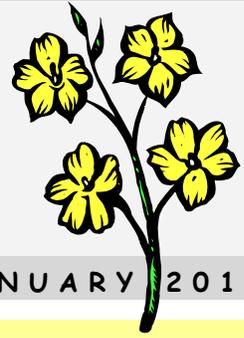




Three Rivers Historical Times



JANUARY 2012

Mt. Whitney Camporee Held At Three Rivers

Editor; the following article was taken from the 'Current Newspaper', June 1948. Shown just as is in the paper.

Over 700 attend Boy Scout Camporee. Ninety-seven patrols representing 40 troops of the Mt. Whitney Council Area Boy Scouts of America were guests of the colorful Three Rivers "B bar B" ranch, which is owned by Dolph Bean and Dan Alles and is situated about half way between Three Rivers and Ash Mountain.

The Boy Scouts entered the ranch at the Salt Creek bridge entrance and followed the old pioneer road for about 1/4 mile, then they were unloaded from their truck or other means of transportation, registered, their packs adjusted, and assigned a camp site number, and given instructions how to reach it—from then on the boys were on their own initiative; and were judged on the method and neatness of their packs, how they set up their individual camp by patrols, participation in special events, food preparation, cleanliness, friendliness and general scout craft.

Some of the things that were especially interesting to your "Roving Reporter" were watching the boys "pack in"

with all their provisions, bedding, tents and cooking utensils. The majority were well organized neat packs; *but occasionally you could see one coming in with a bedroll under one arm, a sack of groceries under the other and a water bucket hanging around his neck*—this was the exception, rather than the rule. Then there was the thrill of setting up camp and eating that prepared lunch; oh, yes, you know it was just the same kind of a lunch you had eaten before but somehow it tasted better seated in the shade and by your own pup tent on this new adventure. It seemed hardly right to take time out for just a plain lunch. But finally that too was done and the public address system blared out that everyone should assemble for the opening ceremony and get ready for the special events and "Wilderness Problem". Now there was a thrill for you—start out with just a compass and your patrol in strange country and follow a lot of directions and finally arrive at your destination, and get a "well done" from the official in charge or, get hopelessly lost and then, just when you was about to give up

some official would step out of hiding and direct you back to camp to start over again.

The fire-by-friction and flint and steel area saw a boy coax a flame out of flint and steel and something that looked like a bird's nest in ten seconds flat. What a bunch of boys were crowded around and how they surged from one event to the other, then to the water faucet for a drink, a few for that scary white "goo" from the First-Aid tent for sunburn that made you look like a clown. There was also the tent-pitching contest for two boys and that awful hard to tie "taut-line hitch" that gave you five extra points, then over to the judging platform. "How high is that power pole?" forty points was a good guesser in this booth. "What was that awful smoke over there?" Yep, that was the water boiling contest, this ought to be easy, "ever try boiling a gallon of water over a camp fire to see how long it takes you?" It is certainly no push-over.

The rest of the high-lights were the echoing of taps played by several different buglers around at their different camps.—Nearly everyone cooking

breakfast before Reveille;—"The Sermon on the Mountain Side" by Rev. Pooley; the Catholic boy were transported by truck to the Woodlake Catholic church for Mass. Then there were more "Wilderness Problems"; a fire-fighting demonstration by Hammon Division of Forestry, Ranger Matheson and crew in charge, sirens blowing etc.

More inspections by officials that seemed to be always walking by your camp and last but not least, after the lunch was over and cleaned up and packs ready to go, the presentation of Awards by Mr. Chas. Chambers, Council president, assisted by Louis Howell, Camporee Director and Lloyd Fletcher, District Commissioner and Program Director, and the camporee was over.

Those assisting besides those already mentioned were the professional staff of the Mt. Whitney Council, Carrol Holt, Exec., who conducted a school for Scout Masters at the camp, Leo Carpenter, who seemed to be every where at the time. Bill Stowe-Wilderness Problems and all around "Sut" Sutcliffe, specials events—time keeper and announcer extraordinary.

President's Corner



Our museum is in trouble. People have asked why we are closed 3 days each week and our reply is that we don't have enough volunteers to staff it every day. Well that is true but only part of the problem. The number of memberships has been dropping, the funds from our life members (the mainstay of the society in 1991-93) has long since gone and of course expenses of keeping the doors open has sharply gone up over the years.

Memberships have dropped because folks move away or have passed onto the big museum or like so many of us we have to prioritize our donations and memberships in organizations. So, we are in the unlikable position of having to cut back in order to survive.

Membership renewals are going out next week and we are asking everyone to please think about making that extra donation if you are a life member or think about the yearly renewal. We certainly understand that times are hard but we must preserve our history for future generations and we have a very dedicated volunteer staff ready to make the museum a vital part of Three Rivers, but we can't do it without your help.

2012 COMING EVENTS

MAR	17 Sat, 10am-4pm 18 Sun, 10am-3pm	Appraisal Faire & Silent Auction <i>Silent Auction Continues</i>
APR	12-15 Thurs-Sun 9am-3pm	Jazz Memorabilia <i>Displays at the Museum</i>
APR	26-29 Thurs-Sun	3Rivers Lions Team Roping <i>Museum will have a booth at Lions Arena</i>
MAY	12-13 Sat-Sun 10am-4pm	Redbud Arts/Crafts Festival <i>Museum will have a booth at Lions Arena</i>
MAY	20 Sun, 1pm-3pm	Historical Society Annual Member Reception <i>Refreshments, Society Updates, Board Voting</i>
JUL	14 Sat, 10am-4pm	Hot Dog Festival at the Museum .
SEP	28 Fri	CA. Native American Day at Museum <i>for 4th grade students from Valley Schools</i>
OCT	13, Sat, 10am-4pm	Living History Day at the Museum <i>Celebrating the 1850-1900 pioneer days</i>
OCT	27, Sat	Sisters On The Fly <i>Classic old vacation trailers meeting in Three Rivers and visiting the Museum</i>
NOV	17 Sat, 9am-4pm	Senior League Holiday Bazaar <i>Three Rivers Memorial Building</i> <i>Museum will have a booth</i>
NOV	17, Sat, 9am-4pm 18, Sun, 9am-3pm	Historical Society Open House & Sale <i>Annual gift shop sale for the holidays.</i>
DEC	1, Sat, 5pm-7pm	Community Holiday Caroling <i>In front of Three Rivers Mercantile</i>

SCOUTING RECIPES

Scouting is not scouting without wilderness cooking so here are a few items that some of us may remember as scouts starting with the appetizer.

- ◆ **Ants on a log**
Celery covered with peanut butter and topped with raisins.... Great appetizer.
- ◆ **Tin Can Hot Plate**
Get a large tin can, cut air holes in the bottom and put it in the embers. Then you can fry eggs on the " hot plate " using slices of grapefruit skins as egg rings.
- ◆ **Bananas in Foil**
Split the banana down the middle and pack the middle with chocolate buttons before wrapping in foil and putting into the embers. Everything goes nice and chocolate and gooey.
- ◆ **How about some spiders?**
Cut hot dogs in quarters, length wise 1/3 of the way from each end. This leaves a solid center to put on a stick or hot dog fork. Cook over open fire (the spider's legs will curl), serve on a hamburger bun!

The door to success swings on the hinges of Integrity and Service.

Taken from the 'Current' newspaper of June 1948

Have you seen our newest artifact, Guild, Church & Company of Boston, Square Grand Piano

Our Square Grand Piano was donated by John McWilliams of Three Rivers. It was obtained by John from the 'Apple House' on North Fork Drive and has a history of being in the Three Rivers area for several decades.

The following information was obtained from Michael Stinnett, Founder of The Antique Piano Shop, Inc. of Friendsville, Tennessee, one of the few people in the world that restores Square Grand Piano's. We recently sent pictures and description of our piano to him for review and here is what he told us:

GENERAL INFORMATION: I can tell from your photos that your piano is made of Brazilian Rosewood and is of the Empire Revival Style. Brazilian Rosewood is now endangered and is nearly impossible to get in the United States. It is very desirable as a result. I can tell your piano is original and unrestored, and it still has the old worn strings and felts. The average piano has about a 50 year life expectancy before the strings, felts, rubber & felt all break down so the fact that your piano is in this condition after 130 years is a testament to the quality that went into building it!

The Victorian Square Grand Piano: These magnificent instruments were once very popular in both America and Europe during the Victorian era. They were produced from about 1850 to about 1880, and were usually hand made with intricately carved rosewood, mahogany, or ebony cabinets. The square piano sounds reminiscent of the early pianoforte of Mozart's era with a tone that is best described as having a soft, harp-like quality.



A Reason For A Visit To The Museum

This piano along with other artifacts recently donated to our museum are well worth the time to stop by the museum.

Hero's Month, Volunteer Ambulance and Firefighters, January

Even though the Volunteer Ambulance crew has been disbanded, they are a group of volunteers that should be congratulated and remembered. The ambulance was founded in 1956, as a result of the efforts of the Three Rivers Lady Lions. Bernadine Wollenman, the president, appointed Patsy Britten, Ollie Craig, and Virginia Williams, along with the Fellowship League, Lions Club, Women's Club, and the Chamber of Commerce. The original four ladies were joined by Beth Homer, Walt Chaboude, and Frances and Willis to discuss ways and means of fundraising.

By March 29, 1957, they had accumulated \$1,327.20 enabling them to purchase an old Sanger Ambulance for \$200.00, and incorporate as Three Rivers Ambulance Service. The Articles of Incorporation were prepared at no cost to the ambulance by Richard E. Combs.

In April, 1957, the officers were elected, the operation for calls and housing of the ambulance, and arrangements for First Aid instruction were settled. Later that month, the Tulare County ambulance companies agreed on charging a call rate of \$5.00 plus \$.50 per mile, and by July agreed to provide ambulance service to the National Park at a set fee of \$31.00 from Lodgepole to Exeter Hospital, and \$35.00 to Visalia Hospital. By September 1959 they needed to raise the base rate to \$7.50 with \$.60 per mile. Six months later they were able to purchase a 1960 Chevrolet panel truck and converted it into an ambulance.

Over the years the means to summon the volunteers to duty went from the local fire department calling by phone, to tone pagers, to voice pagers with the capacity to monitor all dispatches. To the end of the service, the mountainous location made 2-way radios unreliable.

There are about 220 people listed as volunteers for Three Rivers Ambulance from the beginning of the service to the end. Not all of those names were active volunteers covering calls, but all of them did as much as they could to help the service survive.

Board of Directors

Tom Marshall President/Mgr.Dir.
 Nancy Brunson Vice-President
 Pat Crain Secretary
 Dody Marshall Treasurer/Archivist
 Susan Wolff Dir./Volunteer Coor.
 Janine Chilcott Director
 Isabelle Collins Director
 Bobbie Harris Director
 Gaynor McKee Director
 Jackie Weeks Director

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 Three Rivers, CA 93271
 Phone: 559-561-2707
 history@3rmuseum.org
www.3rmuseum.org

Open daily Friday-Monday
 9:00am to 3:00pm

Three Rivers Historical Society
 is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization

New Winter Hours

Open 9am to 3pm
 Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon
 Closed
 Tues-Wed-Thurs
 January through



Visitor Count At The Museum

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Year 2010	379	764	848	902	922	1002	947	767	431	317	198	198
Year 2011	199	206	375	870	889	856	835	975	676	966	306	177

Membership application for friend or as a gift

Personal Name and/or Business Name		Type of Membership circle the amount you prefer and/or the donation below	
Mailing Address			
City / State / Zip Code		SINGLE	\$25.00
Phone with Area Code		FAMILY	\$40.00
Email Address		BUSINESS	\$50.00
Payment by Check or Credit Card	Checks payable to TRHS	LIFE MEMBER	\$500.00
<p>MONTHLY DONATION</p> <p>Please charge my credit card the following amount each month until I notify you.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> <p>Minimum time & amount requested is \$10 per month for one year.</p>	<p>I hereby authorize the Three Rivers Historical Society to charge my credit/debit card with the amount circled above</p> <p>X _____</p> <p>CC# _____</p> <p>Exp Date _____</p>	<p>You can pay for membership and/or monthly donations by going through our website and use PayPal.</p> <p>www.3rmuseum.org and move down to the Donation Tab</p>	