

MUSEUM DISCOVERIES

February 2002

The Raven Knob Boy Scout Museum is operated by
the Old Hickory Council, BSA/Camp Raven Knob
Historical Association

Banqueters

Boy Scouts are banqueters. Combining a lot of food to eat with a little food for thought in a somewhat formal atmosphere has been reason enough for members of the Scouting community to gather in fellowship for nine decades. Recognizing the achievement of Eagle Scouts and the service of Silver Beaver Award winners will be the major foci of the 2002 Old Hickory Council Annual Recognition Banquet at Ardmore Baptist Church on February 15; however, Scouting banquets were held in the Winston-Salem area well before the local Boy Scout council presented its first Eagle Scout Award to Jack Pepper in 1927 or its first Silver Beaver Awards to the "four Bobs" - Robert Gribbin, Robert Grunert, Robert Lasater and Robert Vaughn - in 1931.

On or about May 12, 1917 eleven women from the Women's Civic Improvement League of Winston-Salem prepared a "great supper" consisting of ". . .splendidly prepared potatoes, ham, wieners, hot rolls, coffee, ice cream and cake..." for about fifty Scouts and leaders who needed to be rewarded for their work during the League's city-wide "Clean-up Campaign." The meal was served at the Belo home, which was then and still remains an imposing structure at the corner of Main and Bank streets in what is now Old Salem. An honor roll of Boy Scouts who excelled in the work of removing "accumulations of trash" was read; the boys and their leaders were thanked for their help and asked to continue to keep Winston-Salem clean. Speculation as to how many pieces of trash Boy Scouts have picked-up in the Winston-Salem area since 1917 is now appropriate!

(See the *Winston-Salem Journal*; May 12, 1917, p.⁴ for more details.)

Based on a successful banquet experience on Christmas night in 1922, about 150 Boy Scouts were expected at a similar event just after the New Year began in 1924. The Zinzendorf Hotel on Winston-Salem's Main Street - the Federal Building is located on same site today - was to be the site of the event. A fine hotel, the Zinzendorf had an ornate lobby with a terrazzo floor and a fountain. Highlights of the evening's program were to include speeches by visiting Scout Executives from Greensboro and High Point and demonstrations of Scouting skills by members from Troop 10 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Troop 11 at the Methodist Children's Home and Troop 2 at the West End Methodist Church. It was necessary for each Boy Scout "...to make a certain record..." in order to have the "honor" of attending the great meal. Readers might assume that the Zinzendorf's dining room would not have required the services of a Boy Scout clean-up crew - unless a "good turn" was required, of course. (See the *Winston-Salem Journal*; January 3, 1924, p. 9 for more details.)

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