

50 years of scouting at Camp Easton

A history of the Lake Coeur d'Alene camp

By Gordon Giles
Special to the Press

On one of the most beautiful lakes in the world is located Camp Easton for Boy Scouts and Explorers of the Idaho Panhandle Council of Boy Scouts of America, Inc.

The camp, with an area of 214.9 acres and a waterfront of a half mile, is located on the east shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene between Echo Bay and Driftwood Point and has a small bay of its own, called Gotham Bay.

The present Camp Easton will be 50 years old this summer, but this was not the first Camp Easton. The first permanent Boy Scout camp on Coeur d'Alene Lake was established in 1920. At that time there was a formal Boy Scout Council in Shoshone County and businessmen in Kootenai County were promoting Boy Scout troops without an established organization and without any professional assistance.

The Shoshone Council had used a site on Rose Lake for camping. On June 8, 1920 Scout Executive R. Frazier of the Shoshone Council and five Boy Scouts started permanent im-

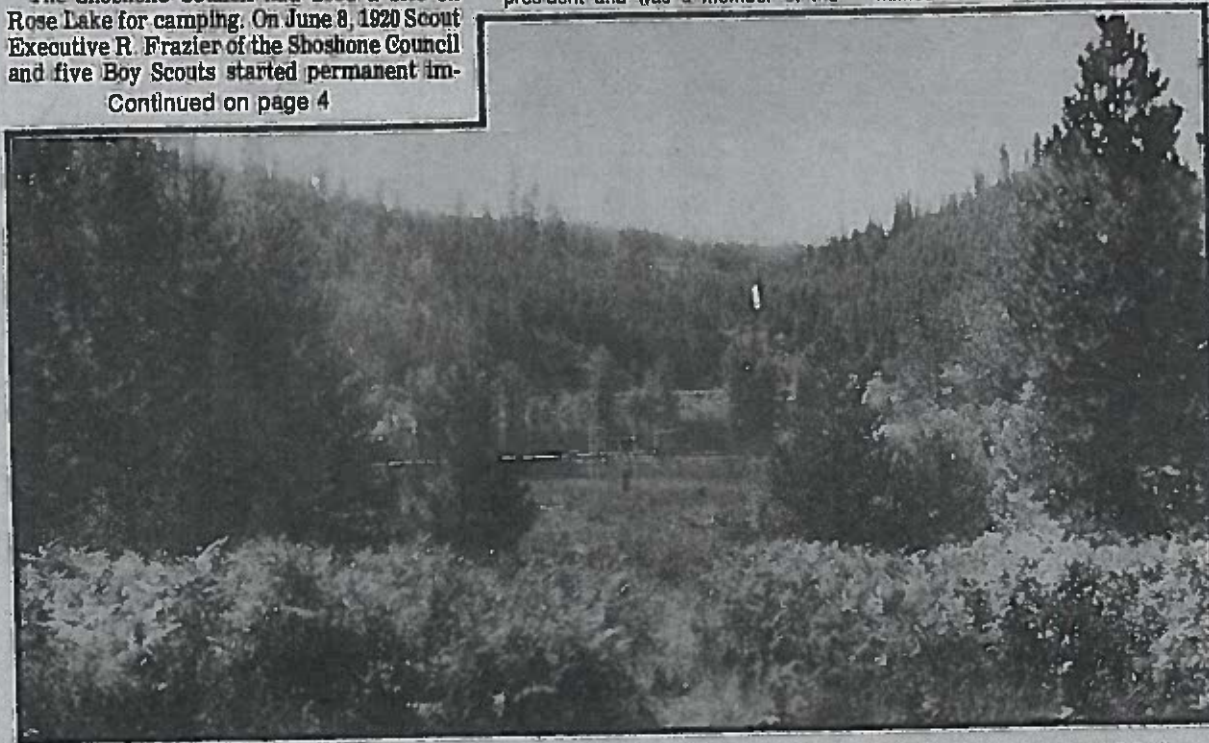
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Stanly A. Easton

Mr. Easton devoted many years of service to the local Boy Scout program. He was the first Panhandle Council president and was a member of the

Region Eleven executive committee for a number of years, receiving many high scouting awards. Camp Easton was named in his honor.



Camp Easton, looking south from the parade grounds to the waterfront, shortly after it was completed

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improvements on ground known as Booth's Landing.

It was on the north shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, east of Bennett's Bay and five and three-fourths miles from the city of Coeur d'Alene.

Scout Executive Frazier and the five Boy Scouts built a dining hall 20-feet-by-30 feet, floors for five tents, cleared a parade ground and cleaned the beach of logs and driftwood. The cost of the material for the camp was \$321.71.

Camp opened on July 3, 1920 for a four week period. A total of 58 Boy Scouts with five scouters used the camp. The fee for camp was 85 cents per day. During the camping season 120 visitors came into camp and if any visitor desired a meal it cost him 60 cents.

Pictures of the waterfront of this first camp shows a long dock and boathouse. The

dock was a gift to the camp by the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce and was 240 feet long, valued at \$250.00.

A short digression from camping would be interesting at this period of time in scouting in this area.

On January 5, 1921 a meeting of representatives of the Shoshone County Council of Boy Scouts and representatives from Kootenai County was planned to be held in the offices of Attorney H. J. Hull in Wallace, Idaho.

Those at the meeting were Stanley A. Easton, Manager of the Bunker Hill Co.; Dr. C. R. Mowery, prominent physician of Wallace; Platt P. Morrow, owner of Morrow's Retail Store, Wallace; D. W. Greenbury, H. J. Hull, Prosecuting Attorney of Shoshone County; Percy Frazier, Scout Executive of Shoshone Council; Huntington Taylor, Manager of the Rutledge Timber Co., Coeur d'Alene; Walter S. Rosenberry, Man-

ager of Winton Lumber Co. of Rose Lake and Coeur d'Alene; and Robert H. Elder, prominent attorney of Coeur d'Alene.

During the meeting a decision was made to join the two councils into one council, to be known as the Shoshone-Kootenai County Council of Boy Scouts of America.

Scouters in Kootenai County were to pay Shoshone County Council \$828.94 to cover cost. Continued on page 6

The original site



Little indication of what was to be

These are the original log buildings at the present site of Camp Easton. The small building was used for the infirmary. The walls of that building were pe-

pered with newspapers dated 1895. Workers helped themselves to the papers and some history of the times was lost.

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The history of Camp Easton ...

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of half of the property and fixtures owned by the Shoshone Council and this would have included the Scout Camp at Boothe's Landing on Coeur d'Alene Lake. Scouters of Kootenai were also to raise the sum of \$3825 as their share of the 1921 council budget. It was also agreed that Percy Frazier would be hired as Scout Executive and he would have his headquarters in Wallace.

A new Field Executive was to be hired to be under the supervision of Scout Executive Percy Frazier and the Field Executive would have his headquarters in Coeur d'Alene. The Field Executive that was hired was A. D. Dayton, an employee of the Rutledge Mill in Coeur d'Alene.

Eight years after the formation of the Shoshone-Kootenai County Council a meeting of the Coeur d'Alene District Committee

proved very important in the scouting history of this area. The men present were G. T. Morken, president of the council, Walter S. Rosenberry, Robert H. Elder, Eugene H.

Ware, H. P. Glindeman, T. S. Gope, H. A. Sampson, Neil Coventry, Dr. John T. Wood, Fred W. Fitze, O. W. Edmonds, W. F. McNaughton and W. D. Rounsarell, Scout Executive.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with Fred W. Fitze regarding the purchase of land owned by Mr. Fitze at Gotham Bay to develop it into a new campsite for the Boy Scout Council.

There was noted in the written minutes of the meeting the following paragraph; "Mr. Fitze announced that it was his desire to present the site to the Idaho Panhandle Council as its summer campsite and that we accept it from him as his gift to the council and the boys of our area."

"His only wish was that it should be accepted with the understanding that it was Continued on page 13

Schedule of events at 50th anniversary

Saturday, August 18

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. — Tour of Camp Easton and its facilities; Cub Scout fitness contest; Boy Scout see-and-do program

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. — Kissin' Kuzzin Special Beef Bar-B-Q

6 p.m. to 7 p.m. — 50th Anniversary Ceremonies, recognizing Camp Easton's old timers and the Stanley Easton family and including songs, skits and awards



This scene shows the tent camp at Camp Easton

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his desire to have it used perpetually as a camp for boys." It was not written in the minutes but has always been understood that Mr. Fitze also requested that the camp be called Camp Easton.

A further quotation from the minutes: "Mr. W. S. Rosenberry stated that he would be glad to join with any other men who might desire to participate in furnishing money for the camp buildings. He stated that in his opinion the public should not be asked to bear this expense and that the matter should be left to the members of the council or men interested enough to voluntarily bear this expense."

A week later on May 27, 1929 the Coeur d'Alene District Committee of the Idaho Panhandle Council met again with the purpose of planning buildings for the new camp and estimating costs.

A decision to build at once was made at the meeting and a man by the name of Frank

James was instructed to assemble a crew and begin work. Arrangements were also made with the St. Joe Boom Co. to furnish a floating cookhouse and bunkhouse for the workers to be tied near the site of the Mess Hall on May 29th.

Mr. James presumably was a very competent and skilled contractor and he also had gathered together a very workable crew, because by July 6, 1929 the camp was ready for occupancy. Scout Executive W. D. Rounsavell was the first Camp Director.

In the early years of Camp Easton a man by the name of Bill Ritchie appeared. He was a single man and owned a small float house which he moved from place to place on the lake. In the Fall he would move into the swimming area with his floathouse and remain all winter.

Someone gave him permission to live in the smaller of the two log cabins for the winter. For this privilege he repaired the scout boats and took care of the camp buildings. He later

was hired by the council as the camp Ranger until he became too elderly to be alone in camp. For years he was a part of the camp.

From 1929 until 1940 no major buildings were constructed for the camp. The normal repairs on the original buildings and water system were made each year. Four war canoes and several two-man canoes were acquired by the council or given to the camp by interested citizens or organizations.

A storage place for the boats became essential and about 1940 a boat house with storage above the main room was built. In the winter it has been used to store boats, paddles, oars, life preservers and waterfront paraphernalia.

During camping periods it serves as a shop and office for the waterfront director. In 1970 an addition was added to the boathouse solely for the purpose of storing boats. The original boathouse was remodeled into a shop to repair boats and keep tools. A space heater

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Adirondack cabins

These two boys sit in a scene out of the early years of Camp Easton in front of Adirondack cabins built to accommodate the campers.

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The history of Camp Easton ...

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was installed to keep the shop warm for work in the winter months.

In 1944 one of the area's strongest scouting supporters, Anton Moen, was elected President of the Coeur d'Alene Lions Club. He proposed to the members that the club begin a sponsorship of Camp Easton for camp improvements and major repairs. A group of the members and their wives visited the camp to make a survey of improvements they could make.

Their first work party included sixteen members who went to the camp on Sunday, Nov. 12, 1944.

They built outdoor washrooms, laid 200 feet of waterpipe to the washrooms and dug cesspools. Materials and labor were furnished by the Lions Club.

From this first project to the present time the members of the Lions Club have donated hundreds of hours of labor and given several thousand dollars to the development, improvement and repair of Camp Easton.

Major projects in camp where the Lion members furnished most of the labor were construction of the cook's quarters in 1946,

three Adirondack type cabins in 1951, a new camp ranger's residence in 1963, addition to boathouse 1970, enlarge and remodel dining hall in 1972-75 and the building of the new storage and commissary building in 1976-77. The club also furnished \$4,000.00 for material in this last building.

The Adirondack cabins built in 1951 were located north of the dining hall with a beautiful view of the lake and Mica Bay. They have never been used extensively because the interiors were found to be very drafty from cold from almost a constant breeze or wind off the water.

In recent years there has been a continuous remodeling project of enclosing the buildings, refinishing the interiors with wood paneling, covering the cement floors with carpeting and installing small wood burning heaters. The Adirondacks are now used for family housing.

The council, realizing they would have to replace the old camp ranger who had given many years service to the camp, decided a new ranger's cabin was definitely necessary.

Plans for a two bedroom house fully modern in services were made. It was de-

cided to locate the house on the south end of the parking lot giving a good view of the car parking areas and the main buildings of the camp.

Mature trees were logged off the camp land and traded to the Stowe Sawmill located not far from the camp for lumber. Labor was furnished by the Coeur d'Alene Lions, assisted by some labor from other service clubs. The cost to the Idaho Panhandle Council was approximately \$3,500 and the building was valued at between \$8,000 and \$9,000. The residence was completed on May 28, 1964.

Also in 1951, an \$11,000 fund was set up by the Athletic Round Table of Coeur d'Alene for improvements in Camp Easton. It was provided that the fund would be administered by S. C. Sanderson, representing the Athletic Round Table and Tony Moen, Chairman of the Camping and Activities Committee of the Idaho Panhandle Council, Boy Scouts of America.

From these funds the three Adirondack cabins were built, a new water pump house built and new water pump installed and a new

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Giles long involved in local scouting

J. Gordon Giles, the son of a Coeur d'Alene steamboat captain, has been involved more than 40 years with the Idaho Panhandle Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Today, Giles sits on the council's executive board, helping to make decisions that will affect the 2,500 boys and leaders currently involved in scouting in the five northern counties.

Giles became involved with the scouts when he was a boy living in Coeur d'Alene. He was part of the Presbyterian Church Troop, which was disbanded just three years ago.

As a young adult he entered the banking business. Over the years he worked both in Coeur d'Alene and Kellogg, rising in his profession to bank manager for Idaho First National Bank, and increasing his scope of responsibilities with the Boy Scouts.

Over the years he served as scout master, institutional representative and district finance chairman as the North Idaho

Council matured into an organization as solid as a healthy stand of timber. In 1951 he became treasurer for the council, a post he held until 1976. In 1958 he received the Silver Beaver award, the highest award the council can give, for his outstanding service to scouting.

A bachelor all of his life, Giles has also been involved in numerous other organizations, including the Royal Arch Masons, the Knights of Templar, the board of directors for Rainbow Girls, the American Legion, and the Kellogg Shrine Club.

"He is a supremely dedicated guy," said Tom Stoltz, council executive director. "He ranks among the top few in the council for dedication and years of service."

Few have had Giles' consistent contact with scouting in North Idaho over the last half century. Thus, it is appropriate that he say a few words about the history and development of Camp Easton, which is having its 50th Anniversary Aug. 18.

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redwood water tank purchased. Mr. Stanley Easton, Manager of the Bunker Hill Co., appointed one of the company engineers, Victor Vang, to design a steel tower for the new water tank. The tower was fabricated in the Bunker Hill Shops.

Victor Vang took four Bunker Hill employ-

ees to Camp Easton with the tower material and erected the steel tower on a cement base. The tower continues to stand in the camp area near the large dining hall.

In 1962 a new gateway was designed and built for Camp Easton.

The featured part of the gateway was a bronze plaque with a picture of Stanley A.

Easton etched into the bronze and a short history of this great scouten.

The plaque is mounted on a masonry monument covered with slabs of colorful native rock and surmounted with a skillfully carved totem pole. Master of Ceremony for the dedication ceremony was Mr. James

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Rons Thrift
Thrift Rons
Thrift Rons



Thrift Rons
Rons Thrift

Ron's Thrift



Scouting today's a lot more than you think!

Sure, it's camping. But there's more to it than that. Scouting teaches boys to respect the environment, to work together to get things done, to manage their personal lives and to make the most of their abilities. It helps them become good citizens and valuable members of the community. Scouting enriches the boys' lives and ours in all sorts of ways.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON
50 GREAT YEARS
AT CAMP EASTON.**

Ron McIntire

The history of Camp Easton ...

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Evenen, a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award with Stanley A. Easton in 1932. As honored guest was Mrs. Ruth Easton Rogers, the eldest daughter of Stanley A. Easton.

In 1970 a Camp Easton Redevelopment Capital Campaign was planned and inaugurated. Duane B. Hagadone of Coeur d'Alene was General Chairman and Wayne Knudsen, also of Coeur d'Alene was Vice Chairman. The five District Chairmen were Harry Magnuson for Shoshone, Duane Edmonds for Kootenai, Cy Chase for Benewah, Bill Nixon for Selkirk and Jack Parker for Moyie. The projected improvements and redevelopment costs were divided into three phases of work for a total cost of \$145,830.00.

Generous amounts of cash were contributed by faithful scouters, friends of scouting, business firms and parents of boys. Many firms gave material of various kinds and many individuals, members of service clubs and the Sea Bee's gave unrecorded hours of labor to the redevelopment campaign.

The first project undertaken was the building of the Central Shower for the use of all boys in the camp. The Gyro Club of Wallace provided all the material for the building and the Sea Bee's constructed it.

The largest undertaking was the enlargement and modernization of the dining hall. Mr. Jim Benning, now a resident of Coeur d'Alene, for many years owned and operated a sawmill, planer mill and chemical treating plant in the Kellogg area specializing in mine

lumber and timbers.

He provided all the lumber for the enlargement of building and hauled it to the camp. The members of the Coeur d'Alene Lions Club furnished all the labor. In the main dining area sliding glass windows were installed and interior walls covered with wood paneling. A large fireplace was built and faced with slabs of native stones.

New fluorescent lights were installed. The kitchen area was a completely new addition to the hall. New equipment was installed, including gas stove and grill, electric ovens, refrigerators and mixers. The walk-in refrigerator from Farragut days was relocated and food storage areas built. Special work tables and cabinets were built by John Davis of Kellogg, for many years a Scoutmaster in the Idaho Panhandle Council.

On completion of the remodeled dining hall the building was named and a plaque placed in the hall, which reads, "Moen Dining Hall. One more time, Tony, in honor of Tony Moen."

This honor was bestowed on Tony for the 35-plus years of countless hours of thought and labor in the improvements for Camp Easton.

One building that has been noticeably needed for a time has been an adequate beach dressing room. A completely new building was built by scouters Floyd Clemans and Ray Turner. It has a cement floor that can be easily washed, clothes racks and toilet facilities.

This facility is handy for all scouts but especially the boys in camps located up on the hill.

The last building to be built and completed was the much needed storage building and new commissary appropriately named "The Lions Den." The Coeur d'Alene Lions Club gave \$4,000 for expenses on the building and furnished all the labor. The Atlas Building Center and the Diamond International Corporation gave generous supplies of lumber, doors and building hardware for the building.

The interior walls of the commissary are special red cedar given and installed by scouters of the Moyie District.

Substantial steel shelving was given for the storage area by Carl Wulff Jr., manager of the J. C. Penney Co. store in Coeur d'Alene.

Maintenance and improvements at Camp Easton are continuously with us. Unfinished from the Redevelopment Campaign are a family area central washhouse, remodeling of the health lodge, camp staff latrine and showers, a critically needed underground electrical system and a major undertaking of building an Administration Building.

Time and effort and money will control the speed with which we complete these projects, but with Scouters like Tony Moen, Floyd Clemens the projects will be completed and the camp continuously improved.

The summer of 1979 marks the 50th consecutive season that Scouts at all levels, adult Scouters and special groups have utilized the picturesque 215-acre site with one-half mile of lake shoreline.

Situated near Gotham Bay, about four miles by boat and 20 miles by car from Coeur d'Alene, Camp Easton is ideally located to service Scouters from the entire five northern counties in Idaho.



Congratulations
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years serving our young
men.

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