



# TROOP 510



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December 2003

## Scoutmasters Report



**Tom Lenagh**  
Scoutmaster

The Good Turn idea has been a tradition of the Boy Scouts of America for almost 75 years now, but it's been around a lot longer than that.

Let me tell you about a man who practiced the Good Turn hundreds of years ago.

A man was traveling down a road when he was ambushed by thieves. They robbed him and almost beat him to death.

As he lay there bleeding, several people passed by him. They didn't want to get involved. Then a man who believed in Good Turns happened along.

Using his own clothing, he improvised bandages and poured wine on the man's wounds as an antiseptic.

Can you guess who the rescuer was? I'll give you a hint: the story is in the Bible. Yes, the rescuer was the Good Samaritan. He has been famous down through the ages because he cared enough to help a suffering person, and because he knew enough first aid to help.

In Scouting, you are learning to be a Good Samaritan, too - to care enough to help a person who needs it, and also to know what to do.

Let's all aim to be Good Samaritans as we go through life. That, after all, is part of what Scouting means - to help other people at all times. We can say the same thing in another way by again going to the Bible. It says, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Also remember that money cannot buy everything, all of you recognize this and know that it will buy certain things. It can purchase a candy bar, a stamp, or a little time on a parking meter. Add more money and you can do bigger things.

However, there are many things that money, no matter how much you have, cannot buy. Some of these include the love of your family, freedom friendships, and the great out-of-doors.

People can't pay us for the Good Turns we do. Such payment would take away the good feeling that we have when we do things for others.

Christmas and Hanukkah are, for the most people, the most joyful holidays of the year. The holiday parties, the exchange of gifts, and the brilliant lights of the Christmas trees make a guy glad to be alive at this season.

Sometimes we forget that these holidays are really religious festivals. It's well to remember that the real holiday spirit is cast by the Star of Bethlehem and the Hanukkah candles, reminding us of the miracles in times past.

A Merry Christmas and Hanukkah to all of you and your families.

## Wreaths

**Linda Offerdahl**  
Committee Chair

Money is due back to me by Tuesday, 12/9.

# OA Winter Banquet

**Shawn Lenagh**  
OA Troop Representative

Hey, all you OA members. News on the OA winter banquet coming up in January. First for dinner you will have Chicken Rice Pilaf. For the main speaker of the night you will get to listen to Paul S. The winter banquet will be on January 10<sup>th</sup> at North Heights Lutheran Church Arden Hills. If you are a new member in the OA talk to some of the older OA members about winter banquet to see if you will like to go. If you want to know more about winter banquet talk to me or Mr. Schwarzbauer at a troop meeting.

## Philmont

**Trevor Janke**  
Philmont Troop Scribe

At the end of July the venture crew set off to New Mexico to go to a high adventure camp called Philmont. We were in the mountains for 11 days and met a lot of really cool people. We woke up everyday early and hiked for a few hours and always by noon. Some of the activities that we participated in were donkey racing, branding, rock climbing, cooked dehydrated meals, shot shotguns and black powder rifles. We got a lot of time to get to know each other. Our packs weighted between 40 to 55 pounds throughout the trek. We also got to know a crew from Wisconsin that did the same stuff we did. The views were amazing and we saw lots of wildlife. The crew learned how to take care of ourselves and how to live in the wilderness and be wilderness friendly.



**Editors Note: The above report was delayed a few months as I misplaced the diskette that Mr. Janke provided to me. I apologize for the delay in getting this report published.**

# The very end story

Mr. Hammer  
Editor

Well, another calendar year has almost come to an end. The Troop has seen some Eagles show up this year and we expect more soon. Many have done great work getting to Eagle and a lot of others supporting that road to Eagle for them. We should all be proud of the accomplishments we have done this year as a Troop and as individuals. It isn't always a smooth road as it has some bumps in it. But I think most of you enjoy the road we travel together.

Speaking of roads, I found the story below in the Scouting Magazine. It seems like our short trip to Scout Fair or Tomahawk for Summer Camp is nothing compared to this venture.

## **The 400-Mile Trek**

*By Robert Peterson*

### **IN 1911, A NEW TROOP IN MINNESOTA SET OUT ON A MONTHLONG, 400-MILE HIKE TO ATTEND A SPECIAL SCOUT ENCAMPMENT AT THE STATE FAIR.**

In the early years of the Boy Scouts of America, many new Scouts plunged enthusiastically into outdoor living. Troops thought nothing of taking a weekly 7- to 10-mile hike for an overnight camp-out, with a horse-drawn wagon or two-wheeled trek cart carrying tents and provisions.

One such unit, Troop 2 in Dover, Ohio, camped out for nearly the whole summer on the banks of a creek four miles from town. Several fathers camped with them, but "when we needed groceries," recalled former troop member Paul P. Turbey, "we sent two kids down the railroad track to Dover, and they carried food back in a wash basket."

#### **St. Paul or bust**

In Granite Falls, Minn., the town's first Scout troop planned an even more ambitious outing during the summer of 1911. The dozen 12- and 13-year-olds in the troop undertook an epic hike to St. Paul and back to attend the Minnesota State Fair. Their route covered some 400 miles.

Scoutmaster Tolley Hartwick had organized the troop in 1910, soon after the BSA was officially born. He got the idea for the long hike after hearing that a major Scout encampment would be held at the fair. For months before their July departure date, the Scouts drilled on contests scheduled for the encampment—fire by friction; signaling by semaphore and Morse code; knot-tying; and observation tests.

Years later, former troop member Onni K. Kaslin recalled how the Scouts "started out from Granite Falls city hall on a rainy Monday morning." Tents and some provisions were carried in a horse-drawn wagon driven by one of three older boys who accompanied the Scouts.

Each Scout had a grubstake of \$10, safely in the care of Scoutmaster Hartwick.

The troop camped the first night at Wood Lake Indian battlefield, about 10 miles southeast of Granite Falls. After that, Kaslin said, they followed the Minnesota River and Indian trails, averaging about 20 miles on days they didn't stop to visit various landmarks.

#### **Crackers and syrup ... yummm**

Mostly the Scouts ate raw fruits and vegetables, canned goods, and such perishables as eggs, which they bought from farmers along the road. "We also received many handouts from people along the way—cakes, cookies, jellies, and other goodies," Onni Kaslin remembered. "In the back of our wagon, we carried a 20-pound box of crackers and a gallon pail of Karo syrup. Lunch was often crackers, dipped in syrup."

At New Ulm, the Scouts saw monuments marking Indian battlefields and were given shelter in a farmer's barn. In the morning, the farmer gave them a parting gift of six bushels of apples.

At Mankato, the Scouts witnessed a practice run of the fire department's horse-drawn apparatus and then enjoyed a swim and a bath at the YMCA. At St. Peter, they toured the state mental hospital, and at Stillwater they visited the Minnesota state prison, where they saw convicts making binder twine.

They even crossed the St. Croix River into Wisconsin (apparently just to be able to say they had been in another state) and then doubled back to the state fairgrounds in St. Paul.

There they set up camp with other troops from Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, and Iowa. Onni Kaslin said 3,500 Scouts attended the encampment, but a newspaper story put the number at 600, which seems more likely. Even 600 would be impressive, considering that the BSA was less than two years old, and Boy Scouts were not common in most communities.

**The best at the fair**

The Scouts from Granite Lake did themselves proud at the fair. Onni Kaslin and his partner won first place in semaphore signaling, while their troopmates took other honors. Judged "best at the fair," the troop received a new canoe.

Starting home, the Scouts hiked through Minneapolis and camped in the village of Hopkins the first night. A thunderstorm drenched them and spooked the horses, which had to be caught and re-tethered.

"We entered a farmer's granary, took off our wet clothes, and jumped into gunnysacks for a nap," Kaslin recalled. The next day, he said "the farmer was surprised to see who had moved in on him, but took it in stride."

On the last day, they stopped at 6 P.M. in the village of Sacred Heart, only 10 miles from home. Their total grubstake had dwindled to 10 cents, and "our Scoutmaster purchased a dozen doughnuts for supper," Kaslin said.

Then the boys continued on, arriving in Granite Falls about 10 p.m. They had been on the trail for about a month.

"We were welcomed home with a fine reception and banquet at city hall," Kaslin said. "We were glad to be back after being away so long ... It was a great experience and a trip we could never forget."