

MUSEUM DISCOVERIES

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

Why They Wanted to be Eagle Scouts

John Kerr "Jack" Pepper, Jr., became the Old Hickory Council's first Eagle Scout during a ceremony at Winston-Salem's First Baptist Church on Thursday evening, September 1, 1927. At that Court of Honor, the new Eagle Scout "...addressed his Scout companions briefly, encouraging them to go on with their scouting with the determination to secure from scouting all that it could give them and to contribute to the organization all that their talents afforded."(See the *Winston-Salem Journal*, Sept. 2, 1927, p.11.) That good advice is appropriate for all of the Boy Scouts who earned the Eagle rank in 2000 and who will be recognized at the Old Hickory Council's Annual Recognition Banquet on February 16, 2001.

In honor of Jack Pepper and all of 2000's Eagle Scouts, personal statements from the Eagle Scout applications of local Boy Scouts from the 1950s and 1960s will be reprinted in the remainder of this article and in February's "Museum Discoveries." In the past, Eagle Scout applicants were required to describe, in writing, what it would mean to them to achieve Scouting's highest rank. Maybe these statements will encourage Eagle Scouts, young and old, to think about their distinction and the award that they hold in common.

"[I want to be an Eagle Scout because]...I wanted to receive the highest honor a boy could get."

Eagle Scout, Winston-Salem, 1957

"It would mean so much to me if I became an Eagle Scout. I would be the happiest boy in Jonesville. My happiness would not be for myself only. It would be for the Scout[master] and Asst. Scoutmaster, for the hard work, and [for] the troop. It would be a big boost in the troop's morale, since I would be the first Eagle for troop 25 in almost 10 years. Most of all my joy would be for my parents for they have given so much of their time and [of] themselves to my scout work...."

Eagle Scout, Jonesville, 1961

"In May of the year I was twelve, I joined the boy scouts in what was then a new troop. I set my goal in scouting at Eagle then spent much time and effort striving for that goal. I now have the required merit badges for Eagle and as soon as the football season is over[,] I want to start on God and Country. Even though I have reached Eagle, I plan to continue in scouting and advance as much as possible."

Eagle Scout, Toast (near Mt. Airy), 1959

"Since my Cub Scout days, I set my goal to become an Eagle Scout. Now in obtaining my Eagle rank, I realize that it is an Honor. It represents knowledge that can never be taken away from me. It is something I have earned myself. Also I feel that I have the experience, knowledge, and understanding that I might help other boys to reach their goal, that from Cub to Eagle."

Eagle Scout, Mount Airy, 1960

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