

**HISTORY
OF
CAMP LEWIS**

**BAYONNE COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
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NOTE

This historical document was compiled at the request of Greg Boyle, Executive Board Member, Educator, and Camp Director of Camp Lewis for the past three years (1982 through 1984).

Much of this material was obtained from previous material written by Dr. Walter F. Robinson, and conversations with Moe Rosenthal, a brother of William Rosenthal, and Dr. Alfred Rosenthal, M.D., cousin of Mrs. Coleman.

Research material was also provided by Joe Milutinovic, our Scout Executive, Howie Edwards and Marty Tuman, Executive Board Members.

My son-in-law Vincent LoRe, Jr., did the research and provided the material on the Rotary Club involvement.

Last, but not least, a great deal of this information was obtained from newspaper articles written by two Exxon Public Relations officials, Pat O'Connor and Tom Gallagher. My sincere thanks for their contributions.

I had my grandson, Vincent LoRe III, read my preliminary material for this document to obtain his reaction. He is presently a Life Scout at St. Vincent's Parish, Troop 25. His reaction was "very interesting 'Pop', but why all the names?" My answer to him, "events create history, but people create the events." If one truly wants to study history, one should know the people who unselfishly, like those at Camp Lewis, were the motivating forces that caused these events to happen. These names may be boring to our youngsters, but to the families of descendants who are tracing their heritage, it's important for them to realize that their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, although relatively unknown, were truly the forces of creation. Hopefully, I was able to put these thoughts to fulfillment. Two hundred years hence, in the year 2184, some youngsters can trace back their roots and say, "my ancestors helped to make Camp Lewis a reality." And that is why we still have freedom, democracy and the beautiful society in which we live. Their dedication, their efforts, large or small, have enabled us to think and to live without fear and to enjoy scouting in the great outdoors.

WES KAPEC

DEDICATION

This historical document is dedicated to the community of Bayonne: individuals, corporations, civic clubs, labor unions, city officials, veteran organizations, armed forces, foundations, and the religious, educational and hospital institutions.

This document will highlight some of the major contributions and accomplishments which occurred in the past in the development of Camp Lewis. Many who read this, you or your ancestors, have expended money or labor in this endeavor. Although you may not be mentioned by name, this history is written and dedicated to all who have fostered the thoughts and received the thanks of thousands of youngsters who have enjoyed and matured at Camp Lewis because of your past contributions.

CAMP LEWIS is named in memory of Lewis Rosenthal, the deceased son of the late Ida and William Rosenthal, the founders of the Maidenform Corporation. Lewis was born in 1907 and died in 1930. A monument dedicated to his memory is installed at the foot of the flagpole on the Camp Lewis parade grounds. The Rosenthals also established the Ida & William Rosenthal Foundation which issued a grant to the Bayonne Council for the annual maintenance and upgrading of the camp. Mrs. Beatrice Coleman, the daughter of Ida and William Rosenthal, and, of course, the sister of Lewis, and the wife of the late Dr. Coleman, has and is maintaining a keen interest in the vitality of Camp Lewis.

The original Camp Lewis, a 24-acre tract located on the Musconetong River east of Phillipsburg, was purchased and donated to the Bayonne Council in 1938. William Laubenheimer, a coal and ice merchant, was president of the Council and Ernest Schultz was the Scout Executive. William Rosenthal located and purchased this tract when a fellow Rotarian, Samuel Cooper, a local jeweler, brought to his attention the camping needs of the Bayonne Scouts. The camp was fully utilized from 1939 through 1941. It accommodated twenty-five to thirty boys each week. The National Council, Boy Scouts of America recommendation is one well-wooded acre per boy. The population for usage had grown to over 100 boys per week and Council camping needs were again critical. Union Council, Boy Scouts of America knowing our needs, donated the present tract of 189.464 acres to us on December 30, 1943, for the sum of one dollar. The Asbury, New Jersey, tract was sold and Ida and William Rosenthal graciously transferred the assets towards the development of our new tract.

In 1944, Irving C. Johnson was president of the Bayonne Council; Donald A. Stevens was our Scout Executive; Williard F. Wadt, an Exxon executive, was our Camp Committee Chairman. This was the beginning of an epic of industrial and labor union support which spanned forty years and continues unabated today. By 1946 our camp committee, still under the leadership of "Bill" Wadt, had built a dam to provide a swimming area, a storage building, a water system, electricity, and campsites to accommodate 150 boys. John J. Mehlretter, a plant manager, was president of the Bayonne Council during this period.

August 10, 1948 was another "Landmark Day" for Camp Lewis; our beautiful fieldstone dining hall was dedicated. This was a gift from Ida and William Rosenthal and named in their honor. Joel M. Johnson, an Exxon executive, was President of the Council; Don Stevens our Scout Executive; Frank Kadlubows our Camp Committee Chairman.

The next ten years, 1948 to 1958, were utilized to upgrade our existing facilities. The road was improved, campsites and shower facilities enlarged, and new tentage acquired. "Bill" Wadt of Exxon, "Cliff" Cathcart of American Radiator, and "Jim" Curran and Harry Clark of Exxon served as presidents of the Council; Don Stevens, Dave Flammer, and Walter Kunkul were our Scout Executives; and, Frank Kadlubows and Tom Zito were our Camp Committee Chairmen. In 1955, the construction of another building was added to the grounds. This was the camp's first administration building, donated to us by

Ida and William Rosenthal. It served as functions, administration, first aid, trading post and the Camp Director's quarters. The present trading post is still operating from this building.

"Presto - A Lake!" The New York Mirror magazine section dated September 28, 1958 coined this phrase. The addition of Lake Good Turn upgraded our camp from good to outstanding. The previous swimming facilities were rated fair; boating was practically non-existing. Tom Zito was the president, Walter Kunkel our Scout Executive, and Glen Mehletter our Camp Committee Chairman. These three men visited Dr. David Edwards, Plant Manager of the Exxon Refinery, to discuss the status of Camp Lewis. Dr. Edwards asked, "What facilities are you lacking to upgrade Camp Lewis?" The answer: Swimming, boating, and field sports. Exxon made the commitment and the lake became a reality in 1958 and the athletic field was completed in 1959.

The Spring of 1958 reminded all of the pioneering spirit of our ancestors. It was a sight to behold: executives of a large corporation, it's labor union employees, and our Scouter volunteers working together sacrificing their leisure hours in backbreaking work to complete the projects. Test borings were taken; surveys made; engineering drawings were completed. The work began with clearing of trees and underbrush. Exxon furnished bulldozers, trucks, winches and tools, and excavations began. The lake basin was excavated by bulldozing the clay to build the dam creating a roadway on top. The spring was a wet one and the weather caused some delays and frustrations. One incident comes to mind that might bring back some fond memories to some of you. A large bulldozer was left in the lake basin overnight. There was some heavy rain and the next morning the bulldozer was almost completely submerged in the clay of the basin. Frustration occurred in trying to recover a heavy bulldozer immersed in clay. This incident delayed the completion of the project. The overflow pipe was built and installed. I highlight this portion to bring to your attention five of the men whom I observed laying this pipe. They were Dave Edwards, Plant Manager; Bert Lanier, his assistant; Hank Koenigsberg, Union President; Tom Zito, Council President; and Walter Kunkel our Scout Executive. Teamwork, something our scouts are taught, was being demonstrated by the adults. The Lake Good Turn project was completed by Exxon with the building of the boat and swimmers' dock and the diving platform. The incoming stream was redirected into the lake basin and the process of filling the basin with water began. The lake filled slowly since a dry period set in, and it looked as if the 1958 season for utilizing our waterfront would be lost. The delay due to the bulldozer incident seemed serious, but not for our Exxon partners. Fire hoses were borrowed, tied into our wells, and day and night pumping gave us a depth of 5 feet at the start of our camping season. "Presto - A Lake!"

The following year, 1959, utilizing similar techniques, a regulation sized football field was built, including excellent drainage ditches and the Exxon's 2-year project was completed. The athletic facility is in constant year-round use. Besides our scouting family, it has been utilized as a training site by the Bayonne High School and St. Peter's College football teams, and our youth soccer teams. The first campsite with Adirondack Shelters (Frontier) was built in 1959. These shelters were heavily used, especially during the spring, fall, and winter seasons.

In 1960, the Zito, Kunkel and Mehretter team continued their efforts to improve Camp Lewis. The Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish Chapels were built with the aid of Exxon, General Dynamics and Baker Castor Oil volunteers. In this same year, the Major Roy Shelter site was added, named in honor of Major Roy, long-time Scoutmaster of Troup 1 and a YMCA director of the Central YMCA.

The year 1963 began another major period of development at Camp Lewis. Francis "Hank" Carello started his tenure as Scout Executive. Wes Kapec was President and Walt Barlow Camp Committee Chairman. Hank brought in the services of the National Engineering group who studied our camp and recommended a long-range plan for the continuing and proper development of the camp. An aerial map of our property was made; the land re-surveyed and staked; and a long-range plan was created. National Engineering, utilizing our aerial map, outlined our facility needs and pinpointed the location of these facilities. They were planned not only for the needs of the Bayonne Council, but for the utilization of these facilities by out-of-council units to enable them to vary their camping experiences. The plan included the addition of a ranger residence, a new administration and camp staff building, a warehouse, a maintenance and storage building, a truck garage, a rifle range, two utility buildings, a camp director's facility, a medical building, a new shower facility, a picnic area, a 3-day supply of water storage facility, a parking area and upgrading of the road. It also included a plan to establish a national tree farm and a bird sanctuary. It took 20 years to complete this plan. In 1983, the road and parking lot additions completed the project. The plan also considered the rotation of campsites every three years in order to eliminate erosion at the sites and required an additional latrine site.

The years 1965 and 1966, with "Hank" Carello as our Scout Executive, Wes Kapec as President and Walter Barlow as Camp Committee Chairman saw the start and completion of many of the long-range facilities. Early in 1965, the Bayonne Council sought and obtained a \$50,000 grant from the Hayden Foundation to help us implement the long-range plan. National Engineering provided the local council with broad outlined schematics of our building requirements. The sketches were turned over to a local architect, Joe J. Bronikowski, whose firm completed all the necessary drawings. Joe was a former scout of the Bayonne Council and a Rotarian, who donated his services continuing the tradition of volunteerism in Bayonne. The Hayden Foundation required and received the start and completion schedule on their project.

With the utilization of volunteers working with a contractor, the grant was stretched to furnish us with the present ranger residence at the entrance of camp, the warehouse with the truck dock, the maintenance and storage building, the truck garage, our present administration and staff lounge and the rifle range.

During this period, under the leadership of Edward T. DiCorcia, "Operation Water Mountain" was started and completed. Ed DiCorcia was Exxon's Plant Manager at the time. A 10,000 gallon tank was obtained and buried up on a hill. Plastic pipe was laid from the pump and well to the tank and from the tank to the old 2500 gallon tank, the dining facilities, showers, and campsites. This capacity of 12,500 gallons of water fed by gravity flow enabled the camp to meet National's requirement of a 3-day water supply as insurance against a pump breakdown at our well. In addition, they also cleared and installed a basketball court at this time. Exxon's management team, as well as their Union employees under President "Hank" Koenigsberg, gave up their leisure weekend time to complete these projects.

The years 1967 through 1970 were the start and completion of four additional projects outlined in our long-range plan. John J. Januszewski was the President of our Council, "Hank" Carello our Scout Executive, and "Wes" Kapec Camp Committee Chairman. Tiger Villa plus a new campsite was added in 1968. The planning was under the direction of Bert Lanier of Exxon. The Villa, a 1000 square foot shelter, was a pre-cut, half finished log shelter shipped from the far west. It was donated and assembled by the Exxon team over a previously poured concrete floor. It is named after the Exxon advertising slogan, "Put a tiger in your tank".

Another \$18,000 grant was obtained from the Hayden Foundation. This enabled the Council to construct the Hayden Villa and Hayden Chalet. "Operation Deep Freeze" was organized by Exxon, co-chaired by Jeffrey Greenman and Hank Koenigsberg with Peter Duda, Chester Kuczynski and Hugh MacMaster serving on this committee. The Villa was assembled by the Exxon team, in one day. The fireplaces in the Villas and Chalet were constructed by the Hudson County Bricklayer's Union; the electrical work and material was donated by Bill Burnett of Burnett Electric; the plumbing material and work in the Chalet was donated by John "Fliver" Devlin. Bill Gallety, a long-time member at the camp committee chaired a group of adult scouters who shingled the roofs. Martin Tuman as Council President, Robert Dugan as the Scout Executive and Wes Kapec as Camp Committee Chairman were serving when the final two buildings were added to complete the building requirements of the long-range plans. The years were 1971 through 1973. Sam P. Lamparello, a former Scout and an active volunteer Scouter and the President of the Beacon Oil Company, was asked and had consented to help us complete the projects.

In the year 1971 our Medical Building was dedicated in the memory of Dr. Samuel J. Penchansky. Dr. Penchansky was a former scout and a very active volunteer scouter. He was also a very dedicated Kiwanian. After his death some of his Kiwanis Club friends (Sam, Drs. Rubin, Gallety, Ben Gurland, Ed Thompson, Frank Paxants and Ralph Walters), founded the Dr. Samuel J. Penchansky Foundation. They raised and donated the monies and the Medical Building became a reality.

Sam Lamparello completed his task in 1972, the year our new shower facility was dedicated. The Bayonne Chapter of Unico donated the funds for the material. The labor was volunteered by their members; many were professionals in the construction industry and our scouters. Two items of interest occurred on this project. The first was the sight of our Council President, Marty Tuman, mixing mortar and trying to satisfy and stay ahead of six professional masons who were laying the cinder blocks along with his comment, "My Aching Back." The second, which should be a matter of record, was an agreement reached with N.J. Central Power & Light Co. granting them right-of-way privileges. For this access they would furnish us with electricity anywhere on our property. However, the one additional requirement was that whenever we exercised this right we would have a separate meter installed. We utilized this agreement on the Unico showers and the utility installed the poles, wires, and meter as required.

A history of Camp Lewis, without mentioning Henry Golubiewski would be unfair and incomplete. "Hank" was an outstanding scoutmaster in the Bayonne Council for many years. He was awarded the Silver Beaver by the Council in 1964. Hank was an employee at the Military Ocean Terminal. When his organization was notified that it's operation was being transferred elsewhere, he was offered a transfer to the Picatinny Arsenal which he accepted. "Hank" Carello, our Scout Executive, approached Henry and asked him to take on the assignment of Camp Ranger and move himself and his family into the ranger residence. Henry accepted and is still performing this important function. Henry has been the key in maintaining the camp in excellent condition. He does a great deal of the maintenance and emergency repair work, but his greatest asset to the council is his constant inspection of the camp and the reports he issues to the camp committees on maintenance requirements. His contributions will be and should be long remembered.

The 1974 through 1982 period, under the leadership of Scout Executives Lowell Hanson and Joe Milutinovic; Council Presidents Andy Merkowsky, Art Bredehoft, Walt Snopeck, Dom Cione and John Hughes; and Camp Committee Chairmen Al Casale, Andy Merkowsky, Dan Pintauro and Steve Hudacko saw no major addition built at Camp Lewis. However, this period was a beehive of activity. New tents and mattresses were purchased. The kitchen facilities with Andy Merkowsky in charge were completely renovated. The New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. donated equipment after closing one of their cafeterias; the Bayonne Hospital did the same with the recent renovation of their cafeteria and cooking facilities. Andy Merkowsky, Steve Hudacko and their crews completely refurbished the equipment, re-arranged the locations to produce a very efficient dining and cooking facility. They concentrated on repairing, repainting, and maintaining the facility to insure its use for many years to come.

The year 1983 saw the completion of the long-range plan drawn up in 1963. The long-awaited road improvement became a reality. John Hughes was Council President, Steve Hudacko chaired a new group called Camp Lewis Property Committee and Joe Milutinovic, the catalyst as Scout Executive, planned and successfully completed this project. Utilizing the services of our Bayonne City Engineers under Kenneth Rakowski, his assistant Avelino Sambade volunteered their services. They personally surveyed the road and drew up engineering drawings locating the proper inclinations and drainage. This finally eliminated the constant erosion of the road, on which many had blown a tire, damaged a transmission or lost a muffler. Specifications were drawn and sent out for bids. The Hayden Foundation was contacted and approved a \$10,000 grant. The Rosenthal Foundation, the sale of timber on the property plus individual contributions raised funds sufficient to enable us to complete the task. The 469th Engineering Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserves volunteered their services for weekend duty. They scraped and graded the road; dug drainage ditches; laid drain pipes; put down tons of stone and rolled them into the proper base. A contractor was hired. He added additional stone and paved the roadway with asphalt. The 1983 camping season opened with this fine roadway in place, and, as an added bonus, a parking lot was built by our Army Engineers but not paved. A minimum of \$13,000 in volunteer labor was donated to this project continuing the Camp Lewis tradition of stretching the dollars to maximize and achieve upgrading of our camp facilities.

The year 1984 marks the 40th year of summer camping for the Bayonne Council at Marcella, N. J. June 30, 1984 will mark the revival of what at one time was an event we always looked forward to. A Rosenthal Day at camp, where we could "show-off" our accomplishment of the past year in improving the camp. It will be chaired by Donald Graham, attended by many mentioned in this article. It will be a reunion of scouts, scouters, contributors, etc., who are or were a part of the history of Camp Lewis.

What will 1984 bring? The same team that led us to a successful 1983 of John Hughes as President, Steve Hudacko as Camp Property Chairman and Joe Milutinovic as Scout Executive is already working to improve Camp Lewis. Many prospects have or are scheduled to be completed during the year which include: purchase of 140 new mattresses; a paved basketball court that will also serve as a parking lot; further camp road improvements; dining hall improvements; improvements to three septic systems; construction of a paint storage shed and other camp improvements. Funds contributed by the Ida and William Rosenthal Foundation, Charles Hayden Foundation, Maidenform, Inc., Maidenform, Inc. employees, and the Exxon Employee Involvement Fund made these projects possible.

A new name is forging her place into the history of Camp Lewis. She is the third generation of the Rosenthal family to inspire and motivate our scouters to continue to upgrade Camp Lewis. She is the granddaughter of William and Ida Rosenthal, the daughter of Mrs. Coleman. Her name is Mrs. Catherine C. Braver. Presently she is actively involved with our officers and camp committee chairmen and scout executive on camp projects. The chapters that will follow, hopefully will be written on a yearly basis, attached to this document and will serve as a living memorial to Lewis Rosenthal and a tribute to all who have made Camp Lewis possible.