



January, 2000 Photo

Volunteers Receive Grant

On October 17 the Thomaston Savings Bank presented a \$5,000 grant to Robert Reed and Paul Lukens representing the Mattatuck Volunteers. The grant is to be used toward the installation of a winterized water line to the dining hall. If you ever hauled water for an April Order of the Arrow function or a winter Klondike Derby you know what an improvement this will be. Total cost will be approximately \$15,000. If the bank considers camp a worthy investment, don't you? Support the Mattatuck Volunteers.

At their September weekend the Order of the Arrow cleared the brush from the route of the waterline. A heavy snow that blanketed Connecticut in December still lingers, preventing the contractor from starting work. Work should commence as soon as the weather allows it.

In Memoriam

**Paul Lukens
1948-2000**

It would seem odd to describe someone with the size and girth of Paul Lukens as "graceful", but that's just how he effortlessly glided from chore to chore every day of his life. This dedicated church member, Scout leader, husband and father always seemed to have time for you. When the big bear with the perpetual five-o'clock shadow would smile and extend a giant paw, you would pray he wouldn't crush your hand as he shook it. Upon first meeting him you wondered if somebody could really be this nice. He was sincerely interested in everyone around him.



Paul served his church in almost every position available in the fifteen years he lived in Middlebury. In Scouting, among his jobs were Cubmaster, Cub Scout Committee Chairman, Scoutmaster, District Training Chairman, Order of the Arrow Chapter Advisor, Campmaster, and Mattatuck Volunteers Vice Chairman/Treasurer. What is amazing about him is that for most of the time he held at least three major Scouting positions at one time. At the time of his death he was Training Chairman,

OA Advisor, and Mattatuck Volunteer Vice Chairman/Treasurer. He never seemed frazzled or overwhelmed by his responsibilities. He treated everyone with kindness and respect. He was as effective working with the youngest Tenderfoot as he was with the highest-ranking Scouting official.

Paul helped people develop self-confidence because he showed them that he believed in them. As a leader Paul was more of a 'guide' than a 'boss'. Like the guide Kitchkinet, Paul exemplified the parts of the Scout Law "to be ever Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, and Kind". We will miss the work he did in Scouting. What we will miss even more is this gracious man who enriched the lives of those he came in contact with.

Our sympathy to Gwen, Jeffrey, and Amy Lukens.

Mattatuck Volunteers Officers
Frank Rodrigues, Chairman
Chris Moon, Vice-Chairman (Projects)
Robert Reed, Secretary/Treasurer

Where is He Now?

Francis Kennedy

Central Staff, Provisional, Waterfront Director, Program Director, 1976-1986

by Joe LeClair



The song leader, all six-foot three inches or so, stood straight, and with a strong voice and a serious look on his face announced that we would sing the Coo-Coo song. Knees bent, elbows flailing, hands reaching above his wild curly hair, he leads an audience whose smiles extend ear-to-ear.

If you are 25 to 35 years old and you attended Mattatuck as a boy, chances are one of the most unforgettable characters is Francis Kennedy. An Eagle Scout from Troop 52, Oakville, Fran was skilled in all phases of Scouting. He could have excelled in any department. Among his memories...

"I remember the afternoon I approached the camp director, Tom Horan, and, forgetting that I was merely a 13-year-old Counselor in Training, I asked Tom if I could assume the job of program director for the following season. He laughed for a long while, but kindly told me that, while it might very well take a few years, it wasn't entirely out of the question."

"I recall the morning Bob Nastri, provisional scoutmaster, asked me if I liked my job as a 14-year-old office clerk, as I was sweeping the front steps of Tuttle Lodge. Despite my responding "yes", he announced to Fran Morrow, the Camp Business Manager, that he was "taking (me)" for the provisional staff. Bob and a small band of merry provisional staff hoisted my belongings, and me, over their shoulders and whisked me away me to Polaris. Fran Morrow's animated insistence that "Bob couldn't just do that" seemed to have gone unheard, because I didn't see the office again for years!"

Fran Kennedy served on National Camp School aquatics staff two years, was Assistant Camp Director of Camp Tadma in 1988, and Tadma's director in 1989. A graduate of Southern Connecticut, Central Connecticut, and the UCONN, he has a Masters in Education. He, his wife Nicola, and sons Daniel (6) and James (2) live in Tolland, Connecticut. After teaching for ten years and assistant principal for three years, he became Principal of Stafford High School in 1996.

Fran visited camp in July, and had this to say about his visit... *"I returned to camp for the dedication of Tom's Way and was delighted, but not surprised, that camp is as beautiful and well groomed as ever. My oldest son, Daniel, accompanied me and the superb Wednesday night campfire program thrilled us. While he had heard most of the songs before (my household's lullabies), his interest in camp was nonetheless catalyzed by the zany staff (God help me). Now he constantly wants me to tell him about camp even though I'm rapidly running out of camp legends to share with him. Regardless, I will withhold the chapters on the adventures of Chris Moon and Rob Reed, because stories such as Trapper's tree and Chief Tobe's well are so much more believable."*

Silver Beaver Award Recipients, 2000

Mattatuck and Blue Trail Districts were well represented at the annual Connecticut Rivers Council Scouters' Recognition Dinner held at the Aqua Turf in Southington October, 23. A large group of Scouters were on hand to congratulate the recipients of the council's highest award to a volunteer leader, the Silver Beaver Award. Among the thirteen people receiving the award were 30-year Mattatuck staffer Chris Moon, former Camp Director Bob Udell of the Tunxis District, Blue Trail District Chairman Bill Fitzpatrick, Bethlehem Scoutmaster Blair Albrecht, and Troop 102 Assistant Scoutmaster Charles Doback. We had the pleasure of seeing former Cheshire Troop 51 Scoutmaster and Long Rivers Council Commissioner Dick Williams, who traveled from East Aurora, NY to help honor some old friends.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to support camp and this newsletter. If you haven't sent a check, it's not too late. You can support our work by sending a contribution to:

Mattatuck Volunteers, CT Rivers Council, BSA 127 Scott Road Waterbury, CT 06705

Bob Udell...A Scouters' Scouter

It was wonderful to see Bob Udell recognized with the Silver Beaver Award in October. Mr. Udell, Mattatuck Camp Director in 1971 and 1972, became an active volunteer in the Tunxis District upon his retirement from professional Scouting. He served as District Chairman and Vice Chairman, was President of Torrington Area Council of Churches, was an AARP driving instructor, Vice President of Northwest Community Council, Chairman of the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee at his church, and volunteered with the Lions Club, Jaycees, and Rotary Club.

The Lorenz File

Part 4 of a series from Dick Lorenz, Waterfront Staff, and 1968- '69

I also am introduced to Bob the Ranger, his truck, (a Dodge "Power Wagon") and his dog "Tonka". The dog is a huge German Shepherd. Thank heaven he's well trained. He goes with Bob everywhere. A word from Bob, and Tonka is in the back of the truck, ready to go wherever. I find out how well he's trained one night.

We've been given the task of turning out the lights in the parking lot. By whom I forget, and it doesn't matter. We look everywhere. Light poles, shacks, around the parking lot, even around the ranger's house. Maybe the switch is in the ranger's garage, someone suggests. It's locked. Maybe we can open it somehow. We shine our flashlights around trying to find the latch. We shine the lights inside the garage on the wall to see if there IS a parking lot light switch. One of our lights drifts down to the backside of the garage door. There, on the floor waiting for us to open the door, quiet, tail NOT wagging, sits Tonka. Sorry, Harold, but the lights stay ON tonight.

Bob's operation of his truck I have yet to figure out. It looks new but it seems to have just one gear. 3rd? 4th? Whatever, Bob uses that gear ALL THE TIME! The engine lugs something horrible on pulling away from a stop. But surprisingly Bob never stalls the beast. One of life's lasting mysteries.

Bob himself is not a whole heck of a lot older than we are. I don't have a lot of interaction with him in my job but he seems a right guy. I interact more with his son. We take him out on the lake and during some free time we go on turtle hunts on the far end of the second lake. This is something I enjoy and am good at as I have done this for so long on the back pond at home. We catch a lot of turtles. We also pick the berries on the south side of second lake. No stomach aches yet! Some of the most pleasant moments I've ever had were in a canoe on the second lake on a warm summer evening, picking berries.

Have a story to tell? Have a suggestion for a future article? Your input into this newsletter is most welcome. Contact Joe LeClair, 108 Chipper Road, Waterbury, CT 06704 ileclair@snet.net.

Recent projects at Camp Mattatuck...

- The Order of the Arrow cleared the path for the winterized waterline that will be installed in the dining hall and health lodge. Some of the Scouts got poison ivy along the way to make the project memorable. Alan Chartier and Chris Moon later did some final prep work on the path.
- Under the leadership of Chris Moon a small group of Volunteers removed shingles from the roofs of the two buildings at the Christmas tree farm so the local fire department could burn the buildings. They also stripped linoleum from the floors to reduce harmful fumes emitted by the fire.
- Ron Plourde finished the interior of the Cook's Cabin. The new look is brighter and cleaner, and features a new shower, new front door, interior walls, and floor.
- Chris Moon, Ryan Connelly, and Marc Moody applied polyurethane to the new woodwork at Hess and Mohawk.

Order of the Arrow News

Former Lodge Chief Paul Dabkowski of Middlebury was elected Chapter Chief of the Mattatuck Chapter, Order of the Arrow. Other officers are Vice Chief Justin Clair, Treasurer Eric Burdett; Secretary, Josh Sedlock; Lodge Representative, Joe Calvoe. We wish the new officers well. The Chapter hosted a successful Lodge Conclave in September. Matthew Plourde and Jeremy Gannon were two of thirteen Lodge members to be awarded the Vigil Honor. One of three gentlemen to receive the Founders Award in September was Paul Lukens, who passed away in November. Recently named Chapter Advisor to replace Paul is Tim Fedor of Middlebury. The Order of the Arrow is one of strongest supporters of Camp Mattatuck. We wish Tim, Paul and the rest of the officers good luck.

OA Dates...

April Weekend...April 21-23, 2001

June Weekend...June 15-17, 2001

Sept. Weekend...Sept.7-9, 2001

Camp Family Album

Camp is trying to gather and hold onto its roots. We've started a project which we are gathering pictures, images and newspaper clipping of camp so we have something to pass to the next generation of "Camp People". What we are doing is taking these pictures etc and scanning them into a computer, then returning the originals. We've got some great stuff already from George Lynch and Joe LeClair Jr. We're looking for more stuff like pictures of the Ice House, early years at camp, the "Polish Farm" when it was a farm, the building of Tuttle and Lovett lodges etc. So if you have something to share with us please send it to:

Camp Mattatuck Pictures
C/o Robert Reed
10 Orchard St
Terryville, CT 06786

We'll return them after we finished scanning them. Of course if you're coming up to camp this summer, bring them with you. We can scan negatives, slides or photos. Don't forget to tell us what the pictures are of (when, where, who) and where to return them.

Printing donated by the Elm Press, Inc. of Thomaston, CT and Mailing Operations donated by Accurate Mailing Services of Waterbury, CT

Mattatuck Volunteers
CT Rivers Council, BSA
127 Scott Road
Waterbury, CT 06705
<http://matwreck.org/volunteers/>

News from Camp Mattatuck for: