

MUSEUM DISCOVERIES

June 2001

More About a Visit to Old Camp Lasater

Before reading more about the Old Hickory Council's old and ancient Camp Lasater, please note that the Raven Knob Boy Scout Museum will be open on a regular schedule during the 2001 summer camp season. The museum has a permanent display of photos, patches, promotional brochures and other items from Camp Lasater as well as information about Robert E. Lasater, the Winston-Salem benefactor for whom the camp was named. Also, one of the large display panels located in the lobby of the Wachovia Scouting Center in Winston-Salem contains an enlarged image of Camp Lasater's first informational brochure, dated 1925. Viewing these displays should help Scouts and Scouters understand the significance of Camp Lasater.

From last month, readers may remember that a small group of interested individuals recently visited old Camp Lasater. The property's current owners, Don and Karen Hartman, generously gave the group access to their land and permission to photograph anything of interest on the site. Charles Griffin served as official photographer during the trip and took approximately fifty digital photos of important subjects including, as was mentioned in last month's article, the Tom Holder Chapel and the remains of the camp's former lakes.

Charles "Griff" Griffin, the Old Hickory Council's Commissioner, is well known for his ability to approach any topic from every possible angle. Well, "Griff" became somewhat gruff when he realized, at the end of the trip, that his new pair of trendy sunglasses had fallen out of his pocket somewhere on the property while he *angled* for just the right photo. It is ironic to note that Scouters are losing personal items even at a Boy Scout summer camp that has been closed for almost fifty years - has anyone seen old Lasater's *Lost and Found* box?

A number of good photos were taken of what was, by all appearances, the finest building at Camp Lasater. Undocumented stories indicate that this three-level building was constructed in the 1930s using resources acquired by Troop #10 in Winston-Salem. Troop #10, known as Troop #910 today, was then and is now sponsored by St. Paul's Episcopal Church and was the home church of Robert Lasater and many early supporters of Scouting.

The lower level of the "Troop #10 Cabin" had a large open room with a large fireplace and several storage closets. According to Gene Hall, the entire lower level served as the Camp Director's quarters during summer camp in the 1950s. Like the lower level, the upper level had a large room with a large stone fireplace; the rafters of the roof were exposed. The room was surrounded by at least six small rooms that were, according to Hall, used to house staff members. The prime staff location was the only room on the third level, which overlooked the main room on the second level. The summer use of this "small room with a view" was the subject of competition among older staff members.

If you have questions or want to contribute information, please contact Ken Badgett by e-mail at sckbadgett@surry.net or by regular mail at 884 Rockford Road, Dobson, North Carolina 27017.