

HISTORY of the BSA BAYONNE BOY SCOUTING and CAMP LEWIS

The Boy Scouts of America

On January 24, 1908, the Boy Scout movement began in the United Kingdom with the publication of Robert Baden-Powell's "Scouting for Boys."

The name Baden-Powell was already well known to many English boys, and thousands of them eagerly bought the handbook. By the end of April, scores of Boy Scout troops had sprung up across Britain.

In 1900, Baden-Powell became a national hero for his exploits in the South African War. Soon after, Aids to Scouting, a military field manual he had written for British soldiers in 1899, caught on with a younger audience. Boys loved the lessons on tracking and observation and organized elaborate games using the book. Hearing this, Baden-Powell decided to write a non-military field manual for adolescents that would also emphasize the importance of morality and service.

First, however, he decided to try out some of his ideas on a group of youth. On July 25, 1907, he took a diverse group of 21 boys to Brownsea Island in Dorsetshire where they set up camp. With the aid of other instructors, he taught the boys about camping, observation, deduction, woodcraft, boating, lifesaving, patriotism, and chivalry. Many of these lessons were learned through inventive games that were very popular.

With the success of Scouting for Boys, Baden-Powell set up a central Boy Scout office, which registered new Scouts and designed a uniform. By the end of 1908, there were 60,000 Boy Scouts, and troops began springing up in British Commonwealth countries across the globe. In September 1909, the first national Boy Scout meeting was held at the Crystal Palace in London. Ten thousand Scouts showed up, including a group of uniformed girls who called themselves the Girl Scouts. In 1910, Baden-Powell organized the Girl Guides as a separate organization.

The American version of the Boy Scouts has its origins in an event that occurred in London in 1909. According to legend, Chicago publisher William D. Boyce was lost in the fog when a Boy Scout came to his aid. After guiding Boyce to his destination, the boy refused a tip, explaining that as a Boy Scout he would not accept payment for doing a good deed. This anonymous gesture inspired Boyce to gather information on the scouting movement.

Boyce returned to the United States and with Edward S. Stewart and Stanley D. Willis he incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910 and applied for a congressional charter. Around this

time, William Randolph Hearst, a newspaperman, formed the American Boy Scouts, a group that only lasted through 1918.

Between business and travel, Boyce did not spend much time on the new organization, and Edgar Robinson, a senior administrator of the YMCA in New York City, learned of the new program and traveled to Chicago where he agreed to help Boyce organize the Boy Scouts as a national organization.

Robinson returned to New York to begin the search for members. After a series of meetings in early 1910, the Woodcraft Indians led by Ernest Thompson Seton, the Boy Scouts of the United States headed by Colonel Peter Bomus and the National Scouts of America headed by Colonel William Verbeck were absorbed into the BSA. The National Highway Patrol Association Scouts headed by Colonel E. S. Cornell and the Sons of Daniel Boone headed by Daniel Carter Beard were folded.

The BSA National Office opened in the 28th Street YMCA in New York City on June 1, 1910 with Colin H. Livingstone as the national president and Seton as Chief Scout. Beard, Bomus and Verbeck became the national commissioners. Seton wrote A Handbook of Woodcraft, Scouting, and Life-Craft. This evolved into what is now the Boy Scout Handbook.

James E. West, an enterprising young lawyer known as an advocate of children's rights was hired as managing secretary on a six-month temporary basis. That temporary position lasted 35 years.

By that autumn, the organization had 2,500 leader applications from 44 states and 150,900 youth inquiries.

As the BSA grew, the concept of the local council grew as a method of administration. The council's in turn, were part of one of twelve numbered regions, which followed the organization of the Federal Reserve System at that time.

Since the BSA had early and enduring ties with the YMCA, a firmly Protestant organization, the Catholic Church forbade their boys to join. The Catholics finally accepted the BSA in 1913, but Catholic-sponsored troops would only form under Catholic adult leadership. There were also protests over the inclusion of African Americans, but the stipulation that the Boy Scouts would not discriminate on the basis of race or creed had been established in its founding charter.

In the years before World War I, pacifism and patriotism often came into conflict, and the BSA was sometimes in the middle. Some thought that the BSA was too militaristic, especially as characterized by their military style uniforms and discipline, while others felt that the BSA was unpatriotic in their stance against military training.

During America's wartime, Boy Scouts were used to search for unregulated radio transmitters, as message runners, coast watchers, and were even told to be alert for men who had not reported for military service. Over \$352 million of war bonds were sold by Scouts along with \$101 million War Saving Stamps. They collected food, materials to be processed into charcoal for gas masks and inventoried black walnut trees for use as propellers and gun stocks.

During World War I, it was noted that troops tended to fold if the Scoutmaster was called for service. Changes in the troop structure included the introduction of the troop committee and the senior patrol leader position.

In 1918, an influenza pandemic occurred in Europe and was quickly spread worldwide by soldiers returning from the war. In the United States, between the tens of thousands who became ill and military patients coming home from Europe with battle wounds, hospital facilities and staff were taxed to the limit. The situation was so dire that members of the Boy Scouts were pressed into national service to act as messengers, assist medical staff, conduct door-to-door surveys, enforce public health codes, help build coffins and in some areas, dig graves. The Boy Scouts performed a great deal of public service throughout World War I, but it was their assistance during the pandemic that won the hearts of the citizens and made the Boy Scouts a great American institution.

BSA membership rose dramatically between 1950 and 1960, from 2.8 million to 5.2 million, then to about 6.4 million in the 1970s. Today it hovers around 2.5 million with almost one million adult volunteers.

Robert Baden-Powell was the acclaimed Chief Scout of the world. He retired in 1939 and moved to Nyeri, Kenya. He died on January 8, 1941 and is buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in the Wajee Nature Park. His gravestone bears a circle with a dot in the center, which is the trail sign for "going home". Kenya has declared Baden-Powell's grave a national monument.

Scouting in Bayonne

Scouting began in Bayonne in 1918. Records show, "A Council of Boy Scouts was organized in the city by a score of men at the Bayonne Club at 33rd Street and Newark Bay in March 1918. Thomas Agnew, Principal of Horace Mann School, presided at the meeting. Others present were Samuel Edwards, H. Hill, Francis Brick, William Cain, Harry Hall, Walter Clarkson, Robert Ring and District Court Judge Peter Stillwell. The Tidewater Oil Company subscribed \$1,500 in a drive for the scouts."

The first council office was located at 719 Broadway, home today to a well known local business - The Tux Shop. There is no indication of how long the office remained in that location, but records from the 1940s show the office location as 697 Avenue C - the Bayonne Library.

In August, 1921, Pamrapaugh Lodge of Bayonne became the tenth lodge in the Order of the Arrow. The Order of the Arrow is the honor society of the Boy Scouts of America, composed of scouts who best exemplify the scout oath and law in their daily lives. Due to a clerical recordkeeping error when the lodges were officially and retroactively numbered in 1926, Pamrapaugh Lodge was assigned lodge number 14 instead of their rightful placement of number ten.

The name Pamrapo - or Pemmerpough - has its origins from the Native word Pemapuchk, which means "big rocks."

In the 1600's, Pemmerpough was applied to the section of Bayonne between the Morris Canal and 33rd Street. No doubt the Natives - mainly the Lenni-Lenape Tribe - were referring to the massive rocks on which a great portion Bayonne and the Greenville section of Jersey City rest, and which was most visible in the vicinity of the Morris Canal.

The "big rocks" were a large basalt outcrop and have long since been removed, but remnants are still visible today, most notably along Bayonne's John F. Kennedy Boulevard at the city line in current day Mercer Park.

The Lenni-Lenape (the "original people") were part of the Algonquin nation and inhabited New Jersey long before the Europeans arrived. They were a people with a strong sense of tradition and a well organized lifestyle. They traveled with the seasons, making full use of the area resources. During the spring they planted gardens around their permanent settlements. In the summer, they went to the shore to catch oysters and clams and stay cool. In the fall, they would move back to their village and harvest their crops, and in the winter, they hunted deer and other animals.

The New Jersey Department of State issued the Bayonne Council an incorporation certificate on February 29, 1924. This process was handled by the Dembe and Dembe Law Offices located at the DeWitt Theater Building in Bayonne. The document states that the council was being formed to "improve the mental, social and physical condition of young men, to promote ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, train them in scoutcraft, and teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues."

The council officials were Mr. DeWitt Van Buskirk, president; James McGregor, vice president; F.A. Brick, vice president; Alexander Seclow, vice president, William Drew, treasurer and E.J. Traus, scout executive.

By all accounts, scouting quickly gained popularity in Bayonne and was praised by city officials.

At a court of honor in the Horace Mann School on January 23, 1927, Judge Thomas Meaney praised the scouts. He stated, "Not all of us can become the president, but we can all be decent citizens. If every boy in Hudson County adhered to the principals of the Boy Scouts there would be no need for juvenile courts." He said that in all his years on the bench only four boys had appeared before him who were associated with scouting.

Records show that Bayonne scouts spent their summers at Camp Pamrapo on Lake Kanowahke in Haverstraw, New York. In the mid-nineteenth century there was a small settlement on the lake shore and beginning in 1917 several Boy Scout camps were built around the lake.

Newspaper articles from the time note that the camp was shared by the Bayonne and Hoboken Councils, but Bayonne maintained control of the operation.

A 1924 brochure for Camp Pamrapo notes that it is "The summer camp of the Bayonne Boy Scouts of America." And, "Our sixth year on the lake." It appears that this location was used by Bayonne scouts through approximately 1929.

In 1930, Bayonne scouts began using Camp Brady - a tract of land at Lake Hopatcong donated by Jerome Brady of the Consumers Coal & Ice Company located at Avenue E and 22nd Street.

Mr. Brady and his brother had a very successful business harvesting ice from the lake. So much so that he decided to construct an airstrip on his property. The June 30, 1928 Lake Hopatcong Breeze reported, "Lake Hopatcong will soon have a full-fledged airport. A large field belonging to the Consumers Coal & Ice Company is being leveled and graded to form a modern landing place for aircraft. The airport was the idea of Jerome Brady, principal of Consumers' Coal & Ice, which owns much land and several ice houses around the northern part of Lake Hopatcong."

Brady owned a plane and was the first to land at his new airport and the newspaper reported that "He planned to commute regularly between the lake and the company's offices in Bayonne as soon as he can get an official pilot's license."

The opening of the new airport, officially called Lake Hopatcong Airport but more commonly known as Brady Field, was celebrated with a host of the daredevil attractions which became wildly popular in America during these early days of aviation.

Although the airfield at Lake Hopatcong began with great fanfare, like most other early ones it was not destined to become a real airport. Ultimately, Brady Field was utilized more for baseball than for flying.

Records show that Camp Brady was used until the late 1930s.

A Bayonne Times newspaper noted that on February 12, 1932, a "practice scout mobilization" was able to muster 300 scouts from 16 troops in one hour to a gathering point on Broadway and 32nd Street. This was done to determine the length of time necessary to gather the scouts as they "have shown themselves to be of great value in rendering service to the community in time of distress." The mobilization was not announced in advance and scout officials proudly noted that after the call from scout headquarters, "the first scout arrived within seven minutes, seven more by ten minutes, 30 in 15 minutes, 100 within 20 minutes and 300 within one hour." The scouts were congratulated and afterwards "were the guests of Tony Williams, the manager of the DeWitt Theater."

On July 15, 1941, the scout troops of Bayonne organized an emergency corps of 800 scouts to "aid in the civilian defense of the city." The new corps was only open to scouts with the rank of first class or above.

A 1947 report showed that there were 23 Cub Scout packs with 681 boys and 29 Boy Scout troops with 1,010 scouts. By the mid-1950s that number increased to 1,500 scouts.

Bayonne scouting appeared to be in its prime from the 1930s through the 1950s. An average of 25-30 active troops along with a nearly equal number of Cub Scout Packs as well as Sea Scout Ships, Rover Scouts and Air Scout Squadrons are consistently shown in records.

The list below is from 1943 and while the troop numbers remained, the sponsoring organizations sometimes changed. For example, in the late 1930s, Troop 2 was sponsored by a "group of citizens" and by 1960, Troop 9 was sponsored by the "Bayonne Naval Supply Base."

There were also periods when troops were sponsored by individual public schools. Troop 3 was once sponsored by the Henry Harris School, Troop 6 by the Horace Mann School, Troop 7 by the Phillip Vroom School, Troop 10 by Roosevelt School, Troop 11 by the Mary J. Donahue School, Troop 13 by the Washington School, Troop 17 by the Woodrow Wilson School, Troop 38 by the Lincoln School and Troops 45 and 46 by Bayonne High School.

Troop 1 – Central YMCA
Troop 2 – St. Andrews Church
Troop 3 – Trinity Episcopal Church
Troop 5 – Kiwanis Club
Troop 6 – Christ Presbyterian Church
Troop 7 – Grace Lutheran Church
Troop 8 – First Reformed Church
Troop 9 – Patriotic Order of Sons of America
Troop 10 – Conmar-Margon Corporation
Troop 11 – Joyce-Herbert Post 226, VFW
Troop 12 – Angelic Baptist Church
Troop 13 – Jewish War Veterans
Troop 14 – Ohab Sholem Congregation
Troop 15 – F.A. Mackenzie Post 165
Troop 16 – Industrial YMCA
Troop 17 – Foreman's Club
Troop 18 – St. Joseph's Church
Troop 19 – Mt. Carmel Church
Troop 20 – St. Mary's Church (Rover Crew)
Troop 21 – St. Mary's Church
Troop 22 – St. Mary's Church
Troop 23 – St. Mary's Church
Troop 24 – Jewish Community Center
Troop 25 – St. Vincent's Church
Troop 26 – St. Vincent's Church
Troop 27 – Our Lady of Assumption Church
Troop 28 – Carpathian Club
Troop 29 – Salvation Army
Troop 30 – St. John Greek Church
Troop 34 – Bayonne Elks Club
Troop 35 – St. Henry's Church

Sea Scouting became popular in Bayonne beginning in the 1920s, although its popularity peaked in the the late 1950s and 1960s. Throughout the years there were a number of sponsoring organizations.

Ship 2 – St. Andrews Church
Ship 3 – Trinity Church
Ship 5 – First Federated Church
Ship 7 – Jersey Yacht Club
Ship 19 – Mt. Carmel Church
Ship 20 – St. Mary Church
Ship 22 – Max Bayroff Company
Ship 25 – St. Vincent Church

A Bayonne Times newspaper article from March 12, 1928 noted that Ship 2 of St. Andrews had taken a cruise the day prior around the New York Harbor with stops at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Governors Island. It was common to see news reports of trips to the New Jersey Shore, into New York and as far north as Canada.

There are hundreds of newspaper articles from the 1920s through the 1970s that reference the Bayonne Boy Scout movement and their many good deeds - community projects, war bond drives, tin can collections for the war effort, augmenting municipal public safety forces, building playgrounds, conservation projects, litter patrols, etc. If there was a need for a group of organized, disciplined and trained youth, the scouts of Bayonne could be counted on.

The Bayonne Council remained intact until 1993 when it was merged with other local councils, which in turn became the Northern New Jersey Council.

The Rosenthal's

Camp Lewis owes its existence to the generosity of Ida and William Rosenthal. Camp Lewis was endowed to scouting to honor the memory of their son Lewis (1907-1930) who died at age 23 while a student at Columbia University Law School. Legend says that Lewis drowned, and the Rosenthal's wanted to provide a location where youth could learn how to swim. In reality, Lewis died of meningitis.

The Rosenthal's exemplify a "rags to riches" success story; immigrants coming to America penniless and ultimately becoming multi-millionaires.

Ida and William immigrated to America from Russia in 1906. Dress-makers by trade, Ida began working as a seamstress in Hoboken, New Jersey and eventually opened a quality dressmaking business, which she relocated to Manhattan in 1918.

In 1921, one of Ida's dresses caught the eye of an elegant English-woman named Enid Bissett, who had a dress shop in New York's garment district. Enid was so taken with Ida's work that she proposed they go into partnership, and in the summer of 1922, Enid Frocks opened for business at 36 West 57th Street.

The Rosenthal's were never completely satisfied with the fit of women's dresses. Fashions of the day demanded a boyish look, so early vest and bandage-type garments were designed to intentionally flatten a woman's curves. These were manufactured by the Boyish Form Brassier Company, whose slogan was "Look like your brother."

Enid, who was proud of her figure, also felt the look was extremely unflattering and both women believed that a dress fit better over a natural bust line rather than a flat chest. The ladies restructured the look and with some design changes from William, the creation was transformed to shape and support the natural contours of the bust. Because the garment enhanced, rather than hid, the wearer's body, the Rosenthal's dubbed it "The Maiden Form Brassiere" in 1922 and began building it into each dress they made.

In 1923, the year after the business was incorporated; the partners had to relocate four times because it was expanding rapidly. In 1924, Maiden Form was registered as a trademark, patents were applied for and, by 1925, they were selling so many brassieres that they stopped manufacturing dresses and concentrated on lingerie.

Amazingly, the team had stumbled on one of the quintessential products of the 1920s - novel, vaguely risqué, easy to mass-produce and perfectly promotable. No one had heard of a brassiere in 1920. By 1924, all fashionable women had to have one.

To meet increasing demand for the revolutionary undergarment, they formed the Enid Manufacturing Company in 1925 to produce the Maiden Form Brassiere exclusively.

As the demand continued to rise, the trio saw an opportunity. In 1929, they closed their dress shop, renamed the Enid Frocks Company the Maidenform Brassiere Company, and moved their manufacturing operation to Bayonne, New Jersey. The Rosenthal's purchased the former Schwarzenbach-Huber silk manufacturing factory built between 1890 and 1910 and employed some 1,500 people. It was the world's largest brassiere factory.

At this time, Enid retired from the business, but Ida stayed on to manage the sales and finances, while William handled design and manufacturing. To create a greater demand for their product, they became the first intimate-apparel company to advertise, with ads appearing in newspapers, magazines, on buses, billboards, local window, store-counter displays and even over the radio. The strategy worked extremely well.

When shortages of nylon fabric and other material threatened the business during World War II, Ida managed to secure a "declaration of essentiality" from the government. She told the War Department that women workers in defense plants who wore an uplifting garment would be less fatigued, and they agreed.

The company also diversified into manufacturing clothing and underwear for soldiers, parachutes for the Army Air Forces, mattress covers, mosquito netting and other essential products.

Maidenform grew tremendously after the war when it launched its most daring and memorable campaign with a print ad of a beautiful woman clad in a white satin skirt, black gloves, lace-up sandals - and her brassiere. The copy line read simply, "I dreamed I went shopping in my Maidenform bra." It was one of the most celebrated ad campaigns in history, and among the most effective. Fortune reported in 1950 that the Maidenform design was the most sought after brassier on the market and the firm was nation's leading undergarment manufacturer, with sales of \$14 million a year.

It was also at this time that the Rosenthal's son-in-law, Dr. Joseph Coleman, decided to give up his medical practice and join the company. Joseph directed the company's advertising while his wife Beatrice, by then the mother of two daughters, worked part time in the design department.

While William was not a Bayonne resident, he was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club.

When William died on April 12, 1958 at his home in Bayville, New York, Ida became the chief executive officer of the company and continued working until she suffered a stroke in 1966, after which she stayed on as honorary chairman of the board until her death on March 28, 1973.

Joseph then ran the corporation until his death in 1968, at which time Beatrice succeeded him. She would remain president for the next 22 years. After her death in 1990, her son-in-law, Robert Brawer, was named president. Maidenform remained a family-run business until 1998.

There are numerous documented examples of the Rosenthal's philanthropy. They generously supported many Jewish organizations and causes as well as New York University and were among the principal founders of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University.

In 2013, the HanesBrands acquired Maidenform for \$575 million.

Marcella Area Background

Camp Lewis is located in the Marcella/Hibernia Section of Rockaway Township, New Jersey. The area was first settled in 1715 by Dutch settlers who arrived in the lower or eastern part of the Township. It was these Dutch settlers who gave Rockaway its name as we know it today. Rockaway is based on the Indian word, "Rechouwakie," meaning, "the place of sands." the earliest recorded land grants were between William Penn and the Delaware Tribe of Native Americans, known as the Lenni Lenape or "original people."

The landscape of Rockaway Township is composed of rocky soil and steep slopes making it unsuitable for early colonization by farmers or herders. But it was found that the area was rich in iron ore and from the early 1700s, Rockaway hosted a pair of mining communities - a southern one in Mount Hope and a northern one in Hibernia. Along with mining, ore refining became the township's main economic activity,

By 1776, Morris County was the principle smelting center in the country. Rockaway Township has a great number of forges and blast furnaces primarily in Hibernia, Mount Hope and Split Rock. The forges and furnaces furnished the Continental Army with shovels, axes, cannon, cannon balls, grapeshot and other supplies. Even though there was a desperate need for soldiers in the Continental Army, the New Jersey Legislature adopted a resolution on October 7, 1777, exempting the men working at the forges and furnaces from entering the military service as their labor was essential to mine the iron and produce the equipment needed for battle.

An exceptional example of a furnace is the Split Rock Furnace, located below the dam of the Split Rock Reservoir. The Split Rock Furnace was constructed in 1862 by Andrew Cobb. Andrew was the son of Colonel Lemuel Cobb, a well known surveyor who became the owner of large tracts of land in the northern part of the county. He was also the owner of the Split Rock mine.

Cobb's furnace was fueled by charcoal and more efficient anthracite coal furnaces had emerged, making his obsolete. He kept it running until approximately 1872 after which he ceased operations. Andrew Cobb passed away in 1873, leaving the property to his son, Andrew Lemuel Cobb. His son ultimately sold the property to Montclair Water Company in 1896.

Interestingly, the Cobb name appears on the deed document identifying the parcel of land now known as Camp Lewis. The Cobb men noted above are not interred on camp property; their graves are in the Vail Memorial Cemetery in Parsippany.

Mining and its associated functions attracted varied communities of settlers from European countries with their own mining practices and traditions, bringing groups of German, Welsh, Cornish, and Irish workers in the early years, and Slovaks, Poles, and Hungarians during the immigration influx of the later 19th century.

During the long history of mining, two of the deepest vertical shafts were sunk to depths of 1,600 and 2,800 feet and provided as many as 26 underground working levels. When the great western iron reserves were discovered and worked in the 1880s the township's mines began to lose out to the competition. In 1912, the last ore was mined in the Hibernia area and local history credits the closing of the final mines in part to a disaster in which twelve miners were killed in a Wharton Steel Company tunnel flood on October 20, 1911.

The accident occurred around 1:00 AM when the men, working at a depth of about 1,500 feet, detonated an explosive charge, which broke through to an abandoned mine flooded with millions of gallons of water.

The deceased were: David Slaight, Joseph Swenty, George Pollich, Andrew Miskoshek, John Manister, Paul Ketra, Joseph Swinger, Michael Nejoc, Michael Compus, Stephen Mida, George Kermus and Joseph Ploskunka.

The decline of the mining industry affected the township severely and land was sold to local residents and summer visitors. In 1946 one mine was reopened for a brief period, but soon after was abandoned. It has been estimated that there are still 600 million tons of ore remaining under the surface.

Many of the abandoned mine shafts were open to the surface, resulting in dangerous conditions. To eliminate this, all openings were sealed through the use of explosives and other methods in 1972. On occasion, existence of the mines does reappear in the form of a sinkhole or surface depression.

The effect and influence of iron mining and manufacture are evident in the historical remains left behind, the transportation network that it fostered, and the subsequent industries that arose to take advantage of the infrastructure that mining established.

Within the many thickly wooded lands within and surrounding Camp Lewis can still be seen evidence of the past. If you hike here when the foliage and undergrowth are sparse, remnants and traces of old foundations, cellars, rock walls and roads can be seen.

Mining companies built dozens of structures for the hundreds of workers including dwellings, a school, saloons, a hotel, and houses of worship. Today very little remains of the former communities.

A good indication of the former village's size is the number of school age children it had. In 1867, when the Upper Hibernia school district was created, it was large enough to warrant hiring both a principal and an assistant teacher, while many other surrounding school districts had only a teacher. The 1880 census shows that the mountaintop village had 740 residents. In comparison, Rockaway had 1,052 residents at the time, only slightly larger than the mining village.

Not far off one of the old mining road lays one of the most surprising clues hinting at the size of the village's former population. A large cemetery lies in the woods, deep in the middle of nowhere. Spotting it on new topographic maps almost makes it seem as if the mapmakers made a mistake. A sign hanging nearby declares the ground to be "St. Patrick's Cemetery", established in 1869. A search of old records shows that death was a regular event at the mines.

Years ago, many areas showed the intense scarring caused by large-scale mining operations working to extract a large, productive vein of iron ore underlying this area. Nature has successfully reclaimed the land; trees have grown back, streams again flow unaltered, and even some of the disfiguring mining remnants have been incorporated back into nature.

The township's history as a collection of lake resorts is indebted to mining operations and the many beautiful bodies of water. The mix of community structures and historic homes that grace the township came about as miners' housing was repurposed or replaced, but their presence continues to be felt.

One structure of particular significance is the Ford-Faesch Manor House. A three story, 12 room house constructed from 1762 to 1768 by Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr. It served as a prototype for the later Ford Mansion in Morristown that served as Washington's headquarters from December 1779 through June 1780. The Ford-Faesch House features high-ceiling rooms, tall, carved wood-framed windows, and multiple English-style fireplaces, attesting to its elegance as a residence. After Colonel Ford moved to Morristown, the house was leased to Swiss ironmaster John Jacob Faesch, whose involvement with the local iron works introduced European technological innovations to the American operations. The house remained associated with the Mount Hope mining works throughout its history of occupation, up until 1973. Rockaway Township purchased the house and grounds in 1982 and leases them to the local historical society.

The Ford-Faesch House, as well as the Split Rock Furnace are on the National Register of Historic Places.

One of the most historic cemeteries in the area is the First Presbyterian Church in Rockaway. Part of the present day cemetery was believed to be an old Native American burial ground. Colonial settlement took hold in Rockaway around the year 1720 and this particular spot was selected as a burial ground by the earliest families. On March 2, 1758 the Presbyterian Church was founded and the present church, built in 1832, replaced former structures.

The oldest gravestone is dated April 8th 1762. David Estill lost his beloved wife Mary at the age of 24 years.

There are 47 Revolutionary War veterans buried in the cemetery, including a Hessian Soldier named Leopold Zindle. Brigadier General William Winds is buried in the small knoll behind the church. He was elected as one of three delegates from Morris County to the New Jersey Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States for the in 1788. He died in 1789.

There are 16 War of 1812 veterans buried in the cemetery, 132 Civil War veterans, 13 Spanish American War veterans, 89 World War I veterans, 168 World War II veterans, 41 Korean War veterans, and 20 Vietnam War veterans. In total here are approximately 7,000 people interred on the grounds.

During the early 20th century, the growth of summer camps transitioned Rockaway Township from a mining community to a seasonal getaway. Several lakeside communities including Green Pond, Lake Telemark, and White Meadow Lake were established to provide a recreational outlet for city dwellers. Several of these communities were linked by common religious or ethnic backgrounds. Lake Telemark was established for Norwegian immigrants, while Green Pond began as a Methodist church summer camp. The majority of these seasonal communities have now been adapted to year-round residency, although some cottages in Green Pond have still not been winterized.

Rockaway Township has an area of 45 square miles with a current population of approximately 25,000. The Township has many smaller communities within its borders, such as Green Pond, Lake Telemark, Marcella, Hibernia, White Meadow, Mount Hope, Fleetwood, Birchwood, and Mount Pleasant.

A large part of the township, over 5,500 acres, consists of Picatinny Arsenal, a United States Army installation established in 1880 as the Navy Ordnance Depot - the War Department's first official powder depot. In the 1940's, the depot was the only plant in the United States that could produce large caliber munitions and provided training for key World War II defense personnel.

After World War II and with the onset of the Cold War and nuclear arms race, the US Navy began researching and developing liquid rocket motors at Lake Denmark. They changed their name to the US Naval Aeronautical Rocket Laboratory and were responsible for developing some of the most advanced rocket motors of the time for aircraft such as the X-15, Redstone, Loki, Nike Ajax, Shillelagh, Pershing and Honest John (the first US tactical nuclear weapon),

By 1960, the Navy closed all projects and transferred the land to Picatinny Arsenal. Since that time, Picatinny Arsenal has been used mainly for the development of armaments and weapons technologies.

Residents in Rockaway - and beyond - were jolted on July 10, 1926 when an explosion of almost unbelievable proportions rocked the region, killing two dozen people. At approximately 5:00 PM, a thunderstorm in the area produced a bolt of lightning that struck the Lake Denmark Naval Ammunition Storage Depot - part of the larger Picatinny Arsenal. Roughly halfway between the US involvement in World Wars

I and II, the military used the depot to store millions of tons of ammunition and explosives left over from the Great War. More than 600,000 tons of explosives stored inside the depot detonated, resulting in one of the most catastrophic man-made explosions in US history. The blast completely destroyed nearly 200 buildings in a half-mile radius, resulting in \$47 million in damages, 24 known deaths, and dozens more injuries. The explosion was so powerful that debris was found 22 miles away. The incident prompted the United States Government to create the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board to provide oversight of the development, manufacture, testing, handling, transportation and storage of explosives within the military.

In February 2020, unexploded ordnance from the 1926 explosion was unearthed at a Picatinny Arsenal construction site.

Rockaway Township and the surrounding areas are home to many scenic areas. These include lakes, rivers, and expansive ranges of mountains, wildlife preserves and hiking trails. The township is home of Fanny State Park, Wildcat Ridge Wildlife Management Area, Mount Hope Historical Park, and Splitrock Reservoir.

At one time the township had a golf course - the Green Pond Golf Course. Opened in 1930, it was closed in 2007 and taken over by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Similarly, the 65 acre Craigmear Ski Resort, opened in 1937 as the state's first ski area, was acquired by the Morris County Parks Commission in 2005.

The state of New Jersey has 13 major sources of water, with Splitrock Reservoir among them. Splitrock is located in close proximity to Camp Lewis and can be hiked to from the camp. Splitrock, along with the Boonton reservoir, are part of a 120 square mile watershed and are the main sources of potable water for the city of Jersey City. Combined, they hold some 12 billion gallons of water and approximately 50 million gallons a day are used by Jersey City. Splitrock was owned by Jersey City until 2015 when the State of New Jersey purchased 1,500 acres and is now managed by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

A survey conducted in 1774 uses the name split rock and describes it as a visible reference point from which measurements were taken. "The rock is on the side of a footpath that leads from Charlottenburg to the widow Demouth's place." Future references note that the rock became submerged and the body of water became known by the same name.

The reservoir and surrounding watershed lands represent a unique natural resource, supporting a wide variety of endangered plants and animals, including black bear, white-tailed deer, bobcat, timber rattlesnake, northern goshawk, hawk and bald eagle.

There were numerous cemeteries in the region with 14 remaining today. One of the documented cemeteries is the Winters Farm Burial Ground dating from 1866. This is located within the confines of Camp Lewis and over the years, fragments of headstones and grave markers have been reassembled.

In 1882, the W. W. Munsell Company of 36 Vesey Street in New York City published a book titled "The History of Morris County." Within it is noted that the "Winters burying ground is about half a mile south of the Greenville (renamed Marcella) schoolhouse, and is an old one, the Winters family being among the very early settlers. The land is now owned by the A.B. Cobb estate. An occasional interment is made here, among the last of which was Peter D. Henderson, an old resident. There is no charge for lots; friends prepare the ground by clearing the brush and opening the grave."

The grave marker inscriptions were documented by John P. Rogers on March 30, 1930. Harold W. Schroeder conducted additional research in April 1958 and reported two additional stones not found in 1930. At the time, he noted that only the stone of Adelia A. Smith (Winters) was still standing.

Some of the stones found and documented:

- Jeremiah DeGraw; wife Hannah Frances (dates unreadable). Son, Peter, died March 12 1862, age 1 day; daughter Susan, died April 8 1865, age 16; daughter Sarah Ann, died May 27 1867, age 22; son Charles, died October 10 1871, age 19; son Jeremiah, died August 23 (stone broken, year unreadable);
- Lorenzo Dobbins (date unreadable); wife Hannah L. Hopkins, died April 6, 1890 age 69.
- George Post (date unavailable), wife Martha E. Smith, born May 10, 1849, died April 23, 1881; John died June 13, 1886, age 75.
- William F Schall (date unavailable); wife Almira F. Post, died March 12, 1874, age 26.
- Silas H. Smith (date unavailable); wife Adelia A. Winters, died August 21, 1875, age 30.
- Andrew Wright, died February 16, 1872, age 43; wife Louisa (dates unavailable); son William Joseph died April 22, 1862, age 2 months.

Today, some of the above stones have been collected, reassembled, and laid flat on the ground in an area near the Rosenthal Lodge of Camp Lewis. No stones are standing, and most are broken into several pieces. This, along with their age, makes reading them difficult. This is not the location of the Winters burying ground noted in the 1882 publication, but rather where the stones have been assembled. The original graves are thought to be adjacent to the field sports area.

Camp Lewis

In 1939, the original Camp Lewis was established on 24 acres in Asbury, New Jersey on the Musconetcong River. This came about when Bayonne scout leaders, and members of the city Rotary Club, approached William Rosenthal, a fellow Rotarian, about the need to establish a summer camp for local scouts. William located and purchased the land and in front of 1,500 spectators, formally presented it to William Laubenheimer, president of the Bayonne Council, in a ceremony at the annual camporee campfire in Hudson County Park on June 3, 1939. Mr. Rosenthal praised the Boy Scout movement saying it promoted “wholesome training and good fellowship.”

Camp Lewis was used from 1939 through 1941. Initially, the camp housed 25-30 boys per week but over time that number grew to almost 100, and it became obvious that the size of the camp was inadequate to accommodate the growing number of scouts.

In the autumn of 1941, it was learned that the Union Council wished to dispose of approximately 200 acres in their possession; an old lumber camp in Marcella, New Jersey. Mr. Rosenthal was advised, and he purchased the land and donated it to the Bayonne Council.

The first “test-run season” at the “New Camp Lewis”, as it was called, in 1942 was reportedly successful, although the camp had no permanent structures or improvements. A publication noted, “Our first summer season at the New Camp Lewis was successful, despite the problems of securing leadership, transportation and supplies.” An article in the Bayonne Times newspaper on August 18, 1942 describes the new camp as “paradise on a mountain.” The article notes that the temporary kitchen facility consisted of a “stone fireplace under a tarpaulin” and how the “outdoor life gives the boys great appetites and they eat with gusto.” It continues, “Each lad gets two quarts of milk per day.”

In preparation for the 1943 camping season the Bayonne Council printed a brochure outlining the camp and its activities. The cover of the pamphlet said scouting’s job in 1943 was to “toughen up, buckle down and carry on to victory.” The brochure outlined the six weeks of activities from July 11 to August 22. It addressed the parents of scouts: “With gasoline and tire rationing and the pressure of your own activity in the

war effort, it looks as if you and the young scout aren't going to have many outings this summer. That's pretty hard on the boy, going through his precious summer vacation without a real vacation from the city. Why not send him to scout camp for a week or two?"

The brochure addresses the kind of outdoor activities "your red-blooded he-man is looking for." It said that "physical fitness and mental awareness will be stressed" and a "special commando training area will be set up along with a wartime aquatic program." It continues, "Military training? No, Uncle Sam will take care of that. We are simply intensifying the program with special emphasis on those phases that are most needed today, both on the home front and on the front lines."

The 1943 camping season had two plans. Plan A required that the individual Troop provide tents, equipment, food and leadership. For this plan there was no fee to stay at camp. Plan B had all of the above provided and the cost was \$9 per week.

Over time rudimentary facilities were constructed and the scouts used the camp year round. A swimming area was created by damming up a creek bed by constructing a concrete wall and a "swimming hole" was created approximately 100 feet long by 50 feet wide. It was sufficient for cooling off on a hot summer day, but not large enough to accommodate boating or canoeing activities.

The first permanent building on the property - a mess and recreation hall - was erected at a cost of \$19,000 and named the Rosenthal Lodge in honor of William and Ida. It was dedicated on August 9, 1948 at a ceremony attended by Joel Johnson, President of the Bayonne Council, Donald Stevens, Bayonne Scout Executive, George Kamper, President of the Kiwanis Club, Charles Fiumefreddo, President of the Rotary Club and Ida Rosenthal.

Records show that a telephone was installed at Camp Lewis in 1948. The number - for emergencies only - was Newfoundland 9-5277.

Interestingly, a local newspaper report notes that the Rosenthal Lodge was threatened when a wildland fire burned in the area on April 21, 1952. Thirteen Boy Scouts and one Cub Scout were at the camp for a day of hiking and were pressed into service using Indian pump extinguishers - a five-gallon container worn on the back with a hand pump that sprays water - to fight the fire. The report indicates that the fire was brought under control when a state fire warden lit a backfire near the lodge.

As time went on and the camp became more widely used, it was recognized that Camp Lewis would require additional infrastructure and facilities to support increased scouting activities. Ideas were floated around

town on how best to accomplish this when word reached Dave Edwards, the plant manager of the Esso Standard Oil Bayonne refinery (Esso, Standard, Tidewater and Humble Oil were all trademarked names of what would later become the Exxon Corporation). He enlisted the help of Hank Koenigsberg, the union president, and "Operation Good Sport" was born. The plan called for Esso employees to volunteer time on weekends to help improve the camp. Many of the plant's employees had boys in scouting, or were involved themselves, so there was a high level of enthusiasm.

Throughout the 1950's, camp flourished with the assistance of Esso, who generously completed numerous projects such as improving roads, enlarging campsites, and erecting buildings. In the summer of 1955 a structure was erected at a cost of \$5,000 and served as the camp's headquarters building. It served as the administrative offices, first aid station, camp director's quarters, and trading post. A Bayonne Times article noted that "these facilities are now located in the four corners of the dining hall making privacy and security difficult. All of the dining hall will now be available for the serving of meals.

Over the years the building has served in many capacities, and currently houses the medical and trading post functions.

Perhaps the largest project undertaken was the creation of the lake. In the mid-1950s a marshy area in the center of the camp had been identified as a possible location to create an artificial lake. In July 1956 the Morris County Soil Conservation Service was asked to survey the area and determine if creating a lake basin was feasible. After reviewing the location, soil, water source and test borings, they granted approval.

In the autumn of 1957 work began on clearing trees and brush from the area. Each Bayonne troop was asked to assist and along with help from the Order of the Arrow, and the land was cleared over the next six months.

By April 1958 engineering surveys were complete and work began on "Operation Good Scout" as it was known. Reports note that hundreds of Esso employees, union members, office workers and scouting volunteers assisted with the project. Heavy equipment, supplied by Esso, was used to excavate the area, approximately two acres in size. Some 3,000 cubic yards of removed soil was used to create an earthen dam, which contained a roadway atop the berm. Interestingly, the project was completed in one day. A Bayonne Times article noted, "Some machine work may need to be done after Saturday, so some equipment will be left and finished the next weekend if necessary." Another article described the enthusiasm of the scouts: "The scouts rooted the workers on as they saw visions of swimming, boating and fishing developing into a reality."

When completed, a nearby stream was redirected to the basin and the process of filling the lake began. Historical accounts indicate that because of an unusually dry season, the lake - named Lake Good Turn after the Boy Scout motto - filled slowly, only reaching a depth of five feet by the start of the 1958 camping season.

Lake Good Turn was formally dedicated on August 9, 1958 with a picnic for the volunteers who helped build the lake and construct other facilities throughout the camp. Hundreds were in attendance including Ida Rosenthal and Bayonne Mayor Alfred Brady.

Records show that in 1958 Bayonne had approximately 1,500 scouts, at least one-third of who were attending summer camp.

As work continued, the spirit of volunteerism spread throughout Bayonne and business, industry and labor groups joined forces. Participants included: Esso, Texaco, General Dynamics, Electro Dynamics, Baker Castor Oil, Bayonne Block, Bayonne Plumbing, Bayonne Bolt, Bayonne Nickel, Hudson Iron, Palmer Asphalt, Birk Paint, Nadel Paint, the International Association of Machinists, Bricklayers Local 13, the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union and the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, among others. As one news report noted, "Volunteers said they not only felt they were contributing to a worthwhile cause, but they had a good time in the process."

In June 1959, the main camp road was regraded and improved as it had become nearly impassible over the years. While widening the roadway, large boulders and rock shelves were uncovered and traditional jackhammers proved useless. The solution came from one of the volunteer groups - the Hudson Iron Company - who drilled into the rock and blew it apart with dynamite. The result was, as the Bayonne Council noted, "a smooth, safe roadway of crushed stone."

In early 1959, plans to create an athletic field were finalized and scouts and members of the Bayonne High School football team began removing brush from the selected location on April 11. By the end of the summer season, heavy equipment was brought in, the site cleared and grass seed planted.

Also in 1959, the first campsite with Adirondack-type shelters was built. Forms were laid on April 25 by a dozen Esso volunteers and 22 scouts from Explorer Post 27 and Ship 19. On May 2, volunteers from the Bayonne Nickel Company poured the concrete bases and the lean-tos were erected. This site became known as "Frontier."

On June 18, 1960, 100 workers from Electro Dynamics and Baker Castor Oil along with volunteers from Troop 19 built the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish chapel structures. The workers were proud that they began at 8 AM and by dinnertime all were done.

1960 also saw a second campsite with lean-to shelters added. This was named "Major Roy" in honor of Major Warren Roy, a 1917 Major in the Junior American Guard, a military organization that provided training for youth ages 12 to 18. Major Roy was also scoutmaster of the YMCA's Troop 1 in Bayonne for 49 years and it was said that he trained "thousands of Bayonne youth during his service." Major Roy passed away on November 24, 1958 at age 77. It is the only site in camp named for an individual.

In 1962-1963, a study of Camp Lewis was undertaken by an engineering consultant to develop a long-range master plan for camp improvements. The objectives included the construction of a camp ranger residence, an upgraded administration building, a medical building, two enclosed villa-style buildings, warehouse and storage garages, parking lots, new shower facilities, rifle range, and camp director's quarters. Additionally, it was determined that to comply with the National Council regulation requiring resident camps to maintain a three-day supply of water, a larger water storage tank would be required.

To aid in efforts to upgrade the camp, a detachment of 40 US Navy Seabees assigned to Port Newark spent the weekend of June 5, 1964 at camp installing new kitchen equipment and building tent platforms.

By 1965, the Bayonne Council obtained a \$50,000 grant from the Hayden Foundation for improvements (the Charles Hayden Foundation seeks to promote the mental, moral and physical development of youth and provide the skills necessary for satisfying and productive lives).

As summer attendance continued to grow, the need to address the water supply issue was prioritized. A new 10,000 gravity fed tank system along with over 1,200 feet of piping were designed by Humble Oil engineers and on July 25, 1966 "Operation Water Mountain" began with Humble and Esso volunteers. For the remainder of 1966, and over the next several years, the master plan projects were completed.

On May 23, 1967, "Operation Tiger Heights" – named after the Esso advertising slogan of the time, "Put a Tiger in Your Tank" - was announced and Standard Oil volunteers worked on weekends to clear a new campsite and construct a washhouse and sanitary facility.

In 1968, pre-fabricated log-style buildings were shipped to camp and erected over previously poured concrete slabs. One was named Tiger Villa due to its location next to the Tiger Heights campsite. The other buildings were named Hayden Villa and Hayden Chalet in recognition of the Hayden Foundation. In a demonstration of teamwork and efficiency, 60 volunteers erected Tiger Villa on Saturday, June 15, 1968 in five hours.

Improvements continued in accordance with the long range plan and the medical health lodge was constructed in 1971 and new shower facilities completed in 1972.

From the mid-1970s to 1982, no new construction was initiated, however numerous projects were undertaken to maintain or upgrade the existing facilities. The use of other scout camps along with a decline in scouting membership from 6.5 million in the early 1970s to 4 million in 1980 resulted in the camp seeing less activity. As such, scouting staff from Bayonne formulated the idea of a residency camp for Cub Scouts, and Camp Lewis became the first nationally approved Webelos resident camp.

During this timeframe, an issue that needed to be addressed was the continuous effects of erosion on the main camp road, which, over the years, had deteriorated resulting in adverse conditions for vehicles entering and exiting the property. In 1983, a \$10,000 grant was obtained from the Hayden Foundation for this project. In conjunction with a US Army Reserve engineering battalion, who graded the road as part of their weekend duty and a private contractor who supplied black-top, the road was paved and ready for use for the 1983 summer camping season.

Under the Bayonne Council, Camp Lewis ran successful summer programs until 1993 when the BSA began to merge and consolidate local councils.

At the time of its incorporation in 1910, and for the first three years of the BSA's existence, local councils were formed by any group of men who felt that a scouting council was needed in their community. But by 1913, councils could only be formed by charter. Large cities generally had their own council, while rural and wide-spread locations operated area councils, which served entire states and sometimes portions of other states.

By the 1930s, there were over 750 councils in the continental United States and in an effort to better organize operations, the BSA decided to restructure in 1945. At the time, local councils fell into one of eight national districts. That year, the BSA divided the nation into twelve regions, each with a Roman numeral to distinguish them.

In the late 1940s and into the 1950s, some smaller local councils found that it was in their best interest to combine with neighboring councils. As a result of such mergers, by 1960 the BSA had 490 local councils; a significant reduction. The idea of mergers continued as individual councils looked to cut costs, expand programs and increase membership.

Bayonne Council, chartered in 1918, was merged with Alexander Hamilton Council of Jersey City in 1993, forming the newly named Hudson-Hamilton Council. In 1998, Hudson-Hamilton was merged with councils from Bergen, Essex and Passaic Counties to form the Hudson Liberty Council. A decision in 1999 to divide the state into three areas resulted in additional mergers and the formation of the Northern, Central and Southern New Jersey Councils.

The Northern New Jersey Council was formed January 1, 1999 as a result of the consolidation of units within Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Passaic Counties.

The Northern New Jersey Council has its headquarters in Oakland, NJ and is divided into three districts. The Three Rivers District serves Bergen and Hudson County, the Lenape Trail District serves Essex County and the Ramapo Valley District serves Northwest Bergen and Passaic County.

The Northern New Jersey Council operates several camps that are available for day camping, weekend camping, hiking, leader training and summer camps: Camp Alpine, Camp No-Be-Bo-Sco, Camp Turrell, Camp Yaw Paw and Camp Lewis. NNJC also operates the Floodwood Mountain Reservation.

Today, there are about 270 councils in the United States and the nation is divided into four regions: Central, Southern, Western, and Northeast. The Northern New Jersey Council is in the Northeast Region, which covers Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and the northern portion of Virginia. It also covers the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Each region is then subdivided into areas, and NNJC is in Area V.

In June 2000, Camp Lewis was reopened as Northern New Jersey Council's Cub Scout summer resident camp. Since then, it has once again offered summer programs to Cub and Webelos Scouts as well as weekend camping for Troops.

Today, the State of New Jersey owns approximately 5,000 acres within Rockaway Township, including Farny State Park, the Wildcat Ridge Wildlife Management Area and the property of Camp Lewis, allowing it to be used for scouting purposes but protecting the land as open space in perpetuity.

Bayonne Chapter of Unlco and Camp Lewis

A new civic organization Bayonne Chapter of Unico, held its charter presentation and installation of officers at a meeting In November of 1949 In the Industrial YMCA on Avenue E in Bayonne.

Charles Helser, Mayor of Bayonne; F.P. McNeille, President of Bayonne Rotary; Charles Brophy, President of Bayonne Kiwanis; Basil Grasso, President Bayonne Lions Club and William Calvano, President of Unico National were guests of honor.

Hugo Senerchia, a member of the Philosophy Department of Seton Hall College and Past President of Unico National, delivered the principal address.

Officers of Bayonne Chapter of Unico were:

President:	Nicholas Serra
Vice President:	Dr. Joseph Mastromonica
Secretary:	John Panepinto
Treasurer:	Jerome Paparella
Sergeant at Arms:	James Scudder

A nine men Board of Directors was also installed.

The directors were:

William Migliaccio
Paul Carpenter
Peter Gudicello
Dr. John Fabriele
Salvatore Scalafane
Charles Fiumefreddo
Dr. Vincenzo Maturi
Daniel Pacuillio
Nicholas Panepinto

The new group described its aim as "To stimulate the desire of each member to be of service to his fellowman and society in general, to encourage high ethical standards in business and professions, to quicken the interest of each member in the public welfare of his community, and to cooperate with others in its civic, social, commercial and industrial development."

One of the first civic groups the Bayonne Chapter of Unico supported was the Bayonne Boy Scout Council. Board Member Charles Fiumefreddo had been instrumental the previous year with the Rosenthal Lodge, the first permanent building construction at Camp Lewis. Also, many members of Unico had sons that were Involved In Scouting with many of the City's troops.

Camp Lewis would require additional infrastructure and facilities to support increased scouting activities. Over the years, Unico assisted with "Operation Good Scout" in 1958 with the development of Lake Good Turn, 1959 with the construction of the athletic field and 1968 with the construction of Tiger Villa and Hayden Villa.

Camp Lewis was in jeopardy of not opening for a summer program due to inadequate shower facilities. The spirit of volunteerism again spread throughout Bayonne. Business, Industry, and Labor Groups joined forces.

The Bayonne Chapter of Unico once again stepped up to assist with the new project. Bayonne Unico President, Dominick DelPrete, who also served as Troop 27 Committee Chair and had a son and nephew in Scouts, organized what would be the last building completed at Camp Lewis.

A committee of John and Gino Nicaretta, James Garito, Tony Maita and John Kemp organized union members and scouting volunteers. Improvements continued, in accordance with Camp Lewis' Long-Range Plan, and the project was completed in time to receive State approval and Camp Lewis was able to operate a full summer program in 1972.

Once again, many volunteers expressed they not only felt they contributed to a worthwhile cause, but also had a good time in the process.

All these years later, the Bayonne Chapter of Unico, along with Ken Poesl and Ken's Marine Service and the Bayonne Scout Endowment are undertaking a new project. The initial construction of a handicapped accessible parking lot with access to a recreation and camping/outdoor program for disabled children is currently in progress.

The information contained in this publication was compiled using numerous historical sources including public records, census documents, land deeds, maps, newspaper articles and photographs. Research was undertaken and compiled by: Frank Antos, Tom Gingerelli, Mike Hurley, Mike Janeczko, Dr. Gary Maita and Larry Sangi.

