

# Museum Discoveries

October 2001

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

## **“Heavy Metal Refuse Reveille” One Experience at the 2001 National Scout Jamboree**

Sound has a tendency to reinforce memory. Who forgets the buzzers or the bells that denote the change of classes at a school, the chimes of a favorite church or clock tower or the sounds of motors being revved for a speedway race? Many Boy Scout camps play versions of military bugle calls over speaker systems to awaken campers, to announce meals or to mark the end of activity periods. Such sounds heard during any particular person's life could be composed into a score that, when played, would help that person remember his past or that would help others understand his life or some experience from it.

Regarding the 2001 National Scout Jamboree, memorable events for participants and staff - without doubt - include daily reveilles performed by the “Waste Management Heavy Metal Band.” Between precisely 3:45 a.m. and 4:40 a.m. - **the same “ante meridiem” or “a.m.” that for many people begins at some unremarkable second after midnight** - the performances began. Listeners who had been sleepers first heard what could have been distant thunder muffled by Fort A. P. Hill's dense forest and humid air. Silence followed the initial sound; listeners became sleepers again. Then, with all of the musical pleasures afforded by syncopation, synchronization and harmonization, came the bangs - soft bangs, loud bangs, grating bangs, vibrating bangs, gyrating bangs, oscillating bangs, echoing bangs, bangs before motors were revved, bangs after motors were revved, and bangs then engine backfires. Bangs, bangs, bangs, bangs, bangs, BANGS, BANGS, BANGS!

Years from now when some 2001 Jamboree staffers or participants see a garbage truck gracefully lifting a dumpster to empty its refuse, then hear the dumpster being slammed against the back of the truck; he or she will remember the nice exhibits, the bangs, the free gifts, the bangs, the good food, the bangs, and the good fellowship of the National Scout Jamboree.

For historical purposes it might be possible to recreate this “Heavy Metal Refuse Reveille” at Camp Raven Knob next summer. Scouts in campsites on Ridge Road behind the new Vaughn Dining Hall could relive history. By emptying the six or seven dumpsters behind the building at more or less 4:00 a.m., hundreds of Scouts would be able to say that they were awakened “just like the Scouts at the Jamboree.”

Hyperbole aside, sanitation at the National Scout Jamboree was a major task. Hearing some early morning noise was preferable to smelling the trash of 35,000 Scouts and Scouters. Certainly, great thanks and appreciation should go to anyone who worked to make everyone comfortable by removing trash and other waste. Bang!!!

If you have questions, need information or want to make suggestions, please contact Ken Badgett by e-mail at [sckbadgett@surry.net](mailto:sckbadgett@surry.net) or via regular mail at 884 Rockford Road; Dobson, North Carolina 27017. [Ken Badgett served on the National Scouting Museum's exhibit staff at the 2001 National Scout Jamboree.]