

# Museum Discoveries

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

## Uniforms

Tom Seaver recently found a very nice professional Scouter's uniform from the early 1950's in an antique shop in Virginia. Seeing this handsome old uniform with its classy lapel pins, I began to think about all the changes the uniform has gone through.

The uniform Baden Powell designed for his first Scouts resembled military uniforms of the day with a campaign hat and many pockets with flaps. The pants were knickers, which were appropriate for boys at the time. The uniforms were made of wool, which was considered durable and offered a great deal of protection from the elements and harsh conditions of the outdoors.

Uniforms were hard to come by during the depression and during World War II when many clothing items were rationed. Cotton uniforms that were cheaper and more suitable to warmer climates began to appear during this era. Detachable metal buttons were a continuing feature through the early 60's.

Perhaps some of the most radical changes took place in the late 60's and early 70's when plastic buttons appeared and the flaps disappeared from the pants pockets making them more streamlined and dressy. Cotton disappeared as the material of choice and was replaced by synthetic materials.

In the late 80's the khaki shirt was adopted and the pants once again took on a more versatile outdoor function with the addition of extra pockets with flaps.

Variations in hats, belts, and other uniform pieces abound as well as total changes in style and color for explorers, sea Scouts, etc. The historic association is interested in any old uniforms that Scouts may wish to donate to the museum; they are an important part of our heritage.

Make plans to attend the 2001 Trade-o-ree at Summit School on Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem, December 29.