

70 Years of
Memories...
A Staff's Fairy
Tale.



TESOMAS SCOUT CAMP

“Where Camping is Still King”

2005 Tesomas Staff

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Scott Domino	Program Director	Bryan Harrell	Eagle Quest Staff
Eric Weier	Business Manager	Nils Hansen	Eagle Quest Staff
Ryan Wood	Health and Safety Officer	Oliver Mohker	Eagle Quest Staff
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Jeremiah Lindquist	Waterfront Staff	David Clarke	Personal Wellness Staff
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Chris Streeton	Waterfront Staff	Ben Witucki	Rotary Lodge Staff
Alex Anderson	Climbing Director	Keith Andersen	Rotary Lodge Staff
Jill Schaub	Climbing Staff	Jim Peterson Jr	Trading Post Director
Andy Haka	COPE Staff	Jenna Diedrich	Trading Post Staff
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Introduction

Camp Tesomas is without question a physically beautiful place with very real buildings along a very real lake. But to many of us it is more than physical, it is memories.... an experience unique to each of us. Singular memories that when added to those of others can be strangely synergistic, quite magical. The following pages are the result of that magic. I found myself overcome by this power while progressing on this project, often to the point that I could not rest. It is my hope that the magic in these pages envelopes you as well, giving you wings to fly to a distant land. A land where the water is crystal and cool, nature is not a word but an intoxicating experience, and everyone is a child with a smile on their face and a song in their heart.

For all who have helped with this project, my thanks! I am confident that I could have asked for the world and somehow you would have supplied it! Special thanks to Steve Miazga and his business "ROSCO" for the publishing help and to Albert C. Hanna for the financial support. Extra special thanks to my brother John and father Julius for the help when the pressure of the deadline seemed unbearable.

Although I was in my mid-twenties before I first served as a staff member, it was without a doubt my most intense period of personal growth. The likes of which I will never again encounter and whose benefits I am still reaping. During one of my phone interviews I found a most profound quote, "Though I came to camp as a snot-nosed kid of 18, I was to find the next three years were my true "growing years".

Ohhh, what we couldn't accomplish as a staff, most of whom were not yet adults by physical age. So often did we do more with less in half the time that it became the norm and not the exception! I still get frustrated by people in this world who try to tell me that "it can't be done". Wrong, I've done it!! I've heard it said that the only real difference between a chunk of coal and a beautiful diamond is a lot of pressure. Here's to the world's largest diamond mine.... TESOMAS!!!!

-chapter 1-
Long Years
ago, in the
dim ages of
the past....

An Inauspicious Start

The close of Camp Sam-O-Set in 1934 and the decision to establish a new Summer Camp on Crystal Lake north of Rhinelander caused many people to anxiously anticipate the 1935 camp season. Little did they realize the obstacles and challenges that lay ahead.

The Crystal Lake camp began with a 12 acre donation by L.A. Leadbetter in 1934, followed by a 120 acre donation by the Rhinelander Rotary Club in 1935. The camp was initially envisioned for the local community, but expanded to a council camp as its area grew.

The camp was directed by Wm. "Chief" Hoffmann, recently hired Samoset Council Scout Executive. It was staffed by: Charles Horwitz, Antigo - recreational director; Lawrence Butenhoff, Wausau - waterfront supervisor; Martin Peterson, Wausau - assistant waterfront supervisor; Franklin Maas and Lloyd Brown, Wausau - handicraft; Harold Gillaspay, Antigo - steward; and James Kerr, Wausau - bugler. The full staff was first announced July 8th, less than one week before camp was to open. Weekly registration cost \$6, including a \$1 deposit required with each application. Early registration was encouraged as enrollment was limited to 75 scouts each week.

Attractive booklets issued by the camping committee in June, 1935 announced two weekly camp periods beginning July 14th and July 21st. Camp started Sunday afternoon and ended the following Sunday at noon. A contest to select a new camp name was also announced in the booklet. Each scout registered for camp would have a chance to submit a name and reason that name should be selected.

Plans for a 50' X 73' Main Lodge with a 10' porch were complete and necessary materials were in camp by June. The lodge would contain a dining hall, kitchen, fireplace, library, office and canteen. Waterfront, amphitheater and campsite plans were also complete. Scouts would camp in floored tents.

Equipment from old Camp Sam-O-Set at Harrison was moved to Crystal Lake July 6-7, just one

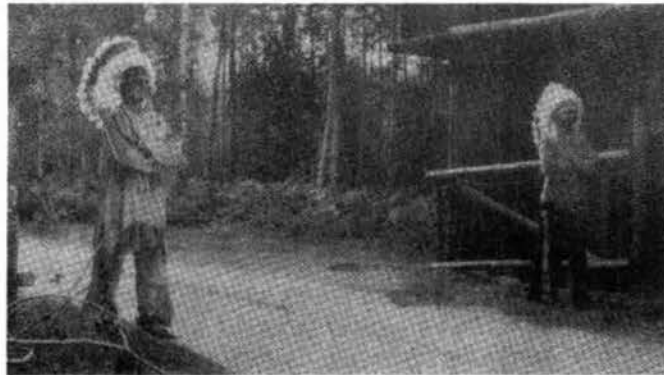


week before camp was to open. More than 12 trucks were needed to transport 50 double deck cots, 10 pyramidal army tents, tent platforms with sidewalls and a complete kitchen, including a stove and ice box. Of course

uncooperative weather turned this into a wet and tiring ordeal that could not be delayed because of next week's camp opening. On top of everything else, "Chief" Hoffmann suffered the indignity of being left behind. He hiked to Parrish where his wife returned to pick up a very wet and tired husband.

When things are not going well it seems you can count on the weather to add to your woes. In 1935 the amount of bad weather seemed endless. Camp preparations and building construction were behind schedule because of the rainy weather. Even help from five carpenters

furnished by the WERA could not offset the effects of the weather. Mr. Hoffmann finally conceded to the weather on July 9th and announced that evening at the Marathon Park



Court of Honor that the opening of camp would be delayed one week to July 21st.

Valentine Klinek of Wausau was the first scout to sign up for the 1935 summer camp. However, not a flood, not even a trickle of scouts followed with their camp registration. Consequently a promotional tour to Antigo, Rhinelander, Tomahawk and Merrill, ending at the Marathon Park Court of Honor, took place July 9th, less than one week before camp was to open. At this time Samoset Council was comprised of Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida and Vilas counties. Mr. Hoffmann and a group of Wausau scouts ran the tour that was headed by the old Forty and Eight locomotive and boxcar, and included a 12 piece Boy Scout band. A highlight of the tour was the

Paul Bunyan Axe, over 8 feet long with a 40 inch blade, said to have been found at the Crystal Lake camp. The axe would hang in the main Lodge and scouts that registered for camp would have the privilege of signing their name to the axe.

In spite of the well received promotional tour, summer camp registrations were slow. Only 45 scouts attended the first week of camp, even though the delayed camp opening allowed an extra week for registration. Furthermore it was announced the second week of camp would not be held unless more scouts registered. A letter in the "Rhineland Daily News" criticized the poor local turnout the first week at a camp built by Rhineland people with Rhineland money, and encouraged all scouts to attend the second week. The second week of camp was also opened to all Rhineland boys.

Apparently these efforts produced enough boys to operate camp for a second week. Second week attendance of 36 brought 1935 camp attendance to 81, which included 10 scouts that spent both weeks at camp. It took a lot of hard work and promotion to



get just 81 boys in camp in 1935. Operating the new camp while at the same time trying to work on its facilities must have been quite a challenge.

Three days before the postponed opening of camp it still did not have a new name. In fact scouts showed little

interest in a new name. Thus another item the council hoped would stir interest in camp received little response. Apparently the Crystal Lake camp would open under the name Sam-O-Set, although it was still planned to have scouts vote on a new camp name at camp. The question of a new camp name was raised at the council mid-summer meeting held Saturday, July 28th at camp. Suggestions were evaluated and Tesomas, Samoset spelled backwards, received the greatest support. However, it was stated a new camp name would not be selected until the end of camp. Tesomas must have been very popular because the name was used when reporting first week activities at camp. Irene Hoffmann, Bill's wife, proposed the Tesomas name.

Glowing reports of camp by scouts and visitors must have helped offset the problems Bill Hoffmann faced. Still he must have welcomed the end of the trying first year at Tesomas. However, the end of camp did not see the end of activity at Tesomas. The week in August and the fireplace was pending financing. The waterfront was still being worked on as was the terracing above the waterfront for viewing and instructional seating. Bill Hoffmann finally returned home to Wausau August 8th to recover from a hectic summer and attend full time to his duties as Scout Executive.

Construction that was delayed and not even completed by the end of camp, problems moving equipment to camp, terrible weather that delayed construction and the start of camp, poor camp attendance, and lack of interest in a new camp name seem to be the major problems encountered the first year at Tesomas. Obviously other difficulties of varying significance occurred in the day-to-day operation of camp.

Any problem can be discouraging, but when they occur at the rate they did in 1935 it can become depressing. However, rather than being discouraged or depressed, optimism somehow prevailed and talk was about plans for a bigger and better next year. The reason for this positive attitude is that these early leaders had a vision of what Tesomas would be and worked toward the vision. It is because of that pioneer vision, as well as the vision of others that followed, that we are here to celebrate 60 years of Camp Tesomas and anticipate its unlimited future.



**Sources:
Antigo Daily Journal
Merrill Daily Herald
Rhineland Daily News
Tomahawk Leader
Wausau Daily Record-Herald**

by Tony Lazewski

Great Prayer

**Oh Great Spirit!
Whose voice we hear in the wind,
And whose Breath gives life to all the world;
Hear us!**

**For we are small and weak,
We need Your strength and wisdom,
Let us walk in beauty and make our
Eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.
Make our hands respect the things You have made,
And our ears sharp to hear Your voice.
Make us wise so that we may understand the things
You have taught us.
Let us learn the lessons You have hidden in every leaf
and rock.
We seek strength, not to be greater than our
brothers,
but to fight our greatest enemy...ourselves!
Make us always ready to come to You
With clean hands and straight eyes,
So that when life fades, as the fading sun sets,
Our Spirit may come to you without shame.**

-chapter 2-

...an adventurous group of people would migrate each summer to a very special land.

Camp Tesomas Recollections

One thing I recall as a camper in the mid 1940's at Tesomas was my brother, cousins and I being put into a cabin that also contained boys from Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids. As I look back now, that was a great opportunity to meet fellows from other communities, accept our differences and also learn what a great Scout Council we had. But at the time, I recall only defending the premise that Troop 10 and Wausau were the best.

**By Kurt Krahn,
Waterfront
Director, 1945**



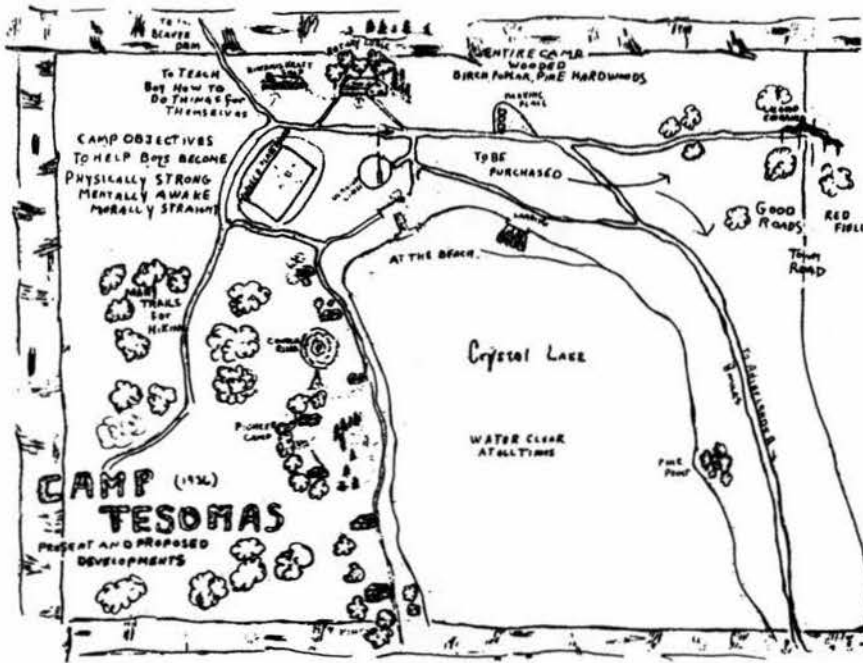
Camp Attendance In Council Out of Council Total

(These figures are from many sources and their accuracy are open to question. This listing is intended to only give a general feeling of trends)

1935	71		71
1936	256		256
1937	512		512
1938-1979	Unknown		
1980	982	213	1195
1981	1155	unk	
1982	1180	unk	
1983	1127	227	1352
1984	1099	234	1333
1985	1119	191	1310
1986	1063	206	1269
1987	971	334	1305
1988	999	249	1248
1989	908	231	1139
1990	1109	403	1512
1991	1088	273	1361
1992	1164	373	1537
1993	1198	460	1658
1994	1300	338	1638
1995	1402	466	1868







Map of Camp Tesomas
1936

-chapter 3-

Although called Tesomas, they fondly referred to it as "Home".

Everything I Needed to Know I Learned at Camp Tesomas

- People other than Waterfront and Ecology staff do get elected Lodge Chief - I think.
- Binoculars are a useful tool for keeping an eye on camp especially from the Camp Director's office on Wednesday.
- A motivated camp staff can do more good than a stadium full of European soccer fans can do damage.
- A group of twenty guys can enjoy Shakespeare (or was it a \$25 nap?).
- The greatest pictures will always occur when you do not have your camera. Maybe that is why they will always be the greatest pictures.
- Chris Martin was turned down for the Energizer Rabbit - too much energy.
- Objects generally appear heavier (and less bouyant) than they really are.
- Gun powder is much more flammable when combined with masking tape.
- Clay pigeons are harder to shoot than folding chairs.
- Never buy from a candy salesman who doesn't bring free samples.
- If you choose to shoot a skunk near a building on blocks, it will choose to die directly below the center of the building.
- A garden hose combined with camp's water pressure is no match for an OA fire built by Ordeal Masters from Ahdawagam.
- Never book a troop for the new campsite at Indian Point before you know where it is.
- Ford has manufactured a vehicle that can break the sound barrier - and Robin's egg blue was such a bold color choice.

- It's okay to cry tears of pain or joy, whether it be during a slide show at the staff banquet, while receiving an award, or while thanking friends and family for being there for you.
- The value of salesmanship. If you can sell an entire Cub Scout Den a comb and clipper set, move 100 poly slides in two weeks of Cub Scouts, liquidate orange bumper stickers and camp post cards, sell every kind of flashlight National Supply carries, sell bamboo fishing poles, manage to send Milt's kids home broke, become Jimmy Boy's biggest customer (okay the kitchen helped with that), and sell either a cast iron griddle or dutch oven all in one summer - chances are you shouldn't be an accountant nor a school teacher - you should change your name to "USED CAR LENNY."
- Never believe a red truck without reverse can make the corner by the volleyball court.
- There used to be 4 Musketeers: Slash, Cash, Crash and Burn.
- There are only two tools in this world: A Hammer and Duct tape.
- The real way to save the Planet - cover it with contact paper.
- Man cannot live on bread alone. Throw in peanut butter and jelly and he can live for a summer.
- The only threatening high adventure program for first year campers is the shower building.
- "Friends Are Friends Forever." No amount of time or distance can prevent friends from picking up the phone or getting together and having it feel like they hadn't missed a minute of time.
- Home is where your heart is. Welcome Home.

by Mark Klos



A Week That Lasts a Lifetime

It was Sunday at 1 PM and the car was loaded with a couple of your friends and gear for the trip to summer camp. When the big sign appeared proclaiming Camp Tesomas was 771 acres you knew the entry was just around the bend. A quick turn off the long gravel road onto the dirt road between the block houses entry way and you were in camp. Once in the parking lot you jumped out of the car, looked at beautiful Crystal Lake, breathed in the fresh air and knew you're as close as you could get to paradise. It was the 25th year for Tesomas, 1960, but to you it was just as you remembered, making you feel right at home. Although camp had developed over the years there had been few changes.

Tesomas focused on Crystal Lake as it had when it began. The six campsites were on the shoreline around two-thirds of the lake. The trading post, nature and handicraft areas were only a short distance away. Field sports was the longest walk, across the road from the block houses. It seemed we used very few of Tesomas's 771 acres. Only a hike to the beaver dam or hermit's shack, scary for first year campers, expanded camp beyond Crystal Lake.

Once your other friends arrived and everyone gathered together you piled your gear in a spot at the edge of the parking lot. Parents or a scout watched the gear and everyone else took off for registration to see where we'd be camping. Then it was back to say goodbye to Mom and Dad, pick up gear and head for the campsite. Camping was all provisional, camp staff lead the campsites, so there was no scoutmasters with their troops.

Camping was in the cabins at Birch Point, Indian Ridge of Pioneer campsites. If they were full the platform tents and lodge at Schooley campsite and cabins at Deacon's Crest came into use. When camp was overflowing tents could be set up on the South Shore campsite. We all wanted Birch Point because it was the closest to everything. Larger troops had to use more than one cabin so buddies made sure they stayed together. The week we were there Tesomas was bulging at the seams with a little over 200 scouts in camp.



A quick change to a swimsuit and it was off for the medical recheck and a refreshing jump in Crystal Lake for a swim test. You hung up your buddy tags and headed back to your campsite. You were probably hungry by now because you were too excited to eat that big Sunday dinner, but unfortunately the trading post was not open. A little bit of free time gave everyone a chance to get settled. Then it was time for the campsite meeting. The counselors explained the rules and program, and began forming everyone into a cohesive unit. Marching to daily campwide morning and evening flag ceremonies, cheers at the dining hall, and campfire skits and songs by campsite helped bring each campsite together.

The provisional system brought troops together within campsites. Inter-campsite rivalry contributed to a campwide focus. Campsites, not troops, were the central unit at camp. Big campfires that opened and closed camp and the Friday supper club highlighted staff talent. Rotary Lodge was turned into a northwoods supper club for Friday Supper and the staff even waited on the scouts. After the meal staff entertainment included skits, bands and rock and roll performances. An occasional competition between campsites was a prelude to the big Friday water carnival climaxed by the greased watermelon contest.

Mealtime also brought camp together. The breakfast big idea, dinner and supper songs, and those unending announcements encouraged camp camaraderie. Song favorites such as Dem Bones, The Sunday School and Sippin' Cider shook Rotary Lodge, while the Tesomas Hymn brought quiet reflection. After meal programs all the dishes at your table had to be washed, including the serving pieces. It seemed that you always got the meals with the most dishes that took the longest to finish.

Work on merit badges and rank skills began Monday morning and continued in the morning for the rest of the week. Following a siesta, afternoons were filled with activities by campsite at field sports, handicraft, nature and the waterfront. Marksmanship frustrated many, it seemed some rifles sighted at your target hit the target next to yours. Could the rifles be that bad? If there was open



time in the evening it was back to the range to prove we were better shots, or off to the waterfront to do some canoeing or rowing, or maybe sometime to work on our merit badges. Each campsite did a one day overnight that began at noon and ended after breakfast. Often these tent campouts were at South Shore where everyone worked on their campsite, cooking and scout skills. This was our only time away from the rest of camp.

Wednesday was the highlight of the week - the Order of the Arrow(OA) ceremony. Parents and visitors began arriving just in time for the barbecue chicken dinner they could purchase. Everyone looked their best for a most solemn retreat overlooking Crystal Lake that gave new meaning to the flag and what it represents. After dinner it was down to the campwide waterfront demonstration and then back to the campsite. There, wrapped in blanket or sleeping bag, we waited for the torchbearers in Indian outfits with flaming torches to lead us to the Grand Council Ring.

The Grand Council Ring was full to the top of the hill with parents and visitors, except for the bottom rows where we would sit. As we entered in silence the leaping buck on the large stretched skin grabbed our attention. At dusk the smoke from burning torches and the aroma of kerosene that filled the air created an aura that filled everyone with anticipation that something very special would soon happen. Then the Council Ring sprang to life with a magic fire, flaming hoop and other Indian dances, huge council fires and an Indian ceremony that no one would ever forget. From the surprise and fear of first year campers to the pride of being called out and belonging to Tom Kita Chara Lodge, the OA was something that everyone talked about with respect and admiration. First year campers now knew why the troop OA election meeting was one of the most important troop meetings all year.

After the OA ceremony it was time to return to the campsite, with maybe a stop at the trading post that was doing a brisk business because of visitors and the influx of parent money. You probably only wanted a five cent candybar, ice cream or pop, but would gladly have a souvenir T-shirt, ballpoint pen or mechanical pencil with Smiley or moccasin kit if Mom and Dad were buying. Talk and thought of the OA ceremony continued well into the night.

Merit badges and rank skills were completed Friday morning because the water carnival was in the afternoon. Relay races, diving for hidden treasure, tug of war and the greased watermelon were some of the events. It was an exciting time, but you now realized that tomorrow was Saturday and camp would be over.

Saturday morning was a time to tie up any loose ends. You tried to find your belongings and return those of others that got mixed up with yours, and then pack up for home. It was a time to think of all that happened that week - making new friends, merit badges, campfires, mealtimes, the OA, after lunch siestas and writing that letter home, the late evening soap swim-not environmentally sound, but the best we had without showers. Of course it was the best week ever, even if it did rain and mosquitos were the size of half dollars. That wasn't important.

After Saturday lunch it was back to the campsite or parking lot to wait for your ride. The Tesomas Hymn sung by the staff chorus at dinner went round in your head. You were anxious to see your parents and head home, but sad to leave Tesomas. You said goodbye and waved as the car pulled away, but you took memories that would last forever and vowed you would be back next year at the best place on earth.

By Tony Lazewski

Hail Tesomas

**And through Camp's gates I went
Thinking of all the time that I had spent
Away from my home away from home.....
My expectations were unknown.**

**And through Camp's gates they came
And the faces looked the same.
Young and wild and eager.
Looked up to us like Major Leaguers.
Gave them all that been gave to me
By my heroes when I was thee.
A week of life and lessons, games and songs
Then at the end of the week the boys were gone....
But another group would come along.**

**But one day, no more came through Camp's gates
And I was left in Camp's silence with fellow mates.
With tear drops in our eyes
We said our good byes....
And through Camp's gates I went.**

Brad Clark



My Memories of Camp Tesomas

Going into Camp Tesomas, I used to feel a certain pride and belonging. I felt welcomed by staff, everyone talked to everyone. Coming into camp, Akela's Camp was just to the left. This was where the Cub Scout Packs could come and family camping was encouraged.

Anytime, a Scouter could come and go fishing and relax. My husband Jim and I would pull our trailer out there for the summer and have campfires in the evening. Some of the staff would come just to sit and talk with us after their daily jobs were done.



We worked as a family at Camp, doing things like putting up tile in the supply room off of the mess hall and working on the toilets by the archery range. I think it was Charlie Schneider that helped with those latrines. Jim Jr. worked on the chapel for his Eagle service project and Jerry painted the Indian Head in the O.A. bowl, as well as doing the sandpaintings. Grandpa Marten used to sit at the tables and whittle, surrounded by a bunch of boys. My sons remember the good times at camp, especially the greased watermelons. Who would be the first out of the water with the "greased pig"?

I remember the cabins up on the hill, behind the new office. And the Green Onion, right behind the Lodge, where the kitchen staff used to stay. They used to talk about catching a skunk or 'coon in the garbage cans the previous night, and of hating to clean the grease pit. Many of the Scouts and staff called me "Mom", some that I didn't even know. Clarissa (Grandma) and Harvey (Grandpa Marten) worked out there, Grandma was the cook when Larry (Marten) was the camp director. They lived in what is now the Trading Post.

Most Wednesday nights we went out to the O.A. ceremonies. I remember once that Tim Nesja did the hoop dance and got burned, Scott Brown was the Chief. The boys who used to get tapped out often turned black and blue, I thought it was awful to be so rough. Afterwards, we went to the mess hall for coffee, cake, cheese, crackers, and "bug-juice" (Kool-Aid). It was called a cracker barrel. The campers could go to it and meet their friends and families. Sometimes after the O.A. ceremony we would meet friends that we hadn't seen in a year, talking long into the night with no one in a hurry to leave.

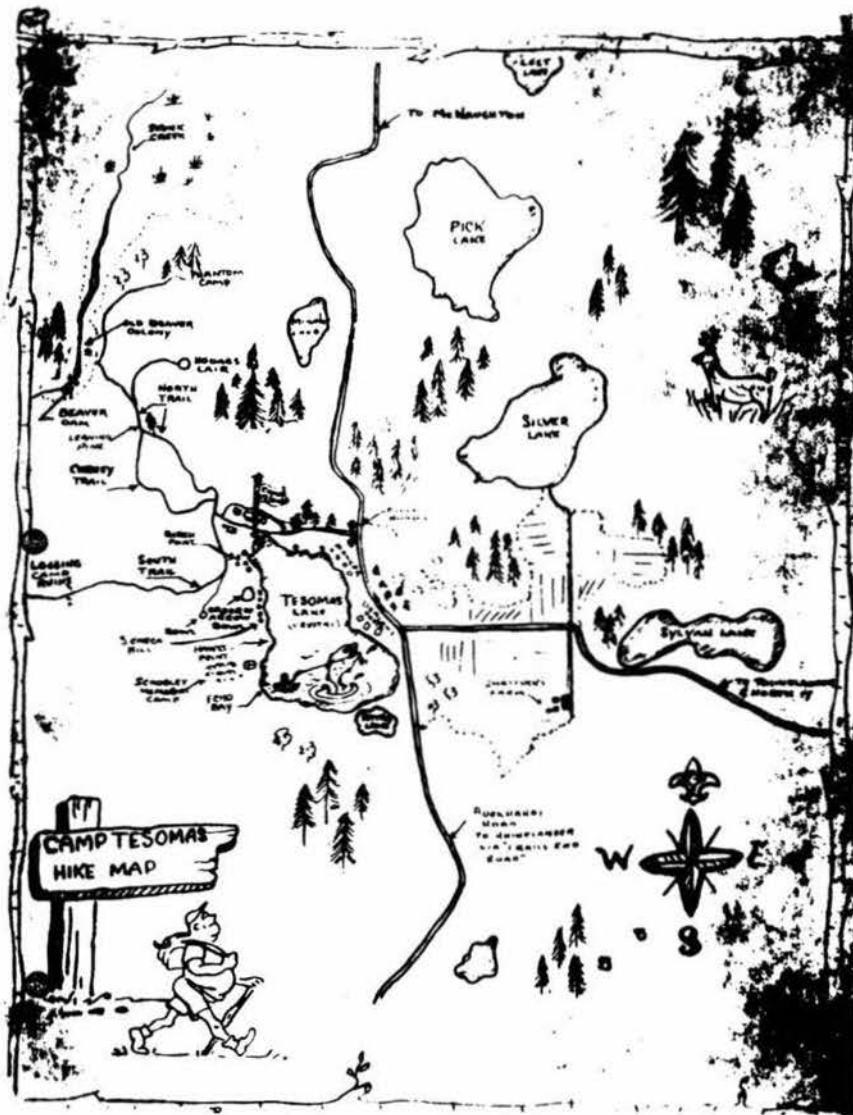
I also remember walking out to Tower Ridge where Troop 572 camped for years, from the time Harvey was Scoutmaster until just last year. Now there is a memorial plaque up there in memory of Jim. Many hands and hearts were involved in the memorial, including Joe Mahner who moved the rock up there, Troop 572, and many more that gave money to help meet the cost. Joe brought out his front end loader and hired another guy to help. With the help of Jerry Marten, Gary Sparling, and Randy Balausky they put the rock in place. Much thought was put into every detail of the memorial. The plaque even points to where the Troop had many campfires, one of Jim's favorite places and times. On June 2nd, 1991 we had the dedication of the memorial with our family, Troop 572, their families, and the O.A. members.

My son, Jim Jr., once told me a story about when he worked in the kitchen when Grandma Marten was the cook. He said that he and some others took some "elephant nort" (government spam) and hid it under a barrel by the maintenance shed. Evidently, they were tired of eating it. While they were at the waterfront that night, Ted (the maintenance man) found it and brought it back to Grandma. In Jim's words, she "nailed" them when they got back, claiming it had to be an inside job. But curiously, no one knew a thing about the transient "nort". At one time the kitchen staff had a contest to see who could eat the most elephant nort, Jimmy was a handful away from winning when his stomach got the best of him and suddenly he was in last place!! The other boys talked about what fun they had in some of the other events and activities, especially the staff hunts.

All in all, my memories of Camp Tesomas are special to me and my family. And we hope that it will continue to have a special place in the younger Marten's hearts too!!

**By Arlene K. Marten
(Compiled by Tami K. Marten)**





-chapter 4-

It was filled with wonders and magic, dragons and knights, fire and ice, spirits and mascots.

Smiley The Tent

In 1995 it seems as though Smiley has been with us forever, but of course that is not true. Although our "where Camping is King" slogan started in 1940, Smiley did not appear until after Tesomas passed its 15th anniversary.

It was in 1951 or 1952 that a concerted effort began to find a symbol for the "Where Camping is King" slogan. Although Samoset Council did not succeed in developing a symbol, it certainly created the idea for the symbol. In an October 1, 1952 letter, then Council Scout Executive Sig Kilander stated, "Our thought was to draw a personified tent with a crown perched cockily over its peak." This letter was sent to Walt Disney Studios with a request that one of its artists provide a "trade mark" for the "personified tent."

The Disney public relations director did commit to providing the requested art work, but stated it would be delayed because of the pressure to get out what became a Disney classic-PETER PAN. Samoset Council was indeed fortunate that Disney accepted the request for Smiley. A Disney archivist speculated that over 100 requests for symbols were received by Disney each year, until the mid 1960's when all such requests were turned down. Out of these requests maybe 25-30 or less symbols were developed each year. Of all the requests only about 10 symbols were developed for scouts. Possibly Disney's favorable feeling towards scouts is why they undertook the Smiley project.

Smiley accompanied a letter to Samoset Council dated December 4, 1952, which indicates Smiley was designed in November 1952. Insignia requests like Smiley were assigned to a small pool of 5 to 6 artists.

Because Disney artists did not sign their artwork Smiley cannot be credited to a specific artist. However, it is known that by 1925 Walt Disney relied on employees for artwork.

Of course Smiley was immediately adopted by Samoset Council and remains today as its proud symbol of "Where Camping Is King." Smiley was immediately put to use in the center of a pin with "Where Camping Is King" around the edge and "I'm Going" at the bottom. The pin was given to Scouts that signed up for 1953 summer camp. The 1953 camp patch was the first patch with Smiley.

The most impressive display of Smiley quite likely occurred at the 1953 National Jamboree. A 12' high canvas Smiley crowned by a sparkling jeweled masonite crown served as the gateway entrance for the Samoset Council contingent. A fence on either side of Smiley proclaimed "Where Camping Is King" and "Samoset Council." It was most appropriate that Smiley premiered nationwide at the 1953 National Jamboree in Irving Ranch, California because it represented a homecoming for Smiley who was designed at nearby Disney studios. In addition Samoset Council stenciled its Jamboree tents with the Smiley symbol.

Smiley has appeared on all Samoset Council camp patches since 1953, with the exception of four years; 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968. The 1956, 1957, 1958 and 1959 camp patches contain a small copyright symbol on the sidewall of the tent, which identifies Smiley as a copyrighted Disney design.

Smiley has also appeared on the Samoset Council shoulder patches, many activity patches, stationary, signs and more. At the time Smiley was adopted Samoset Council developed a set of signs that had a small half circle sitting on top of the sign in the middle. Smiley was in the center of this half circle and when anyone saw Smiley they knew right away it was Samoset Council. Smiley's relevance throughout the years is shown by his continuing and widespread use by Samoset Council.

Although Smiley did not start with Camp Tesomas they have been inseparable since Smiley's arrival in 1953. Tesomas and Smiley have stood the test of time and have grown stronger through the years.

By Tony Lazewski

December 4, 1952

Mr. S. W. Kilander
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
606 1/2 Third Street
Wausau, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Kilander:

Here is the trade mark we designed for
THE SAMOSET COUNCIL (7-627) BOY SCOUTS OF
AMERICA in accordance with your letter of
October 1, 1952.

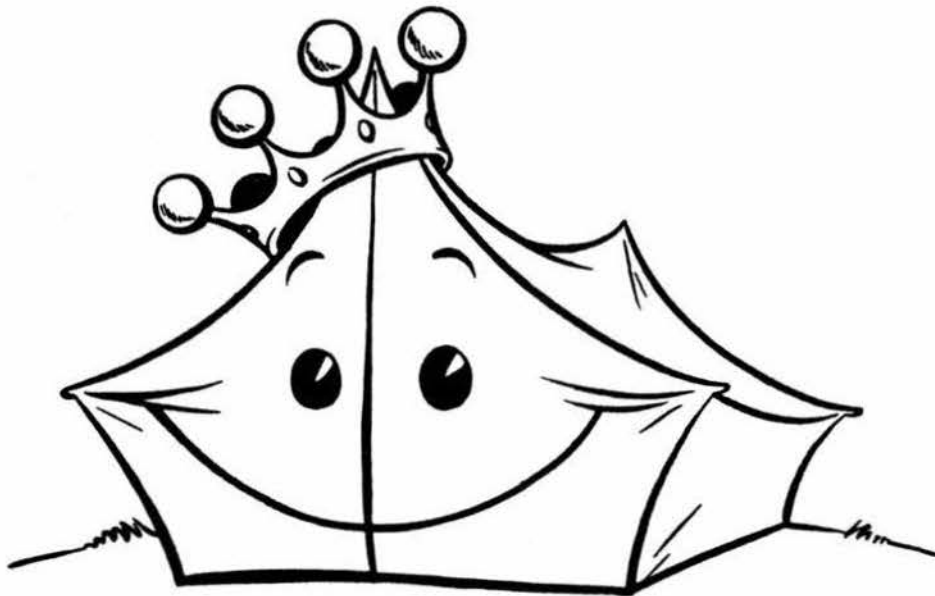
I personally think it is very cute and hope
that you and the entire Council membership
will like it.

With kind personal regards.

Cordially yours,

Joseph P. Reddy
PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

JPR:hg





WEATHER FORECASTER - Paul Bunyan weather chain has hung from post near Rotary Lodge for nearly as long as there has been a Camp Tesomas. Edward Tomsich, food staff manager, tries to straighten out the heavy chain. The weather sign warns, "Chain rattling-slight breeze. Chain diagonal-wind. Chain horizontal-heavy wind. Links snapping-head for storm shelter."

NINE BIG CAMP PERIODS SET

New Pioneer Cabin To Be Built This Summer

Buffalo Bill Cabin to Complete Tesomas Pioneer Unit to be Built This Year

The Pioneer Unit at Camp Tesomas will move one step closer to completion this summer with the addition of another sleeping cabin. This cabin is being made possible through the generosity of the Taylor Beverage Co. at Rhineland and will provide much needed sleeping accommodations in this senior unit which has suffered from overcrowding many times during the past couple of years. The "Davy Crockett," "Kit Carson" and "Daniel Boone" cabins will now have a new neighbor—and none other than the "Buffalo Bill."

This cabin will be built in the same rustic log style of construction as the other three cabins. It will be lined with knotty pine from our



camp lumber supply. The dimensions will be 14x20 feet and will provide sleeping accommodations for eight scouts and one leader.

The "Buffalo Bill" will round out the cabin circle of the unit, adding much to the appearance of this "scout built" unit of Tesomas. Last year the campers in this unit raised a new flag pole and did considerable work on the Senior Waterfront. The building of the new cabin will be the principal project this year and will provide practical opportunities for work in the Carpentry and Woodworking Merit Badges.

It is hoped that sometime in the future work can be started on the Winter Lodge which will be the central building for the Pioneer unit. This building will then be used as the summer mess hall during the summer season. In the winter it will be made available to troops for week-end camps at Tesomas. Though the "Winter Lodge" exists now only on paper, perhaps it will come true as other "paper projects" have turned into actualities during the past few years.

Order of the Arrow Looks For Big Year

Brotherhood Honor to be Conferred at Both Camps During Summer

Scouts who have been inducted into the Order of the Arrow during past years who have shown outstanding growth in their troops and in the camping program during the past year will be recognized by the Chapters during the camp session. Those to be honored will be selected by the present Arrow men then in camp.

The regulations of the Arrow have been brought into step with the National by-laws during the past winter. Each Friday of the camping season the scouts in camp will have the opportunity of selecting from their campmates such Scouts as have demonstrated best the ideals of cheerful service and Scout-like attitude for election to the Arrow. Those who have completed all of the qualifications will be given the "first honors" on Saturday. Those who have not met all of the qualifications will be "trail-makers" until they have met all of the requirements.

The Order of the Arrow is a recognized Senior Scout activity of the Boy Scouts of America. Its program has played a great part in the development of the fine camping record the Samoset Council holds.

Camp Tesomas will act as

host to Arrow groups from Wisconsin and Michigan on the week-end of August 29-30-31 for the Second Biennial Fellowship Conference of this part of the United States. Delegations have already been promised from the Kenosha, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Green Bay, Madison, Houghton and Iron Range Councils. Committees for this occasion will be appointed by "Rusty" Dahl, Arrow Chief, this month.

Chickagami Campers To Enjoy Peaceful Slumbers on New Mattresses

Do any of you Chickagami campers remember the time you woke up and found a "rocky mountain" ridge in your straw tick right under the middle of your spine? Or better yet, do you remember the time you worked down to your tick during the night and woke up in the morning feeling as if you had spent the night in the straw stack? And don't forget the time you tried to clean up the cabin and had to sweep it seven times and still had straw on the floor.

Those days are gone forever, my friend. Through the efforts of the Camping Committee and Headquarters every bed at Chickagami will sport a mattress in a clean cover. You will be able to spend more of your time in fun during the day and will be able to crawl into your bed when "taps" sound assured that you will have a night of

Six Periods at Tesomas Three at Chickagami

comfortable, peaceful slumber.

Those old ticks will become relics of the old pioneers and will no longer be the home of the moths and the scourge of the brave. Good-bye, old pals, we hate to see you go—but we sure will enjoy snuggling down on those mattresses. Ho, Hum! Guess we'll turn over and go to sleep.

Do You Know That Bird?

Northern Wisconsin is an ideal place to get acquainted with bird-life of all kinds. Scout Camp is a good place to sort of brush up on your knowledge of this sort of thing. Each week three Bird Hikes will be scheduled to give any Scout interested a chance to really get acquainted with our bird life. If you are interested in getting the Bird Study Merit Badge, it might be a good idea to start making up your bird observation lists before coming to camp.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

We would like to have you bring your musical instrument to help out for campfire programs. If enough fellows bring instruments we would like to organize a camp band. Instruments will be provided with a safe storage place in the Lodge.

The 1941 Camping Season for Scouts of the Samoset Council will be headlined with a choice of nine fine camping periods. Camp Tesomas offers six periods beginning June 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20 and 29, while Camp Chickagami will schedule three periods, beginning June 22, 29 and July 6. Tesomas will accommodate 100 campers per week while the capacity for Chickagami is set for 50 campers. Each camp will adhere strictly to the capacities set.

With warm weather on hand it is expected that a big rush will take place for reservations. Every troop and scout may be assured of the Camp and Period desired if they register right away. Tentative reservations may be made by Scoutmasters now which will be held until June 3. They must be filled by that time or be opened up for all campers.

The camp fee this year will remain at \$6.50 per week in spite of higher costs of food and the improvements at both camps. A registration fee of \$1.00 is required for each week's reservation. The balance of \$5.50 will then be due on or before arrival at camp.

Scoutleaders and troops should get together, agree on a period, and then start sending in reservations for that period. Every Scoutmaster who comes with his troop will not have to pay a camper fee. Troops coming with ten or more Scouts accompanied by their leader at one period will receive a fifty cent refund per Scout during their stay at camp. This leader must be a registered Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or a Troop Committeeman.

Scouts from a given troop will be quartered together as far as is possible and will have the opportunity of planning their activity program. They will be required to keep in line with the camp schedules of meals and rest.

Opportunities for hikes of many kinds will be made available.

The 1940 refund policy will again be maintained this year. If two weeks' notice is given, refunds will be made at once as will also be the case in case of illness. If no notice of can-

(Continued on Page 4)

WHERE CAMPING IS KING

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Rotary Lodge Camp Tesomas

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WEEKS OF FUN AND ADVENTURE

SWIMMING
BOATING
CAMP FIRES
NATURE LORE

For Only **\$6.50** Per Period

THE SAMOSET COUNCIL CAMPS

HANDICRAFTS
ADVANCEMENT
HIKING
FELLOWSHIP

The Real Story of the Hermit

Upon becoming the Camp Director of Tesomas in June 1954, I heard various stories about the hermit, who lived just north of the camp property. After each story I wondered, "Why would anyone want to live all alone?" It appeared that the only way to find out would be to ask the hermit. Within a few days of arriving, I decided to walk out to talk with our quiet neighbor, after observing his comings and goings with his truck. He would always drive through camp (he had a legal easement, allowing him to go through camp property to access his) in such a manner as to not disturb anyone. Right after lunch one noon, I walked to his residence (some called it a shack). I knocked on his door, but no one responded. I looked inside and noticed the table was set, someone had been cooking, but no other signs of life. I called out to him, "Lester!" No answer.

I tried again the next day about the same time, with the same scenario: no response to my knock and call, dishes on the table, and a pot on the stove. Had I made too much noise, or had he observed me coming? He obviously was trying to elude me and he was most successful at doing that. Finally the third day, I knocked on the door and I "caught" Lester Larson at home. I introduced myself as the new Camp Director and neighbor. He said something like "I guess you know who I am." After some small talk, I finally had the courage to ask him the question that had been running through my mind. "Lester, what caused you to decide to live all alone here in this woods?" His answer caught me totally unprepared.

He explained that he came from a very religious home, where the Bible was read each day, prayers were said before each meal and before going to sleep each night. He said that his mother had taught him the ten commandments. After being drafted into the US Army and sent to Europe during World War II, he found himself at the front lines of that war. He was totally frustrated with his situation, as it was in direct opposition to his teachings at home. He finally stated that in answer to my question, that he had shot and killed several German soldiers. Therefore breaking

God's Law: "Thou shall not kill!" He told me that people would not understand his situation, and that is "why I live away from people, as I am guilty of breaking God's law."

I asked my new acquaintance, who had trusted me enough to share with me his guilt, "Do you still believe in the Bible?" He responded most emphatically, "Yes!" I reminded him that it states in the Bible that if you believe in Christ, and if you confess your sins to Him, that he will forgive you (Acts 13: 38-39). This statement stilled him and after a long pause, he asked me if I believe this. I responded, YES! Lester then replied with something like: do you think that if I confess that I broke His law by killing a German soldier, that he would forgive me? I assured him that all he had to do was to confess, ask for forgiveness and he would be forgiven by God.

The strong, muscular 5'8", broad-shouldered man, now was captured in spirit by what he had heard and processed. He put his head on my shoulder, put his arms



around me and cried and cried. Before leaving, I invited Lester to come to visit us real soon! After I left him, it became apparent that he did ask for forgiveness, as he was a changed man! He did stop in at camp and soon began to make friends. The council hired him to do selective logging within the camp. Without a bulldozer or horse, he cut out his own logging roads with only a grub axe to remove the rocks and stumps. I saw him many times, carrying out

pulp "sticks" (8 feet long aspen logs to be taken to a paper mill for pulp) through the woods, on his shoulder and load them on his truck, without a power "jammer". Like I said, he was strong! Until about the 1960's he did not use a chain saw, but only a hand saw and axe, according to his nephew Art.

Whatever happened to the hermit, you are probably thinking? Yes, Lester came back from his self-imposed seclusion and about 1960 (two years after I left Camp Tesomas), he moved in with a sister and her family on a farm on Pine Lake Road, just a few miles from camp. He continued his logging from there. Art told me that his uncle died of leukemia around 1980.

God had reached Lester Larson, the former hermit, in order to free him of his sins. I thank God for this opportunity to strengthen my belief in Him, and for Lester, my friend.

**Ed Zahn
Camp Director '54-'57**

P.S. His former property is now owned by a niece, Florence (Barker) Webster, who lives in Utah. Art and Ralph Larson, both nephews of Lester, have cousins who own a hunting cabin north of Lester's former property. They, like Lester gain access to their property through Camp Tesomas.



When God Talks To Me, I Listen

During the 7th period of 1993, Mr. Peter Burek, the Chairman of the Samoset Council Catholic Committee on Scouting, called me, asking if I would conduct the chapel services the last three days of the 8th period. He said that the Chaplain, Scott Bauer, wanted to go to Denver to see the Pope. Peter said he would take Monday and Tuesday, if I would take Wednesday through Friday. Little did I know that I was about to have probably the most profound experience of my life.

Wednesday night, the wind was wild; no rain but lots of wind. Upon waking Thursday morning, August 12, 1993, I noticed that the wind had not let up at all. There were even white caps on the lake (on Crystal Lake?). Shortly after eating lunch, a large group of Scouts, leaders, and camp staff assembled at the chapel; a "full house".

Quite by accident (I think) I had prepared (in advance) to read scripture from St. Mark, Chapter 4, vs 33-41. In this parable, Jesus was with his disciples in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. A great storm of wind arose, with waves beating on the ship, so as to partially fill the boat with water. Jesus was in the stern of the boat, asleep. They were afraid and decided to awaken Him, asking does not our Master care about us if we perish? Jesus then arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea and the wind, "Peace, be still." The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He then said unto them: "Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?" They asked, what manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

As I read, "Peace, be still" the wind ceased and Crystal Lake was calm and like a big mirror! The timing was perfect! I don't know when I was so caught up in any experience, as that one. Someone asked, "How did you do that?" I responded, I didn't, but God did. God has spoken to me many times, but I will never forget that time. When He speaks to me, I listen!

Ed Zahn

Whence the Sword Came

(As retold by Wayne McGown)

This story starts with what was probably the biggest news in Northern Wisconsin in the Summer of 1946. General Eisenhower, having returned home as the victorious general of WW II, was going to visit WI for a fishing trip with his brothers. Everything about the visit was hush-hush to prevent people (like us) from trying to see him and interrupt his visit. Where he was, was truly a well-kept secret, but that didn't prevent us from sitting around in a "staff cabin" one night deciding we ought to try to find him. Leonard Johnston, a maintenance engineer with WI Bell, and a great Scouter, urged us to take it seriously. I was the Lodge Chief so the finger pointed most at me. All the papers had printed that he was thought to be 20 miles West of Minocqua. A very tolerant camp director (Chief Schwechel) gave us the day off and his best wishes and we started out with OA membership materials (sash, handbook, etc.) and youthful naivety. In Rhinelander, Len J. called the WI Bell headquarters in Milwaukee to see if they knew Ike's whereabouts. They said no. He responded that he had received company orders to keep the phone lines clear into Ike's lodge (a slight exaggeration) and how could he do that if no one knew where he was. The President of WI Bell came on the line and told us that he was at Moody's resort 45 miles NE of Minocqua.

(The following account is from a letter Wayne sent to his parents describing what happened after receiving this information.)

We started out for Boulder Jct. and the resort was 8 miles west of there. We didn't think that we probably would get anywhere near the place, but as we neared the sign there were no barricades so we drove into the Lodge. The road leading in was about 1/2 mile long and about half-way in we met a State Police car, but he did not stop us and so we kept going. As we neared a fairly nice cabin, we were stopped by a State Patrolman who asked us what we wanted. We had taken with us a Ritual book, an arrow pin, thong and a membership card with the thought that if we got anywhere near him possibly an orderly would take the things in for us. We explained all this to the cop telling him also that we were

representing Samoset Scouts from Camp Tesomas. The cop said that they had turned away 5 or 6 organizations who had been in to confer honorary memberships upon him, but would let us talk to his orderly. His orderly was a master sergeant and a very fine fellow. We explained it all to him and he said that the general was quite interested in the Boy Scouts and that he was sure the general would accept membership. He also said that he wished that we could go in and explain all the things to the general himself, but that he was definitely on a vacation and his orders were to see no one. All this time, we were standing right outside his cottage and we could hear them talking and laughing inside. The sergeant thanked us and told us we would definitely hear from him or his secretary before our camping season closed. We left feeling that we had gotten a lot further than any of us ever thought we would. And yet, way down underneath I thought maybe the sergeant would just toss the stuff in a basket along with other "trash" and that we would get a form letter from his headquarters "thanking us".

We got back last night about 6:30 PM and Elroy (Bersch) and Chief (Schwechel) were more than surprised that we got as far as we did.

However, today I was standing in back of the Main Lodge washing dishes from a cookout I had been on, and I pulled a State Police car. This same sergeant got out and I was one pretty surprised fellow. He shook hands and said that he had told the general about our visit and had given him the arrow things. He said the general expressed deep regrets for not having seen us and thanked us personally, but that possibly he would visit our camp sometime this week. We told him all about the calling out tomorrow night (Thursday) and the sergeant said there was a very big possibility that "Ike" would try to get here and see it. The sergeant kept asking me questions about the camp as to the no. of campers, etc.. Chief and Elroy both happened to be out of camp at the time, but Mr. Johnson Showers and I showed the sergeant and his police escort around a bit. The sergeant told us not to count too strongly on it but that he would call Joe Schooley (in Rhinelander) before 5:00 and let us know definitely. The sergeant

then handed me a letter that "Ike" had written as soon as he had been told of our visit. We have framed the letter, but this is what it says: (It is written on "Moody's Big Lake Resort" stationary, as the sergeant said the general had brought no facilities for writing letters.) This is it:

Dear Wayne--

I am truly grateful to you and your Lodge for making me a member of the Order of the Arrow. My brothers and I were engaged when you visited this camp, otherwise I would not have missed seeing you and your friends. Perhaps I will get such an opportunity when I leave the section. In the event that I do not, please accept my thanks and give my best wishes to Mr. Johnson and Showers, and to James Check and Daniel Teas.

When I return to Washington I will try to find a souvenir to send to the Lodge. With warm regards--

Very Sincerely
Dwight D. Eisenhower

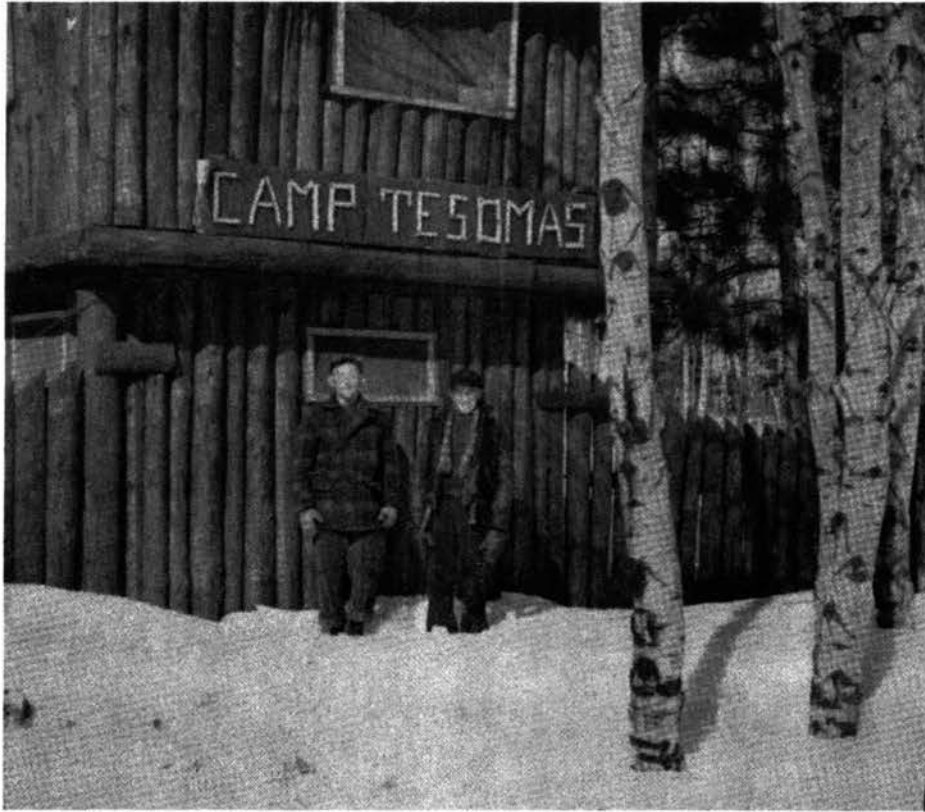
(Wayne's letter continues)

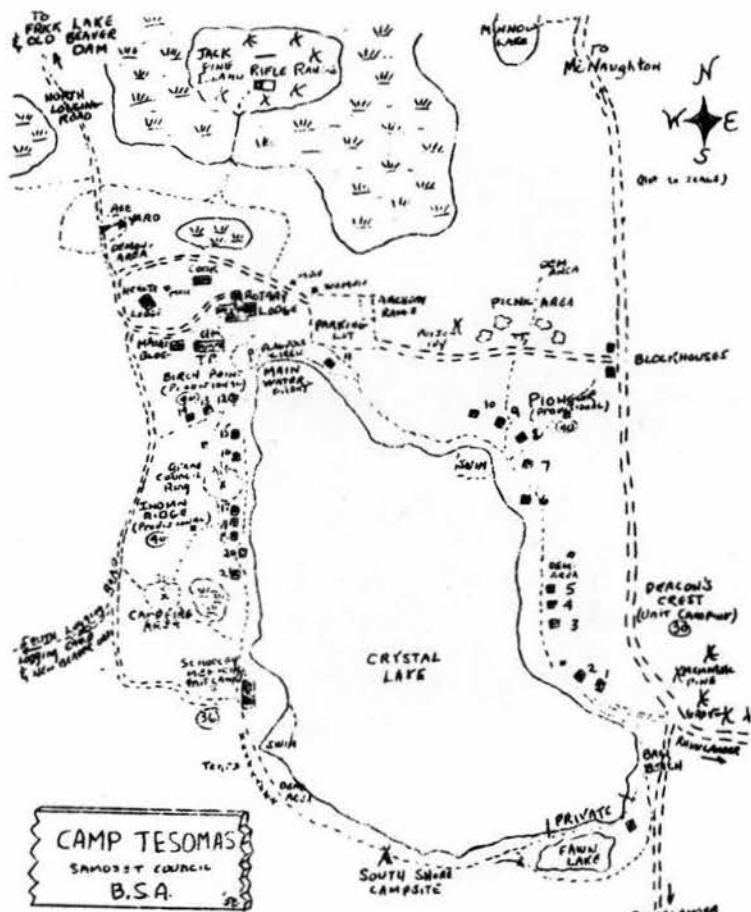
Whether he comes or not, I think it is really pretty swell. It is something to call him a brother Lodge member. If he does come it will be more than wonderful, but anyway with this letter, I think it will give our Lodge and camp quite a boost. One thing One thing we wondered about was if there were any other protection around. The cop, today, told us that there were 8 men with machine guns trained on us all the time we were there. It has really been a wonderful experience and something I will never forget. All the time we went by the old saying "Witness the turtle, he makes no progress unless his neck is out." We really stuck ours out, but it certainly worked out swell. Of course, you will not mention this letter, except to close friends, until he is out of this part of the country.

+ Camp is going swell and of course, I'm still having a swell summer. Write as I do like mail.
P.S. Save this letter and the envelope for my "scrapbook"

Love,
Wayne

Editor's note: Wayne still has the original envelope with Ike's handwriting. He also has lost his affinity for the word "swell". The sword and letter are on display in the Camp Tesomas Archives. The staff did spruce up the camp "just in case" but "Ike" came down with a bit of a cold and could not attend the call out ceremony. After he left the state, word leaked out and the camp was swarmed with press.





CAMP TESOMAS
SAMOSSET COUNCIL
B.S.A.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1 SCOUTS' | 6 BUFFALO BILL | 11 STOUT (S) | 16 FLAM BEAN |
| 2 CABINES | 7 DAN BOONE | 12 FOX DEN (S) | 17 HIGHWAY |
| 3 DOZIER | 8 DAVE CRUKET (S) | 13 MOHAWK | 18 ONEIDA |
| 4 BINGBY | 9 KIT CACON | 14 MEMPHIS | 19 SENECA (S) |
| 5 LEAD BETTER | 10 PAULINE BILL | 15 CHIPPAWA | 20 SHOSHON |
| | | | 21 HUCKLE |

1958

-chapter 5-

Nature was their teacher and the forest their playground.

The Pine Plantation's Story

When most Scouts first enter Camp Tesomas property they view a majestic red pine plantation. Little do they realize the forestry/ conservation history that is there. Yes, it was but a big field with red and yellow hawk weed and a part of it (at the former shooting sports area) had a softball diamond, just across from the entrance gateway, the Blockhouses (Lewis & Clark). The camp property was in the process of being logged over (about 1900) when the fire finished the job, burning down through the humus, so that only sand and rocks were now visible. In walking back in the woods today, you still can see burnt stumps and the burnt remains of trees that didn't get cut, because of the fire.

The paper mills of the Wisconsin River basin, realizing that most of northern Wisconsin had been logged and burnt over and with almost no chance of it being reforested without help, joined together to form the Trees For Tomorrow in 1944. This organization, now headquartered in Eagle River, became interested in Camp Tesomas through Mr. Folcke Becker, President of the Rhinelander Paper Company (now a division of Wausau Paper Mills Company)

A tree planting machine (crude, as it was the first) was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Agricultural Engineering and Mr. Fred Trent, a UW Extension forester. The summer of 1944 (making the plantation 51 years old this summer) this machine was pulled by a tractor, which plowed a furrow of sod to both sides and inserted the seedlings into the ground. Almost all of the trees were planted at an angle, some even upside down (I said it was crude). Mr. Becker saw to it that the tractor, driver and someone to feed the seedlings into the tree planter were on the site. This is where the Scouts got involved. Mr. Ben Phillips, Assistant Scout

Executive, Assistant Camp Director (a graduate forester) and Forestry Merit Badge Counselor, assigned two Scouts (John Slade and Ed Zahn, both of Wausau) to straighten out the trees with a tree planting spud as we walked behind the planter. This was one of two projects for our Forestry Merit Badge. And you thought merit badges are tough now.

This was the first mechanical tree planting in the State of

Wisconsin, according to Mr. Bill Sylvester, who was a forester with Trees for Tomorrow. The Pine Plantation has been used for many Forestry Merit



Badge projects with the pruning of the lower branches. It, too, has been the site of numerous volunteer projects of thinning out entire rows of trees, with the thousands of dollars in the profits being "plowed" back into camp improvement projects. Mr Jim Holprein, the father of Chris (1994-1995 Tesomas staff) is now the Executive Director of Trees for Tomorrow.

In addition to my involvement as a Scout, this project was of personal interest to me, as my dad, Mr. Edwin E. Zahn, was the original member from Marathon Corporation (Rothschild) on the Board of Directors of Trees for Tomorrow as it began their work in 1944.

By Ed Zahn

Camp Tesomas Recollections

Back in the mid-40's we had a much anticipated winter camp during the Christmas holidays. Everyone slept in the main lodge where double bunks were brought in. Going to do one's business in the outdoor toilet was an experience in itself and took great courage just before bedtime when the temperature was flirting with zero.

I had breakfast kitchen duty one of those years and baking biscuits were on the menu. Our try wasn't too successful because the gang later embarrassed us by using the biscuits on the ice rinks that had been scraped off Crystal Lake.

by Kurt Krahn, Waterfront Director, 1945

The Things We've Learned

There is an old saying: "A smart person is one who learns by their mistakes." I'd like to add: "A LUCKY person is one who learns by other's mistakes." And boy, let me tell you, Tesomas staffers can really count their blessings when it comes to learning from other's mistakes.

In taking a few minutes to think about all the "learning experiences" I witnessed, at camp or by staffers, I come up with a long list. A few of these deserve sharing, so that all may benefit from the immense learning potential!

One summer evening my brother Joel and fellow staffer George



Lawless went to visit some friends at their nearby cabin. It grew late and the two compadres decided to sleep over and come back the next morning before breakfast. Sometime about 5:00 AM Joel was awakened by the memory of an appointment with his 5:30 AM Environmental Science Merit Badgers for an early morning hike. In a hurry to get back in time, excessive speeds were reached on Crystal Lake Road (imagine that!!). As they rounded the curve by Cross Country Road, an oncoming car entered their lane. In an effort to avoid a collision, their car entered the ditch, rolled over and landed against a big birch tree. All were okay, but needless to say Joel didn't make it to his merit badge session.

There are plenty of instances where staffers damaged their own vehicles and even some where camp vehicles were damaged. But two involving camp vehicles still bring back an occasional chuckle. The first occurred when Ranger Erv had an extension ladder in the back of the camp truck. In a hurry to get equipment to sites for Ordeal projects, he hopped

into the truck and backed up. What he didn't realize was that the outfitter's trailer house was behind him. The truck suffered only a small dent, but the two feet and bottom rung of the ladder pierced the trailer house leaving it "air conditioned".

The second incident involved the Scoutcraft Director/Head Commissioner Paul and his assistant Robby. After the campers would leave it was their job to inspect the campsites. They were near Chippewa, which at that time had only a small road going to the latrine. It had rained the night before, leaving the ground a little slick. Paul started turning the truck around, it slid into the ditch and became mired in the mud. Since he was really not supposed to have the truck out there, he knew he had to get it out without any outside help. He decided to have Robby, who had just got his license, drive while he pushed. Well, Robby put the "pedal to the metal" for too long, the engine became quite warm and flames soon followed. By the time the fire truck arrived, all that was left

were memories.



Did you ever notice how every once in a while the lake gets real thirsty? It seems that if you are missing something you should look in the lake, its probably there! For example, one

night Mike Meshak got really upset with the kids playing the piano in the Rotary Lodge. He and a few others decided to give the piano swimming lessons. They carried the piano to the waterfront and put it on an old floating dock piece. They jumped in the rowboat and rowed the piano out about 150 yards from shore. After the big SPLUSH, a sudden cry erupted "Oh No, It Floats!!!!!" It was too late to go back so they retrieved some rope and some large rocks and worked on the piano's diving technique. Down it went!! It must have hit the bottom pretty hard though, for the next couple days the waterfront staff was preoccupied with rescuing floating piano keys. Its surprising how many "Ivories" a piano has!

**These are certainly times I will not soon forget.
Oh how I wish I could do it all over again. I'm sure
my "LUCK" would not run out!!**

**Rick Radloff
'86-'89'**

A Bear Outing

One day in the summer of 1955, I was in front of the Huron Cabin, when another member of the camp staff went running by. I called out to Tom McWilliams of Rhinelander, but he continued on without even slowing up. About an hour later, I saw "Mac" at lunch and asked him where he was going in such a rush. He related that he was going to the Adirondack shelters (3, 3-sided log shelters with a roof, located real near where Schooley Lodge is now located). He was about to go down the hill, when a big black bear reared up on its hind legs. He indicated that he immediately turned around and you saw me next. I asked him to clarify just where he saw the bear, and then I left to see if I could possibly spot the bear. In a few minutes I was at the spot that he had described, and there it was! Just as "Mac" had described, it reared up on its hind legs. I just stared at the bear, until it got tired of looking at me. It went down on all four legs and ambled off into the woods. It occurred to me, that if two of us saw a bear in about the same spot just a couple of hours apart, that the bear must have a den nearby. It didn't take too long before I spotted what the bear appeared to have been using as a den--one of the Adirondack shelters. For some reason, I did not share my discovery with anyone.

That night I attended the Ordeal Ceremony in the old Ordeal Bowl (located just east and a bit south of the current Seneca campsite). As had been the custom in Tom Kita Chara Lodge, at the conclusion of the Ordeal Ceremony, all Ordeal members were asked to form a circle about the campfire and looking away from



the center of the circle. The Brotherhood Honor (as it was at the time) ceremonial team then went around the inside of the circle, "tapping out" new Brotherhood Honor members. These brothers were elected by those who were either Brotherhood or Vigil Honor members (all were adults as I recall). Was I ever surprised when I was tapped out. Then the remaining Ordeal members were dismissed from the Bowl. We were informed that we were now in silence for the next 24 hours, and would sleep out in the woods, as we had when we were going through our Ordeal. Unlike the Ordeal, we would not carry out a camp improvement project the next day.

We were next led away from the Bowl. I started to have some misgivings as I recognized that we were headed straight for the Adirondack shelters. It can't be! They put me "to sleep" in the



middle one, just the one that I had determined to be the one in which the big black bear used as a den. No one knew about the den but me and I couldn't say anything. That night, most unlike my Ordeal experience (when I slept very soundly, not coming into camp until 9 AM) in sleeping out, I did not sleep at all. With every slight noise in the dark, my imagination, working overtime, said that the bear was returning; to the best of my knowledge, it didn't. It was a long, long night!

I was relating this story to our son (Dave) and his girlfriend at last fall's Fall Conference (48 years after my last bear sighting at Tesomas), while I was taking them on a tour of camp. It had been a few years since Dave had been able to be in camp, and I wanted him to see the many recent improvements. I also wanted "Sandy" to see where Dave had spent many summers as a camper and member of the staff. As we approached Chippewa Campsite, a big black bear walked in front of us. Dave took off after the bear with his camera. Soon the bear appeared in the main part of camp and walked through the waterfront. I can never forget my experience when I received my Brotherhood Honor; how could I?

Ed Zahn

My memories of Camp Tesomas are many. From the time I first drove thru the gates as a scout; from the time I worked as a staff member; from the time I brought my troop to camp along with my wife and three small children (2 mo., 2 yrs., and 4 yrs.); to the present when I again brought my troop to camp. But



this time my sons are now Boy Scouts themselves. As a Scout, I remember well the night that I was inducted into the Order of the Arrow. As a staff member, although there are too many memories to mention them all, there were times when we would find a canoe hanging from inside of Rotary Lodge. Or some strange things flying from the flag pole. Or the time when the camp director and his wife came back to camp on a Saturday night when it was dark and heard several voices at the waterfront. He decided to throw the switch for the lights to see who was out there only to find half his staff skinny dipping from the dock. Needless to say, the lights went back off as fast as they came on. I remember when our troop had its Friday night campfire. I looked across the campfire to see one of our shyest Scouts with the biggest smile on his face that I ever saw. Tesomas is more than a place, its an experience. An experience too difficult to put into words. It's a place where people grow: grow into a better person, grow to learn more about what the Scout Oath and Law mean. A place where friendships are made. Lord, for Tesomas we thank you!!!

Mark Dewitt

Furry Friends

I remember the first year I was at camp all by myself in the trailer. Kim (my daughter) was working at another camp for the summer and our cat had disappeared just before I left for camp. Well, Rich Marten and some of the staff decided that I needed company in the trailer. One night I came back to camp about 11:00 PM and when I drove in I noticed that the trailer porchlight was on. A note was attached to the door that read, "Marilynn, open the door carefully, there's a surprise inside for you." And from inside the trailer came this plaintiff, lonely meeeow! Inside waited this cute little black and white kitten that had been hanging around camp for a couple weeks. The boys (staff) decided that I needed him for company. I still have that cat, named "Boots", and he is a constant reminder of the many happy years I spent being the cook at Camp Tesomas!!



**Marilynn Orton
Cook '78-'88**

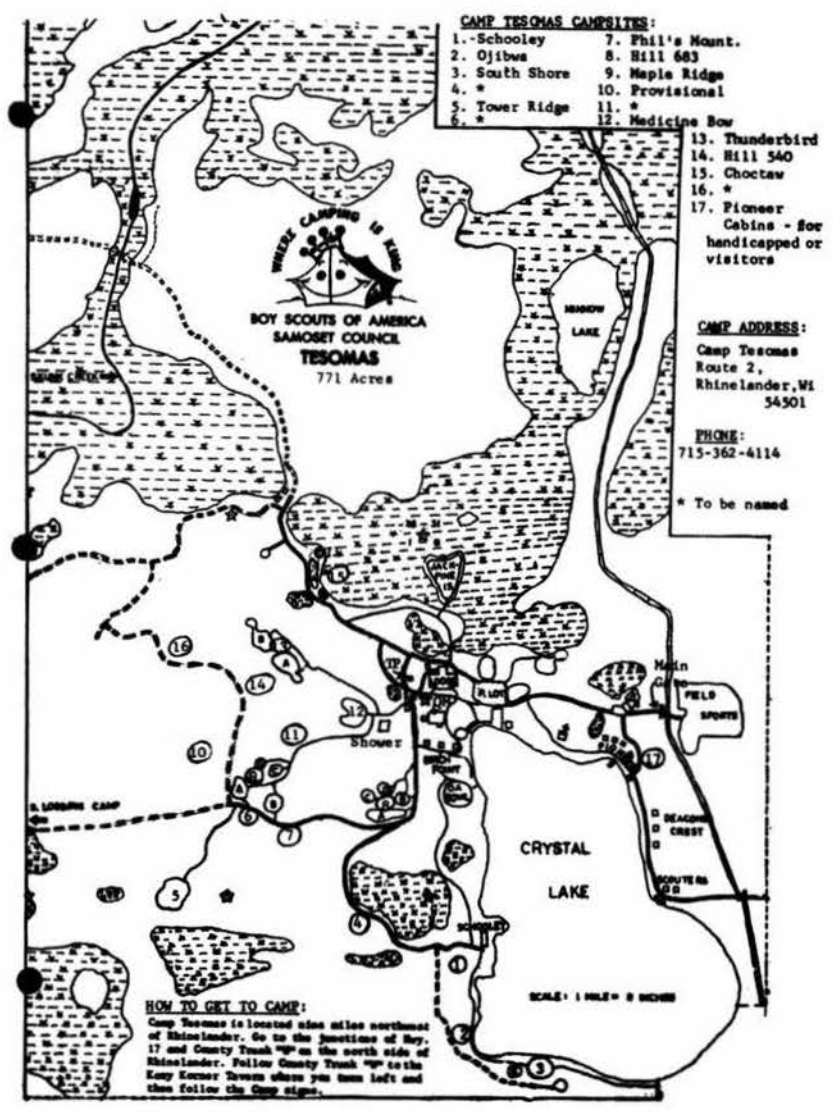
Editor's note: The following is an interesting story retold by Marilynn Orton's daughter, Kathy, who spent summers at Tesomas while her mom was the cook.

During June 1978, kittens were born at Camp Tesomas. The plan was for "Smokey" to have her babies in the Ecology Area, but it didn't quite work out that way. When returning to the cabin after lunch, I found her crying. Realizing "Smokey" was in labor, I put her in her "box". Just as I did she started to outside the cabin door watching the miracle of birth! "Smokey" was unable to deliver the last kitten by herself, so I had to give her a hand. The boys were as amazed as I was, I had never done anything like

that before. I remember Mr. Julian later telling me that it was practice for nursing school (which I would be attending that fall). For days after, there were constantly scouts at the door wanting to see the kittens. Once they were able to get around a little, I would take them outside and the boys would come and play with them. They kind of became the camp mascots for that year!



Kathy Orton



-chapter 6-

In all they did, serving others was their purpose. Even the setting sun could not delay their work.

The Origins of the Weekly Camp Tesomas Slide Show

(from what I can remember)

Knowing what I know today, being older and wiser, I'd say that putting together a weekly slide show would be too chaotic to even attempt. But being younger and not so wise has many advantages, like chaos is a normal way of life. I now give you an example of chaos theory...

Somewhere between 1977 and 1978, the Tom Kita Chara lodge decided to put together a promotional slide show for Camp Tesomas. Why? I haven't a clue. It just seemed to be the right thing to do when nothing else was working.

I was an OA chapter chief at the time, learning photography in high school, and destined for my second year on Camp Tesomas staff. Three mistakes I may never recover from. However, in chaos theory they are simply called "events".

In my first year on camp staff, I had taken the 1977 camp staff photograph. (I would also be taking



the photographs in '78 and '79 -- that's why I always ended up at the end of the first row; easiest to get to before the picture was taken!) Why is this factoid important? The leadership of Tom Kita Chara lodge now knew I owned a tripod.



With all of these things in my favor(?), why not volunteer to produce a slide show. With a small budget for film and developing, we shot about 30 rolls of film in the summer of 1978. We'd send the film

out to be developed and the slides would come back weeks later. Near the end of the summer we wouldn't even send out the film because it wouldn't be back in time. In the fall of 1978, it was time to produce the slide show. I took a whack at it. What I produced could be most accurately described as "boring". Luckily, Dave Schuh, a member of the '77 camp staff, told me he'd been working on a new style of slide shows. So we sent the slides to him. At the 1978 OA Christmas Banquet, Dave and the slideshow blew the roof off the place! By combining energetic music with light narration, he had a hit!

OK, so how did the weekly Tesomas Slide Show get started?

Dave Schuh's production of the slideshow audio track was fantastic. However, the production of the slides themselves needed some improvement. Since there was no more budget to finance the enhancement of the show, how could we get better slides into the show?

We figured if we could take more pictures and sell off the excess slides, we could finance the project. But since we didn't get developed slides until after camp was over, who'd want to buy late slides? This is a variation on a well-known Camp Tesomas axiom.



Two hurdles: First, how do you get the slides back quick? Remember, no one-hour photo shops in Rhineland in 1979. (Not much hot water, either!) Second, how do you advertise the slides to generate sales? Folks, this wasn't done for completely altruistic reasons!

More chaos at work...

How do you get slides back quick? Earlier that year I had taken a short 3-day photography course known as the "Nikon School of Photography". Sounds impressive, eh? From that course came two ideas that would fundamentally change my life. First: how to



weld the right size bolt onto a vise-grip pliers to form a camera tripod that you can attach to anything: car bumpers, tree branches, you-name-it! Second: how to take a 44-gallon garbage can, fill it with 72-degree water, insert nine sections of 22-inch long, 4-inch diameter, capped PVC pipe (because that's what it takes to hold a gallon for each of nine Kodak E-6 process photographic chemicals) and keep the

temperature stable with a \$22.00 fishtank heater. Whoopee! We could develop slides in under two hours! (... and keep tropical fish.)

How do you advertise the slides? show the best, sell the rest. Use the techniques of Dave Schuh's production to grab 'em. Energetic music with slides that complimented that same music. Find music with appropriate lyrics and find slides that match the words. Sounded simple enough.

So that was the plan. Take pictures, develop the slides ourselves, create slide shows, and sell off the not-up-to-Camp-Tesomas-slideshow-caliber slides. During the 1979 summer camping season this plan was executed.

Each Sunday at the Scoutmaster roundtable, film was given to the different troops with the understanding that it be returned by Thursday at dinner. That was the easy part.

Thursday night went like this: Take all of the film to Camp Director Bill Julian's downstairs

bathroom where the 44-gallon garbage can, filled with nine 1-gallon PVC tubes of Kodak E-6 chemicals was sitting. Raise the temperature of the chemicals to 72-degrees by simultaneously pouring in hot water from the bathroom sink while siphoning out the cold water into the toilet. Stop the light from entering the bathroom by plugging light-leaks with towels, tape, or Cub Scout underwear from past Cub Days.

Once the chemicals were at the right temperatures and the room was totally dark, the film was opened and was processed through 9 different chemical steps. We'd develop as many as 10 rolls of film at once. A short lesson in chemistry: many chemical reactions depend on temperature and time. To get the timing right, we created a cassette tape with music and a narrator saying, "Shake the film, now", "Remove the film, now" at the proper times. Not exactly an M-TV production, but it worked.

Friday after lunch we'd cut the rolls of film into the individual slides and put them into slide mounts.

Friday night: review the slides, pick music, and try to get the slides to match the music.



Talk about a combinatorial (math) nightmare! Mix the best of previous weeks with the faces and activities of the current week in order to match the lyrics of the music. Fun, fun, fun! Once the slide sequence was chosen, the timing of the slides to the music had to be memorized in order to perform it the next morning.

Saturday breakfast: SHOW TIME! Put the cassette with the music into one of the killer audio systems in the loft (Yeah! Kitchen Staff), put up a rickety screen, dim the "house" lights, crank up the music, and start showing slides until there wasn't a dry seat in the house.

Finally, make an announcement that slides would be on sale immediately after the meal. ONLY 25 CENTS EACH!! And bingo, from chaos rises another success story.

**Michael Dockter
'77-'79**

Director's Shoes

As a Scout in the early 70's, our troop traditionally went to camp under the provisional label. Being without constant supervision, we managed to create more than our share of noise and chaos. One particular evening, long after taps, we were in our tent being loud as ever when a voice outside the tent boomed "This is the Camp Director, what's going on in there!" Feeling a little cocky and thinking it was one of my peers playing a joke, I returned "No, I'm the camp Director!" The voice belonged to the real Camp Director who did not find me amusing. He promptly informed me that since I was the Director it was time to hike the camp, thus guaranteeing all was well. So off we went down a dark, cold trail on a journey long to be remembered. As we walked I noticed this staffer had no need for man-made light to guide his way. Rocks and stumps had no reality, gullies and divots did not exist. The thick night formed a vacuum that sucked the light from my "Ray-O-Vac", as well as the cockiness from my spirit. After what seemed like an eternity we stopped, he asked me if I had learned my lesson, to which I quickly nodded yes!! "Okay, you may go" was whispered as the phantom disappeared into the darkness without a guiding light. On the return, I couldn't help but wonder what kind of person roams Tesomas' trails in the dark, making sure the campers are safe.....the Camp Director!! Who knew that years later, fate would later place me in those same shoes. Thanks for the hike Larry!

**Mike Ptaszynski
Camp Director '89 & '90**

Tesomas Construction Demolition & Salvage

One of the most remarkable service groups ever developed is the Tesomas Construction, Demolition and Salvage (TCD&S) crew. This group was started in the Fall of 1992 by Tom Kita Chara Lodge Chief Aaron Ellis as a service team for camp. Jim VanDreese, Todd Sackmann, Dick Amelse and Aaron Ellis were the core group at the beginning and continue to be leaders of the group. The idea of a service team evolved out of the Fox Den renovation project of 1990-1991. This project changed the Fox Den from a deteriorating and cobbled cabin to a palace for use by camp staff.

After the success of the Fox Den project, the TCD&S crew identified other projects they thought needed to be done and which they felt they could accomplish. These projects and those of Samoset Council were evaluated by both TCD&S and Council representatives. At this joint meeting projects were selected based on priority needs, ability to complete the project and money available to fund the projects.

Once the projects were selected, the TCD&S took responsibility to see that the work was completed. A core group of about eight people attended most work events. This core group obtained materials, supplied all tools, scheduled work days and notified people of the planned work days. Essentially they did everything needed to make sure the project would be successfully completed. Tools, hand and electric, were quality personal tools, not camp or council tools. An unknown amount of out of pocket money came from TCD&S people in addition to council funding for materials.

Work typically takes place from November to May, when it will not interfere with camp operations. Arrangements for heat during this time of year are made by TCD&S members. Cold weather never hampered the ability to work. Food is prepared by TCD&S or their helpers. Typical work weekends begin Friday evening and end late Sunday morning.

Weekend work crews vary from the small core group to 25 to 30 people. Although a small group, the TCD&S members contribute thousand of hours to camp each year. The TCD&S crews work full time all weekend. The spirit accompanied with this work is a carryover from the Tesomas spirit and is what makes Tesomas great.

Major projects completed by the TCD&S crew are: remodeling the interior of Rotary Lodge and constructing a Rotary Lodge addition about 1/3 as large as the present dining area; remodeling Isackson Lodge for use as the trading post; constructing the shooting sports facility; reconstructing the Sloux cabin; remodeling and expanding the shower building; remodeling the outfitter facility; reconstructing the Mohawk Cabin/OA Locker; and making all buildings in camp wheelchair accessible. These are projects of significant size that would rarely be taken on by volunteers. However, the success of the TCD&S crew demonstrates they have the ability to take on almost any camp project. While doing these major projects the TCD&S has also completed other smaller projects.

Although the size of these projects is impressive, the quality of workmanship by the TCD&S crew is even more impressive. The Rotary Lodge addition matches in every way the existing structure. This includes the style of support beams and the unique pane design of the windows, items that would typically be overlooked or too difficult to complete. Materials are carefully selected and worked to match the shape, finish and appearance of the existing building. Care is taken to make sure the finished project is done correctly. There are no sloppy joints, carved to fit trim, loose fitting doors or windows, improperly set hardware etc.

All aspects of finished projects are viewed with pride. Never is there an attitude that this is just a Scout camp so any old work will do. The quality of TCD&S work could not be bettered by the highest priced carpenters, who often would not be able to equal TCD&S workmanship.

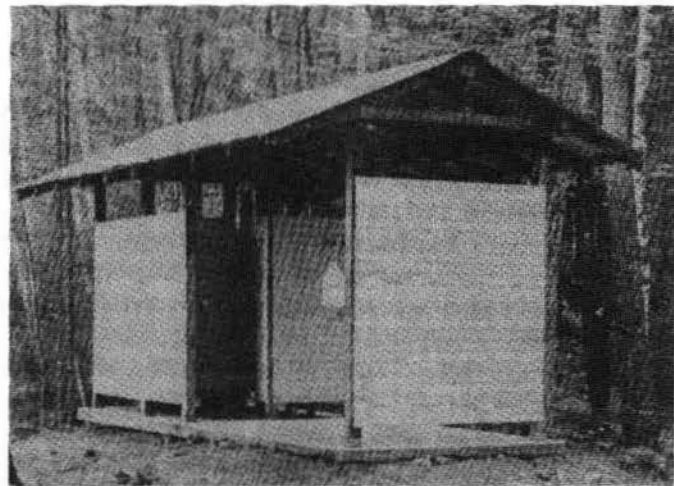
To recognize the contributions of the TCD&S members a special patch with Smiley wearing a hard hat is awarded for a specified number of hours worked. This recognition was developed by TCD&S and most TCD&S members proudly wear this patch on a cap to show they are part of the crew. Samoset Council developed some special recognition items because of the major contributions in hours by some TCD&S members. These items are an embroidered cap and an embroidered satin jacket. These items are indeed recognition, not incentives to work, because TCD&S people willingly serve.

The TCD&S crew is a very modest group. They work hard and are justifiably proud of their

accomplishments, but do not promote their work or group. Consequently many people are unaware of what TCD&S has done, and may not even know of TCD&S. Therefore CD&S has received recognition from outside sources. Samoset Council has reported about TCD&S throughout the council, placed recognition and appreciation plaques in Rotary Lodge and provided a dinner for the group at Tesomas during a Summer Camp weekend. The TCD&S has been featured in the National Order of the Arrow Bulletin and local newspapers. These are welcome and deserved recognitions for CD&S members and their work.

You know Tesomas is in good hands after walking around camp and looking at the fabulous work the TCD&S crew has done. TCD&S work demonstrates the crew is dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of Tesomas in order to make it the best camp. Consequently, the vision the founders had for Tesomas in 1935 is being carried out by the TCD&S crew today. Tesomas is fortunate to have this valuable and dedicated crew to lead it into its next 60 years. The efforts of the TCD&S crew enable us now to celebrate Tesomas's past, while confidently looking forward to its bright future.

by Tony Lazewski



Biggest Improvements at Camp Tesomas this summer are six latrines. The camp was lacking in its required number of these facilities, which detracted from its perfect rating. This year Tesomas earned an A from the national camping committee. -1977

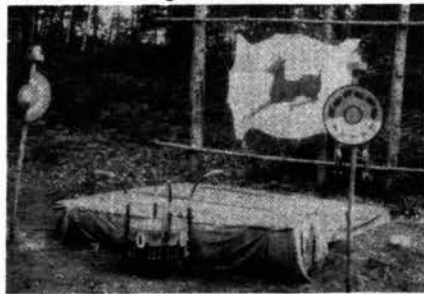
The Grand Council Ring

In 1984 I was asked to chair the 50th anniversary activities at Tesomas in 1985, but declined as I was over-committed. I did agree to chair the re-building of the swim dock. Shortly thereafter I met with Mr. Tom Gibberd who did agree to chair the activities. We ate out and in the



course of our discussion, we thought that central in the activities, should be an effort to honor Mr. William E. "Chief" Hoffmann. It was his dream to build Camp Tesomas, as the Samoset Council Scout Executive and first Camp Director of Tesomas, he was also responsible for bringing the Order of the Arrow to Samoset Council in 1936. "Chief" had retired to Wausau from a career in Samoset, the Abraham Lincoln Council in Illinois, the Overseas Council in Europe, and then a stint in the Relations Division at the National BSA Council in New Brunswick, N.J. Like many youth in those days, he was my hero. It only seemed overdue that something be done at Tesomas to honor his vision and leadership contributions.

While discussing possible activities with Tom, I began sketching on a napkin an entrance to the Grand Council Ring. It became the "plan" for the actual entrance that was dedicated on Heritage Day, Saturday, June 29, 1985. There were two modifications made from the sketch: (1) two totem poles were placed on either side of the entrance, that



replaced two poles, and (2) the wording on one of the three signs indicating that this entrance was dedicated to the "memory," not what I had sketched--to honor. The change was brought about by the untimely death of Mr.

Hoffmann September 10, 1984, less than one year before the dedication. I remember calling Lois (my wife) from the State of Washington that September and she telling me that "Chief" had died. I was devastated, as the last thing that I wanted was that he would die before we could pay tribute to his many contributions to Scouting and Tesomas.

"Chief's" family requested that I be the guest speaker at the dedication. I felt so very honored! It was a great opportunity to say thanks for the many things he had done for all Cub and Boy Scouts in Samoset, but also for some very personal things he had done for me. He took his own time to pass me on my Tenderfoot requirements and First Class 14-mile hike and map making requirements. He had told those of us at a



Firemanship merit badge clinic in winter 1945 that he planned to move to the Abraham Lincoln Council. My respect for him was so great that I (naively) asked him were we still going to have Scouting here; I remember that he laughingly assured me we would. But it would never be the same!

Mr. Hoffmann had the vision to realize that for the new Samoset Council to be effective and united, we would need to have its efforts and resources directed to one camp. The former Samoset Council had its own Camp Samoset in the town of Harrison, and the former council that consisted of Wood and Portage County had its own camp Chickigami, now operated by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, but still held in trust by the County Judges of Wood and Portage Counties). With this in mind the new camp (later to be named Tesomas by Mrs. Irene Hoffmann) was begun in 1935. The one camp concept was not a reality until some years later, when the Council Executive Board made the tough decision to no longer conduct summer camp at Chickigami. (This camp's excellent facilities are still available to Samoset Council troops for winter camping.)

The next time that you attend a "Calling Out Ceremony" take the time to pay your tribute to "Chief Hoffmann; pause at the entrance to the Grand Council Ring. He had the dream and we share the benefits of that dream with thousands of boys and their leaders since 1935.



By Ed Zahn

Memoirs of a Kitchen Staff

One of the benefits of working on the kitchen staff was having an alarm clock that required no electricity, never needed setting and even called you by name. The alarm clock's name was Marilyn (Cook '78-'88) and you didn't dare try to use the snooze feature. She may be most remembered for her 1984 call of "Don, John, Ryan... get up now!!" Those of you who worked in the kitchen and lived in the loft experienced something that you will spend the rest of your lives trying to find. That is: getting up at 6:29 AM and being to work by 6:30 AM. The actual time of the commute depended on whether you used the outside steps or traveled via a quicker "slither" down the fireplace rocks.

One thing that may never be totally understood about the kitchen staff is why they spent most of their evening free time in the kitchen. Did they actually contemplate the meaning of life while finishing off yet another case of cereal or were they simply biding their time until the evening rodent hunts began? What would it be this night? A bat hunt in the dining hall, hunting skunks by the garbage bin, or fending off the waterfront staff in search of Marilyn's homemade pizza? Whatever adventure transpired, the resulting mess was always cleaned up before morning's alarm clock sounded. Unfortunately the smell

sometimes lingered!!!

The down side to living in the loft was the Saturday morning slide show. Somehow the only place to prepare the slide show

was in the dining hall late on Friday night and could not be accomplished without lots of pandemonium!! Since the kitchen staff couldn't sleep through the resulting noise, they ended up helping out and losing much



sleep in the process. Was this coincidence or just a ploy to get additional help and the key to the "fruits" of the kitchen? Whatever the reasoning was, there were never any regrets over the lost sleep. Seeing the smiles and hearing the laughs during the slide show confirmed that we had all done "our best" and everyone had had their own "Tesomas Experience."

**John Ptaszynski
'84-'89**

I will go, I want to help

In 1946, following the summer camp season, Tom Kita Chara Lodge was selected by the OA Region (formerly Region 7) to be the installing lodge of what became Otyokwa Lodge of the Chippewa Valley Council. Prior to that time they had a local honor camp organization but no tie to the OA. So on a fall Saturday afternoon we journeyed to their old camp near Cornell and inducted some 22 people who had been elected to be the charter members of the Lodge. As Lodge Chief, I was Allowat Sakima of the ordeal Ceremony team. Because the camp had no OA bowl and they wanted the ceremony to be away from the main part of camp, we conducted it in a field adjoining the camp at about 4:00 PM (in daylight) on that Saturday. Right following Meteu's prayer in the ceremony, the whole thing was further undignified by a loud bellowing "moooo" of a nearby cow. But we eventually got the job done and Otyokwa, of course, went on to be one of the sterling lodges in the Area--electing a National Chief in '54 or '55.

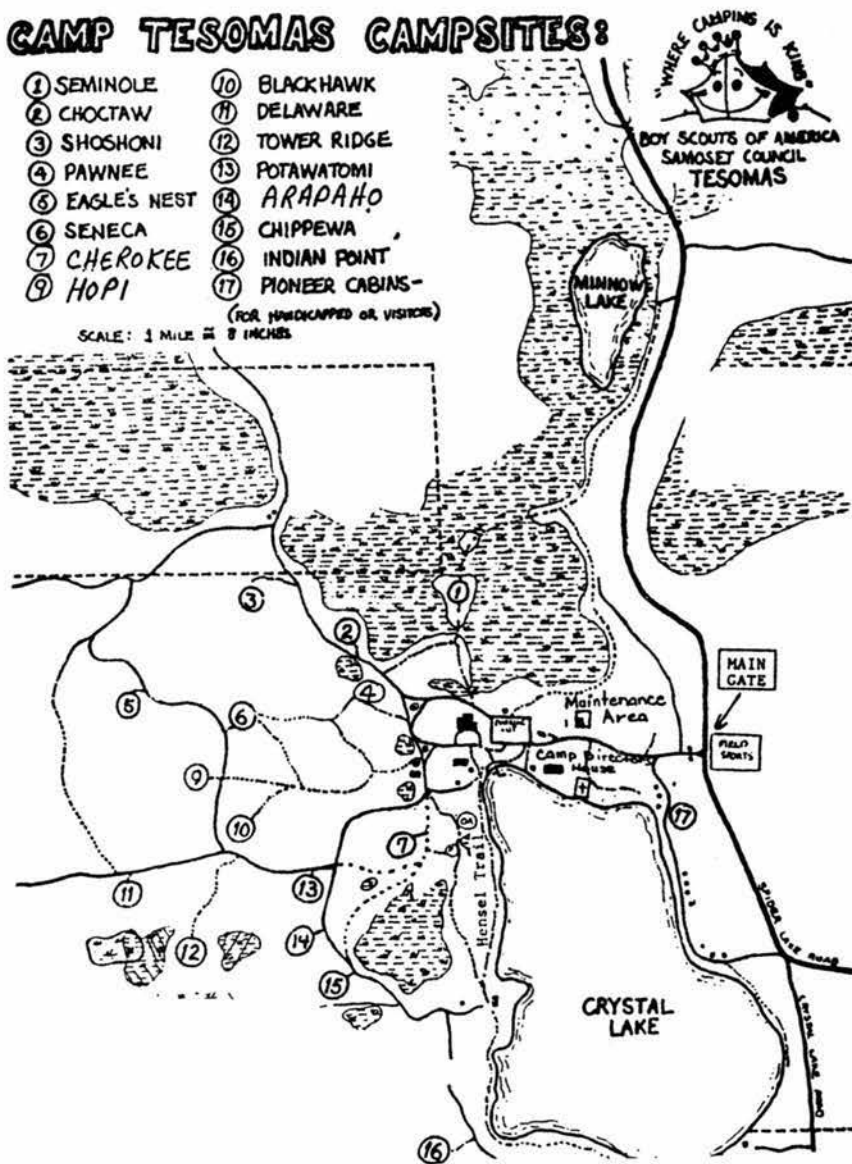
Wayne McGown

CAMP TESOMAS CAMPSITES:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| ① SEMINOLE | ⑩ BLACKHAWK |
| ② CHOCTAW | ⑪ DELAWARE |
| ③ SHOSHONI | ⑫ TOWER RIDGE |
| ④ PAWNEE | ⑬ POTAWATOMI |
| ⑤ EAGLE'S NEST | ⑭ ARAPAHO |
| ⑥ SENECA | ⑮ CHIPPEWA |
| ⑦ CHEROKEE | ⑯ INDIAN POINT |
| ⑧ HOPI | ⑰ PIONEER CABINS- |

(FOR HANDICAPPED OR VISITORS)

SCALE: 1 MILE = 8 INCHES



-chapter 7-

These people shared a love that crossed from generation to generation. Life was so good that the feasting was often, the singing continuous, and the dancing lasted well into the night.

Changes With Time

The drive to Camp Tesomas from Kozy Korner was much quicker and easier than I remembered. Then I realized the gravel road had been paved most of the way to camp. Memorial Grove pine plantation was still there, although many trees had been removed, as had its sign and the big camp sign. These changes foretold many other changes that would be seen at Tesomas in 1982, twenty years since my last visit.



A short trip down the gravel road and a new entry sign appeared. This sign on a field stone base proclaimed Camp Tesomas, Samoset Council, "Where Camping Is King." The blockhouses of the old entry survived, but had been moved back into the woods near the entry. They could not be seen until you turned onto the camp road.

I passed Pioneer Campsite, the sign now said Akela Camp, before parking in the lot near the waterfront. A tour of Tesomas revealed there were no more cabin campsites. The buildings at Pioneer were still there but not in good repair. Some of the Birch Point cabins remained and Indian Ridge was gone. Only Deacons Crest and Schooley remained by name. Schooley no longer had platform tents and the lodge had undergone extensive remodeling to

accommodate winter use. Schooley was not used during Summer Camp and could be reserved by troops the rest of the year. The campsite cabins that remained, including Deacons Crest, plus the Sioux, health lodge and Rotary Lodge lofts were used by staff. The staff was glad to be in buildings. During the mid 1960's, staff lived in 7x9 wall tents as an example to scouts, who no longer stayed in cabins. It was later determined that a summer long stay in small tents was not conducive to staff health or morale.

Troops now camped in tents at troop campsites north and northwest of Crystal Lake. These campsites were a good distance from the main area and isolated from each other. Each campsite had several camping areas that enabled troops to camp by patrol and use the patrol method. Troops were also encouraged to be self reliant. The campsite troop area with flag pole encouraged troops to hold flag ceremonies, troop meetings, campfires and award recognitions. Troops now developed and ran their own programs while using camp facilities and programs.



To better serve troop needs, the commissioner/scoutcraft areas were located near the troop campsites. Troops came to these areas and were visited on a regular basis to see that all their basic needs were being met. Except for merit badge and

open time, activity areas were now scheduled by troop. One change in troop programs was shower time at the shower building completed in 1971, which replaced the late night soap swims.

Provisional camping was still available at Tesomas, but was drastically reduced in significance. Provisional troops ranged from 5 to 25 scouts per week for the weeks provisional camping was offered. Scoutmaster led troops were now the standard unit in camp.

The dedication of the Program Center took place this summer. This beautiful facility held all sorts of meetings and served as a place for scoutmasters to come for information, help or relaxation. It was also the location of camp offices, the health lodge and visitor restrooms. As such it centralized many functions that had been spread around camp. The Program Center replaced the old trading post/quartermaster building across from Rotary Lodge. Although the Program Center is new, it was

constructed in a style that matches Rotary Lodge. People coming to camp for the first time may mistakenly think the Program Center and Rotary Lodge were built at the same time because they are so similar.

Between the Program Center and Rotary Lodge at the edge of the main trail are the hobby tables. Because of their convenience these tables were in constant use for informal gatherings or meetings in addition to their hobby function. Rotary Lodge, the Program Center and the hobby tables were now the center of camp for all gatherings.



The trading post was now in a small cabin near the nature and horseshoe pit area. It moved from the Program Center site when the building located there deteriorated to the point where it was no longer usable. The Outfitter, which had also been in this deteriorated building, occupied space in an addition to the Isacson Lodge.

In Rotary Lodge signs reported money earned from the timber trust fund begun in the 1970's. Some of the trees harvested from Memorial Grove pine plantation earned money that had been used for camp operations and improvements. Tesomas was now recognized as member of the Tree Farm Program. The pine plantation turned out to be a wise investment in conservation and monetary earnings.

At the top of the flag pole circle was a sign for the Hensel Trail. The trail followed the contour of the land from the flag pole out to Schooley. It replaced the old trail that went over hill and hollow and was in constant need of repair because of erosion.

A Totem Trail was established to orient first year scouts to Tesomas. Scouts collected beads from designated program areas where they learned about the offerings there. Scouts received a felt Totem Trail patch when they collected beads from the designated areas.

The "Tesomas Experience" was heard frequently around camp. It stood for the top quality program delivered by an enthusiastic and highly qualified staff to each scout in camp. After receiving the "Tesomas Experience" it was expected that each scout would want to return to Tesomas because it was one of the

best places anywhere. These expectations were the same as in the past, but lacked the "Tesomas Experience" title.

The "Tesomas Experience" also referred to the closing slide show Friday evening. The slide show was a review of the week in camp and consisted of slides of scouts and troops in camp that week. The personalization of the slide show helped scouts realize they were a part of the "Tesomas Experience," not just sideline observers.

In spite of all the changes some of the old Tesomas remained. Camp was full with about 200 scouts. Campwide campfires, water carnivals, Friday supper club, meals at Rotary Lodge and the Wednesday OA Ceremony were highlights that brought everyone together and made Tesomas special to all involved. The songs in the dining hall may have changed, but the spirit and enthusiasm they instilled remained strong. A welcome addition to meals was the Tesomas grace. When it came time to give thanks, Tesomas now had its own prayer, just like Phillmont. The trip to field sports was now longer because it was still across from the camp entry and the campsites had been moved in the opposite direction.



The OA Ceremony was still the highlight of the week, as every scout in camp hoped to become a member of the OA. Visitors continued to come to the waterfront show and demonstration and then pack the Grand Council

Ring. The chicken barbecue had been discontinued.

Tesomas certainly had changed significantly both physically and in its program orientation. However the core values and goal to be the best remained, as expressed in the "Tesomas Experience." One of the best measures of the success of Tesomas is that it attracted 2 of every 3 registered scouts in the council. The same beautiful setting for Tesomas combined with the expectations of the "Tesomas Experience" make Tesomas the place "Where Camping Is (Still) King."

Tony Lazewski

Ballad of Tesomas Outpost

Annis Erickson
John Thomas

①

G D D⁷ G am C G

under the sky, a clear ocean blue, stand our benches for cedar trees; a
 sturdy lodge of logs and lumber, the bangle blown and our slumber; the
 bacon sizzles and crackles inside lifting the wood smoke taken for a ride.

②

G D D⁷ G C G D⁷ G

Come inside to warm your hands, reflect on settlers clearing their lands;
 pour this man a cup of hot coffee, at Trader Mike's he'll find some topper; the
 little cook stove having chased the chill, who'll be first to the top of the hill?
 put your feet up and rest a spell, thinkin' back to a snow yard test.
 Wave restin' now, time to complete orders; secure a vigil fire so many will
 look under towering pines, Science means us kneel.

③

A D D⁷ G A D⁷ G D⁷ G D⁷ G

Near the ridges we build two masonry bridges return at dawn, no
 looks but us, light our lamps in this outpost camp. The night is cold and
 we are same; the snows and trees my eyes are clear, more snow and trees of

④

D am am⁶ D G⁷

for we return, a trip out back had we not our drother, be fore we slip be-
 neath the covers. Scatterings and nature are what we desire, bank the wood stove to
 carry the fire; cherish these times when we're alone, seeds of knowledge have been sown.
 Here's where brotherhood means meat; respect this land, our Tesomas outpost! re-
 spect this land our Te-somas outpost!

Camp Tesomas Recollections

One of my fondest memories: Lying on my bunk in the Sioux cabin after my duties were completed and listening to the beautiful strains of "Tattoo" played by the bugler, fellow cabinmate John Reichart. That was the summer of '45 or '46.

By Kurt Krahn, Waterfront Director, 1945



A Gift From Above

It was the late spring of 1979 when after a truly exhausting week of Troop Leader Training (now better known as Northwoods Challenge) I was approached by a wonderful man who would soon become my mentor. He asked me if I would consider joining the Tesomas Staff that summer.

How could I refuse this well respected man who had touched so many hearts before mine. "You bet!" I said, for I felt it was quite an honor coming from the Camp Director, Mr. Bill Julian himself.

During staff week Mr. Julian challenged the staff to come up with a grace for Tesomas. The summer passed by and no such grace had been offered.

The following summer I returned to camp and remembered his challenge. I had been thinking about it all last summer. I wanted to give something special to Tesomas, for she had given so much to me.

Then one night it happened. I was playing my guitar and wishing I could write a song about Tesomas that would somehow express the feelings of those people who have had the "Tesomas Experience"; something that would apply to the past, present, and future.

The words began to flow not only for one song, but for two! Here they are, the "TESOMAS GRACE" and "THE TESOMAS EXPERIENCE" given to all of us to share from what I believe to be a higher power above.

If you are so moved as I was, you may request the music by calling or writing to:

**Andy Dewitt
711 12th St. S.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 424-3006**

Tesomas Grace

**Thank you Lord for this special place
Where we can make new friends and old ones
embrace
A chance to share a dream an experience too.
Lord for Tesomas we thank you.**

The Tesomas Experience

**Well I've felt the warm breeze of Dixie
And I've seen the Northern snow fall.
And still of the distance I travel
Tesomas is the greatest of all.
And if I could go back to somewhere
Of all of the somewheres I've been.
Well I would return to Tesomas
'Cause I want your experience again.**

Refrain

**Take me to Camp Tesomas
Where leadership is born in the air.
Take me to Camp Tesomas
For friendships will last a lifetime there.**

**I took that boy down the pathway
And I brought back the man that you see.
Though I left some dreams at the lake side
I now know my destiny.
And if there's a chance you still need me
And if there's some room for us to grow,
Well I will return to Tesomas
To share with you how Scouting's made me whole.**

Refrain

Andy Dewitt '79-'81



The Songs of Tesomas

The Tesomas Hymn

(Introduced somewhere between '48 & '54)

High above Lake Crystal's waters

In among the trees

Floats the banner of Tesomas

Waving in the breeze.

Hail Tesomas, Hail Tesomas,

With your Scouts so true.

With the spirit of good Scouting,

Hail, all hail, to you.

Tesomas Hiking Song

(Used prior to Tesomas Hymn, sung to Notre Dame Victory Song)

Come on Scouts for We're off today,

Hiking to hilltops far, far away,

With our colors flying high,

We'll reach the summit by and by.

What though the trails be hard and long,

You'll always hear us singing a song,

Ever loyal to Tesomas, hiking to victory.

Tesomas Rally Song

(Introduced by Dan Schmit in 1992, sung to The Caissons Go Rolling Along)

Crystal Lake never fails,

As the Scouts hit the trails,

Oh, Tesomas is the best camp of all.

Swimming hole, not too cold,

Diving fine in every line,

Oh, Tesomas is the best camp of all.

For it's high, high, hee,

That's the camp for me.

Makes me want to yell out real strong,

CAMP TESOMASI (shout)

For where ever we go,

Scouts will always know

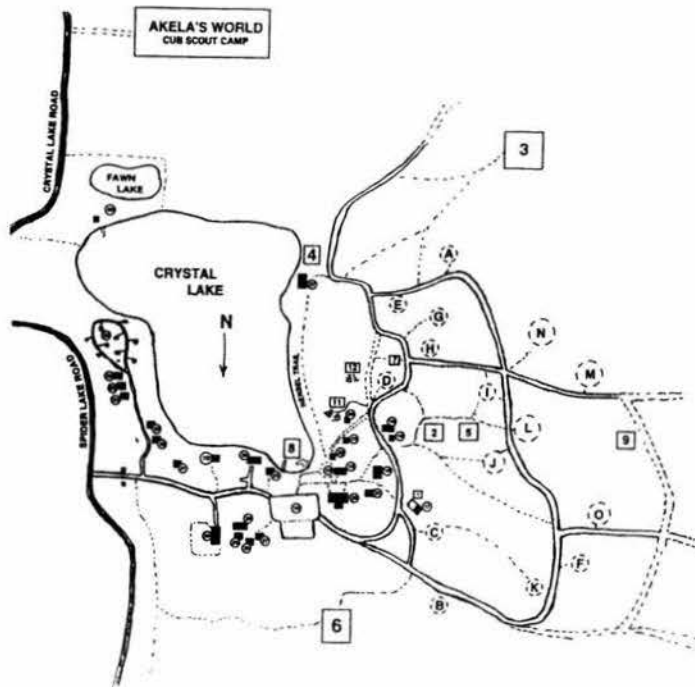
That Tesomas

Is the best camp of all



MEAL TIME

TESOMAS SCOUT CAMP



CAMP SITES

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| A. Strong | I. Blackhawk |
| B. Choctaw | J. Seneca |
| C. Pawnee | K. Shoshoni |
| D. Cherokee | L. Hopi |
| E. Chippewa | M. Delaware |
| F. Ottawa | N. Tower Ridge |
| G. Arapaho | O. Eagle's Nest |
| H. Potawatomi | |

ACTIVITY AREAS

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Handicraft | 8. Aquatics |
| 2. Scoutcraft | 9. C.O.P.E. |
| 3. Shooting Sports | 10. Chapel |
| 4. Native Culture | 11. Grand Council Ring |
| 5. Eagle Guest | 12. Friendship Bowl |
| 6. Ecology/Conservation | 13. Flag Pole |
| 7. Personal Wellness | 14. Parking Lot |

BUILDINGS

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 15. Program Center | 28. Schultz Cabin |
| 16. Trading Post | 29. Heinrich Cabin |
| 17. Outfitter | 30. Maintenance Bldg |
| 18. Health Office | 31. Sunset Cabin |
| 19. Camper Shower | 32. Dan Boone Cabin |
| 20. Rotary Lodge | 33. Buffalo Bill Cabin |
| 21. Restrooms | 34. Bixby Cabin |
| 22. Fox Den Cabin | 35. Leadbetter Cabin |
| 23. Mohawk Cabin | 36. Doser Cabin |
| 24. Sandpaint Shed | 37. Schooley Lodge |
| 25. Sioux Cabin | 38. Ranger House |
| 26. Staff Shower | 39. Family Camping |
| 27. Ahdawagam Cabin | 40. Private Property |

1995

A black and white illustration of a scroll. The scroll is unrolled, showing a white surface with a black border. The top-left and bottom-right corners are rolled up, revealing a dark grey or black interior. The text is centered on the scroll.

The
End

Or is it?

Tesomas Camp Directors

William E. Hoffman
1935-1944

Michael Egan
1975

Edward Schweckel
1945-1948

Bill Julian
1976-1988

Elroy A. Berch
1949-1953

Michael Ptaszynski
1989-1990

Edward Zahn
1954-1957

Dennis Erickson
1991-1992

Lee Crail
1958-1959

Cliff Stanis
1993

Jerry Edwards
1960

Todd Sackmann
1994-1996

Howard Trester
1961

Chris J. Martin
1997-1998

Ralph Nieland
1962-1963

Mike Meshak
1999

Harvey Luben
1964-1965

Josh Stevens
2000

David Kuckua
1966

Allan Archie
2001-2002

Walter Prah
1967-1970

Drew Nelson
2003-2004

Richard Segram
1971

Tim Piotrowski
2005

Lawrence Marten
1972-1974

The Tesomas Hymn

High above Lake Crystal's waters
in among the trees
flows the banner of Tesomas
waving in the breeze.
Hail Tesomas, hail Tesomas,
with your Scouts so true.
With the spirit of good Scouting,
Hail, all hail to you!

This 70th Anniversary book is a duplication of the 60th version with the exception of the cover. The Anniversary Committee decided to focus efforts on a new book in 2010 to celebrate our 75th Anniversary.

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