Wau, and Camp Heffernan, and with the rapid rise in economic inflation eating away at FOS contributions, the W. D. Boyce Council made the difficult decision to eliminate the summer camping programs at the three older camps and shift all council summer camp program to Ingersoll for the 1976 camping season. Five new campsites created on the new West Ridge, a modern dining hall, a swimming pool, an equestrian program, and much more were advertised for 1976. It was not a popular decision. The three old camps all had their histories, with Scouters who had camped there for decades, and with some Scout families having camped there for four generations. But the times – and the finances - dictated the decision, which turned out very well, in this author’s opinion. Over time, hard feelings have softened and multiple generations of Scouts and Scouters have camped at ISR. Ingersoll Scout Reservation has grown to 980 acres. The council and camp staffs have created more program opportunities, greatly enhanced the infrastructure with the dining hall, pool, climbing tower, shooting sports complex, Eco-Con area, COPE course, outpost programs, water slide, and more. Baden-Powell said, “Scouting is a game with a purpose.” The purpose is still the same, but Scouts have changed over 50 years, and ISR has changed the game with them, to provide today’s Scouts with the program they want.

Although the name and the facilities have changed, if a troop so desires, it can still pick up food and ice at the back of the dining hall, pack it to the campsite, then cook it and eat it there, just as Al Roberts intended!



## ***Bibliography***

- <sup>1</sup> “History of Ingersoll Scout Reservation and Scout Office,” by Dale Roberts  
- pages 3, 4, 7, 11, 40
- <sup>2</sup> Creve Coeur Council Camp Committee Meeting Minutes – December, 1963  
- page 3
- <sup>3</sup> “Historical Notes on Wilderness Camp (1965) (1966) (1977), by Jim Sampson” – 2010  
- pages 4, 10, 13, 22, 23, 24, 28
- <sup>4</sup> Galesburg Register Mail, September 19, 1963  
- pages 3, 5, 10
- <sup>5</sup> Personal recollections from Paul McKim, Scoutmaster at Wilderness Camp 1963-1967  
- pages 5, 10
- <sup>6</sup> Personal recollections from Mike Stobaugh, Wilderness camper 1966-1970, Wilderness Camp staff 1971-1973; ISR staff 1974 - 1979  
- pages 7, 9, 10, 11, 23, 24, 29, 30, 34, 35, 37, 39
- <sup>7</sup> Personal recollections from Mike Coleman, Program Director 1968/Camp Director 1969 and 1970  
- pages 28, 30, 32, 34
- <sup>8</sup> Peoria Journal Star, August 24, 1966 – page 25

I must also acknowledge the valuable input from several other people who were Wilderness campers and Wilderness Camp Staff members, who took the time to dig through old photos, records, and search their memories for details that happened over 50 years ago. These people are:

- Steve Rhodes (1965 Wilderness camper, ISR Camp Staff, and Scouting historian)
- Joe Leibold (Wilderness camper; 1973 Wilderness Camp Staff, and Scouting historian)
- Jason Biggs (ISR camper; ISR Staff 1997-2006; present ISR Property Manager/Ranger)
- Marc Posner (Wilderness Riflery Director 1970, 1972; 1971 Camp Director)
- Steve Cantrell (ISR camper and Scouting historian)
- Roger Ogburn (Wilderness camper; Wilderness Camp Staff 1972, 1973; ISR Staff 1974)
- Robert Fink, Sr. (1963 Creve Coeur Council Camp Committee member; 1950s Wokanda Staff, and Scouting historian)
- Tracy Pitzen (Wilderness camper; Wilderness Camp Staff 1969, 1970)



1965 Wilderness Camp Staff (L to R): Lyle Johnson, Jim Sampson, Augie Chiovatero, Glen Phillips  
(2010 Wilderness/ISR Reunion - Photo by Mike Stobaugh)