

The St. Nicholas Lead

Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association Newsletter

Summer 2000

MESSAGE FROM CAMP

By Bill Hartley

I would like to take this opportunity to address all of you about a subject that I have not addressed in the past; asking you for your money. I am not good asking people for money, I'm not comfortable with it, and I do not know how to do it well. But I'm going to try anyway.

As you may know, the San Gabriel Valley Council is currently involved in a capital campaign to raise money for necessary improvements at all three camps. Our goal is to raise \$6.7 million and have raised almost half of that amount already.

If you have ever considered contributing to Camp Cherry Valley, now is the best time to do so. With our portion of the funds we will; build a new dining Hall, increase staff housing, replace much of our infrastructure, install a new restroom and shower building in our campsite area, install a permanent pier and completely renovate and improve our waterfront area, including a new lighthouse. In the process, we will also replace our warehouse, install a large holding tank and water distribution system to meet L.A. County fire code, permanently control rain water runoff and reduce the dust problem, provide a large parade ground area, and replace our old Trading Post site with a more functional structure, bring our new Camp Store and Craft Center online, and make significant improvements to Sea Breeze campfire site and other program areas.

In addition to the new structures mentioned above, we would also install native plant landscapes throughout the camp, improve our fire prevention by completing our Fuel Modification Program, make significant improvements to our campsites, and improve our overall native landscape health.

So many of you alums have been very generous in the past with your support. Camp Cherry Valley means a lot to many of us. We can appreciate what the camp has done for us as individuals, as well as what it does for the kids. Cherry Valley does so many good things for so many people that any effort we can put forward in helping her improve is a good thing. The improvements planned will insure that CCV and the San Gabriel Valley Council will be able to continue to provide this wonderful place and programs for the scouts and kids for at least another 80 years. All of the variables necessary to implement these improvements are in place. We have a plan, we have approvals, we have a financial infrastructure in place to manage the funds, and we have a team put together to get the job done.

Regardless of politics, personal relationships, past experiences, and any other reason that might prevent you from wanting to participate, I would like to ask you to reconsider at this time. The bottom line is Cherry Valley is good for our kids and it's a great place to teach them. Whether we are teaching them scouting skills and values about our natural environment, how to live in and enjoy the outdoors, or just by giving them a place to have fun, I think we all agree that this is the perfect place to do it. We need these improvements to continue to do these things.

There are many ways that you can contribute, ranging from a direct one-time donation to putting us in your will. You can specify how you would like your money spent, or let us use it as we see fit. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or you can contact the Council directly (626)351-8815 and speak with either Bob Booker (ext. 228) or Jack Bohlka (ext. 227) and we will be happy to help you in any way we can.

Ten years ago we were serving about 3,000 kids a year in a four-month period. Today, we are operating for nine months a year and will expose about 12,000 kids to Camp Cherry Valley and its excellent programs, Catalina Island, and the beautiful waters of Cherry Cove. As Alumni members, you will also appreciate the fact that we now have over a hundred young people working as staff members each year in the various programs. All of which receive the same charter building ideals and work ethic we were lucky enough to receive when we were on staff.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I endorse this capital campaign and encourage each of you to consider contributing in any way you can.

C.O.R.E STAFF REPORT

By Buddy Renzullo

Once again we find ourselves in that moment of time. You know the one. It is summer now, but you can feel it slipping away. Even though the heat was hot today (thanks for the line CSN) you can feel it getting a little cooler at night. You don't want to admit it, but summer is becoming fall, and soon enough, you will have to start thinking about "fall" kinds of things. College football, the Olympics, leaves falling (tune up your raking skills), World Series, and (Shh!) SCHOOL! We all want to make the best of the time we have left with the perfect weather. Most of us still haven't finished putting together our new gas grills, but oh boy, when we do, there will be plenty of food to cook (burn).

That is the real beauty of Cherry Valley! The grill is already assembled, and you don't have to worry about cooking (unless you want to lend Karen and that awesome kitchen staff a hand). The weather is always perfect there, and we can find lots of leaves for you to rake. You don't want to embarrass yourself in front of your neighbors as you painfully display that poor, wimpy, beginning of fall raking form. Come practice at Camp! Come visit the splendor that you took part in developing. We want to see you here with us! You will be able to tell all of your friends, relatives and co-workers what a wonderful time you had coming back to camp. The same camp you hated leaving!

Yes, yes. It's all coming back to you now. You remember the time. . . (fill in your own great story of when your camp director really made a fool of himself here). Then there was that time (insert that story of when you saved the day and everyone still calls you _____ because of it). How could you NOT want to come back and see us this fall? The program is great, but we would love to let you exhibit your field, waterfront, or storytelling skills if the spirit moves you. Don't wait until the 100th anniversary to come back (although we would love to see you then also). Call today, an operator is standing by (626)351-8815 x229.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Richard Scobey

Your membership is needed in the Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association. Please take a minute to reflect back to when you attended Camp Cherry Valley, either as a scout or as a staff member. Do you remember how much the camp meant to you? Help us support the Scouting program at Camp Cherry Valley. Dues are still \$25 per year and are tax deductible. Life Membership is available for \$250.

If you have moved, plan on moving, or have updated member information for us, please contact us. It is difficult and expensive to track Alumni members. Your contact information is important to us. We want to be able to contact you for important functions. If you have not done so in the past, please take a minute and fill out the enclosed slip and return it to us so we can update our database, even if you don't plan on becoming an Alumni Member.

Again, your membership is needed in the Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association. We still need your support. If you haven't already, please send in your dues now. Every membership helps. It does make a difference. It's never too late to send in your membership.

Hope to see you soon!

ACTIVITIES

Old Goats Weekend at CCV

This year's Old Goats Weekend is September 15-17. Come on over to camp and go swimming, kayaking, hiking, archery, BB guns, handicraft, or whatever else you want to do. There will be campers in camp with the C.O.R.E Staff putting on the program. After the campers leave around noon on Sunday, the Alumni will be doing a steak barbecue for the C.O.R.E Staff.

Families of Alumni are welcome to attend. Cost for the weekend is \$25 for food, plus your transportation costs. Most of us will be going over on the 6:45pm boat on Friday night on the Catalina Express from San Pedro, and returning on the 4pm boat on Sunday. Call (310)519-1212 to make your boat reservations. Last time a few people had problems getting reservations, so we've reserved a few spaces. If you have a problem getting reservations, contact Dave Minnihan to see if he has any left. If you're coming, please RSVP Dave by Sunday 9/10.

Troop 2000

The San Gabriel Valley Council is holding a gathering of old scouts and scouters on Saturday October 21 from 9am-noon. It will be held at Trask Scout Reservation in Monrovia. Cost is \$2.00 and will include lunch. The theme is "Scouting; Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow". Old-timers are asked to bring pictures, patches and memorabilia of their days in Scouting for the "Yesterday", and there'll be talks on what's going on in Scouting today, as well as what's in store for the future. You can call the Council office (626)351-8815 to RSVP or for additional information.

EARLY EVENTS PERTAINING TO THE WRIGLEY'S INTEREST IN CAMP CHERRY VALLEY*

In 1923, through the suggestion of Mr. Tallman H. Trask, I was invited to come over to Avalon to talk with Mrs. D. M. Renton, wife of the General Manager of the Santa Catalina Island Co., with regards to becoming Scoutmaster of a Boy Scout Troop in Avalon. There was a growing problem of juvenile delinquency among all ages of children on the Island partly due to lack of work, very little recreation and a limited school facility at that time. It was felt that a program of Scouting with local variations would help the boys and a local woman would work with the Campfire program for the girls. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wrigley were interested in the project.

Our first real activity was designed to increase interest in boy participation in Scouting. It was the Troop's first camping trip and Zane Grey offered to take us on his boat "The Fisherman" to White's Landing. There we camped, returning overland to Avalon. After this trip interest increased, but with the busy summer season in Avalon, we were unable to get any Scouts down to Cherry Valley as many had summer jobs or were divers at the time of incoming steamers. In the fall the Troop put on a program to demonstrate what real Scouting activities could accomplish. This was given in the cafeteria room of the Atwater Hotel, which was not used in the winter time. A large crowd of Islanders turned out. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wrigley, J.H. Patrick and D.M. Renton were guests. As this was one of the first local events they had attended their presence was much appreciated. All four were very much impressed and remained after the program to ask questions as they had heard very little about Scouting. Mr. Wrigley wanted to outfit every boy with a complete uniform and could hardly believe us when we explained that each Scout must earn his own way. This thought appealed to him and he instructed Mr. Renton to find work for each boy who wished to earn his uniform. This was done and the work was worthwhile and interesting. It consisted of carrying planking and timbers to build the boardwalk from Avalon to Pebbly Beach. The older Scouts even helped in driving nails. Mr. Wrigley delighted in riding by on his great horse and chatting with them. If he would see me on the pier or as he might pass me on the street, either in his car or on horseback, he would inquire as to our progress and events. Mrs. Wrigley would also stop her car and talk about the Troop, camping and events at Cherry Valley. She expressed a desire to visit camp and promised to do so. On one occasion, as our campers were leaving Avalon on the Betty-O for Cherry Valley, Mr. Wrigley told me-"It is one of the most worthwhile things we can do for America to provide this camp for them".

It was the policy of Camp Cherry Valley to be of service to the S.C.I Co. in anyway we could and to show our appreciation whenever possible. On several occasions grass and brush fires were reported and even suppressed by Scout groups. Vandalism at the Isthmus and elsewhere was reported and checked by our caretaker and also by Scout hikers. Before landing by yachtsmen was controlled we stopped numerous parties who would have been careless with fires and destructive to the S.C.I. Co. property. Before the new water line from Howland's Landing to the Isthmus was installed many times we reported leaks on that very old line.

We used Glass Bottom Boat trips as a regular part of our program in Avalon and then in later years Mr. Milton Patrick would send them down to Camp for trips direct from there. Many families were encouraged to spend their vacations in Avalon, while their Scout sons were at Cherry Valley.

The promised visit of Mrs. Wrigley to Cherry Valley came true in the summer of 1925 when the "Quest" dropped anchor just off shore and Mrs. Wrigley's party was brought ashore. She was most interested in Camp but quite concerned that the boys were housed in small pup tents and slept upon straw mattresses placed on the ground. The camp area was clean and neat and the Scouts had made designs about the Camp with rocks, etc. They enjoyed showing her about and explaining the many advantages of their camp on the Island from their viewpoint. A number asked rather shyly if they might take pictures of her. This delighted and amused Mrs. Wrigley and she remarked about their courtesy to her in asking permission before taking the pictures. Before leaving Camp she offered to purchase new tents and cots for Camp, asking me to arrange the details of the purchase through Mr. D. M. Renton. This was the beginning of Cherry Valley's growth and expansion to serve more Scouts from our Council of which Avalon was a part. After the tents were put into use other gifts of equipment and material were made by the Wrigleys.

After the close of one Camp season, one of our older Avalon Scouts was given the honor of meeting with Mr. Wm. Wrigley to explain the Scout Oath and Law and the other parts of the Tenderfoot Rank in becoming a Scout. Shortly afterward the entire Troop was assembled on the steamer pier, after sailing time, and Mr. Wrigley was inducted as a member of the Boy Scouts of America and Troop One Avalon in particular. Senior Patrol Leader of the Troop, Malcolm Renton, was in charge of the ceremony and presentation of the badge. Mr. Wrigley was deeply moved and stated afterwards that-"This is the greatest honor I have had in my entire adult life". Few people know how close he came to becoming Honorary President of the Boy Scouts of America in later years.

On numerous occasions I talked with the Wrigleys regarding a long term lease which would insure a definite perpetuation of their desires and interests in Camp Cherry Valley. All replies were the same in substance-Cherry Valley will always be the Pasadena Scout Camp. On one occasion shortly before President Harding's death when the Wrigley Mansion was being prepared as the "Summer White House" and I was discussing plans for a Presidential escort of the Avalon Troop and Sea Scouts to accompany President Harding to Avalon on the Catalina Steamer, the future of Cherry Valley was mentioned and Mr. Wrigley varied his usual reply to state "The future use of Cherry Valley will be provided for". Later I asked Mr. D. M. Renton what he felt Mr. Wrigley meant and he replied "I believe provision for its use will be made in his or Mrs. Wrigley's will".

I also recall visiting Mr. William Wrigley at his office in the Wrigley Building in Chicago in 1927 when we discussed further developments of our Camp. I do not remember his exact words but he assured me that Cherry Valley would always be available to us for a Scout Camp as his and the Companys (S.C.I. Co.) service to boyhood.

H. Benjamin Robison-"Skipper"
33 years director of Cherry Valley Camp and program

Note-

Exact dates of described events are not readily available as all my personal date books, notes, pictures, scrapbooks, films of Scouting events during this period are in storage pending our moving to Leisure World, Laguna Hills.

* Memo to Mr. Mathew Grandon-President, San Gabriel Valley Council BSA (undated)



William Wrigley, Tallman Trask, unidentified Sea Scout, Skipper Robison

CALENDAR

September 15-17 Old Goats Weekend at CCV
October 21 Troop 2000 at Trask Scout Reservation

OFFICERS

Chairman: Ian Pinkham
Secretary/Treasurer: Morgan Morgan
Membership Chairman: Rick Scobey
Membership Coordinators:
 1950s: Bill Gold
 1960s: Mark Bevan
 1980s: Frank Brundige
 1990s: Al Garcia, Jr.
Work Parties Chairman: John Morales
CCV Camp Liaison: Bill Hartley
SGVC Staff Liaison: Jack Bohlka
Editor and Historian: Dave Minnihan