

# Self-Guided Tour of Treasure Island Camp

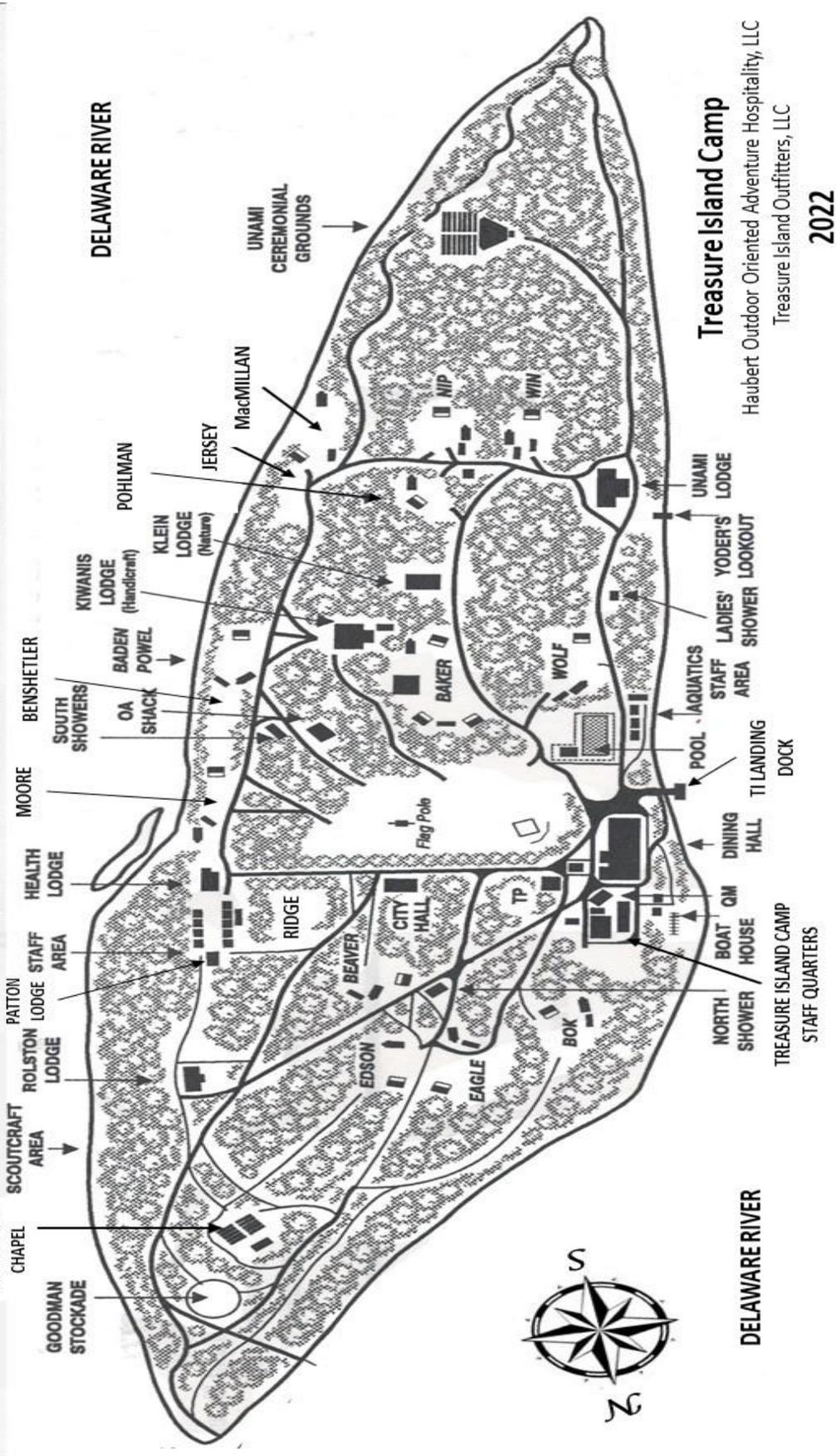
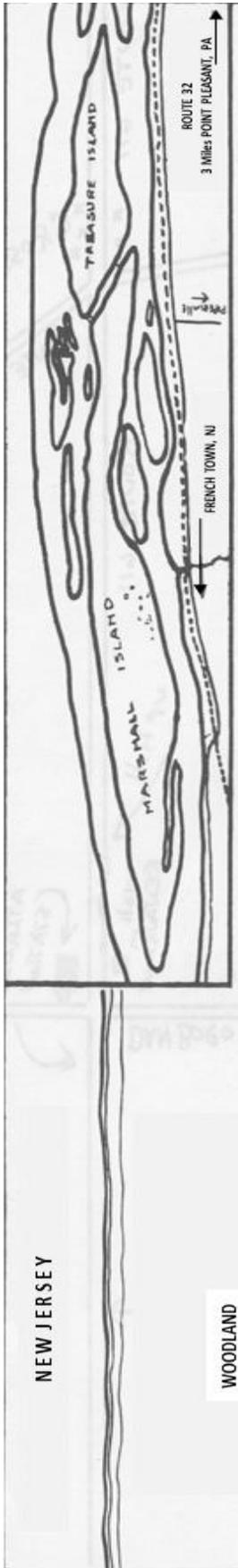


## Self-Guided Tour of Treasure Island Scout Reservation Treasure Island Camp and Eagle Island Camp

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We invite you to step back in time to see and read about the history of Treasure Island and learn about the people who helped to create this camp, who were the foundation of our goals, spirit and traditions.

**Let the “magic” begin!**



## **Start at the top of TI landing on the south side of the Dining Hall.**

Welcome to Treasure Island, which was the nation's oldest continuously operating Boy Scout camp, the birthplace of Scouting's honor society the Order of the Arrow and its founding lodge, Unami Lodge One.

Treasure Island was originally owned by the Marshall family. William Marshall, the first owner, died in 1757 and willed the island to his brother Edward. Edward Marshall known as the "Walker," was the main participant in the Walking Purchase of September 19, 1737, during which Pennsylvania purchased land from the Indians based upon how far a man could walk in a day and a half. In 1752 and 1755, Indians attacked near Marshall's farm as they were dissatisfied with land lost to the early colonists. The "Walker" died in November of 1789 at the age of 79. Until 1913, Treasure Island, which had been known as Ridge's Island since 1806, was just one of many high islands in the bed of the Delaware River 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 Indians as a comfortable stop-over when they made annual migration from the hills of Pennsylvania to summer on the coast of New Jersey.

Following successful camps in 1911 and 1912, the Philadelphia Council, BSA leased Ridge's Island, from its owner Oscar G. Worman. Treasure Island opened for its first official camping season in the summer of 1913, just three years after the Boy Scouts of America was chartered by Congress. The Treasure Island purchase was completed in 1919, with a gift from philanthropist Edward Bok, publisher of The Ladies Home Journal.

### **(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 building is the oldest structure still standing in on the island, having originally been a barn built around 1876 when the island then known as Ridge's Island was still farmed before the camp was opened.**

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. The original dining room (called the "Mess Hall") was added onto the barn in 1914. 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.



**The old dining hall — 1926. The present one was built in 1932.**

In the past, meals at Treasure Island were an important part of the camps program.

Meals in the Treasure Island dining hall are an important part of the program. Each meal is followed by songs and skits, and the dissemination of important program information. Meals also serve 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 routed 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.”**



*Here let the Treasure Island spirit kindle fires of friendship*

*Painted by and presented to Unami Lodge by Edward L. Spicer on September 4, 1936*

When 26 year old Ed Spicer did his painting of Treasure Island, it was originally intended for the Unami Lodge Building. It was presented to the lodge by Troop 257 of the Kilunook Chapter in September of 1936. Unami is the Mother Lodge of the Order of the Arrow. Since the story and ceremony of the Lodge was based on Indian tradition, both fact and fiction Mr. Spicer painted the camp as it was in the 1930's as if it were a Lenni Lenape settlement.

The painting is large, measuring 12' x 8' was completed in four panels. After it was hung in Unami Lodge, its large size proved to be rather awkward so it was moved to the Dining Hall. It was first hung over a fireplace that used to be there, but after renovations, it was moved to its present location.

**THE EXPLANATION OF THE MAP PAINTING:**

This map was painted by Edward L. Spicer and presented to Unami Lodge on September 4, 1936. It depicts Treasure Island in the Native American symbols of the Lenni-Lenape or "Original People," who inhabited this area many years before the first Europeans came to America.

In the lower left corner you will see a Lenni-Lenape Indian, his wife, and their the likes of people who inhabited this area many moons ago, before the first white settler came to America. Take notice to the garments they are wearing. Also pictured with them is a deer, which were plentiful in this area when the Lenni-Lenape lived here and supplied them with food and clothing. Of course many other animals inhabited this area such as bear wildcat, and panther.

The upper left corner of the map shows some wild Canada geese that still fly over Treasure Island and land upon the waters that grace its shores. The geese can be seen in early spring, flying north for the summer, and observed flying south for the winter.

The upper right corner shows a Great Blue Heron and an Indian hunter. The Great Blue Heron can still be observed by campers at different times during the season along the Delaware River.

If we look at the lower right hand corner, we see a painted turtle, which is abundantly found in the river. The Lenni-Lenape name for turtle was Unami. Those of you who are members of the Order of the Arrow know that we use the turtle as the symbol of our Lodge. All maps should have an indicator showing north and so we can see a compass with an Indian arrow pointing north.

At the south tip of the island, we see pictured a very large Sycamore tree. This tree was blown down and lost during a great rain storm in the 1930's. Directly north of this spot, we see some Indians seated on the ground, with one going through the motions of a ritual. This is where our Ceremonial Grounds are located. You will visit this area on your last night in camp, when we recognize those Scouts and Scouters who have advanced in rank, secured a merit badge, or earned some other type of award.

A little bit north of the Ceremonial Grounds and towards the Pennsylvania shore of the island, we come upon two Indian women. This indicates to the observer that this is the area where much cooking and eating takes place. As you might have guessed this is the Dining Hall in which we are now seated.

Traveling east, or above one of the women, you can see water coming from a spring. This is our north pump house where the water is drawn from a well. This supplies our needs for eating, drinking, and washing.

Just above the spring is a hut with a band of wampum wrapped around it. This is City Hall, where all business transactions take place, and all camp records are kept.

Moving north from City Hall, toward the north end of the island, we see a clearing with an Indian gesturing and telling of a great battle with other tribes. This is the place we call Goodman Stockade, where fun campfires are held, stories are told, and songs are sung.

Beneath the Canada Geese, you can see a grove of Hemlock trees where the original chapel once stood. Some large pieces of concrete from the remains of the chapel can still be found there if one looks closely in that area. The site of the present Woodland Chapel was chosen after the original was washed away in the great flood of 1936. On the map you will see three Indian heads representing the chapel. Looking south from here, we see two birds. One a Baltimore oriole, and the other a Blue Jay. In this area stood the old Nature Lodge. The second building of its kind on the island. It has been replaced by Klein Lodge our newest nature center. Be sure you visit this area and see the displays there.

Just above the birds is pictured another long hut. This is where your camp staff resides. This area is known as the Quadrangle; but, quickly became known as the "Quad".

Next to the Quad is the head of an Indian medicine man. This is the spot where our Health Lodge stands. I am sure some of you Scouts will visit this lodge for some reason or other during your stay on TI.

Going south from the Health Lodge on the trail along the Jersey side of the island, and a bit off the trail, you can observe an Indian hard at work making a bow. On this spot stands Kiwanis Lodge. This is where campcraft skills are taught such as woodcarving and leatherwork. Also in Kiwanis, Scouts of the Catholic faith held their church services. The end wall opens up to reveal the altar.

Directly in the center of the island, you'll see an open field with two Indians playing lacrosse, and another Indian playing a game called hoop and pole. These Indians playing games represents a gathering place for large events and it is our Parade Grounds.

Throughout the map, you can see some small Hogans that represent the various campsites where troops camp at Treasure Island during their stay here.

There have been some changes since 1936, but Treasure Island remains basically the same as it was then.

Below the map you can see a sign which says, "Here let the Treasure Island spirit kindle fires of friendship." This sign once hung over a fireplace that stood in the Southeast end of the Dining Hall. The fireplace was removed when the Dining Hall was enlarged, and the sign was moved to its present location. We hope that you will take the Treasure Island Spirit home with you, and that it will live in your hearts and bring you back to Treasure Island, if only in your memories, as it has for so many others over the years.

One more point of interest. On the center post between the "In" doors, you may have noticed three engraved brass plaques. The top plaque marks the water level reached by the flood of August 1955. The two plaques nearer the bottom represent the water levels in the two recent floods of April 2005 and June 2006. In the case of the two floods which took place during camp, the camp was safely evacuated and all campers were home long before the water rose to the level shown on the plaques.

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*

aply, 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 building 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.



*Boating at TI approx. 1925*

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.



**Original Pump House approx. 1925**

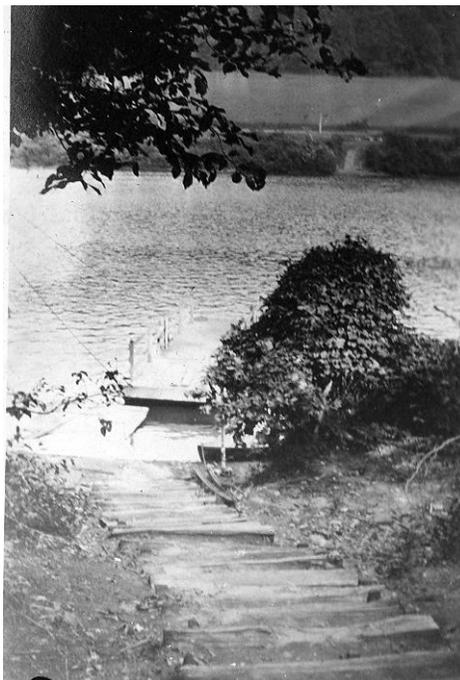
**(Move just east of the North Well Pump House to the Trading Post)**



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, everything is brought to the island from the PA side. Many years ago, Scouts would occasionally find old railroad spikes along this trail.

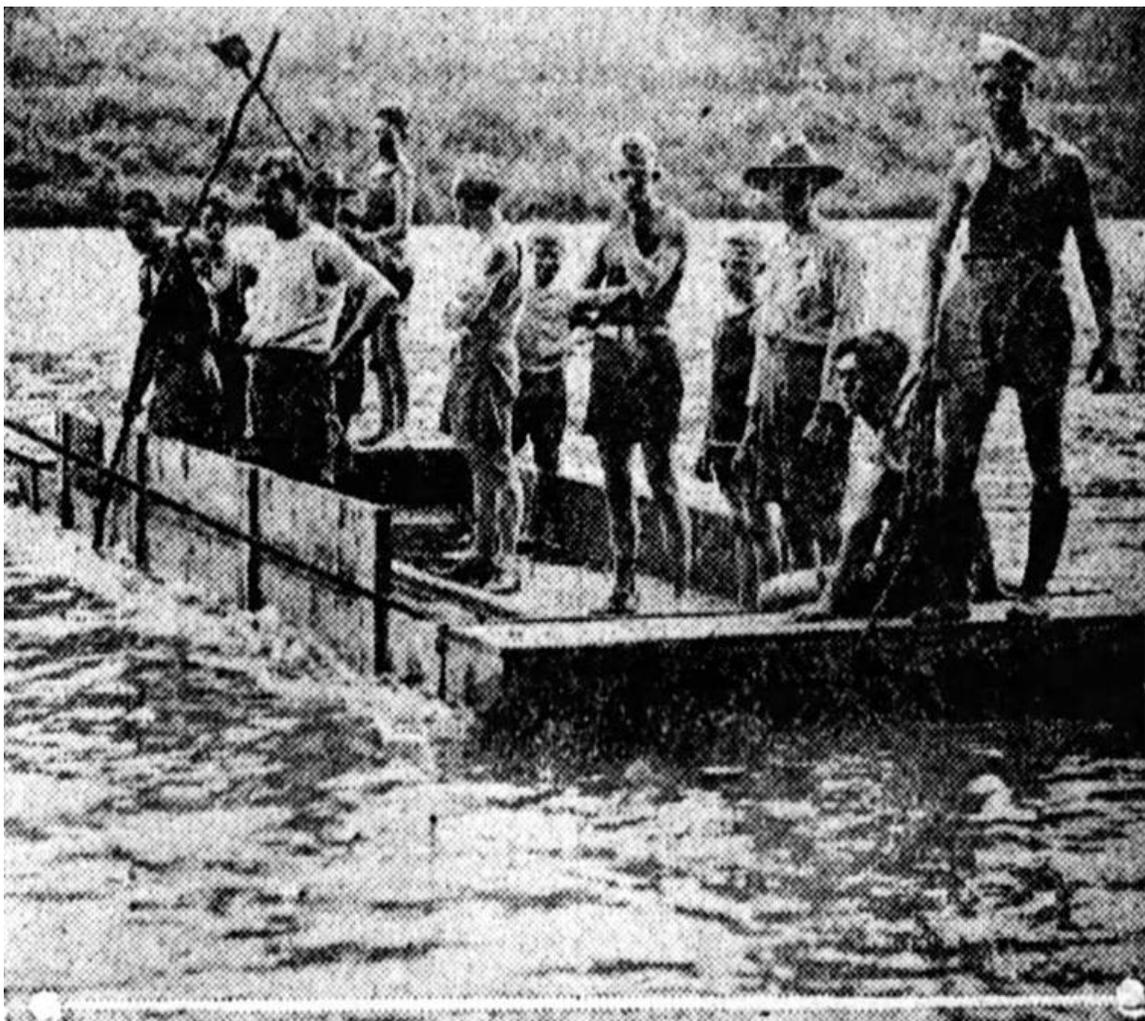


*Cable Ferry on the Jersey side approx. 1925*

**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.



WENT TO THE RIVER AND PUSHED THEMSELVES ACROSS  
Water no barrier to Philadelphia boy scouts, especially when there  
is a real ferry hanging around

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.



The "interstate" Mitchell suspension foot bridge opened in '61 between the southern tip of Marshall Island (in Pa.) and the Northern end of Treasure Island (in N.J.).

**Mitchell Bridge:** Above Eagle site, and below Goodman Stockade, spanning the North Channel once hung a steal 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 Crossing", after Camp Director Bob Kestler.



*Mitchell Bridge view from TI*



*Scouts crossing Mitchell Bridge*

**Up ahead on the right is Rolston Lodge.** Built in 1941 and named for Horace Warthman “Shorty” Rolston, 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” Rolston***

“Hello Shorty!” was the greeting everyone used to address Horace W. Rolston 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) Rolston founded Troop 112 at Emanuel Presbyterian Church in May of 1912, back in the earliest days of the scouting movement. Rolston’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 Rolston along with Horace P. Kern did the research on the Lenni Lenape Indians for a new honor society based on their Native American traditions. Rolston 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 Rolston 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, Rolston 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 Rolston 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.

**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.



**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 for a troop inspection. The staff would not dress in Scout uniform but instead, wear white shirts, shorts, and socks. While the staff was busy getting prepared, 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.



**The Wearing of the Whites**

This routine activity inspired Rufus T. Davis known as “Uncle Rufe” to write the poem “*The Wearing of the Whites*”.

## THE WEARING OF THE WHITES

By RUFUS T. DAVIS

‘Twas a Sunday on the island,  
All the visitors were there;  
The Staff was busy shavin’ and  
A-combin’ of their hair,  
And a-haulin’ out of neckties  
And puttin’ on their duds  
Or shinin’ up their shoes, perhaps,  
Or wipin’ off the suds.  
Then the Doctor gives the signal,  
For inspection off we jumps-  
And we wonder what would happen  
If we found a case of mumps.  
Oh, our collars chafe our sunburned necks  
As we show our friends the sights,  
There’s mingled joy and sorrow in  
The wearin’ of the whites

Oh, there’s papas and there’s mammas  
A-huntin’ for their boy;  
Or where they’ll find troop so and so;  
I’m sure I wish them joy.  
There’s sweethearts, wives, and sisters, and  
A bunch of other things,  
Too numerous to mention, ‘cause  
Each boat a new kind brings.

Oh, there’s women dressed in knickers  
And babies dressed in less,  
And there’s flappers dressed in – well you know  
What a flapper calls a dress.  
And the boys that go a swimmin’ must  
Wear jerseys with their tights;  
Oh, there’s lots of stipulations when  
You’re wearin’ of the whites.

Oh, there’s forty million questions that  
They ask you o’er and o’er,  
And when you’ve answered every one  
There’s forty million more.  
And some’s afraid of this here thing,  
And some’s afraid of that  
And some’s afraid the boat’ll sink,  
But no such luck as that.  
Oh, we get them safely over,  
Every bundle, every pack;  
But that’s only half the trouble, ‘cause  
We got to get them back.  
When at last the day is over and  
Our beds to rest invites,  
Give thanks the morrow’s not a day  
For the wearin’ of the whites.

### **(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?*

*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?*

*There etched in shale you find the trail  
 Of life before our ken*

*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.*

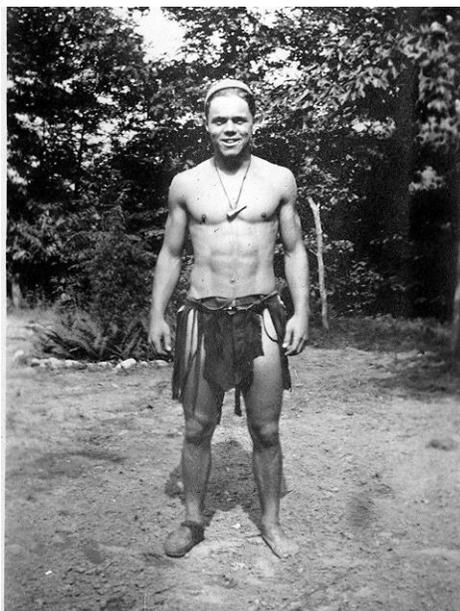
*A million years' mid the roaming spheres.  
 You look and you wonder, When?*

The trail you are on once led down to a causeway. It was built in the 60s of river rock, with two large concrete 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.



*A Scout known only as "Andy" 1923*

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 then 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 of 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, affectionately 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 then 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.

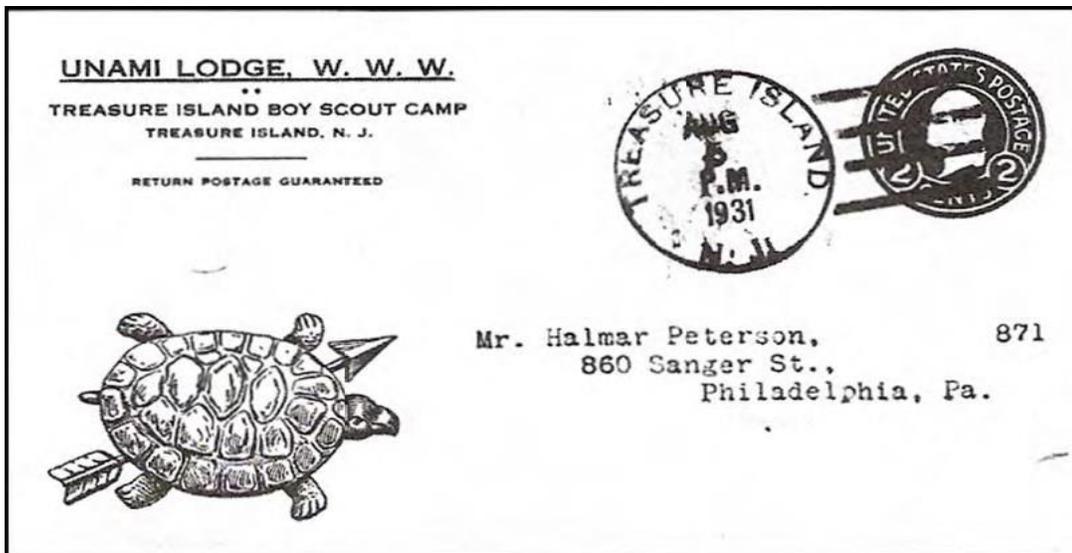


**City Hall — 1926 — before the pines of Pine Road.**

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 Owassippe, 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:*

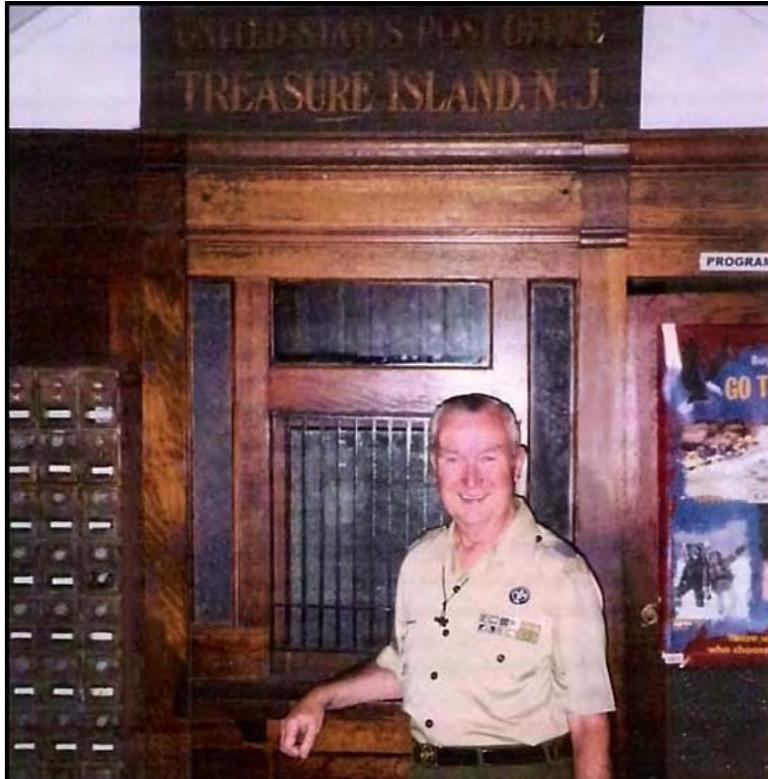
*“The historical background of Treasure Island has provided material for many camp-fire yarns for Scouts since this area was first acquired ... from the Indians on September 19, 1737.*

*“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.



*Health Lodge, known as the Infirmary approx. 1925*

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 small 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.



*Main Staff Area or Quad approx. 1925*



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 use 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.



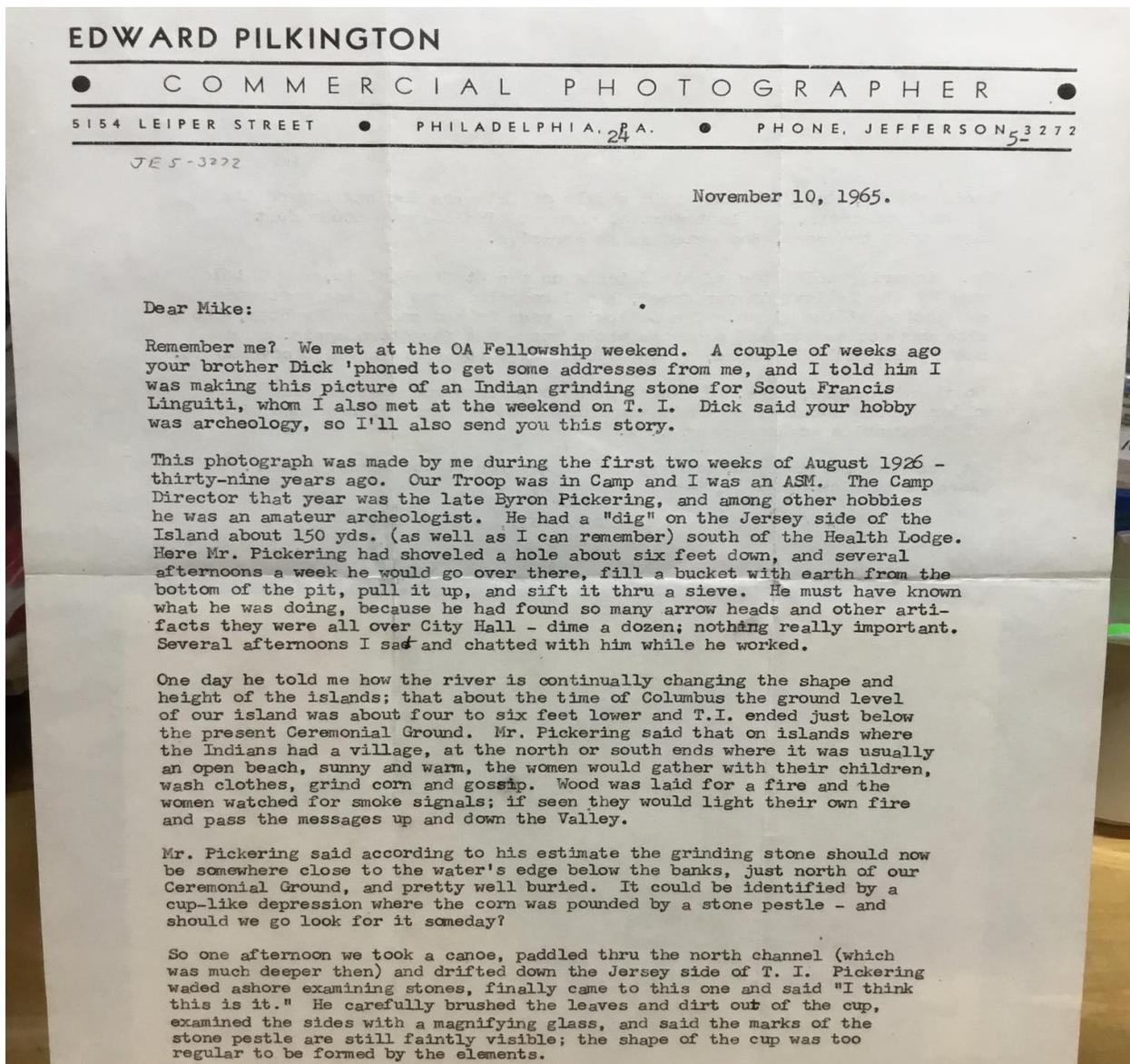
**Kiwanis Lodge built about 1928.**

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 Grindstone.)**

**The Grindstone:** This is a Lenni-Lenape grindstone use for grinding corn into flour. It was first found by Byron J. Pickering, TI Camp Director in August 1926. With the use of the description in the letter below it was found again by the Museum Director, Doug Walker, and unearthed by a team of TI Camp Staff which moved it to this location on 2 May 2021. Pretty amazing!



Incidentally, Mr. Pickering said skulls of Delaware Indians showed they all had bad teeth, and lost most of them at middle-age. Stone dust mixed with the corn, and acted as an abrasive.

Mr. Pickering told some of his friends on the Staff about it, and I told some of the fellows in our Troop, and I remember some of them went down and looked at the stone. The following year we had another Director, the site was not marked and soon the whole story was forgotten again. The stone must still be there, if the floods of forty years haven't covered it.

So there you are, Mike. I didn't plan to go into such detail, but we older Scouts should pass on to you interested younger fellows such bits of information we know about T. I.

It was nice meeting you, and maybe I'll see you at the Annual Dinner.  
Regards to Dick.

Sincerely,

*Ed Pick*



**Doug Walker and the Grindstone, 2 May 2021**

### The Devil's Tea Table (look to the south on the Jersey side):

Just south of Treasure Island about a mile or two down the river on the New Jersey side, a prominent rock outcropping juts out from the trees and hangs out over the river. Its true name is Warford Rock, but it is better known as the Devil's Tea Table because it's unusual rocky prominence and flat top reminds one of a tall table on a pedestal.



From the early days of the camp up into the early 60's, a hike to the Devils Tea table was one of the favorite off island hikes.

Scouts went up to Rolston Lodge to get the

**(Move from the Grindstone to the top of the Ceremonial Grounds steps.)**

### The Ceremonial Grounds:



E. Urner Goodman  
Camp Director

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

Ceremonial Grounds. In May 1915, a young man

Cable Ferry which crossed the river at this point and went to the Jersey shore in the vicinity of the Kingwood Railroad Station. The Cable Ferry was an adventure in itself. After landing on the Jersey shore you hiked south for a short distance along the railroad bed until the staff guide reached an area where a trail went up the mountain leading to the Devil's Tea Table. The climb was fairly strenuous but very rewarding.

The Legend of the Devil's Tea Table tells the tale of a warrior Chieftan named Big Mountain of the wolf clan in the Lenni-Lenape Tribe which lived in the area. He was big, strong, powerful, cunning, and sly. He treated those of lesser rank meanly and everyone in his clan feared him.

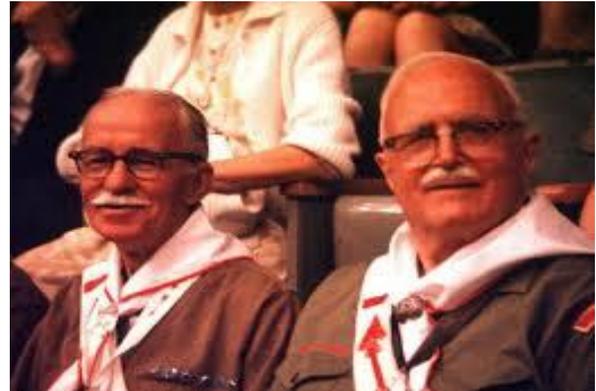
One day he was resting on the ledge we now call the Devils' Tea Table, where he could see the island and the river below for many miles. His enemies, resentful of his strength and power over them pushed a large boulder down the hillside crushing his head. The Chief vowed as he lay dying that his spirit would come back and haunt this beautiful spot.

To view the table from the side, it appears with a little imagination to be an Indians head with a flattened skull.

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 on 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 building.



*Very early photo of the Wiemachtendienk Lodge House*

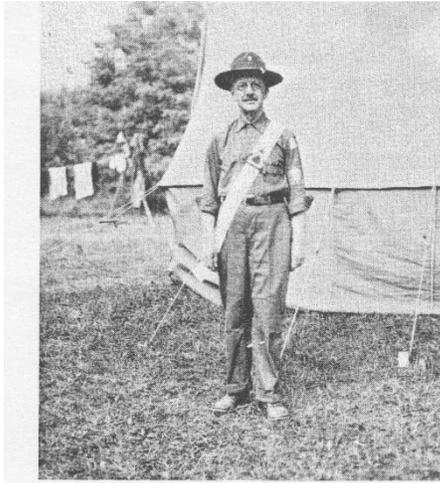
You missed the two most remote sites set on the south end of camp Win and Nip. If you'd like to see them they can be found up the trail behind the Lodge House. Win and Nip are abbreviations for Nipanitus and Winamingo, who were twins in the Delaware Indian tribe. In the early years of the camp these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



Harry Yoder, Third Degree, the Order's first guide and guardian.



**(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)**

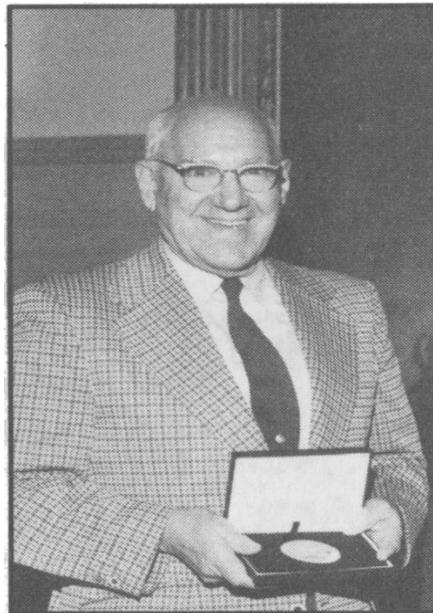
Prior to the pool being built in 1958 all swimming was done in the canal or the river. Campers swam in a roped-off section of the river just north of the Dining Hall, in an area near the present boathouse. Lemmon lines marked off the ability areas as is still done in the pool today and the buddy system 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.



*In 1986 the swimming pool deck was refurbished and the TI patch is painted on the bottom.*

"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.

Manning "The Crow's Nest" in the early days was Aquatics Chief George Keller who went on to be one of the Camp Directors of TI.



*George Keller*

***"Practice what you preach, keep off the lower beach,  
Who will ring the bell, when Keller's gone?"***

This quotation would be recognized by many old Scouters as a favorite of George Keller. It is likely that he developed this cry as he stood upon the Crow's Nest watching over his charges boating or swimming in the Delaware River.

In his early years George was employed by Philadelphia Council. He loved Scouting and he loved Treasure Island where he spent many summers and as much time as he could spare working there. He was the head of Aquatics for several years and served as Camp Director from 1937 to 1941. George was Unami Lodge Chief in 1932 and was awarded the Vigil Honor that same year.

George married and left professional Scouting because of lack of money to support his new family. He went with Sears Roebuck and worked at the Roosevelt Boulevard store in Philadelphia. There he was director of personnel and special events for 30 years. During that time he remained active as a Scouter and served as a volunteer on the Council Camping Committee.

One of the things that awed many a Scout or Scouter was George's amazing memory. At any activity where he might be in the presence of as many as 30 people, George would have every-body state their

name and troop number. When the activity was over he was able to correctly identify each Scout and his Troop number. What a memory.

George Keller passed away June 26, 1984. He had spent 63 years in service to Scouting. It has been said that George's ashes were spread out upon Treasure Island after his death. Those who knew him considered George a trusted friend and a loyal Scout. In 1987 a memorial was erected in his honor at the Ceremonial Grounds, here at Treasure Island.

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.

***Our tour is over but the history continues.***