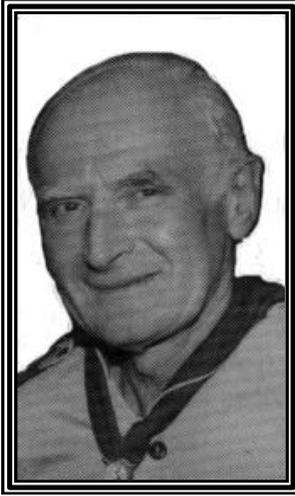




In Memoriam

Thomas J. Horan

August 26, 1934-December 13, 1998



How do I explain to my six-year-old son who Tom Horan was? Sure, he met Tom a number of times while accompanying my dad or me to camp, but all he knows about him is that Tom was "the boss" and that he had a kind voice. We all know he was so much more. A man small in stature but big in heart and mind. To most of us, he was an outstanding Scout leader or teacher. But it's not the leader or teacher who will be missed as much as the man will be missed. A good man. As good as they come. To many men Tom Horan was more influential in their development than any person except their parents.

Two of Tom's physical characteristics will always stand out in my mind. One is his voice. How could such a little man with pipe cleaner arms and legs project such a sound? He had perfect pitch and when he called out to someone the words sprang forth from what sounded like a cavernous sound tunnel. I'm convinced his voice was projected from his strong and good heart. No one ever recited the Scout Oath or sung God Bless America with more feeling or conviction.

Tom's walk is another thing I will never forget. You could pick him out of a large crowd from a distance because of the long strides and bounce in his step. Some boys in our Scout troop once nicknamed him "Grasshopper" because of this bounce. Why would he walk this way? I think it was because he always had somewhere to go. I never saw Tom "stroll". He always had something on his mind, a purpose, a plan.

"A Scout is Humble" is not part of the Scout Law, but it was another of Tom's traits. Did you ever see him pull a fancy pocketknife out of his pocket for show? Did his uniform ever display the many awards he earned? Even though he could afford it he never owned a fancy car or the latest state-of-the-art anything.

Tom exemplified the Scout Ideals better than anyone we knew. If you were an Order of the Arrow member he was a brother to you. Our most active member from 1950 until the mid 1970's, in the years to follow he took a back seat and watched. Whenever we were in between advisors or had any other problem, he would resurface to help keep things afloat, then retreat back to the shadows. He was always sure to give the "O.A." a great deal of credit for the work done at camp. Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service were three tenets of Tom's life.

Even in his last days he was planning for the future, describing what new things he'd like to see done (and NOT done) at his beloved Camp Mattatuck. Camp was so important to Tom. It wasn't just kids' at play; it was young men learning to be good men. With all the hatred and evil that confronts us in the world today I think he saw Mattatuck as a haven where he could make a difference; where young men would learn how to live and act in a caring, moral, clean environment; where hard work produced rewards, but not at the expense of anyone else. How fortunate we are to have known Tom Horan.

Joe LeClair

In Memoriam

William B. "Uncle Barney" Surprenant

March 6, 1922-January 8, 1999

Camp Mattatuck and Greater Waterbury Scouting was dealt another blow when William "Uncle Barney" Surprenant passed away suddenly on January 8, 1999. Barney was a Scout leader for 55 years, 31 years as Scoutmaster of Troop 90, Cheshire. He took great pride in his Scouts and "went to bat for them" whenever the need arised. He was a phenomenal fundraiser and organizer. He served as chairman of the Mattatuck Volunteers since its inception, and over the years was responsible for numerous major improvement projects at camp, including refurbishing Barnum Cabin (twice), Mohawk Cabin, the amphitheater, and the parking lot.

A native of Pawtucket, R.I., Barney served in the Army Air Corps in World War II, then moved to Cheshire. He was Cubmaster in 1958-59, then became Scoutmaster. He was a perfectionist, and excellence is associated with his name. He was a mentor to other Scout leaders. He was a stickler for getting things right. From the uniform to the skills, you had better get it right or do it again! He held the Eagle rank in high regard and was a fixture at the Elks Eagle Luncheons in Waterbury, where he was often the Master of Ceremonies. During his long tenure with Troop 90 he helped 44 young men advance to the Eagle rank. Barney's dynamic personality and dedication to our organization will be missed by all who knew him.

The Mattatuck Volunteers

The Mattatuck Volunteers were formed in 1981 as a result of discussions we had at an Order of the Arrow weekend. There were a good number of adults there that weekend, and we decided to form our own organization for the following reasons:

- We were concerned that if there was too much adult involvement on the O.A. weekends the boys would lose leadership opportunities.
- We wanted to work on more advanced projects
- We wanted to raise funds for those projects.

A similar group in the Quinnipiac Council was used as a model. They offered camp scholarships to boys. We adopted this idea at first but lost interest after the first year. Our first Chairman was Stanley Abromaitis, who served from October 1981 to January 1982. Barney Surprenant took over from there and capably led the group until his death.

Our first project was an ambitious one...the camp amphitheater. Originally built in 1955 with benches raised on wooden posts, over the years the benches had been reduced to simple oak slabs lying on the ground, providing uncomfortable seats for parents and Scouts. With financial and other support from the Waterbury Rotary Club the Volunteers spent numerous weekends in 1982 and 1983 digging holes, pouring cement, and building the raised benches we have today.



David Babson, Scout Executive

Trailblazer

A Harvard graduate, Mr. David Babson became Scout Executive of the Mattatuck Council upon the death of Mr. Marsten in 1935. With foresight and imagination, Mr. Babson became the "architect" for Camp Mattatuck, and a powerful influence on the many men and boys in his charge. Mr. Babson served over 25 years here, and left an indelible mark on the camp and Scouting. He was camp director the first few years of the camp, then assigned one of his assistants to be resident director in years following. During his tenure Camp Mattatuck was purchased, the dam built and pond dredged for swimming, the drinking water system was set up, and the following buildings were constructed: Lovett Lodge, Tuttle Lodge, the ice house, Whip-poor-will Pavilion, Baldwin Lodge, Tobe Lodge, the Rotary Dining Hall, Barnum (Hickory) Cabin, Mohawk Cabin, the Trading Post, and Hirsch-Cole Lodge (Ranger's home). More important than all the buildings, however, were the spirit, attitude, and traditions he built that last to this day.

Upcoming Events

April 16-17, 1999 Order of the Arrow Ordeal

**April 18, 1999 12 PM..Volunteers organizational meeting at Camp Mattatuck
Elect officers, review & discuss Project #1.**

June 5, 1999...Project #1

June 18-20, 1999 Order of the Arrow Ordeal (set up camp for summer season)

July 4, 1999 Camp Opens

July 31, 1999 60th anniversary staff reunion

August 21, 1999 Camp Closes (torchlight parade)

Like to support the Mattatuck Volunteers? Send a check to:

Mattatuck Volunteers
CT Rivers Council BSA
127 Scott Road
Waterbury, CT 06705
And/or come to the April 18 meeting!

Where is He Now?

Rick Mason,

Scoutcraft 1972; Trading Post, 1973

Who introduced dutch oven doughnuts to Mattatuck? How about the raucous version of "Old Macdonald" we enjoy to this day? It was Rick Mason, who worked two summers here before moving to New Hampshire. An Eagle Scout and lifelong Scouter, Rick Mason and his wife Kathleen have two children, 15-year-old Christopher, and eleven-year-old Jenni. A resident of Portsmouth, NH, Rick is currently Director of Fire Training for the State of New Hampshire. He's served in a number of Scouting positions in the Daniel Webster Council and the Order of the Arrow, most recently as District Chairman. In the past year he attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference in Iowa and served on Woodbadge Training Staff. Rick credits the late Tom Horan for "giving me the push" to achieve the Eagle rank.

This Summer's Staff

Alan Colangelo is in his first year as Camp Director. Having worked on Central Staff, as Handicraft Director, Commissioner, and Program Director over the past 10 years, Alan is well prepared for the job. He also directs our Campmasters who oversee the camp in the offseason. Returning to camp for his 29th season is Assistant Camp Director Chris Moon. Chris is a terrific innovator and motivator with boundless energy and a wealth of experience. Best wishes to Alan and Chris.

Camp Director's Corner

By now, most involved in Scouting have heard the news that the Connecticut Rivers Council has appointed me as the successor to Tom Horan. Tom had given fifty years to Camp Mattatuck, twenty-five as her director. All who knew Tom could easily see his devotion to the Scouting program's ethics, morals, ideals, and what these do to benefit the lives of thousands of boys. Though physically gone, "Toot's" presence will be alive in camp for many years to come.

The summer of 1999 brings the 60th anniversary of Camp Mattatuck. The senior directors staff is well under way with plans, preparing for this wonderful occasion. I would like to thank the multitude of individuals who have called to congratulate me over the past few weeks. It is very touching that the council, scoutmasters, staff, and especially Tom Horan have thought enough of me to consider me for this position. I will do my best not to let any of you down. I am very fortunate to have Chris Moon and Rob Reed as senior support staff, as well as a number of talented department directors returning this summer.

I have overheard a few people wondering what camp will be like without Tom around. I wish to assure you that, for the most part, Camp Mattatuck will remain much as Tom had worked so hard to achieve. I look forward to a great season and the chance of speaking with you. See you at camp!

Yours in Scouting,
Alan T. Colangelo,
Director - Camp Mattatuck

Reunion

Once again Staff Alumni and Friends of Camp Mattatuck are invited to venture up to 'neath the summit of Mount Tobe and join your friends for a day of fun on July 31, 1999. Arrive anytime after 1:00 and plan on staying for the afternoon and evening until campfire time. We will offer swimming, boating, canoeing, kayaking, sailing and field sports as well as continuous tours of the property so that you can see the few new things at camp that have evolved but mostly to reminisce about how things are still the same. "Camp is exactly the same - only different!" Bring your family and to let them experience a little bit of what you once did at camp. They can experience all those stories you tell and they didn't believe.

There may be a nominal charge to cover the cost of hot dogs, hamburgers, and refreshments, which will be available throughout the afternoon and evening.

We would also like to mention that the closing ceremonies will take place on Saturday evening, August 21, 1999. Plan to arrive early to assure a parking place. The Court of honor starts at 7:30pm and the campfire will start at 8:00 PM. The night will conclude with the traditional torch light ceremony and canoe rosettes.

See you soon.

Camp Mattatuck Staff

PS. "Oh we're the staff of Mattatuck.....you know the rest."

Chriswish List

Toms' Way (trail from Day camp to grove)
 Build Latrines and Showers at Arrow South, Cedar and Mohawk and Maple
 Visitors Latrine Leeching
 Replace Support Pipe on Water Line In Front Of Health Lodge
 Rebuild the Northern Portion of the Shower House to Add Toilets
 Add Hand Washing Facility To Outside Of Dining Hall near Bell
 Handicap Access to Office
 Handicap Access and Improve Step Out Of Trading Post
 Repair Ditch Light
 Replace Amphitheater Light
 Replace Foam in the Swimming Raft
 Repair the hole In the Wall near the Mixer
 Replace the Toaster
 Upgrade the Bathroom behind the Fireplace
 Install Anti Siphon Valves on All Latrines and Install Short Garden Hoses
 "Keep Off Runway" Sign
Barnum Cabin
 Seal Chimney Leak
 Repair Holes in Ceiling
 Repair Hole in Floor
 Repair Door Latches
 Remove Kitchen Sink
 Rebuild Kitchen Counter
 New Cabin
 Fix Railings at New Cabin
 Install Gutters over Back Steps of New Cabin
 Replace Wiring to Trading Post
 Reset Pillars at Nature Center
 Bury Waterline to Health Lodge and Dining Hall
 Hess Cabin
 Repair Door Latches
 Replace Light Switches
 Repair Pillars on porch
 Replace Drainage Pipe at Cub Beach
 Rebuild Cub Swim Fence Entrance
 Get Sand to Cub Beach
 Install Stained Glass Window in Peak Of Chapel
 Install Vents In Back Room of Chapel
 Paint And Patch The Kitchen Bathroom
 Rebuild the Canoe Funk and Kayak Racks

Rebuild the Wooden Canoes stored at Tom's House
 Acquire 3 Sailboats
 Grade Road annually
 Wood Chips For Cope Trails
 Spray Poison Ivy
 Gravel the Entrance to the Activity Pavilion
 Lengthen Gutter at Pavilion
 Fix Hickory Latrine
 Fill and Grade the Ledge on the Lumber lumber road to Archery
 Spray And Kill Plant Growth At Rifle In May So It Will Be Dead For June
 Run Water Line and Install Water Fountain at Archery
 Repair Road and Drainage on Road from Arrow S to Archery
 Mohawk Cabin
 Repair Stone Work of Chimney
 Seal Chimney Leak
 Repair Holes in Ceiling in Kitchen and Main Room
 Repair Hole in Floor
 Replace Coat Hooks and Molding in Main Room
 Repair Pillars
 Repair Door Latches
 Make and Install Campsite Signs for All Summer Sites and Program Areas
 Make and Install Campsite Signs for Off Season Sites

The Following Items Will Cost No Money

Reset Pillars at Chapel So Doors Open
 Fill In More Shooting Area at Archery
 Remove More Stumps and Rocks to Enlarge Shooting Area at Archery Range
 Remove More Stumps and Rocks to Enlarge Shotgun Area at Rifle Range
 Repaint the Walk in Cooler Floor
 Install diving board
 Replace the Swimming Log Seats
 Screw the Sagging Ceiling in the Kitchen
 Move the Kitchen Staff Plaques Out Of the Eating Area
 Regard Hill above Swimming Area
 Plant grass arraign Dining hall
 Fill and plant grass at worn spots near parents section in amphitheater
 Cut down rotten tree next To Barnum

A little about this newsletter: We hope to issue it about four times a year. We could have named it "Kenosha Log" after a camp newsletter from the 1950's, but it's important to use the name "Mattatuck" in the title. The name "Mattatuck Messenger" is borrowed from an old Mattatuck Council newsletter issued from time-to-time in the 1960's and 1970's.

The idea for a newsletter was developed shortly after the death of our beloved friend and camp director, Tom Horan, on December 13, 1998. Former Scouts, camp staff members, and leaders came from far and wide to pay their respects to Tom. So many had questions about how camp was, or questions about former staff members. Many of us feel an obligation to help continue Tom's work. For some it will be to serve Scouting as a leader. For others it will be to help the Order of the Arrow or the Mattatuck Volunteers with work projects. Others may help by contributing money. This newsletter will give you information on how you can do these things. The sudden passing of Barney Surprenant further emphasizes the need for people to "step up to the plate". Each issue will include:

- Dates of upcoming Order of the Arrow and Mattatuck Volunteer work projects.
- A "where is he now?" article on a Mattatuck Scout or leader from years past.
- "Trailblazers", a story on one of camp's leaders from long ago.
- News about camp: new programs, buildings, staff reunions, present camp staff, etc.

This first issue was mailed to everyone on the staff alumni list and distributed to local Scout troops. We'd like to hear from you. If you have a story to tell, mail it or e-mail it. Have an old photo you'd like to share? Need to locate an old friend?

Contact: Joe LeClair, ileclair@snet.net