

Self-Guided Historical Tour and History of Treasure Island Scout Reservation

Treasure Island Camp and Eagle Island Camp



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Welcome to Treasure Island Camp (TIC or TI), affectionately referred to as just "the island". TI was formerly one of the nations' oldest continuously operated Boy Scout camps, the birthplace of Scouting's national honor society, the Order of the Arrow, and its founding Lodge, Unami Lodge One.

During the Colonial period of our nation's history before Pennsylvania became The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a state, Treasure Island (approx. 55 acres) and the island directly north of TI now known as Marshall Island (MI, approx. 141 acres) was originally owned by the Marshall family. William Marshall, the first owner, died in 1757 and willed the island to his brother Edward Marshall. Edward Marshall known as the "Walker" was one of the three men who participated in the Penn family's land swindle of the Lenni-Lenape Indians (a.k.a. Delaware) which came to be known as the "Walking Purchase" or the Walking Treaty of 1737.

In 1736, Thomas Penn and John Penn ("the American"), pressed their claim from a 1686 deed by which the Lenape promised to sell a tract of land beginning at the junction of the upper Delaware River and the tributary Lehigh River (near modern Easton, PA) and extending as far west as a man could walk in a day and a half. The 1686 document may have been an unsigned, unratified treaty, or even an outright forgery (*Encyclopedia Britannica* refers to it as a "land swindle"). "It was a paper without signature of any kind, and was marked as a copy. The original document was never seen or heard of," wrote historian Alfred Franklin Berlin in "The History of Lehigh County."

To allay the Lenape's misgivings and suspicions about this deed, Penn's' Land Office Agent and Provincial Secretary, James Logan produced a map incorrectly misrepresenting the farther Lehigh River as the relatively closer Tohickon Creek that included a dotted line showing a seemingly reasonable path that the "walkers" would take. Satisfied that the land in question was not so terrible a price to honor the old deed, the Lenape finally signed. Although the Lenni-Lenape also doubted the deeds authenticity, the tribal elders could not disprove the document. The chieftains with whom the agreement was allegedly made were dead, and since the document was nearly 51 years old, no one was alive who knew anything about it.

In preparation for the "walk" in 1735, an advertisement appeared in the Bucks County area seeking strong walkers to measure a land purchase, a common practice of the time. Edward Marshall a Bucks County woodsman, hunter, who was trained as an assistant to a surveyor or "chain carrier" (this chainlike measurement instrument was sixty-six feet long and used to mark out the distances for the surveyors) answered the ad. In this capacity, he knew every inch of his environs. He was also used to the rigors of exposure and had developed stamina far beyond even the great strength of his contemporaries who were all woodsman and hunters. He, Solomon Jennings, and James Yeates, noted walkers and the three fastest runners in the colony were chosen by Logan to complete the "walk".

It is said that, and unknown to the Delaware, a team of woodsmen and surveyors looked over the trail, to be used for the "walk" and made trial walk, clearing obstructions, and marking it before the official event took place. The trees were blazed along the route in order that no distance should be lost in wandering out of a straight line.

On August 25, 1737, wishing to avoid confrontation and put the matter behind them, the Lenni-Lenape gave dubious approval to the document and asked that the walk be carried out quickly. It was a decision they would regret, as the tribe would lose far more land than they anticipated.



At dawn on September 19, 1737, all interested parties met at the Wrightstown

Quaker Meetinghouse. Their purpose was to measure out the land purchase that Thomas Penn, claimed his father had made from the Delaware fifty years earlier. The three official walkers: Marshall; Yeates; and Jennings set out at sunrise and would walk 12 hours that day. Timothy Smith, Sheriff of Bucks County, acted as supervisor and timekeeper during the "walk". Three Delaware Indian witnesses on foot and several whites on horseback with provisions accompanied them. According to the popular account, Lenape leaders assumed that about 40 miles was the longest distance that could be covered under these conditions.

The "walkers" began, in the words of Lenape interpreter Moses Tetemie, "what ye Indians call ye hurry walk." They started at a large chestnut tree near the Pennsville and Durham roads on the prepared trail. Yeates led, with a light step, followed by Jennings, and Marshall brought up the rear, carelessly swinging a hatchet.

They got off to a fast start, much to the dismay of the Indians, and traveled more than 44 miles the first day. The walk had turned into a marathon. The native spectators noted the quick pace and unexpectedly direct route the three were taking, and according to W.W.H. Davis, "showed their dissatisfaction at the manner in which the walk was conducted, and left the party before it had been concluded." The Indians who accompanied the walkers, to see that everything was done fairly, frequently called out for them to stop and not to run. They had expected that the walk would be conducted in a leisurely manner, that they would stop, and talk, and smoke, like Onas (William Penn) did. It soon became apparent that the "walkers" were not planning either to rest, talk, or eat, let alone smoke. They stepped up their pace faster and faster. The men pushed on at a run. Gradually the expedition followers fell back. Some of the Indian walkers also fell behind. The three "walkers" seared wildly through the brush. At midday on the first day, at what is now Ottsville, one of the Indians dropped and then Jennings, who never made it beyond the Lehigh River, gave out. He eventually settled land on the south bank of the river, midway between Allentown and Bethlehem, later known as Geissinger Farm. Some reports say he never recovered from the grueling walk and was injured for life by his over-exertion.

Yeates and Marshall continued.

At a place now known as "Gallows Hill", Marshall is said to have broken his suspenders jumping a creek and that he hung his "gallowses" (suspenders) on a bush, thus giving that region its present name. Soon the third and last Indian quit and finally left in disgust.

Thomas Furniss, a young saddler from Bucks County who went on the walk out of curiosity, is quoted in "The History of Lehigh County" as writing that the Indians were so dissatisfied that they dropped out of the walk after the first day. When Penn's agents went to a nearby Delaware village to find replacements, the local chief refused to assist them, stating that the runners had already



taken "the best of the land . . . and they might go to the devil for the bad."

Furniss said, Marshall and Yeates walked 12 hours the first day and reached the base of the Kittatinny, or Blue Mountains. Indians from a nearby village, who gathered at the mountain thinking the walkers would go no further, became angry when it became apparent the white men would continue, Furniss reported.

After camping for a time not far from the Lehigh Gap, Marshall and Yeates pushed on to the next morning. The rigorous pace of the walk, which cut through some rugged mountain country, took its toll.

On the second day, Yeates had walked only a short distance when he fell into a creek and injured himself, apparently having gone blind from exhaustion but the race continued. Yeates would die three days later.

When the deadline of the grueling "hurry walk" arrived at noon on the second day, Edward Marshall had reached a place on the Tobyhanna Creek about three miles from Mauch Chunk near present day Jim Thorpe, PA 65 miles from Wrightstown. Here, he seized hold of a young sapling to avoid collapsing. Wrapping his arms around the tree, he finally dropped exhausted.

Marshall, writes Davis, "threw himself at length on the ground, and grasped a sapling which marked the end of the line", which was taken as the point from which Sheriff Smith drew a perpendicular line from that point back toward the northeast, and claimed all the land east of these two lines ending at the Delaware River to encompass the granted land — nearly a third more than the Indians had expected to give.

The Walking Purchase was over, but not its effects. For generations after, the cheating of the Lenni-Lanapes in that walk stirred enmity. The Indians had been robbed of thousands of acres of land. The walk affected the lives of the Indians, whites, the walkers, and, of course the walkers' families. No one would have testified more poignantly to that than Edward Marshall's wife.

Marshall's athletic feat, combined with the liberal interpretation of how the boundary line should be drawn to the Delaware River, took from the Lenape an area 1,200,932 acres, roughly equivalent to the size of Rhode Island, located in the modern seven counties of eastern Pennsylvania known as: Pike; Monroe; Carbon; Schuylkill; Northampton; Lehigh; and Bucks. The over-reaching policy of Penn's descendants began to manifest itself, and the Indians saw that they were losing their lands.

Edward Marshall's prize for winning this contest was 500 acres of land, which may have been the area he lived in below the Delaware Water Gap, near Slateford. Not surprisingly, the local Delaware Indians hated him for his part in the walk and much later Marshall's family suffered retaliation at the hands of the Indians.

Because of the Walking Purchase, the Lenape blamed Edward Marshall and distrusted the Pennsylvania government, and its once good reputation with the various tribes begun by the wise and peaceful William Penn was lost forever.

Later during the French and Indian War, the Delaware who raided Pennsylvania's frontier towns cited the Walking Purchase as one of their grievances.

By 1755, over 50 settlers had been killed in Indian attacks within the bounds of the original Walking Purchase, including Edward Marshall's wife, eldest daughter, and son. Reports indicate that he fled to New Jersey to avoid the Indians, leaving his wife and two children who were killed in the Stroudsburg area at the beginning of the French and Indian Wars.

Here is where our story takes a turn. It is also reported that the home where Marshall's wife and children were abandoned was actually in Smithtown, PA right off, of what is now River Road or Route 32 just south of Treasure Island Camp. On the opposite bank of the canal, old stone houses rest apart from the busy life of the passing traveler. They stand between the Delaware Canal and the Delaware River at peace with the world.

However, not all of the hours in the life of Smithtown are as calm as the passing moment would make one believe. The riverbank there shelters among its concealing trees and brush the most forlorn of ghosts in the form of a woman. Sometimes she is seen when the river mists are heavy pacing the river's edge or canal path in a long white dress among the lacy patterns of moonlit tree branches. Sometimes she is only heard. The sound of her weeping at dusk fills the quite evening air after the birds have settled to quietness and unnerves those bikers or runners on the canal path within earshot.

Who is this who paces and cries in the mournful tomes as she wrings her hands, gazing intently across the river?



It is the ghost of Mrs. Edward Marshall, who was killed in the Lenape raid, as any old-time resident of the area or TI Camp Staffer knows.

Today the Marshall dwelling still stands as one of the oldest and best-preserved houses along the Delaware.

The owner reports hearing footsteps pacing back and forth in the dead of night. It was soon after she first moved into the house that she heard through an open window on the second floor the precise pattern of slow walking feet. With a fast beating heart and a stout-beamed flashlight, she searched the grounds and swept the rooflines with her light. She could find nothing.

"I've always felt it was some kind of large animal but all the same, the sound of that slow pacing was strongly suggestive of human footfalls. I've never forgotten it."

Perhaps, Mrs. Marshall's frightening experiences of the Indian raid, which killed her and her children in that house, are also not easily lost from thought or sight.

Many attest to seeing or hearing Mrs. Marshall's ghost as she wanders in the evening shadows looking for her husband to return and save her and the children. While I can't claim to be one of those, I know I have always felt like I was being watched or followed and eerily cold even in summer as I walked south on the canal path towards Smithtown.

Marshall, who reportedly never got the 500 acres promised him by Thomas Penn, eventually remarried and moved to an island (Marshall Island) in the middle of the Delaware River in Bucks County, where he had 21 children. He died at age 79 in 1789.

The Birth of Treasure Island, “a national treasure”:



From 1806 until 1913, Treasure Island was known as Ridge’s Island and belonged to William Ridge. It was just one of the many high islands in the bed of the Delaware River (The Lenape name for the Delaware River is Lenapewihittuk) in its course to the sea. With the fast water surrounding it to offer protection, the island was known from ancient times to the Lenni-Lenape as a comfortable stopover when they made their annual migration from the hills of Pennsylvania to the coast of New Jersey in the summer.

There was evidence of this. A glade in the heart of the island was used for planting squash and maize that would be gathered when the tribe returned in the fall. Artifacts may still be found on the island.

In the 19th century, the island became a haunt for hunters and fishermen. After the opening of the Delaware Division of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. Canal the island-anchored shad nets set out by the lock tender who operated the lock just opposite the island. The shad nets were still being set by George Lewis, the lock tender at the time, all through the early years of the camp.

Marshall Ridge of Philadelphia, an heir to William owned the island and in 1907, Marshall Ridge sold Ridge’s Island to Topliff Johnson and Oscar G. Worman, both from Philadelphia for the sum of \$800.00. Topliff Johnson and his wife Lillian sold their interest to Oscar G. Worman in April of 1915 making Mr. Worman sole owner of Ridges Island. He used the island as a summer place for his family. Mr. Worman was Scoutmaster of Troop 46 and used his island to camp on with his troop in 1911. By 1912, other troops from the Philadelphia area were camping on the island.



Marshall Island extends nearly two miles downstream and was also known as Man-of-War Island because of all the tall trees on the upstream end, which resembled the masts of a tall sailing ship. The tall trees, however are gone. The island’s present name is derived from the Marshall family.

Together these islands made up the Treasure Island Scout Reservation (TISR) consisting of TIC and Eagle Island Camp (EIC). When these islands were scout camps Philadelphia Council, BSA then when Valley Forge Council merged with Philly first owned them they were retained by the newly formed Cradle of Liberty Council (CoLC), BSA.

The Friends of Treasure Island (FTI) played a role in assisting The Port of PhilaPort (PhilaPort), the Natural Lands Trust, Tinicum Conservancy, and the CoLC with the sale of MI and participated in a tour with the parties.

PhilaPort eventually purchased MI from CoLC in 2012 for \$1 million “to preserve Marshall Island and several riverbank parcels in Tinicum Township”. By purchasing the property, PhilaPort agreed to a restriction that protects the island’s significant natural, scenic, wildlife, and recreational values, including an active Bald Eagle nest. Marshall Island is located within the federally designated Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River corridor, contains documented prehistoric artifacts (*), is part of a major migration path for birds, and is only accessible by boat.

(*) H. R. Wiese: “I can personally attest to this fact as I was with my Troop (35) on a weekend camping trip on Marshall Island in 1966 when I visited an active archeological site being worked by members of the University of Pennsylvania in the northern most field. They showed

us arrow heads, bits of pottery, and bone found in a dig that consisted of fire pits and suspected living areas.”

The sale of Marshall Island included TI access for a five-year period as part of the sale agreement.



This was the only way heavy construction equipment could get on to TI by driving across the river at the PA Marshall Island landing, then the length of MI and across to TI at the old causeway site, which has long since washed out. Unfortunately, that agreement ended before TI was sold to Haubert Outdoor Oriented Adventure Hospitality (HOOAH), LLC.

Treasure Island was first used as a Scout camp in 1911 when Scoutmaster Oscar G. Worman brought Troop 46 here. It was a pioneer camp with no accommodations provided in advance. The troop cook

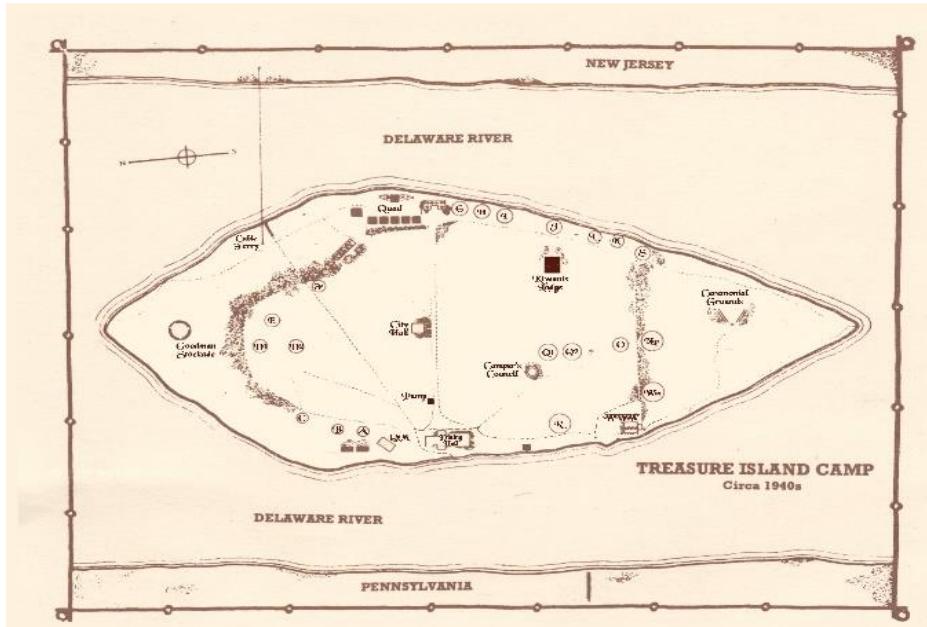
provided one meal per day and the individual Scouts were responsible for their other meals as part of their woodcraft training. Troop 46 used the island again in 1912. Following these successful camps, the Philadelphia Council, BSA leased the primitive camp in January 1913, for five years to become the successor to Camp Pequa (on the Susquehanna River below Columbia, PA) and Treasure Island opened for its first official camping season that summer. It was just three years after Congress chartered the Boy Scouts of America. The name Treasure Island is derived from a casual remark from a camp inspection team member. Surveying the island, he remarked about “what a treasure” the island was. As “Treasure Island,” it became an organized summer camp. When the original 5-year lease expired, a donation in 1918 from philanthropist Edward Bok, publisher of “The Ladies Home Journal” enabled the Philadelphia Council to purchase the property. One of the campsites on the north side of the island is named after Edward Bok. Since that time, thousands of boys have received training and enjoyment there.

Other Scout camps also claim to be the oldest continuously operated Scout camp. The Owasippe Scout Camps in Michigan, in an article by Gary W. Hall, were discussed in the November/December 2004 issue of the Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) Journal. Camp Owasippe, first known as Camp Wichita, was purchased (40 acres) in 1910. A well was dug in 1911, and the first camp was held there in 1912. Camp Owasippe today contains 14,000 acres but one cannot stand on the original 40 acres of the camp as this acreage was sold.

At Treasure Island, one can stand on the exact spot on the ground where Scoutmaster Worman first camped in 1911. As stated before, this land was leased in 1913 and purchased in 1918 by the Philadelphia Council.

If continuous use as a Scout camp is the criterion, Treasure Island is the oldest camp. If one uses the criterion of being operated as a Scout camp by a Scout council, then Camp Owasippe is the oldest Boy Scout camp in the United States. So each has a legitimate claim to the oldest camp depending on what criteria are used.

Treasure Island was closed in 1971 for summer camp but was still used for weekend camping but reopened again for summer camp in 1980. However, after the 2008 camping season the Cradle of Liberty Council volunteers in the Camping Committee voted to close Treasure Island forever. The volunteer members of the Executive Board supported this decision. It was a sad day for those of us who love “the island”.



TI Map circa 1940s

The Emergence of the Friends of Treasure Island:

The 501c3 nonprofit group called The Friends of Treasure Island (FTI) was founded in 2009 in order to:

- “Save the magic of the Treasure Island (TI) for untold thousands of Scouts in the future.”
 - “Preserve TI as a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) camping venue, providing leadership and innovation to bring people, ideas, and capital to bear.”

Unfortunately, all of its efforts to provide various ways for CoLC to retain the camp as a Scout camp failed and on September 24, 2015, knowing we had not accomplished our mission published its intent to end its existence.

The Friends of Treasure Island's ("FTI") Board of Directors has determined that its Mission cannot be achieved in cooperation with the Cradle of Liberty Council ("CoLC") ownership, and as such, will cease its formal operations as of September 30, 2015. The Board has further decided that any remaining funds held as part its 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization assets, will be donated to the Cradle of Liberty Council, BSA to establish a "FTI campership fund" to assist needy Scouts from Philadelphia to attend a BSA summer camp.

After seven years of work, countless meetings with CoLC professional scouts and Executive Board members, FTI must at long last acknowledge as fact that Treasure Island's owners have achieved their desired goal of closing TI as a functioning Scout camp for all-time, and by abandoning it, have allowed it to be unprotected and vandalized, reducing to a pathetic state this once glorious and truly unique historic Boy Scout camp.

We recognize now that the window to capture the island for the future is lost and, regrettably, we failed to “save the island”. When even the “centennial” milestones of TI’s 100th anniversary in 2013 and the recent 100th anniversary of the founding of Unami Lodge could not spark a new

vision and rededication to saving and restoring the oldest Scout camp in America...the very birthplace of the Order of the Arrow...FTI knew that all was lost!

Sadly, we produced many alternatives for CoLC's consideration including innovative combinations and partnerships to purchase the island but ultimately did not produce a solution or sufficient capital that adequately addressed the CoLC's (unrealistic) value expectations.

One of our proposed conceptual frameworks was to think of the two islands and the PA real estate as a unitary property so Council could maximize the value of the whole. This did pose a major challenge given the multi-state/multi-township jurisdictional issues involved, and it became even more complicated by the conditions placed on any purchase of the island by the NJ Open Space Fund. Ultimately, only the easiest piece of this concept – the easement sale transaction involving Marshall Island -- came to fruition, leaving the balance of the property in limbo.

The other real estate assets (Treasure Island itself, the structures thereon and the PA shore-side properties along River Road), for the most part, are unused, unsecured, decaying, and vandalized. As a result, this one-time historical and functioning asset, today most likely has a net negative value (i.e., liability exposure and demolition cost) in the eyes of any prospective buyer.

The catalytic energy we brought was not sufficient to overcome the opposition to our cause by CoLC and the unrelenting insistence that its decision of October, 2008 that "TI must be closed...for good...and forever" must stand ...forever.

We sincerely regret that we were not able to address the real physical and organizational challenges which "dear ole Treasure Island" faces, and which became insurmountable barriers to evolving the island to a new role for Scouting.

We sincerely thank our many friends, supporters and financial benefactors over these last seven years. Your encouragement, wisdom and help were fantastic. We are truly sorry that we failed you. We did our best. And we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The ghosts of Treasure Island's past (Goodman, Edson, Yoder, Keller, Imsick, MacMillin, Benshetler, Tull, and countless others) will no doubt keep the island for us.

No doubt, they, too wonder, as do we, "How could it ever have come to this?"

In the "Treasure Island spirit",

The Friends of Treasure Island

Treasure Island was closed and sat idle for 10 years and eventually in 2018 TI was put on the market for sale.

In March of 2018 the camp was sold to a John and David Haubert owners of two private campgrounds, Ringing Rocks Family Campground and Colonial Woods Family Camping Resort respectably in Upper Back Eddy north of TI.

They established a new organization, Haubert Outdoor Oriented Adventure Hospitality (HOOAH) LLC, with a nod to their military service. John is a United States Military Academy (USMA – West

Point) graduate and retired Army, Field Artillery, LTC (Airborne and Ranger qualified) and David served as a Noncommissioned Officer with the 101st Airborne Division. Both are combat veterans. HOOAH is a phrase the Army uses much as we on TI use HOW! HOW! It means everything from “yes” to “can do” and sometimes things in-between.

“After lying dormant for nine summers, Treasure Island, home of a Boy Scout camp in the Delaware River, has been sold.

The buyer is Haubert Outdoor Oriented Adventure Hospitality LLC, which is paying \$500,000 for the island, according to the Cradle of Liberty Council of Boy Scouts of America. It is “a family-owned business that intends to re-open the historic property as a commercial family campground,” said Dan Templar, Scout executive and CEO.

“Perhaps most exciting from the point of view of Scouters is that our arrangement with Haubert makes Treasure Island available to Scout units so that they once again have access to camping on the island, free of charge, availability permitting,” he said. In 1913 the Philadelphia Boy Scout Council established a Scout camp there, and two years later the Order of the Arrow originated there. It is a Boy Scout honor society that currently has more than 171,000 members.

In its heyday, as many as 2,500 boys in a summer clambered into the camp’s big boats to spend a week on this 42-acre island. It had a daily camp newspaper and a camp song titled “By the Waters That Surround Thee.”

When the floodwaters of 1955 covered the island, more than 350 Scouts were ferried to safety in those same boats. The last few staffers had to be removed by helicopter.

Treasure Island was flooded again in April of 2005, and it was closed for the summer while the Scout Council spent \$1 million repairing the damage. But then it flooded yet again the next year.

Although the camp managed to reopen for 2007 and ‘08, the Scout Council decided another costly flood was inevitable.

They closed the camp and began looking for a buyer or lessee that would permit Scout troops to use the island for camp-outs.

“We understand the rich history of Treasure Island and firmly believe that the partnership between our family and the Boy Scouts will benefit both parties and serve to preserve the legacy of this distinguished piece of Boy Scout heritage,” said John Haubert, the new co-owner of the hallowed ground. “We look forward to making the island available for camping and other activities for Scout troops, at no cost to the Scouts, as soon as conditions allow us to do this safely and responsibly.”

“The rebirth of a national treasure”, Abiding Warrior, Steve Lange 2018:

Frank Carroll and Hank Wiese, who at that time were the only two remaining members of the FTI Board, also Army veterans, and thought that the military connection coupled with their long-standing knowledge of TI as summer camp staff and the efforts of FTI would benefit the new buyers. So during the run up to the sale, FTI was reborn and partnered with the Hauberts’ to provide Scouting expertise and extensive operational knowledge of TI.

Frank and Hank went straight to work with John discussing how they could assist HOOAH, LLC to save and restore the island by launching Operation Abiding Phoenix in the spring of 2018. The original Scouters who volunteered their time in this Herculean effort to clean up the island after the years of neglect and vandalism are known as Abiding Warriors.

In July of 2019, they declared victory and announced, "The Friends of Treasure Island (FTI) shifts from the original mission of saving Treasure Island Camp (TIC) to operating TIC for BSA camping and events. Together, we have successfully "saved" TI and now FTI moves to the next phase of the operation: Promote and operate TIC as a historic BSA camping venue, providing resources, manpower, and staff expertise."

In order to complete the new mission and vision of FTI's strategic alliance with HOOAH, LLC, they established a new all-volunteer Treasure Island Camp Staff (TICS), to manage and support activities during BSA weekend functions.

The work of countless volunteers paid off and continues. Since John and David are men of honor and upheld their promise that Scouts units would camp for free, once more scouts are able to experience the Treasure Island magic and spirit. For more information check out the Friends of Treasure Island Facebook page and Website coming in 2020.

(Enter the Dining Hall from the South end)

The historical tour of Treasure Island begins here in the Dining Hall.



Installing the Dining Hall Floor

The kitchen portion of the Dining Hall is the oldest structure still standing in camp. It was a barn, built around 1876 when the island then known as Ridge's Island was still farmed. The barn was converted into the "Mess Hall" in 1913 and probably had a post frame and canvas roof in the beginning for the actual dining area. When this section blew down in a storm in 1914 a new dining area was built with a wooden roof for \$150.00. In 1924 a new enclosed dining area was built and added onto the south end of the barn. The barn area itself serves as the cooking and dishwashing area. The original barn loft is still there today. In 1932 new additions were constructed on the north end of the barn. The "Mess Hall" was demolished and replaced with the present Dining Hall structure in 1931-32, and remained largely unchanged until the camp closed. In the past, meals at Treasure Island were an important part of the camps program. Each meal was followed by songs and skits promoting upcoming events in camp, and the dissemination of other important program information. Meals also served as the jumping off point for the next part of the day's program.

On the north and south wall there once were many objects that told the rich history of Treasure Island. In the rafters hung the US flag and many other flags from units and the countries of International Scouts who were on staff. High up on the South wall of the Dining Hall were the plaques with the words of the Treasure Island Camp song written by E. Urner Goodman in 1919. The TI camp song plaques made from routered out wood were removed by CoLC and now the original plaques reside in the Dining Hall at Resica Falls one of CoLCs camps.

Treasure Island Mural, 1936 - Painted by Edward L. Spicer

On the north wall of the Dining Hall hung the mural, Treasure Island a painting of a map of the island by artist Edward Spicer. It is a cornerstone to OA Art History. The painting of the Treasure Island Map used local Native American symbolism. It hung over a fireplace in the original dining room, and was moved when the new Dining Hall was built. Below the map hung a sign which read, **"Here Let the Treasure Island Spirit Kindle Fires of Friendship."**



1936 E. L. Spicer painting of the Treasure Island Map

The 12 foot-wide, seven-foot tall panel mural was dedicated to the Order at the 1936 National Lodge Meeting hosted by Unami Lodge on Treasure Island. The painting depicts an aerial outline of the island surrounded by the Delaware River. Various areas of camp, including the Unami Ceremonial Grounds, are suggested by Indian figures indicating the history of Lenni Lenape living on Island.

The large work was displayed prominently in the Treasure Island dining hall above the kitchen doors for approximately 75 years. When Treasure Island closed in 2008 the painting was abandoned until years later when it was de-installed and brought to Camp Delmont.



In 2015, the Cradle of Liberty Council made a significant donation and gave the painting to the Order of the Arrow. Additionally, The National Order of the Arrow Committee created a fund to completely restore the mural to its original beauty by an art conservationist and for transportation. For the first time the mural was scheduled to be displayed anywhere other than on Treasure Island. The restored mural was presented to thousands of Arrowmen in the 2015 NOAC GEO at the National Order of the Arrow Conference at Michigan State University.

An email inquiry from a leader who has camped on TI with FTI:

Name: Clarke Piatt

Email: radnor284@gmail.com

Subject: location Treasure Island mural today?

Message body:

Where is the TI mural located currently? On display or storage?

Response:

On Apr 9, 2021, at 5:03 PM, Bill Topkis <topkis@sisna.com> wrote:

Hello Clarke:

Well, you asked the right person. I have been involved with the mural since I first saw it in 2012 on island. It was immediately apparent that it needed to be moved from Treasure Island as fast as possible for conservation. The dining hall had multiple infestations (insect, bird and rodent) some of which was living behind the mural. The mural was

imperil of reaching a point beyond repair - it had not had any conservation to it in the almost 80 years it had hung in the dining hall.

There was also an awareness that Treasure Island was for sale and that we might have a short window to move the mural off the island - no easy feat. A plan was developed, it was moved off the island and was placed in poor condition at Camp Delmont in storage. Cradle of Liberty Council did not want (or more aptly, could not afford) the expenses of conserving the painting. The agreement reached was that the Order of the Arrow could have the mural if we conserved it. We did. It cost over \$10,000 to repair the mural and several thousand more for art transporters to ship it to the ICA in Ohio for the work and then back to the OA. The restoration took several months. We displayed it at the 2015 NOAC in the GEO. Everyone, including the Unami contingent were stunned with how the painting looked after the original color was restored (there was a translucent brown/green layer of gunk that the conservators jokingly called "Scout's Own" on the painting from dust and grease in the mess hall over the decades). I have attached an image post-restoration. It looks even better in person.

*My Best, Bill Topkis
Lead Adviser - OA History Timeline*

The mural will be permanently displayed in the Ruby Visitor Center at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. When COVID-19 hit we were in the middle of preparing the OA exhibit that will be part of the visitor center (that all that visit the summit, including all jamboree participants and staff must go to before entering the Summit). The mural will be the anchor piece of the exhibit. With the bankruptcy there is still much we do not know, but we certainly hope to have the exhibit prepared prior to the 2023 National Jamboree where as many of 50,000 will be able to see this magnificent work of Scouting art.

Below the sign on the doorpost were three small gold engravings. These represent the high water marks from the floods of August 1955, April 2005 and June 2006. The original engravings were most likely stolen by vandals. On the same wall as the Spencer painting hung a large moose head (on the left) and elk head (on the right) as well as a propeller from a plane that crashed in the river right near the PA shore across from the Boat Yard in 1966. The small private plane was cruising to low on the river, hit the power lines, and crashed into the river in flames. The pilot was rescued by some staff members. The plaque under the propeller, long since gone, had the pilots name (now lost to history) and date of the crash, under which was engraved, *"His most exciting Flight"*.



During summer camp up until the 1980s the cooks were independent employees and not scouts. From the 80s on the council hired contract cooks from food service companies. The Commissary Crew (all scouts) were responsible for some food preparation, dishwashing, food storage, and troop or staff food orders for cooking merit badge, Second or First Class cooking requirements, cooking demonstrations, and special requests.

(Leave the Dining Hall through the South door and move left on the trail to the rear of the Dining Facility to the QM)

The flag stands you will pass were rebuilt in 2003 to hold troop flags after Colors.

The Quartermaster shack or “QM” was built in 1931, and was used for the storage of camps tents and cots over the winter. It was also the place to come during summer camp to get cleaning supplies, firefighting equipment, shovels, rakes and so forth. If the doors are open look inside at the ceiling to see former QM Crew members who have left their names and years on staff.

Also if you can see inside you might be able to see the many nails up in the rafters where once hung many kerosene lanterns. These were used by the Night Watch or Fire Watch up until the early 1960s. One of the duties that troops would be asked to pull was that of “Night Watch”. Any troop in camp with a good reputation for behavior could sign up for one night of this detail during their stay for the week. There was usually no problem getting troops to sign up for “Night Watch”. The assignment ran from “Taps” in the evening until about 6:00 am in the morning. The detail was in one hour shifts with two scouts to a shift. Each scout carried a kerosene lantern and were expected to walk the island, twice during their hour on duty. The idea was to check out the camp for possible fires, safety hazards that might occur such as the river raising to flood conditions, and the occasional troop who just could not stop from raising some kind of hell through the night. If there was any kind of problem the staff was to be alerted. Woe to the night watchmen who took a dirty lantern back to the Ranger, Russ Gerhab.

The QM crew was responsible for barge operation, moving food orders on to the island, trash pickup at the campsites, some routine maintenance, moving tents and cots, and moving the small tent floorboards known as “duck boards” that went between the cots in a two man tent until the semi-permeant (stacked for winter) tent platforms with outriggers were built and installed in 2000. During change over day (old troops left and new ones came on) they were very busy.

(Move to rear of the QM past the storage shed on your left to the Shop)



The “Shop” area was the sole domain of the camp ranger. It contained an upstairs office and storage area and first floor work and storage area, which included three small rooms for plumbing and, electrical supplies, as well storage for the firearms used on the rifle and shotgun ranges. The far end is a garage where the tractor is currently stored. If you were on staff you did not enter this building unless asked or told to do so. Campers were strictly forbidden in this area.

(Move to rear of the Shop to the building with the ramp)

Behind the Shop is Baden Powell Lodge. This was once two separate cabins where, in the past, the Camp Ranger lived in one and the Kitchen staff lived in the other during the summer camp season. These buildings were joined in 1979 and used as living quarters by the weekend volunteer Campmasters during winter camp and the Kitchen Staff during summer camp. Later when the

homes on the PA side became available the Ranger and his family would live in one of two homes on the property depending on the era you want to talk about. The Ranger worked on Treasure Island all year long, well, as long as the river did not freeze over or high water prevented him from crossing.

(FYI as you don't need to go there...)

Just north of the shop is Bok site named after Mr. Edward Bok, Publisher of "The Ladies Home Journal", who provided a gift sufficient enough to purchase the camp for the Philadelphia Council BSA. This site has a great scenic view of the river.

(Move West from Baden Powell Lodge to the Waterfront/Boat Yard)

You are in the Boat Yard. The shack doubled as storage and an office for the staff. The metal racks once held canoes. The row boats were anchored to metal stakes with eyes that were driven into the river bed. Also available from the late 60s on were small Sunfish sailboats. The bulkhead made of railroad ties was built in 1968 by a corps of CITs under the direction then Assistant TI Camp Director and future first Camp Director of Eagle Island, Dick Barnes, and has held through the floods to survive to this day. The Aquatics Staff was split between the pool and the Boat Yard with the Director at the pool and the Assistant Director here. Depending on the era again, the staff had a small motorized aluminum guard boat to chase down novice boaters or sailors as the current of the river sometimes was not your friend. Getting your canoeing, row boating or sailing merit badge on the Delaware was a challenge depending on the river current. The crew usually consisted of a staff of three.

(Move to back past the QM to the North Well Pump House)

Treasure Island once got its water from two wells. An artesian well was drilled in 1914. The artesian well was replaced in 1922 by a pump house, now the North Well. The South Well provides water to the south end of the Island. Until the electric grid is restored on Treasure Island both Well Houses will be out of operation. Before this building was vandalized after the camp closed there were water fountains on the side near the Trading Post (your next stop). You could always get a cold drink of water here even on the hottest day as the well was so deep the water always stayed cold.

(Move just East of the North Well Pump House to the Trading Post)

The camp Trading Post or "TP" was the camp store. The TP offered a variety of camp souvenirs, Scout insignia and literature, crafts, equipment, and snacks. The building as you see it is the modern version as it was remodeled before the camp reopened in 1980. The building used to be very small and only the staff worked inside. Customers had to walk up to the two large windows to buy what they wanted. In the old configuration most of the stock was kept in the rear so a minimum of two camp staff worked here.



(Proceed back past the QM and head North toward Rolston Lodge on the “TI Railroad Trail”)

The trail was originally constructed for the TI Railroad, a narrow gauge rail line that ran from the old ferry slip near Rolston Lodge to the rear of the Dining Hall. The railroad was used to move deliveries of food from New Jersey to the commissary. Yes, the original crossing was by cable ferry from NJ to TI. Now of course, food and all other supplies are brought to the island from the PA side. Many years ago, Scouts would occasionally find old railroad spikes along this trail.

CABLE FERRIES: In the camp's history there have been three places in the camp that had cable ferry crossings. They were a flat bottomed barge with squared off bow and stern and of various sizes. These ferries were used to transport troops and supplies across the river. They worked by attachment to an overhead cable strung across the river with a set of trolley wheels, and when shoved off from their landing position the river current would carry them across to the opposite shore. In 1916 a small cable ferry was built to bring scouts and equipment from the New Jersey shore to the camp landing. On the camp side the landing was just above where Rolston Lodge now stands. It ran across the river to near the Kingwood railroad station on the Jersey shore. After it was no longer used for hauling scouts and supplies from Kingwood Station it did stay in service for many years hauling scouts to and fro for their off island hike to the Devil's Tea Table.

The second ferry was christened in 1922. This ferry ran from the Pennsylvania landing to the camp side landing. It also was not very large. It stayed in service until the first motorized barge came into existence.

The third and largest ferry of them all was the one built by Russ Gerhab and Roy VanSelous. This ferry was built when Eagle Camp opened on Marshall Island. It ran from the Marshall Island landing just below the single lane bridge over the canal on River Road, Rt. 32 to the landing on the camp side. It was shut down and removed when Eagle Island Camp closed.

In the woods to the left are 3 of the 14 campsites, to the left are Eagle and Edson campsites and to the right is Beaver campsite. Also on the left ahead are the North showers. For summer camp

operation each campsite had platform tents and an Adirondack or lean-to shelter for adult leaders. There are two types of lean-tos' on TI. One is the open front type and the second type has a partially enclosed front. The latter are the oldest. BOK site has the open type, Eagle site has a closed type. Beaver site - open type. Baker site has 3 open units. The plan was to use this site for winter camping such as they have at Hart....river permitting. A troop would sleep in lean-tos' and eat in Baker Lodge. Sites Wolf and Win have the open type. Nip is a closed type. The 1955 flood moved this lean-to from the north end of the site to the south end. It sits there now. Jersey site, the open type. Sites, Moore, Baden Powell and Pullman are all the open type. In the Staff Quad there is one lean to in the northeast corner of the site. This unit has three bunks with drawers. At one time there was one other lean-to in camp. It sat north of the Staff quads. It had been built for a Scout exposition in the 1930s. It was disassembled and brought to the island. It was reassembled and placed overlooking the Delaware River on the New Jersey side. This unit was very rustic in that it had no floor. Leaves or spruce bows were used. Somewhere there is a photo of it. In the end of the 1950s or early 1960s the Penn Fruit Company of Philadelphia were the main inspiration for building lean-tos'. There was at one time a photograph of a dedication by the President of Penn Fruit to Philadelphia Council BSA. Each campsite also has a latrine, wash stand, bulletin board, and starting in the 70s, flag poles.

Above Eagle site, and below Goodman Stockade, spanning the North Channel once hung a steel cable suspension footbridge erected with special permission from the two states to connect the southern end of Marshall Island in Pennsylvania with the northern tip of Treasure Island in New Jersey. Deemed an interstate bridge it was erected in 1961 and named Mitchell Bridge. The floor of the bridge was made of wooden planks fastened to the suspended cables. It must have hung 30 or 40 feet above the water and would bounce as you walked across it. The bridge became an immediate hit with the campers. Mr. Mitchell gave the funds for the building and installation of the bridge. In 1978 with help from CETA crews (the Government project) the cables were checked. A CETA worker who had been a cable splicer in the navy went over the whole cable system and made repairs. It was repainted and adjustments were made to the right side main cable. The wood decking was replaced with one plank in the center of the bridge painted pink on the bottom with a message stating that you were crossing from PA to NJ governed land. Funding for these repairs also came from Mr. Mitchell. Eventually the bridge was removed completely due to damage on the Marshall Island side. Water from the North Channel had weakened the base and the bridge was in danger of sliding into the water. You can locate the bridge on old maps of the camp. In 1990 this bridge was demolished and a floating footbridge was built across the North Channel to replace it. It was christened "Kestler's Krossing", after Camp Director Bob Kestler.

Up ahead on the right is Rolston Lodge. Built in 1941 and named for Horace Warthman "Shorty" Ralston, early Scoutmaster, Treasure Island Staff member, and master storyteller of campfire tales. Rolston Lodge was used for meetings, a weekend camping lodge, and other purposes. In 1992, during a storm a large tree fall on Rolston Lodge crushing the center section, wiping out the fireplace and the living room with its French doors and windows. The center was rebuilt as a pavilion with no side walls but joining the kitchen and bunk rooms. The pavilion in the center of the building was used for small group gatherings, especially during inclement weather. The bathroom facilities were added to Rolston Lodge in 1982. In the 2000s it became staff living quarters during summer camp.



Horace Warthman "Shorty" Ralston

"Hello Shorty!" was the greeting everyone used to address Horace W. Ralston from the smallest and youngest scout to the men that he worked with. He was not short by any means, but rather a smiling six foot 200 pound leader.

From the comparative size of men and boys in Shorty's time, this salutation would seem to be in reverse but in actuality it was quite in order. For here the greeting had no thought

of the diminutive in it, no thought of other than friendship: it was an endearing title placed by his friends on one of Scouting's most beloved leaders.

The records will show that Horace Warthman (Shorty) Ralston founded Troop 112 at Emanuel Presbyterian Church in May of 1912, back in the earliest days of the scouting movement. Ralston's troop took a prominent part in the service corps of Scouts that served in the reunion of the men in Blue and men in Gray at Gettysburg PA in 1913, and in 1915 they participated in the very first encampment of the Philadelphia Council in Haddonfield, New Jersey.



In the spring of 1915, working with E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson, Shorty Ralston along with Horace P. Kern did the research on the Lenni Lenape Indians for a new honor society based on their Native American traditions. Ralston found a Lenape-English dictionary written by Moravian Missionaries from around the Bethlehem PA area. It was Shorty who suggested the name Wiemachtendienk, Wingolausik, Witahemui, roughly translated means we do service. The new order became the Wiemachtendienk Society later the Order of the Arrow.

(Leave Ralston Lodge and proceed Northwest toward the Woodland Chapel)

Looking out over the woods at north end of the island you can see a great distance. Once this area had much more vegetation and underbrush. There were Christmas and New York ferns, Mayapple, Jack in the Pulpit, and a great deal of Mountain Laurel which was so dense you could not see the Woodland Chapel, the Stockade, Ralston Lodge or even the river as it cuts between TI and MI. Little remains of these plant species as the trees have grown so large that the canopy blocks most of the sunlight.

The Scoutcraft Area moved around quite a bit over the years. For a time it was on the lower end of Marshall Island but was supplanted by the Rifle, Shotgun, and Archery Ranges in 1982. Its last known location was northwest of Ralston Lodge around the area of the old ferry steps. At one time all Nature and Scoutcraft related merit badges and requirements were counseled by the Scoutcraft Crew. At some point there was a division of labor and there was a split into a Scoutcraft Crew and a Nature Crew. Each crew had a Director and Assistant Director as well as up to six or more counselors.



Altar in the Woodland Chapel

THE WEARING OF THE WHITES: From the 1920s into the 1930s every Sunday morning after chow, but before chapel service the camp Staff would assemble on the parade grounds dressed in their finest whites. Uniform of the day for staff members was white shirt, white shorts, and white knee socks. While the staff was busy getting together, the rest of the camp would make a bee-line back to their sites for the first official camp inspection of the week. At the designated time the Camp Director would lead the staff off the parade ground to inspect all troops on the island. Sunday was visitor's day on the island so the dress whites had to be worn by the staff for the entire day.

Next, we arrive at the Woodland Chapel. This is actually the second Woodland Chapel. The original chapel was located just east of the present location, near the shoreline. It was destroyed during a flood in the 1930s. The Woodland Chapel was used twice a week. Non-denominational Christian Vespers services were conducted early in the week and on Friday evenings, Jewish services were held.

(Leave the Woodland Chapel and proceed North toward the Goodman Stockade)

Beyond the Woodland Chapel is the site of the former Goodman Stockade, named for E. Urner Goodman, an early camp director and co-founder of the Order of the Arrow. He was also the lyricist for the Treasure Island and Order of the Arrow Songs. Goodman Stockade was the site of welcoming campfires held each Saturday or Sunday evenings depending on the era and the arrival and departure schedule for the troops. The stockade fence was erected in 1922 and replaced in 1999. In 2020 the Stockade had to be demolished due to multiple trees hitting the fencing. John and Dave Haubert decided to repurpose the space as a site for a Montana Tent. The arch that served as the entry is the only remaining part of the Old Goodman Stockade.

(Leave the Goodman Stockade and proceed North toward to the end of the trail overlooking the river or Inspiration Point)

Just past the former Goodman Stockade is Inspiration Point. The spot was named Inspiration Point because so many scouts came there to spend a few moments alone with their thoughts.

Once displayed at Inspiration Point carved on three natural boards cut from logs were the last four verses of the 16 stanzas of the poem "In Camp" written by Rufus T. (Uncle Rufe) Davis.

"In Camp" poem at Inspiration Point

*You hark alone to the water's drone
As you watch the stream out there,
From whence it flows and wither it goes,
You pause and you wonder, Where?*

*There etched in shale you find the trail
Of life before our ken
A million years' mid the roaming spheres.
You look and you wonder, When?*

*The flocks sail high thru the trackless sky,
Thru mists and the moonlight blue.
Safe led by "him: thru the shadows dim:
You gaze and you wonder, Who?*

*The streams that flow and the things that
grow Are stamped with the Maker's stamp,
And you whisper a prayer to the One up there
You're nearer to God in camp.*



The trail you are on once led down to a causeway. It was built in the 60s of river rock, with two large concreate culverts embedded in it to allow for the river to flow between TI and Marshall Island.

The causeway had two jetties that jutted out towards the small island directly opposite. It was just wide enough to allow one lane of traffic. The causeway connected TI and MI and allowed for the tractor or any heavy equipment to drive between the islands. The river is low enough up at the MI PA landing, two miles north of TI where River Road turns over a one lane bridge, to offer an easy fording place. In fact the cable ferry that was used to cross the river to MI would not operate in very low water. There were times when Eagle Island Camp was in operation that the Army National Guard was asked to provide 2 ½ ton trucks (Deuce and half) to ferry the troops and their equipment to MI.

Once the causeway was built it became the site of the OA tap out, later to become a call out. Up until that time the tap-out was held on the TI landing beach which is no longer there due to the floods.

Picture if you will, the scene of the troops assembling at the Parade Ground to be led in silence to the causeway, by a staff member dressed in Indian regalia. In the dark the troops would line up along the entire causeway with Scouts in front and their leaders behind.

The ceremony would begin with a drum beat. From the north would come a small flotilla of canoes carrying Allowat Sakima (the sachem, pronounced "saw-kem" which means Mighty Chief

of the Lenni-Lenape and one who symbolizes service) and Meteu (the shaman or “medicine man”). The pair would alight on one of the causeway jetties, the drum would cease, and Allowat Sakima would recite the Legend of the Order of the Arrow. At the completion of the Legend two staff members also dressed in regalia as Nutiket (the warrior, bodyguard, personal emissary for his sachem, and man of valor) and Kichkinet (the guide, native woodsman, hunter, tracker, and stalker) one each, at the top of the causeway on TI and one on MI, would run onto the causeway, whooping with all their might carrying lit touches. They would run past the troops and out onto the jetties and face each other. Then both would then swing the torches in unison and light smudge pots (rolls of toilet paper soaking in kerosene in a number 10 can) mostly covered with rocks, thus giving the impression that the rocks themselves were the source of the flames. Jamming the touches in the jetty, the runners were off to search the line of Scouts for the OA “candidates”. Each one was a Scout who was elected by their peers to be inducted into the Order of the Arrow and identified by a leader who stood behind them and held his hand over their heads with the palm down. Nutiket and Kichkinet would tap each candidate on the shoulder and pull them out of line. Meteu and Allowat Sakima would gather these candidates up and once all were assembled lead them away toward Ralston Lodge. This was the end of the ceremony and the troops were asked to depart to their campsites in silence.

Little did these candidates know that early the next morning they would return to the scene of their tap-out. They began their day of Cheerful Service in silence by wading into the river adjacent to the causeway and jetties to throw more river rock up on the area to increase and preserve what the current of river was constantly trying to destroy. Eventually the causeway was completely washed out due to the floods.

(Walk back to the Trading Post and turn left walking East along Pine Road and the Parade Ground on your right)

These Red Pine trees are not native to the island and were planted along this trail in 1927. The trail became known as “Pine Road”. It is the only trail on Treasure Island with a name.

Next to the flagpole there is the new FTI archery range built by Anthony Lorenzoni in the spring of 2021. As you walk east on Pine Road to your right is the Parade Ground. Believe it or not, up until 1971 the west side of the Parade Ground, from where the baseball backstop is today all the way back towards the pool, was used as the Archery Range. The entire area was cordoned off back to the woods but it was run safely even though it was in range of pool and the trail that runs to Wolf and Baker site. Yikes!!

The baseball backstop was presented by Troop 125 and friends and dedicated to the memory of Dominick M. Alberti, a scout who was killed on TI when a tree fell on his tent in Wolf site during a storm in 2002. It is said that this scout has been seen many times since his death by Camp Staff and others on the island since that day, especially when a storm is brewing. The original plaque was taken sometime after the island closed.



The Parade Ground was the site of the morning and evening flag ceremonies, traditionally called "Colors". Evening Colors was the more formal of the two ceremonies. Everyone wore their class "A" uniform. After the staff band sounded Officers Call while still in the Quad, they would march with the staff band in the lead, out to the Parade Ground and stop in front of City Hall. After each troops Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) reported to the Program Director, "all present or accounted for, sir" the troops, who passed their daily campsite inspection, were recognized. As with most all Scout camps, Treasure Island has had some form of troop campsite inspection since it's founding. In the very early days of the camp it was a daily routine and once a week it was the "Wearing of the Whites" as described previously. For many, many years, the campsite inspection had been performed by the camp Commissioners every morning.

In the early 1990's the staff at that time decided they would call out each troop who had achieved the proper score for a clean camp site at the evening formation after the flag ceremony was ended. To reward each troop who had achieved this goal, an imitation eagle feather was given to the senior patrol leader. As the troop numbers for the winners were called off the entire staff would chant OHHH....AHHHH as if in awe of this award. The senior patrol leader would come forward to the staff, receive his feather, then return to stand in front of his troop. This simple award had no special name, but all scouts knew its meaning. At some point in time everyone started calling the colorful feathers the Hoo-Ha, for whatever reason these things happen. From then on the feathers were called the "Clean Camp Hoo-Ha", and the name has stuck.

The flags were lowered before the entire assembled camp: all troops, the camp staff, the camp staff band, and the camp administration.

The flag pole is a single mast yardarm nautical flagpole. The tallest part of the pole was for the US flag. The yardarm on the right displayed the council flag and the yardarm on the left, the flag of the day which was generally a historic flag from the colonial period before the national flag was formerly adopted. It took nine Scouts to do the colors ceremony or three per flag. Two Scouts would raise or lower each of the flags while one Scout held or pulled in the flag being lowered. The Scouts lowering the flag of the day would hold it up for all to see while a senior member of the staff usually a Commissioner read a short history of the flag.



The Staff Band, affectionally known as the "Bum and Drugle Corps"



Once all of the flags were folded the group of nine Scouts would assemble and march toward the staff, report to the Program Director, exchange salutes, and turn over the folded flags. At the end of the ceremony the troops then were given the order to do a “right face” and then the command to “PASS IN REVIEW”. The staff remained in place at attention in front of city hall. While the staff band played all troops marched in columns of two in a square around the parade field passing in front of the staff. Upon reaching the staff the troop’s senior patrol leader or guide calls for his troop to “Eyes Right” while he himself salutes the staff. The staff officer of the day (normally the program director) returns the salute to each and every troop as it passes by. Then they continued on and marched to the Dining Hall for dinner.

Before the staff was dismissed for dinner they would do an about face and sound off with the “word of the day”. On change over day, for example, the word of the day was always, WELCOME! The flag holders you saw outside the Dining Hall were there to hold the troops flags

For more than 50 years the Camp Staff has seen fit to incorporate into the program, one evening during the week, each and every week, as a fun and nonsense type of event. It started out in the early 1950s as Carnival Night. It was held on Wednesday evenings after dinner. This activity had absolutely nothing to do with scouting, but was meant instead to break the routine of scouting camp life and let the boys blow off a little steam. No advancement, no uniforms, no scout requirements, just a come as you are party to have some fun. The staff would set up games and contests similar to those you would find in a carnival fairway. Some staff members would dress up as barkers, clowns, or carnival con men. Sometimes camp money was printed up and distributed to each troop. Coupons for game winners were awarded and could be traded in for soda or candy bars at the trading post. As carnival night developed troops were asked to join in and bring a game or contest of their own. They did so willingly, each troop trying to be cleverer with their contest than the others. This evening of fun proved so successful that it remained in the program all these years. Now there is a theme designated for this special night. All troops are asked to participate and using the theme, prepare a game or contest and come in costume. It’s always a fun night if you really get involved.

The parade field was also used for many other activities including: merit badge activities like pioneering projects, athletic games, and camp wide events.

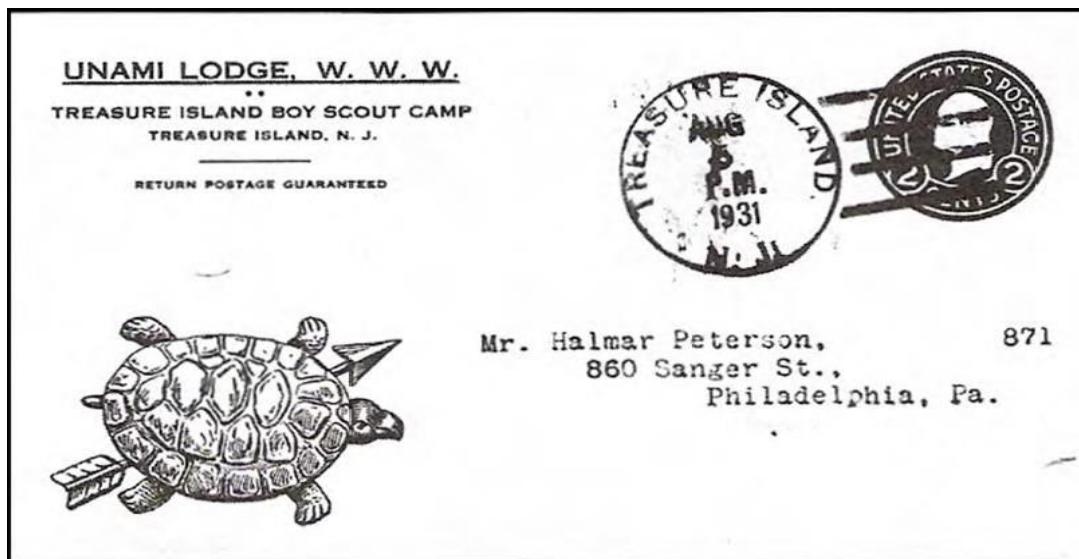
(Stop at the building on your left opposite the flag pole. This is City Hall)

The camp office or "City Hall" was the business and program center of Treasure Island. It is called that because the Philadelphia seat of government is called City Hall and since Treasure Island was owned by Philadelphia Council the name stuck. City Hall built in 1917 and enlarged in 1922 and 1934, was the first new building built for the camp.

This was the administrative office for the Camp Director, Program Director, Administrative Director or Business Manager, known as the Mayor of Treasure Island, as well as the camp clerk. The office door to the left as you look at the building from outside was used by the Commissioners and Chaplin if there was one on staff and eventually became the office for the Program Director when the Commissioners moved into the OA Shack in the 2000s. On the porch hung a set of tubular bells that Bob Kestler long time staffer, Program Director and eventually Camp Director, would sometimes play in the evenings. This office also contained the sound system used for all the bugle calls from Reveille to Taps heard each day to notify the Scouts of everything from Mail call to Fire call for emergencies.

This was also up until 1953 the site of the Treasure Island Post Office, an official US Government Post Office and only the Postman had access to that room. According to Jay Rogers in the Levy's Boy & Girl Scout Cachet Covers of the United States, Volume I & II, 1910 – 1960, 2nd Edition, Treasure Island was one of four Scout camps in the United States to have seasonal post offices entirely within their boundaries. The others were Kanohwahke Lake, NY, Ten Mile River, NY and Owasippe, Michigan.

During the summer camp season of 1915, E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson formed the Indian Society known as Wiemachtendienk, better known today throughout Scouting as the Order of the Arrow, an honor camping society. The first known cover related to the Order of the Arrow, issued on August 3, 1931 by the Unami Lodge at Treasure Island, is shown below.



Earliest known Order of the Arrow cover, August 3, 1931.

Prior to 1931, the Treasure Island Camp mail appears to have been cancelled in Pipersville, PA as shown on this 1930 post card.



This 1930 post card sent from Treasure Island Scout Camp, was cancelled at Pipersville, PA – where the mail was taken for mailing prior to the establishment of a post office on Treasure Island itself.

According to the official records of the United States Postal Historian, Corporate Information, the first Treasure Island post office was established on July 1, 1931 as Treasure Island (Hunterdon County), New Jersey with Thomas G. Cairns as Postmaster. [Adding from Bennett Kitts' article, he notes from a Fred Bok history on the establishment of this office:]

"During the depression of 1920's, there was not money to go around. In 1930, it was suggested that the Council see if it could get a temporary 4th Class summer Post Office with a postmaster. The salary was about \$300.00 regardless of the mail volume. If a certain dollar level was reached, there was an additional bonus."

"The application was approved in 1931. Thomas Cairns was the sitting Council Chief Executive and was named as Post Master. The salary was used to pay the Camp Director. However, the actual work was done by the Camp Clerk or Assistant. This was a full service Post Office, selling stamps, insuring packages, handling registered mail, envelopes and postcards."

"Mail was cancelled in the morning. All the cancels were A.M. (If P.M. is used it would be interesting.) Mail was taken in the afternoon to the Pipersville, PA Post Office and camp mail [collected], to be picked up at the units' boxes in 'City Hall.' Often this was done after evening colors."

The post office was changed to Pipersville, Bucks County, PA on November 2, 1932, then changed back to Treasure Island, Hunterdon County, NJ on June 24, 1933. [This interesting anomaly of a state change is explained in more detail by Bennett Kitts in his 2009 article:]

"There are conflicting opinions as where and when the change from PA to NJ and why. Politics

were a factor in this. My limited understanding was that a postal historian was researching and located some old archives that indicated that middle of the river was the dividing line – some of the islands were on each side, some down the middle on either side. To even this up it was agreed to swap land. Treasure Island ended up in NJ.” He further quotes from one of Fred Bok’s pamphlets on the history of the camp:

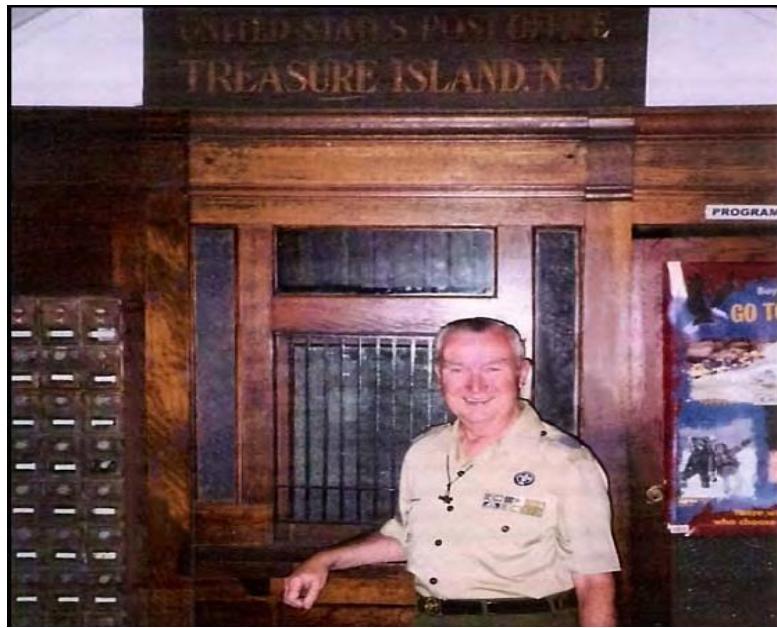
“The historical background of Treasure Island has provided material for many camp-fire yarns for Scouts since this area was first acquired ... from the Indians on September 19, 1737.

“The Council leased Treasure Island from 1913 to 1918, when it was purchased with the help of Edward Bok. As the camp was being prepared to open one summer, we were informed by the Post Office Department in Washington that our Post Office should be marked Pennsylvania. Since the deed to our property is recorded in New Jersey, we decided to do some research. We discovered that a Philadelphia surveyor named Holmes had surveyed the entire river and had assigned the islands in the river to the state to which they were nearest. Later, a geological surveyor in Washington thought that the state line should be clearer and sketched in where he thought it should go and the Post Office Department discovered that Treasure Island placed in Pennsylvania rather than in New Jersey. Eventually, however, with authorization from the Pennsylvania Attorney General that Pennsylvania did not claim the island, everything was cleared up and the postmark was Treasure Island, New Jersey.

“The finding of Indian relics, Indian pottery and arrowheads and the stone house once occupied by Thomas Edward Marshall still standing on the mainland, all lend authenticity to the colorful history of Treasure Island.”

[Certainly any mail, if it exists, posted at Treasure Island between November 2, 1932, and June 24, 1933, with a Pennsylvania Treasure Island cancel, would be an extraordinary find. However, as this post office operated seasonally during periods when the camp was open, it is unlikely that any such postmark exists.]

Thomas Cairns served as postmaster until 1937, when the records show that George Henry Keller became Acting Postmaster on 29 June 1937 and Postmaster on 7 August 1937. Walter V. Rutherford was appointed Acting Postmaster on 15 June 1943 and Postmaster on 12 August 1943 and continued in that capacity until the post office was discontinued.



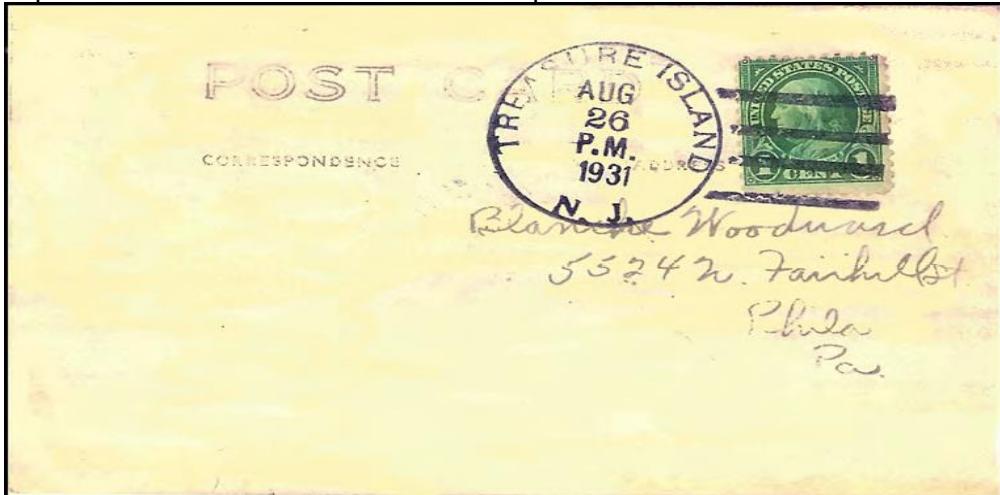
SOSSI member and article author Don Ross at the Treasure Island Post Office in "City Hall"

The original US Post Office façade, including the barred window, letter combination boxes, and post office sign are now gone. The brass items were removed by scavengers. The original post office sign was given to and is on display at the National BSA Museum in Philmont NM.



The original post office sign as displayed at the National BSA Museum, Philmont NM

An example of the Treasure Island cancel stamp in its first summer of use is shown below.



The first cancel device was a 4-bar duplex hand canceller which was applied using black ink as seen on this post card cancelled on August 26, 1931.

The post office remained there until June 15, 1953 when the postal responsibilities were assumed by the Pipersville, PA post office. No [New Jersey] postal business was conducted at Treasure Island in 1953. If you have a letter or post card mailed from TI before the Treasure Island Post office was closed you've got a rare collectable.

The trail to the right of City Hall led to the second Nature Lodge (a.k.a. the Scoutcraft/Nature Lodge and for at least one camp season, the Ecology Lodge). The lodge was torn down in the 90s as the floor had warped so badly one could not even open the double front doors. The lodge itself contained offices for the Director and staff, storage for equipment, Havahart traps, and displayed fish tanks and other assorted cages where scouts could see animals kept for study and display. Along the trail were also outdoor cages where animals caught in the Havahart traps could be kept for a time and then released. This practice was stopped in approximately 1969 – 1970 as Scouting moved to the theory that “nature is where you find it”. Notwithstanding, catching live critters and caging them was seen as cruel treatment and most of the animals were raccoons or worse, skunks. It was extremely difficult to release a skunk without getting sprayed and also once a Havahart trap had a skunk in it that smell would never come out which rendered the trap useless as no other animal or staff member would come near it. The lodge always had a distinct odor of skunk even after the traps were removed. All that remains in the woods where the lodge once stood is the cement step at the entrance.

(Continue West on Pine Road then stop at the building in front of you. This is the Health Lodge)

As you walk towards the Health Lodge you can see the remains of what was an old tree nursery. In 2008 a new Campcrafts program was instituted. The center of activities for campcrafts is the old OA/Commissioners Shack. Site Jim Ridge is established in the old nursery area for campcrafters and volunteers.

The Health Lodge in addition to seeing to the health and first aid needs of campers and staff was the quarters of the camp Nurse, when one was hired. TI had its first female staff member other than the Nurse, in 1970. Since 1996 the Health Lodge was the primary living quarters of female staff members.

On the east side of the Health Lodge is TI Junior. If you look at some of the old maps of Treasure Island you will see a small shoal in the river east of the Health Lodge. A river channel flowed between the main island and this mall shoal. It was known for many years as TI Jr. to all who camped here. The floods of 2005 and 2006 have filled the channel with rocks, silt and debris. The shoal now looks as if it is part of the island mainland with water flowing between the two when the river rises above normal flow.

(Looking north (left) from the Health Lodge is the Staff Area)

The Staff Area, originally known as “The Quad” was built in 1923. Quad is short for quadrangle, the name formerly used by the military to describe the compound characterized by a drill field surrounded by barracks and support buildings. It was also said that the quad got its name from campers from the four sided shacks that were built in the early days. Most of the Treasure Island Staff stayed in this general area.

To most campers the Staff Quad area is like sacred ground. We never get to see it and rightly so...after all, it is the home of the staff for the summer and they are not expected to keep it open for tours any more than you would of your own campsite. The quads sleep four people. There are quads and lean-to in the staff area. If you were invited in here is what you would find. There are 5 quads in line, one quad on the east side by the river stands alone. North of that quad on the Jersey side are two lean-tos' for three people. South of that quad is another three man lean-to. Staff members were assigned 3 or 4 per shack ensuring that each inhabitant was from a different crew. In this way, the staff get to know each other as they lived and worked with a different social group. While this was a good idea in theory the crews generally gathered to eat in the Dining Hall and sat by crew with some exceptions.

The Camp Staff normally numbered about 75 sometimes more for the summer season, including the paid Staff, Counselors in Training (CITs), and volunteers. The Quad was the hub of after hours' social activities for the staff and since it had electricity it was usually lit with Christmas lights and other decorations. At times music of every kind could be heard coming from this area. The Director's Cabin or Shack 1 otherwise known as Patton Lodge is the large building with the fireplaces at the north end of staff quad. This building has a small porch with a brick fireplace on the north wall. To the right of the fireplace is a door leading into an enclosed room approximately 20' x 20' with a brick fireplace on the south wall. The fire places are built back to back. In this room there are 4 built in beds with drawers. The north wall has 2 beds, the east wall and west wall have 1 bed each. To the right of the fireplace there is one closet. During the summer operation, the porch and bedroom area are screened and have awnings. This was the home of the senior staff, usually the Program and Admin Directors and a Commissioner or two.

When things would get a little too loud and especially at lights out one of these “Cake-eaters” (long story) would pull the main breaker cutting power. The reverse would happen in the morning when the staff was not moving after Reveille. When the power went back on so did the lights and in some cases the loud music which would wake up the staff. The CITs stayed in the area to the east side of Shack 1 in large four man tents with two to a tent. You can see each tent had an electric outlet. There is a white building with a shower room, laundry and wash stands. Toilets are in a separate building. In the 1955 flood, one quad was destroyed and was replaced by a tent platform. In the spring of 2019 a tree fell on staff Shack 2 and it was torn down in September, 2019.



Quad – Shack 2

(Head out of the Quad, South along the trail on the Jersey side. On your left are many of the original campsites still in operation)

Treasure Island campsites were typically equipped with: two person tents on raised platforms, a Lean-to (a three sided "Adirondack" structure) for the adult leaders, a pit latrine, washstand, and bulletin board. Dining Flies were set up during summer camp operations. Each site had its own flag pole, originally wood and eventually metal. There are 14 campsites on the island.

On your right you will first see the OA Shack that once doubled as the Indian Lore Lodge. It was used to council Indian Lore Merit Badge and is where the OA regalia was stored for ceremonies. This became the Commissioners Shack in the 2000s.

Just beyond the OA Shack is the South showers, one of five shower facilities in the camp that were set up so that youth and adults shower at separate times. There was a separate shower facility for females. The pool showers augment the other facilities in the evening.

Just ahead on the right is Kiwanis Lodge, built by Kiwanis International in 1922 it was refurbished in 2000. Kiwanis Lodge was the camp handicraft headquarters, where scouts once did fun crafts and handicraft merit badges. Kiwanis Lodge was also used for indoor campfires when the weather would not permit the use of an outdoor site. In the rear is housed a Catholic altar and mass was held back in the day when change over day was on Saturday. The old troops came off by 11:00 AM and the new troops came on starting at 1:00 PM. A Catholic Priest would come to camp each week just to say Mass.

This trail ends at Jersey site, one of the largest campsites on Treasure Island. Next to Jersey site is the entrance to the Scout Law Trail leading to the Ceremonial Grounds. Every Friday night during summer camp all campers were led along this trail by member of the camp staff to the closing campfire. In 1916, the camp director and cofounder of the Order of the Arrow, E. Urner Goodman, wrote:

"And then followed down to that hallowed amphitheater in the woods – down there at the

Southern end. If it were the right night you might see, winding down from the central plateau, through the woodland planes to this hidden clearing, along the solemn line of Scouts – filing down in a stately procession to the weekly ceremonial fire. You probably wish you might know all that goes on there as they gather – all on their island – in this still place.”

(Follow the Scout Law Trail to the Ceremonial Grounds. Pause at the top of the Ceremonial Grounds Steps.)



E. Urner Goodman
Camp Director

Carroll A. Edson
Associate Director in charge
of Commissary (1915)

Welcome to the Treasure Island Ceremonial Grounds. In May 1915, a young man named E. Urner Goodman was selected to serve as Camp Director for Treasure Island. Another young man, Carroll A. Edson, was appointed to serve as the Associate Director in charge of Commissary. Both men were 24 years old. After their appointments were announced, they spent many hours together making plans for their summer camp season, and both did considerable reading and research to better prepare themselves for their new responsibilities. Among the books Goodman read, one contained a description of the camp society that had been organized at a Camp Patch week traditions and ideals from season to season. Goodman and Edson agree that they wanted to establish a similar society Treasure Island. They wanted some definite

form of recognition for their scouts in their camp that best exemplified the spirit of the Scout oath and Law in their daily lives. Since the Delaware Valley was so rich in Native American tradition, and the island had been used in early times as a Native American campground, it seemed only natural to base their society would be based on the legends and traditions of the Delaware Valley Native Americans, the Lenni Lenape. As a result, they prepared a simple yet effective ceremony for their organization. Soon after the camp opened for the season, Goodman explored the island in order to find the most appropriate setting for the Ceremonial Grounds. He selected the site in the south woods of the island, far from the ordinary activities of the camp, and considerably off the beaten path.





On Friday, July 16, 1915, in this natural amphitheater, was the first induction into what has become known as the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society. What began as an idea here at Treasure Island has grown into a national organization. On Treasure Island new members were inducted into the first Lodge, Unami Lodge One, and this continued every week during summer camp. The stone portions of the Ceremonial Grounds were removed in 2014 by members of Unami Lodge One and rebuilt at Summit Bechtel Scout Reservation. The goal was to be able to better preserve the Ceremonial Grounds for generations to come.

This amphitheater was also the perfect place for the Friday night recognition campfire which when power was run to the site was reenergized with sound and light and a slide presentation of the week's events in came featuring the scouts in camp that week who were the stars of the show. See the screen in the picture in the left above. The cedar posts, 16 in all, were for candles, each representing a point of the Scout Law. Also, there were three cedar posts with WWW on them in front of the podium. Furthermore, there were two candle holders with the Unami Totem on them located at the front of the Ceremonial Grounds. In 2021 restoration efforts, led by Ceremonial Grounds Restoration Committee Chair Dominic Curcio, are underway to restore the space to its former glory.

(Walk through the Ceremonial Grounds and out the back to the trail and head North along the PA side towards Unami Lodge)

Ahead is Unami Lodge, previously known as the Wiemachtendienk Lodge House of Unami Lodge One. Built in 1919-21, it was enlarged to add a dining room and kitchen in 1937 and a bunk room and bathroom in 1982. It was used as a meeting place for the lodge after ceremonies and as a winter camping lodge in the off season. Doug Walker and Anthony Lorenzoni turned Unami Lodge into the Goodman and Edson Museum (GEM). They have transformed the main portion of the building, to store and display a vast collection. Including rare and important items of BSA and OA historical memorabilia. In 2021, Efforts are currently under way lead by Museum director Doug Walker to restore the two damaged wings of the budling.



Very early photo of the Wiemachtendienk Lodge House

You missed the two most remote sites set on the south end of camp Win and Nip. If you'd like to see them they can be found up the trail behind the Lodge House. Win and Nip are abbreviations for Nipanitus and Winamingo, who were twins in the Delaware Indian tribe. In the early years of the camp these two sites were set aside for provisional troops.

(Walk just North Unami Lodge along the PA side towards Yoder's Lookout)

Yoder's Lookout was built in 1920 and named for Harry "Pop" Yoder, longtime Philadelphia Scoutmaster, Yoder's Lookout is a favorite spot for campers to relax, and was in recent years, the meeting place of the Treasure Island Campers Council.



Yoder's Lookout – picture taken in approximately March 2018

(Walk around the back of Unami Lodge and head East along the trail. At the first left head North down the trail to the Bernard Klein Memorial Nature Lodge)

The Bernard Klein Memorial Nature Lodge was built in 1987 by former scouts to honor Kline, their long-time scoutmaster. The building is the third nature lodge structure in Treasure Island. It was

preceded by the Nature Cabin in 1918 and the Nature Museum (a.k.a. as the Nature Lodge, Scoutcraft Lodge or Ecology Lodge) in 1931, discussed earlier in this tour. This is where all nature related merit badges were worked on with the staff.

(Continue to walk North on the trail and you'll come to the Pool on the left)

Prior to the pool being built in 1958 all swimming was done in the river. Campers swam in a roped-off section of the river just north of the Dining Hall, in an area near the present boathouse. Lemmon lines marked off the ability areas as is still done in the pool today and the buddy system was also in place. At one time there was a wooden raft anchored in the river which had a sliding board mounted on top of it. In the early days of the camp Scouts working on Swimming and Lifesaving merit badges hiked down the canal to the bridge at Smithville Road to do their swimming. Because the water was deeper at this spot than in the river back at the camp, requirements for those aquatic badges were easier to work on and complete.

"The Crow's Nest" was just a few yards south of the top of the TI stairs. It was a wooden platform that overhung the top edge of the river bank. This platform was small and had a wooden railing on three sides. On the top of the railing facing the river was a metal bracket that held a megaphone which could swivel left or right and up and down. This was the Crow's Nest. For many years it would be manned by a member of the Aquatic's Staff during swimming and boating periods. If a boater drifted to far downstream, the staff member would yell through the megaphone for the boaters to get back up river. From this point you had a great view up and down the river and a good view of the Pennsylvania shoreline. When the trees grew up on the beach, the view was obstructed and use of the Crow's Nest ceased. It fell into disrepair and was torn down.

The Aquatics Crew or Pool Crew (a.k.a. "Bronze Gods") counseled all of the watersports merit badges, as well as Scout Lifeguard and the Mile Swim. The early morning Polar bear swim was a favorite on those hot summer mornings. The original pool building was replaced in 1999 by the current structure. It consists of separate changing rooms, shower facilities and flush toilets for youth and adults. The first female staff member on Treasure Island Camp Staff was Cindy Goodwin, a CIT, who worked at the pool in 1971.

(Walk around the pool to the PA river side to the Aquatics Staff Area)

On the river side of the pool is the area where some of the Aquatics Staff lived. The QM Director also lived here so he could be close to the barge for any emergencies or unscheduled late night trips. These staff quarters were prized over the Quad as it was out of the way of campers and near the cool breezes off the Delaware. They had their own shower and washstand but had to use the pool latrine. One of the shacks was damaged by a tree and torn down in September of 2019.

By the way did you ever wondered if there is anyone buried on the island? There is no proof that any Native American or early settler is buried in the camp, but one scouter is. When George Keller passed away, his ashes were scattered on Treasure Island, the placed that he loved. George Keller was head of our aquatics program for several years and served as Camp Director from 1937 to 1941. He was Unami Lodge Chief in 1932 and was awarded the Vigil Honor that same year.

The history continues although our tour is over. DRC: 4/14/2021 HRW: 4/16/2021

Treasure Island Camp Chronology

- 1910 Scouting in America is founded by Publisher William D. Boyce. Philadelphia Council is organized. Their headquarters are located in Independence Hall in a room once occupied by the Supreme Court of the United States. They met there for seven years until 1917
- 1911 What is to become a brand new scout camp known as Ridge's Island is owned by Scoutmaster Oscar G. Worman, Scoutmaster of Troop 46 in Philadelphia. It is a place where his family spends the summer, but he brings his troop to camp there.
- 1912 Scouts from other troops in Philadelphia start to camp on the island at the invitation of Scoutmaster Worman. It gains in popularity very quickly, and the word spreads.
- 1913 The primitive campsite comes under a 5 year lease to Philadelphia Council, Boy Scouts of America to become the successor to Camp Pequea on the Susquehanna River below Columbia PA. Dr. Charles D. Hart, Council Chairman was instrumental in selecting the site. A council committee was inspecting the island in 1913 when one member remarked that the scenic spot truly was a "Treasure" and his comment was seized upon immediately as the name for the new camp. The only building on the island was a huge barn which was made into the Mess Hall. This was the year the first summer camping season got into full swing. Thirty seven troops with 351 scouts attended. Camp fee for the week was \$3.50.
- 1914 A new Mess Hall is built for \$150.00 to replace the one blown down in a storm. The artesian well was drilled for a fresh water supply. It is now known as the North Well. Camp fee is \$3.00 per week.
- 1915 E. Urner Goodman, assistant Scout Executive of Philadelphia Council is appointed the second Camp Director. Carroll A. Edson was in charge of the commissary. Together they form the "Wiemachtendienk Society" to further scout ideals in camp. It will become the Order of The Arrow. The Ceremonial Grounds are constructed. The new society's first induction ceremony took place on July 16th. A new Cable Ferry is built connecting camp to the Pennsylvania shore. The first Vigil honor was completed by Urner Goodman. His vigil was atop the Devil's Tea Table.
- 1916 The Cable Ferry to New Jersey is inaugurated. It is situated just above the site where the future Rolston Lodge would be built. The Friday night campfire becomes a tradition. The camp season was shortened to one week due to an outbreak of infantile paralysis on the east coast.
- 1917 "City Hall" is built to replace administrative tents. A camp newspaper is printed in Frenchtown N.J. A Scoutcraft school is established. Paths and roads were made and trees were planted. The average stay at camp is 10 days. 70 staff, 50 troops, and a total of 508 scouts were in camp that season.
- 1918 World War I is raging. Mr. Edward Bok, Publisher of "The Ladies Home Journal", provides a gift sufficient enough to purchase the camp for the Philadelphia Council BSA. A log cabin is erected as the first Nature Lodge. A boy mayor is elected each week along with a superintendent of police, and directors of various departments forming a city bureau to keep the camp clean and in good shape.
- 1919 On April 17th, the Treasure Island purchase was completed with a \$4000.00 donation by Mr. Edward Bok. After returning home from the war, Urner Goodman becomes Scout Executive

and is appointed Camp Director. Horace P. Kern establishes the annual scouter's weekend at the TI pre-camp opening. Mr. Goodman composes the TI song "By the River That Surrounds Thee". Summer camp costs \$5.00 per scout camping with their unit, and \$5.50 for unattached scouts. Camp capacity of 300 was set. The Health Lodge is built.

- 1920 A nine week summer camp season was established which was attended by 1,332 scouts and leaders. Unami Lodge is financed and built by members of the Wiemachtendienk Society. Rocks for the fireplace were brought across the river by rowboat. The Mess Hall is renovated. Mr. Goodman and Mr. Kern write the first TI songbook.
- 1922 A new cable ferry was built, the Nature Museum was remodeled and the Wiemachtendienk Society's ceremonial grounds in the woods at the south end of the island were improved. Electricity was installed, an addition to City Hall was built. The wooden flag pole was replaced with a steel pole. A pump house was built at the site of the north well, and a fence was erected at Goodman Stockade. Thousands of trees were planted. The Mess hall was replaced with steel and concrete and the concrete stairway to TI on the island side was built.
- 1923 The Staff Quadrangle shacks were built. The area quickly becomes known as the "Quad".
- 1924 A new Mess Hall with skylights is built with a modern kitchen. The eight scout tables are instituted. A new store and a Quartermaster's building is built. A staff Quad is added. A combination water tower and observation tower is constructed along with two new latrines. The staff repaints every building on the island and builds tennis and volley ball courts near the Quad.
- 1925 An Indian lore program is begun as an activity feature by Wallace L. Root of Troop 46, who was Philadelphia's representative to the 2nd World Jamboree in Copenhagen, Denmark 1924. At this time there was no Indian Lore merit badge.
- 1926 "The Treasure Island Scout", a weekly publication which sold for five cents, contained Indian and Nature articles were written by Rufus T. Davis, Horace "Shorty" Ralston, and Norman MacDonald.
- 1927 A seedling tree nursery is established in the field north of City Hall replacing the tennis and volley ball courts by Rufus T. Davis. The Wiemachtendienk Society was renamed "The Order of The Arrow".
- 1928 Eagle Scout Paul Sipple of Erie PA was selected to represent the BSA on Admiral Byrd's first expedition to the Antarctica, where he invents the "wind chill factor" now used in weather forecasting. In 1930 he kept his vigil at the Devil's Tea Table. Kiwanis Craft Lodge and the Catholic Chapel were built. Troop 160 helps with the construction.
- 1929 "Boy Weeks" increased to 3,215. Kiwanis Lodge is dedicated. Dr. Charles Hart attends the ceremony.
- 1930 "The Council Log", a daily publication was produced. The "Skyline Trail", part of the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey was established as a regular weekly activity by the Outdoor Department. A special service in memory of Mr. Edward Bok who passed away this year was held at TI.
- 1931 A new Nature Lodge was erected behind City Hall near the Staff Quads. The Quartermaster's Lodge was built. July 1st, a United States Post Office is established on the

island. Thomas Cairns is the first Postmaster. A motion picture is made of Treasure Island and its surroundings. It is the first camp promotion film.

- 1932 The Mess Hall was reconstructed and renamed the Dining Hall. A massive reforestation project took place. The trees are planted along Pine Road by Troop 211 of Philadelphia in the Frankford section. The trees were from the seedlings planted in the nursery. The Woodland Chapel located on the bank of the river at the north end of the camp is destroyed by large ice floes coming down river.
- 1933 Woodland Chapel is rebuilt in a new location on a higher point of the island in a hemlock grove. A large concrete cross was constructed in the chapel, but was taken down after some dispute.
- 1934 National recognition was accorded the Order of The Arrow. Ted Goodman, son of E. Urner Goodman was inducted into Unami Lodge Chapter of the Order of the Arrow. An addition is made to City Hall.
- 1936 The Treasure Island Map mural was painted and it's legend written by Albert L. Spicer. It was hung in the Dining Hall where it can be seen today. The first great flood strikes the island since Philadelphia Council purchased it. The river crests at 32 feet above normal
- 1937 A dining room is annexed onto Unami Lodge on the south end.
- 1941 Rolston Lodge was erected and dedicated on July 13th in memory of Horace "Shorty" Rolston as a respite for unit leaders. It is designed by Architect of Council Camps, M. Edwards Dunlap
- 1942 World War II – Many campers and staff serve in the Armed Forces and American Red Cross overseas.
- 1953 The Post Office closes on June 15th.
- 1954 The Health Lodge is enlarged. Improvements are made to Hill House. Up the road the Ranger's apartments over the building with the garages were constructed.
- 1955 On August 19th hurricane Dianne strikes the east coast with devastating force. The Delaware floods the river valley again, cresting at 38 feet above normal. It is the worst flood of the Delaware in recorded history. Treasure Island was completely underwater. Scouts in camp for that week must leave all their possessions behind, which are swept away by the flooded Delaware River. Some of the last remaining staff are air lifted off by helicopter. Chief of Maintenance Russ Gerhab takes home movies of the flood. Unami Lodge takes on the responsibility of maintaining its facilities.
- 1956 Unami Lodge starts rebuilding the damage from the flood at its Spring Service weekend. A plaque is placed in the Dining Hall at the high water mark of the flood. Summer camp reopens on time.
- 1958 The swimming pool was built and opened ending swimming in the river. Goodman Stockade was rebuilt by lodge members. Troop 108 committeeman John Rogalski on a request from Scoutcraft, burns the last few stanzas of the Treasure Island Poem "In Camp" into some wood planks. Marshall Island was purchased from the YMCA by Philadelphia Council BSA. Though scouts have used it for overnighters the plan was to not build anything on the island and use it as a wilderness camp for experienced scouts and Explorers.

- 1960 Unami Lodge held its 45th anniversary at TI.
- 1961 The Mitchell suspension foot bridge was erected to connect the southern end of Marshall Island in Pennsylvania with the northern tip of Treasure Island in New Jersey. With special permission from the two states it is deemed an interstate bridge. The plank bottom hangs from steel cable spanning the North Channel about 30 feet in the air. The bridge is an immediate hit with the campers.
- 1962 The Philadelphia chapter of the Rotary Club makes a donation to the council to build new wooden barges.
- 1963 Council celebrated the 50th anniversary of Treasure Island and produced the Golden Anniversary Handbook. Eagle Scout and Treasure Island camper Dave Prescott from Troop 108 in Philadelphia is chosen to present the Canadian National Scout Headquarters in Ottawa with a full size casting of the "Boy Scout" statue by Robert Tait McKenzie. It is only the eighth copy. The statue was a gift from Philadelphia Council to the Canadian Boy Scouts. An extension is added to Gerhab Lodge.
- 1964 The Steps for the old New Jersey Cable Ferry buried during the flood in 1955 were rediscovered by the staff down the hill from Ralston Lodge.
- 1965 The 50th anniversary of Unami Lodge and the Order of the Arrow was celebrated on June 12th. The celebration was attended by Urner Goodman and Carroll Edson. They dedicated and placed a plaque at the ceremonial grounds.
- 1966 A small private plane cruising to low on the river hits the power lines and crashes in the river in flames. The pilot was rescued by some staff members. The plane's propeller was hung in the Dining Hall. Hank Wiese an SPL from Troop 35, is on TI for a pre-camp Leaders Meeting with his Scoutmaster and Father and witness the incident.
- 1968 Connie's roadside snack shop and restaurant along with the parking lots are acquired by the council. It is said and known to be haunted. A lifelong friendship is born when Hank Wiese and Frank Carroll meet during pre-camp. Frank is a staff member on the Scoutcraft Crew and Hank is a CIT assigned to work with them. After helping to build, the model campsites in the Scoutcraft area on the southern end of Marshall Island, Hank is singled out and recommended by Frank as a "hard worker". Hank is hired for the Scoutcraft Crew at 14 years old, violating BSA policy. His salary for a ten (10) week summer is \$50.00 and he is happy to get it. Hank and Frank have been best friends since that very day and go on to cofound the Friends of Treasure Island.
- 1969 Marshall Island is opened as a wilderness camp. Nelson Leek, District Executive, for Philadelphia Council, BSA is pressed into service as Administrative Director mid-way through the camp season as the person in that job has a heart attack. He moves into Connie's with his wife Audrey, a nurse, who works as the camp nurse for the rest of the summer, and his two teenage daughters, Connie, and Nancy. Hank Wiese takes Connie to the end of summer joint Hart and TI Camp Staff Sweethearts Day. They were married in 1975 and have two children, Jillian and Jennifer. Jen and her husband Dave occasionally volunteer during FTI workdays.
- 1970 A new Ceremonial Ground for Marshall Island is constructed at the north tip of the camp by Order of The Arrow candidates at the spring service weekend. For one week during summer

camp operations at TI the river is so high that the barge has to dock at the east steps of the Dining Hall. The troops disembark off the bow and through the Dining Hall and out the west steps. Welcome to Treasure Island! The staff which sits along the east side of the Dining hall by the windows for meals can watch the river flow right by while they eat. The camp does not stop operation.

- 1971 At the end of the summer camp season Treasure Island is pretty beat up since it has experienced overuse by large numbers of scouts during summer camp over many years. Many of the trails/tractor paths are many inches below the adjacent forest floor. The buildings and other infrastructure are in serious need of repair. For these and other reasons the Philadelphia Council, BSA decides to close TI as a summer camp but it remains open for weekend camping. A capital improvement fund was established to refurbish TI's waste disposal.

Marshall Island is renamed Eagle Island Camp and opens as a state of the art, patrol cooking summer camp with a modern administration building, shower house, pool and flush latrines which had a composting system to remove the waste. Each camp site was laid out in an overlapping clover leaf pattern with the latrine and wash stand at the center. In this way the tents were put on only one portion of the leaf each year, thus allowing the site to grow back over a two year period minimizing the impact to the environment. Deer Lodge was the staff dining hall and gather place and Elk Lodge the health lodge. Both buildings had been on the island for years. The staff area was a "tent city" of large four man tents with two staff members to a tent close to Deer Lodge. Each tent had an electrical outlet that ran to it. The staff showers and latrines were all indoors in a new building specifically built for that purpose.

The first female staff member on Treasure Island Camp Staff was Cindy Goodwin, a CIT, who worked at the pool in 1971.

- 1975 Unami Lodge celebrates its 60th anniversary at TI Dr. Goodman visits the island for the last time. Council enlists the help of Pennsylvania State Senator Hugh Scott to introduce legislation to establish Treasure Island as a National Historical Site.
- 1976 Connie's becomes the Ranger's residence. Newly hired Ranger, Bob Gilbert (now Ranger Emeritus with the Friends of Treasure Island) and wife Nancy move in and with help start to slowly transform the old restaurant into a living quarters.





Prior to summer camp in 1976, under the direction of Ranger Bob Gilbert: Ray Braun; Hank Wiese; and his then girlfriend (now wife) Connie Leek clean and repaint the Eagle Island Camp pool. Connie, an aspiring artist, paints a ten foot diameter Eagle Island patch in full color in the middle of the pool.

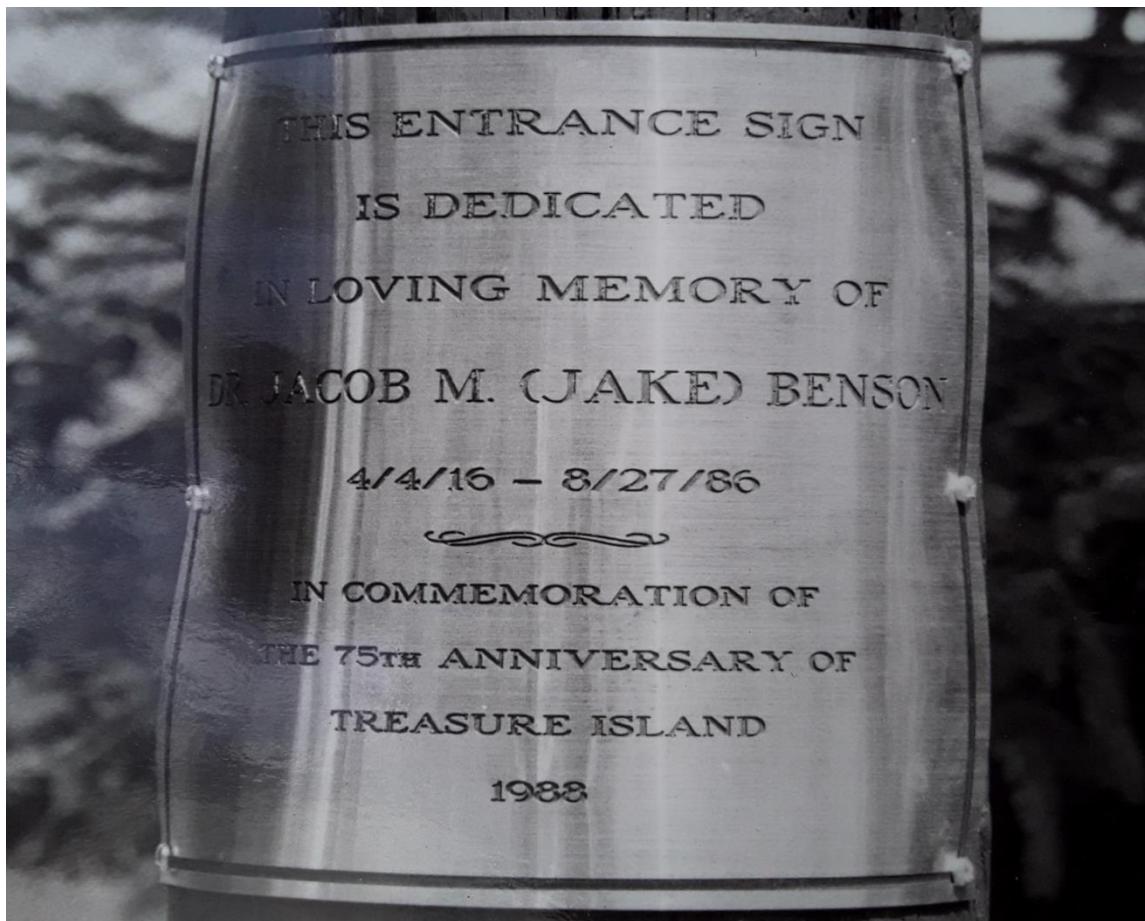
- 1977 Troop 108 from the Frankford/Northwood section of Philadelphia is granted permission by the Council Camping Committee to run their own summer camp program for 10 days at Treasure Island. They do so again in 1978, 1979 and 1980. They donate a full scale replica of a Revolutionary War cannon they built for an activity to the camp.
- 1978 The Catholic chapel in Kiwanis lodge is refurbished. 50 feet of a Sears boat dock system is donated and installed in the river in the boating area by Troop 108. Using railroad rails, a rail system is constructed from the river's edge up and into the Dining Hall where a two ton chain hoist is hung. This system is a means to pull the great wooden barges out of the river and into the Dining Hall for winter storage.
- 1979 Eagle Island closes as a summer camp and unfortunately the buildings are left to vandals and the elements. This once state of the art camp is now in ruins and the pool is full of trees. Another example of the sad state of affairs and governance within the Philadelphia Council, BSA. The pool on TI is cleaned and repainted. A six foot diameter Treasure Island patch is painted in full color in the shallow end. Work starts on joining the two original cooks' cabins to form a new Campmaster's Cabin.
- 1980 Treasure Island reopens as a summer camp. Dr. Goodman dies at the age of 89. The Dining Hall is used for the first time since 1971. Unami hosts its 65th anniversary with 450 participants. Boy's Life Magazine comes to the camp to do a story on the reopening, it never appears in print.



Model of the original cable ferry built by Scouter and Camp Staffer Fred Prescott

Pulleys from the old cable ferry on the Jersey side are found in the Delaware River by Troop 109 on the beach above Rolston Lodge. The new Campmaster's cabin is completed. The Sears boat dock is dismantled. The barge railroad is dismantled.

- 1981 The Dining hall is reopened for use at summer camp. The Quartermaster's building is repaired. The new North Showers are constructed. The small totem pole that sat at the end of the parade ground was relocated to the Ceremonial Grounds.
- 1982 Numerous camp renovations were undertaken including: new water and electrical lines, every building was painted, new roofs were put on many buildings, and new latrine facilities are built at every site. Additional sleeping quarters were added onto the north end of Unami Lodge House, bathroom facilities are added to Rolston and Unami Lodges, and a new rifle range is built on the southern tip of Marshall Island.
- 1983 The Ceremonial Grounds were refurbished with new benches and stonework. In conjunction with the National Conference of the Order of the Arrow in New Brunswick, thousands visit Treasure Island for an encampment. A 70th Anniversary Camp Staff reunion was held.
- 1985 Unami Lodge hosts Section NE-5A conclave at Treasure Island.
- 1986 The swimming pool deck was refurbished.
- 1987 The Bernard Klein Environmental Center was constructed. It is the third nature lodge built in the camp. A memorial to George Keller was erected at the Ceremonial Grounds.
- 1988 Treasure Island celebrates its Diamond (75th) Anniversary. Among the events during this celebration is the dedication of the PA landing entrance to Dr. Jacob (Jake) Benson. This plaque has long since disappeared but FTI has plans in the works to replicate and replace this essential piece of TI's history.



Original dedication plaque for the PA landing entrance to Dr. Jacob (Jake) Benson

- 1989 The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission presents a historical marker to the camp and it is placed by the canal at the top of the TI entrance to the river.



- 1990 Unami Lodge celebrates its 75th anniversary with the hosting of the Section NE-4B conclave and a weekend celebration at Treasure Island. A footbridge is built across the North Channel to replace the demolished Mitchell Bridge. It is christened "Kestler's Krossing" after Camp Director Bob Kestler.
- 1991 A new Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience or C.O.P.E course is built on Marshall Island.
- 1992 During a storm a large tree falls on Ralston Lodge crushing the center section, wiping out the fireplace and the living room with its French doors and windows. The center is rebuilt as a pavilion with no side walls but joining the kitchen and bunk rooms.
- 1994 A new bulkhead is built on the island. New docks and landings are constructed to give Treasure Island mud free landings on both the PA side and camp side.
- 1995 New metal flagpoles are provided on every campsite through a donation from Philadelphia Troop 648 and Scoutmaster Bernard Arinsberg.
- 1996 A new pavilion is built at the edge of the Parade Grounds. Troop 108 erects a relief model map of the camp and a "Troops In Camp" board near the totem pole at the top of the steps.



- 1998 Barge II, last of the great wooden barges is decommissioned and destroyed. In May, the second new fiberglass Carolina Skiff comes to camp to be fitted out and put into use.
- 1999 The fence at Goodman Stockade is entirely replaced.
- 2000 Unami Lodge Celebrates its 85th anniversary at TI. The long awaited for tent platforms with outriggers were built and installed. The lumber was brought onto the island by heavy lift helicopters in March of this year

- 2002 An entire new cannon is built to replace the old one.
- 2003 During the National Convention of the Boy Scouts of America, held in Philadelphia this year, a delegation of members of the National Committee of the Order of the Arrow, including Chairman Brad Haddock and fellow members from all over the country, visited Treasure Island on May 28th. Tours of the island, the Unami Lodge house, and an evening ceremony at the ceremonial grounds where the OA was founded in 1915 proved to be a special day in the island's history. New flag stands to hold troop flags after Colors are put in outside the Dining Hall.
- 2004 Large new free standing bulletin boards are erected at every campsite. The cause is championed by Treasure Island Business Manager Bernard Arinsberg. Council provides the money for supplies. Volunteers build the bulletin boards and install them by the time the troops arrive for summer camp. **A major flood hits the camp in September.**
- 2005 **April 2nd – A terrible rain storm causes worst flooding of the Delaware River since hurricane Dianne in 1955. River crests at 35 feet above normal.** The flood causes extensive damage to the PA side of camp. Cradle of Liberty Council, BSA closes the island for summer camp to make repairs. Treasure Island campers are directed to Resica Falls. Volunteers come up on Saturdays to help with the cleanup.
- 2006 After almost a year since the flood, more than a million and a half dollars, and countless hours of clean up and rebuilding by volunteers and professional contractors, Treasure Island was slowly and methodically put back together. Like the Phoenix arising from the ashes our camp was reborn better than ever. A new 24' long, all welded aluminum barge was purchased. It was built by Lobell's Custom Boats in Louisiana. When it was finished, it was shipped to Pasch Marine Services in Easton, PA. All the other barges were outfitted with new motors, lights and safety equipment. Summer Camp reopens. On June 10th, a book titled "The Treasure Island Story" compiled by Fred Prescott along with a book stand was delivered to the camp and set up in City Hall for public use by Scouts and Scouters.

The first week of the summer camp season opened with the arrival of troops on Sunday June 25th. For almost the last week and a half intermittent rain storms battered the Delaware Valley. The river started to rise and the troops were evacuated on the 27th. **By the 28th the river had flooded to almost the same stages as the previous year. Again the camp suffered severe damage and the camping season was called off.**

- 2007 CoLC decides to try again in 2007, but a cloud looms as the camp must prove itself to be a viable asset. A Gabion bulkhead system is built and set in place at the Pennsylvania barge landing. Split rail fencing is set in place at the north end of the camp along the trail on the Jersey side where the land mass was washed away.
- 2008 95th year of operation. Scouter John "Butts" MacMillan celebrates the anniversary of his induction into the Order of the Arrow, 80 years ago. Site "Jersey-North" is renamed "MacMillan" in his honor. A new Campcrafts program is instituted. The center of activities for campcrafts is the old Commissioners/OA Shack. Site Jim Ridge is established in the old nursery area for campcrafters and volunteers. A successful summer program is had. At the end of camp, the staff is informed there will be a 96th year at Treasure Island.

The Friends of Treasure Island (FTI) is formed by Francis (Frank) J. Carroll and Henry (Hank) R. Wiese with additional Board Members, William (Bill) J. Scott, III, Paul J. Kelly, III, Robert (Bouncing Bob) Kestler. All have impressive Scouting and business credentials. They work with Cradle of Liberty Council for ten (10) years to provide solutions to reverse

the decision to close TI. In the end their courses of action are for naught and the island is put up for sale.

A message issued on September 11 2008 on the Cradle of Liberty website announced that Treasure Island, as a Scouts BSA camp is closed. It is ironic that this date is the same as when the terrorists struck New York --- 9/11.

- 2018 John and Dave Haubert, of Haubert Outdoor Oriented Adventure Hospitality (HOOAH), LLC purchase Treasure Island and form Treasure Island Outfitters, (TIO), LLC. Frank Carroll and Hank Wiese the remaining members of FTI reestablish FTI and in cooperation with the Haubert's set plans in motion to reopen TI as a private campground where Scouts camp at no cost during selected weekends. FTI launches Operation Abiding Phoenix an all-volunteer effort to clean up the island after ten (10) years of neglect and the ravages of scavengers and trespassers. FTI begins to camp Scouts on TI in the Fall of 2018, making the first goal of FTI's mission a reality. Hank Wiese and Frank Carroll were the driving force in the early days of Treasure Islands reopening.
- 2019 Truly remarkable progress is accomplished in the history of Treasure Island. FTI saw the addition of new Board members: Steve Benckert, Nathen Burvainis, Anthony Cirino, Bob Gilbert, Anthony "JT" Lorenzoni, and Doug Walker. With the growth on the executive level new and exciting development happened in the camp. Anthony Lorenzoni and Doug Walker began the first membership campaign. There was the creation of the Treasure Island Camp Staff, a group of volunteers who operate TI on scouting weekends. Doug Walker and Anthony Lorenzoni became known as the tree cutting masters. On any weekend dropping over a dozen trees. TI was filled with the sounds of chainsaws roaring. During most of 2019 scouts camped on the parade field but thanks to the work of the tree cutting crews; FTI was able to open at least six sites by the Fall. There were exciting plans being hatched for 2020. At some point during the winter, the large Friendship Tree fell in the middle of the Ceremonial Grounds making the space unusable for the time being.
- 2020 FTI had big plans for 2020 but something happened in the late winter that no one expected, the COVID-19 pandemic struck. By order of John and Dave Haubert, all operations on TI stopped from March until May. A small group of volunteers arrived came back on May 15th, 2020 for a pre-camp workday. They descended with a vengeance. Mowing, tree dropping and repairing infrastructure. FTI began to camp scouts again in June of 2020. The TICS earned its stripes, being able to successfully operate the camp despite COVID-19 restrictions. 2020 also marked the introduction of the first Treasure Island Outfitters, LLC paid camping season. Dominic Curcio worked for John and Dave Haubert as Campmaster from July to October of 2020. If you ever see Dom, be sure to ask him about his experiences of TI during the summer of 2020 or as he so fittingly named it "The Wild West Summer". The Fall marked the end of the paid season and the return of the Scouts to TI. On September 12, 2020, FTI board members Anthony Lorenzoni announced that he and Steve Benckert wanted to put on a Campfire program, and he asked the staff what locations they could use. The Goodman Stockade had been demolished the week before and the option was either go the easy way and use the parade field or attempt to use the Ceremonial Grounds. Wanting to do something special FTI President Frank Carroll made the call, Dominic Curcio and Anthony Cirino were to lead a work crew into the Ceremonial Grounds to prepare it for a campfire that night. With the help of volunteers, they were able to clear out the weeds and built a temporary fire pit on the left-hand side of the Ceremonial

Grounds. A trail to connect the main tractor path to the stands was cleared and Dominic and Anthony built the fire. On October 11, 2020, Doug Walker and Anthony Lorenzoni cut large sections of the Friendship Tree to be used in Future FTI projects. But flooding on Christmas Day 2020 somehow moved the large pieces from the Ceremonial Grounds into the woods. Also, during 2020 FTI saw the launch of the new FTI Website thanks to new board member and "Wizard of the Internet", Jay Cohen. Also, in June of 2020 the flagpole was painted marking the first step in the restoration process. Despite the pandemic it was a great year on TI.

- 2021 Some major things have happened in the spring of 2021. These include the building of the new FTI Archery Range. Also opened during 2021 was the Goodman and Edson Museum in the old Unami Lodge building. FTI rolled out a merit badge program as well. Major efforts are underway to restore the Ceremonial Grounds. The FTI Trading post was reopened for the first time since 2008 run by another new Board Member, and former camp staffer, Bill Lewis. Bill Lewis and Dominic Curcio were offered positions on the Board filling a few much-needed vacancies. FTI modifies its TICS structure and names Nate Burvainis Camp Director, Anthony Lorenzoni Program Director, and Steve Benckert Quartermaster Director. This new team has been the driving force behind many of the improvements and program advancements in 2021. Stay tuned for many great things to come in 2022!

TREASURE ISLAND CAMP DIRECTORS

J. W. Patton	1913-1914
E. Urner Goodman	1915-1917 & 1919
Harvey A. Gordon	1918
Horace P. Kern	1920
Byron J. Pickering	1921-1922
Earl Pritchard	1923
A. C. Nichols, Jr.	1924-1928
Thomas C. Cairns	1929-1936 & 1942
George H. Keller	1937-1941
Walter V. Rutherford	1943-1944 & 1949-1950
Joseph J. Davis	1945
Frederick C. Bach	1946-1948
George Vernooy	1951
Louis R. Spealler	1952-1953
John Bosch	1954-1957
Charles B. Kauffman	1958-1963
Jack Roche	1964-1969
Dick Smith	1970-1971
Bud Young	1980
Charles Benshetler	1981-1982
Allan Geller	1983-1984
Bob Kestler	1985-1986
Steve Gerber	1987
Brian Karch	1988-1989
George Ullrich	1990-1994
Ken Nygard	1995-1997
Chris Brenner	1998
Marcel Cinquina	1999-2001
Steve Ranjo	2001
Hank Windish	2002-2006
Tim Trainor	2007

EAGLE ISLAND CAMP DIRECTORS

Dick Barnes	1968-1969
Bob Courtney	1970-1971
Charles Williams	1972
Ted Simmons	1973-1977
Jim Weiss	1978
Lex Jervis	1979



THE CAMP RANGERS: Probably the most underappreciated and least understood person in a scout camp during the summer camp session is the camp "Ranger"! In the early years of scouting there was no Ranger's title for the men who took care of our camps. Early Rangers were called by many different titles, and may not have been full-time employees. Among the titles used were: Upkeep, Director Upkeep, General Manager, Mechanic, Maintenance, Maintenance Supervisor, and Warden. The title of "Ranger" first appeared in Philadelphia Council around 1951 and was at that time subordinate to the Maintenance Supervisor – Russ Gerhab.

There were years where there was more than one ranger on staff. The Rangers listed here were the senior Rangers on board for the years shown.

Jim Ridge, 1913-1928: Jim was the grandson of Marshall Ridge who at one time owned the camp we call Treasure Island. It was called Ridge's Island back then. Jim and wife Sally lived in a house between the canal and the river near canal Bridge Number 4 at Smithtown Road and River Road. There was a boat landing there called Ridges Landing, where Jim kept his flat bottom boat. He would haul coal and ice, and other supplies across the river in his boat using a pole instead of oars. Sometimes he brought scouts and their gear across.

Russell S. Gerhab, 1923-1966: Russ been a Scout in Troop 115 from West Philadelphia. He started out as an assistant to Jim Ridge. He was a master of all trades and there was very little he couldn't do. Russell could seem stern and impatient at times, but only when he was trying to complete a project that had to be done and he expected it to be done the right way. Woe to the scout who returned a kerosene lantern with a dirty globe. He was proud of the condition of camp equipment and wanted it kept that way. Russ was extremely knowledgeable of the construction and mechanical trades. He also understood boats and motors, and knew the river well. Russ

nursed Treasure Island through the great floods of 1936 and 1955. In the forty-three years Russell spent in service to scouting and the care of our camps his contribution is too large to list.

Personal reflections on Russ Gerhab TI Ranger, by Bob Fritz, Troop 115: Russ was an ASM in Troop 115 in the old Phila. Council. He was also my Explorer advisor in 115. He came down to Phila. For troop meetings and then went into the council office to do camp business. He would also pick up any materials needed for camp projects. He stayed at his sisters on Tuesday (meeting night) and explorer meeting night. Many of troop 115 members worked as camp staff. I began going to TI every winter and spring weekend starting in about 1958 as maintenance staff, barge drivers as well as many other projects. We would go up on Friday night until Sunday night, we did troop check-ins. We stayed in the old ranger's house. During this time the ranger's house was enlarged adding 2 garages and needed bed space. There was a cadre of weekend warriors every weekend. I would pick up the camp pickup truck from the garage and pick up the team on the way up. My troop paid for and built Baker lodge as well as several lean-tos on the site. Many may not know that Russ was a Chief aviation mechanists' mate at Naval Air station Willow Grove. As such he introduced 3 of the weekenders to the Navy. We all enlisted and went on active duty. One of our team went into the Army an officer. Russ spent time teaching many trades type of items, as well as digging holes for latrines prior to any flush toilets. When he had a weekend off, he provided activities for the explorer post. He was well known to a lot of the scouters that came to TI. We got to visit E. Urner Goodman at his house during one of our fall trips. We worked with Roy VanSelous, and Art Ridge on the weekends. One of the many major projects we were part of was building the Mitchell Bridge from TI to Marshals Island. Roy was an assistant ranger, I guess. He worked on the Island most of the week and on the weekends as needed. There were times when heavy materials had to get transport to the island. We would load up Roy's green pickup truck and he would take it across on the Marshals Island cable ferry. There were a few times when we drove the truck across in the river when water was low. Quite a ride. I believe Roy was also a ranger on the old island. Roy was a giant of a man as well as great friend to all of us. We also had Art Ridge at times, he was an older gentleman but worked right alongside of us.

Roy VanSelous, 1967-1972: Roy was born and lived on River Road. He was employed by the Y.M.C.A. to maintain Camp Wilson on Marshall's Island when the "Y" had their camp there. To supplement his salary, he farmed the island with crops of corn and soybeans. In the flood of 1955, he lost all his farming equipment and all of his bagged grain. In 1956 he was employed by Philadelphia Council. He worked together with Russ Gerhab and Art Ridge. Roy spent 20 years working in Scouting. At his retirement he was given a ceramic statue of the "Boy Scout" by Robert Tait Mckenzie.

Bob Gilbert, 1976-1977: Bob (Rivergazoo) hailed from Havertown, PA and is a graduate of Penn State. Bob an Eagle Scout served as Lodge Chief in Valley Forge Council. Bob and his wife Nancy, were the first full time ranger and family to live in the Ranger's House on River Road which had formerly been Connie's Roadside Restaurant. Bob and Nancy brought their first child, a daughter, named Erin, to the Ranger House and made it a true home. It was Bob and his father who started the conversion from restaurant to home. 90% of his work effort was on Eagle Island. Bob then moved over to Hart Scout Reservation where he stayed for about four years. His next assignment was at 10 Mile River Camp as Chief Ranger. Bob is now the Ranger Emeritus and Board member of FTI.

Wes Baxter, 1977-1981: Wes was hired as Ranger for Eagle Island Camp up on Marshall's Island. Wes and his wife Ruth lived in the Ranger's House and it was completed as a home while they were there. Son Andrew was born their first year. During the time he was not working on Eagle Island he spent countless hours cleaning up and making repairs to Treasure Island. Wes

was the driving force behind getting the camp ready for reopening.

Bob Kline, 1981: Bob was a member of Woodland District Troop 115 in Philadelphia. He served on the camp staff at Treasure Island in 1955 and 1956. He had an 8MM home movie of the flood of 1955

Phil Walton, 1982-1983:

Bill Placek: 1984-1985: Bill came to TI from New Jersey. Probably North Jersey because Steve Gerber, the Director of Camping, worked there for several years. Bill was very diligent and a master craftsman. He was well-liked by all and with his calm manner, made him a respected provider of information and advice on many subjects, not just camp maintenance. He drove a sports car and bore the brunt of many jokes about how expensive it was and what kind of salary was he getting as Camp Ranger.

Jim Hadik: 1986:

Ken Nygard, 1986-1997: Ken came from the Baltimore Area Council in Maryland. He was quiet and easy going, and always seemed steeped in thought. He came to Philadelphia Council with a great scouting back-ground and excellent building skills. One of his projects that Ken should always be remembered for, is the planning and construction of the docks and landings on both the Pennsylvania, and camp side shore lines. It finally gave T.I. a mud free entrance and exit. Ken was elevated to the position of Superintendent of Properties for all of Cradle of Liberty Council camps in 1998. Ken stayed in that position through 2002 He left the council for a few years to pursue other things but returned in April of 2005 as Assistant Director of camping and properties and then elevated to Director.

Dan Cicchino, 1998-2003:

Joe Toelle, 2004:

Mark Berkery, 2004-2008:

ASSISTANT RANGERS:

Russell S. Gerhab, 1923-1930

George Gordon, 1929

James Ridge, 1929-1930

Marvin Maser, 1941

Joseph Finston, 1943

Charles F. Kaercher, 1943

Alan Howe, 1944

Arthur M. Ridge, 1945-1960

George E. Marburger, 1947

Roy VanSelous, 1959-1966

William Proctor, 1971

John Moore, 1995-1996

Bill Cronin, 1997-1998

Elwood "Woody" Kreitz, 1999-2000

Paul Cardenuto, 2002

Ed Owsik. 2004