

# NOW & Then

VOL. 47, NO. 4 Winter 2014

## **A Thing of Beauty From the Tip of a Pen**

By Clifford Mansley, NTS 149

When I was a boy, my handwriting was atrocious. My dad had been a handwriting teacher, but for me, push-pulls and ovals were for naught. However, one bright light was a handwriting publication, *The Educator*, which came to our home with gorgeous Spencerian and ornamental handwriting and flourished capital letters that captivated me. Ah, if only I could replicate that handwriting.

Leaving elementary school meant leaving the push-pulls and ovals, but not forever. After my service in World War II, and before I attended the University of Pennsylvania, I spent two months at the Zanerian College of Penmanship in Columbus, Ohio. It was intensive, with eight-hour days in class plus many hours of homework, but, at last, my fancy writing started to take shape.

Later, as president of Penn's Alpha Phi Omega chapter, I lettered and decorated "The Virtues and Precepts of Benjamin Franklin" as a chapter gift to the university; it hung for many years in the student union. Before graduation, I turned down the offer of a position as a White House calligrapher. Instead, I chose my first love, and began an exciting 36-year career as a Scouting professional at the local, regional, and national levels.

My retirement in 1987 at age 60 opened up a whole new vista of opportunity. I continued my love of Scouting as volunteer chairman of my council's Protestant Committee on Scouting. This committee is dedicated to promoting the religious emblems program and funding chaplains for the council's seven resident camps. Providing leadership as a volunteer gave me great joy, and we raised more than \$500,000 to pay chaplains and establish

a healthy trust fund, with help from print sales of *Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers* and *John Wesley's Rule*. In 2003, I became the humble recipient of the Silver Beaver Award.

My wife, Jean, a degreed artist, and I opened Heirloom Artists, a calligraphy studio and frame shop in Lake Oswego, Oregon. For years we lettered all the Oregon State Bar certificates and the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) certificates. Much of our work has been lettering customers' favorite Scripture verses. One of these, Joshua 24:15, sold more than 170,000 copies.

There is wonderful joy and satisfaction awaiting every BSA retiree who seizes the opportunity to share their talents — helping to bring the virtues of the Scout Oath and Scout Law to life every day.

The "Love" calligraphy pictured here won first prize at the Oregon State Fair. Through the words of St. Paul, it expresses the love that we should have for each other.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## ***A Personal Holiday Greeting From the Chief Scout Executive***

As we move into the holiday season, wrap up 2014, and look to a new year, my thoughts turn to thankfulness for the great volunteers and staff who together bring Scouting to life for young people. Among those for whom I will be forever grateful are each of you.

I'm pleased to tell you that Scouting across America is strong, vibrant, and delivering on the promises of programs and experiences in our handbooks. An encouraging highlight this year has been the positive movement of the membership needle with a 4.3 percent increase in our fall recruitment during August and September. This included 9,000 more Cub Scout registrations than in the same time period last year. Volunteers and staff are eagerly building on that momentum, keeping these new Cub Scouts and their parents engaged in hopes that it foreshadows an improved year-end membership picture.

There has also been much excitement about the release this year of the new BSA Build an Adventure recruitment campaign. If you've not yet seen the materials, a quick Internet search for "BSA Build an Adventure" will provide a peek.

Among other highlights has been another record year for attendance at the national high-adventure bases and a number of developing programs related to the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) elements of Scouting. A growing number of young people across the country are finding excitement in STEM activities, and volunteers and staff are meeting their interest with admirable creativity, innovation, and a dedication to providing quality experiences within the values framework of Scouting.

We also had the pleasure in 2014 of welcoming former U.S. Secretary of Defense and former CIA Director Dr.

Robert Gates to the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Gates began serving a two-year term as national president in May and also serves as a member of the board's executive committee.

We're excited to have someone with Dr. Gates' experience in this national leadership role. He is a strong, dedicated Scouter who has been providing valuable insight as we bring more life-changing experiences to America's youth and continue to grow our programs for preparing young people to be great citizens and outstanding leaders.

My family and I have so much to be thankful for this year. I know the many accomplishments at the Boy Scouts of America are possible because of those who have come before us. Many thanks from the young people of our nation and all of us at the BSA for your honorable service!

I wish you all a happy holiday season as well as many wonderful times and memories in the coming year.



**Ernestine and Wayne Brock**

# Retirement Adventure

## ***As the Wood Turns***

*By Ray Moyer, NEI 7213*

Following my retirement from the Scouting profession, I have developed a real love for wood turning. My shop has all the equipment I need to do anything with wood.



### **Ray on the lathe**

The wood-turning projects that give me the most pleasure are making pens, pencils, and bowls. Other wood creations such as yard art, boxes, toys, bookmarks, and purse hangers are also favorites.

I get great satisfaction from projects that I do for charity, like the bowls I turn for the “Empty Bowls” project that feeds people in need. Once finished, the bowls are auctioned to raise money for the Tarrant County (Texas) Food Bank that serves more than 13 counties.

Another activity that I truly enjoy is making toys for kids. I made and donated more than

500 little wooden cars for my church, which were taken to Africa and South America to be distributed to children at our missions.

It is always fun making, painting, and donating Nativity sets—13 pieces each for outdoor or indoor use. These are auctioned by Shriners International to raise money for their 22 Hospitals for Children and by the First United Methodist Church in Grapevine, Texas, for its missions locally and worldwide.

I also delight in making special wood-turned pens for charity fundraising auctions. Pens for church are made from authentic Bethlehem olive wood, and pens for the Shriners have inlaid Shrine emblems. Annually, it is my privilege and unique opportunity to turn many distinctive pens for Veterans Day to be sent to our active military overseas.

As a member of the Wood Turners of North Texas, I have a wonderful time participating in school programs, helping children turn their own candlesticks. We also make spinning tops for special needs children. Last year, as an emergency request, I turned more than 75 tops in one day to be sent to tsunami victims in Japan.

Finally, a very special experience for me is when people, young and old, come to my shop to be mentored in wood turning, scroll sawing, and flat work.

Besides woodworking, I enjoy amateur radio and my Masonic activities. My wife, Janet, and I enjoy cruises and travel several times a year to delight in our six grandchildren. Beyond a doubt, life is the gift that I enjoy sharing with others.



### **Kars for Kids**



# Your Questions and Comments



## Question

*Hi, Allen. As a retired BSA professional, I'm wondering if there are any discounts available to move household items through a BSA-approved national moving company.*

*I recall that when I was the Scout executive of a council, we were allowed discounts when moving employee household goods if we used national moving companies that were approved through national contract agreements with the Boy Scouts of America. This was very helpful to the council and provided substantial savings on employee moving expenses.*

*My wife and I will soon be moving about 750 miles and would like to know if a moving discount is available through the BSA for retirees when they need to relocate due to family and personal needs. And, if so, who do we contact at the national office?*

David Capstick, retired SE

## Answer

Thank you for writing and for the opportunity to check into your question. Retirees who would like to obtain a moving company discount should contact the relocation coordinator at the Boy Scouts of America, Human Resources department to receive a list of companies offering the national contract discounts. The coordinator is Eugenia Grissom, 972-580-2126; Eugenia.Grissom@Scouting.org.

I understand that you have now made contact with Eugenia and that you received the information you needed to contact and compare

moving prices with companies contracted to move BSA employees. And I have also heard that through comparing company cost bids, you were able to achieve a substantial savings of several thousand dollars.

I hope this information will also be a helpful resource for other retirees who may move in the future. This is a nice benefit to consider, if needed.

## Question

*Hi, Allen. The front page of the 2014 fall edition of Now & Then shared some history of the BSA national office locations since its birth and the relocations that took place around New York City. The East River is not between 200 5th Ave. and 2 Park Ave. the last time I looked. [The distance between the two addresses is] just a few blocks. Yes, I'm a born-and-raised New Yorker.*

Roy McGinnis, 1996 retiree

## Answer

*OOPS!* Sorry for the error in the geography of New York City. Not being a New Yorker, I was not familiar with the exact geographical location of the information I received. I did get one other comment on this from Charley Wetter, who grew up just across the Hudson River and was familiar with 2 Park Ave. He reminded me that the copy should have read seven "blocks" rather than "miles." The important point in the article is the fact that the national headquarters office moved to 2 Park Ave. in 1927. Again, an apology, and we will try to be more accurate in the future.

## Worth Pondering

*Good friends  
are like quilts —  
they age with  
you, yet never  
lose their warmth.*

Have a question? Have a concern? Want information?  
Send your comments to ASK ALLEN

c/o Human Resources, Boy Scouts of America  
1325 W. Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, Texas 75015-2079  
Email: bsanowandthen@gmail.com



Allen Mossman is a retired BSA professional with more than 75 years of Scouting in his background. He retired with 30 years of active service on the national executive staff and serves as the editor of *Now & Then*.

# Proud Memories

Pictures have a way of helping us relive proud and wonderful moments in the history of Scouting, and there are many of them all across America. Through the magic of the camera, we can see for ourselves the gifts Scouting has provided throughout several generations, in millions of lives.



The picture above was taken of an active Cub Scout pack in the Midwest before the Cub Scouting program had its 10th anniversary. There are a lot of stories and memories connected to this group in the early days of the movement. This pack had a strong role in shaping the lives of the boys in this picture.

Look at the little boy sitting in uniform at the far right of the picture. What do you think happened to him? Well, he and the skinny kid in the tilted Cub Scout cap—standing in the back next to the American flag—were buddies. They followed the Scout trail and received their Eagle Scout rank together. The little guy became a Rhodes scholar, a lawyer, and an internationally renowned professor who taught in some of the nation's leading universities as well as the University of Paris, Oxford, and Umea University in Sweden.

The adult leader in the picture was 29 years old. He had been a Scout as a youth, and he wanted his son to also experience being a Scout, so he volunteered to be the Cubmaster. His wife caught the Scouting spirit and was one of the first 1,100 den mothers registered by the Boy Scouts of America.

This man became so involved and successful in developing the Cub Scouting program in the area that he was recruited to join

Scouting's professional ranks, graduating from the 85th National Training School for Scout Executives at Schiff Scout Reservation in Mendham, New Jersey. He then became the local council's first field executive appointed to serve as a Cub Scout program specialist.

The kid with the tilted cap was the Cubmaster's son. The Scouting program had a strong impact on him too. He was the first Cub Scout in his council to receive the Webelos badge when it was created, and he was the first recipient of the God and Country award in the state of Indiana. Years later, he chose to serve Scouting as his life career and graduated from the 186th National Training School at Schiff Scout Reservation—101 schools after his father! He remains active in the movement today.

By now, you may have guessed the identity of some of those mentioned: Dr. Joseph B. Board, deceased, the Robert Porter Patterson Professor of Government Emeritus at Union College in Schenectady, New York; George Mossman, deceased; and Allen Mossman, the current editor of *Now & Then*.

**Scouting does Make a Difference in preparedness for life.**

If you have a story or some proud moments you would like to share, we would welcome them for future consideration.

# Health and Well-Being

## ***‘Take a Shot’ at Staying Well in This Chilly Season***

The holiday season is getting into full swing—the time of the year to enjoy plenty of visits with family and friends. We don’t want those wonderful occasions to be marred by getting sick and out of commission with a cold or flu, especially when there are things we can do to prevent it.

When we say “Take a shot,” we are of course talking about getting that very important annual flu vaccine injection. It’s one of your best defenses against the flu, so unless your doctor has advised against it for some reason, you should get one without delay. It’s never too late to take a shot for flu, but remember that it will be several days before the shot takes effect in your system and protection begins.

Influenza and the common cold can seriously affect one’s respiratory system, so be careful not to neglect your health in the coming months. Try following these simple precautions.

**Get a good night’s sleep.** Seven to nine hours of sleep each night can help your immune system fight off infection. If you feel a cold coming on and you’re having a hard time sleeping, you may find that using an over-the-counter antihistamine will help you recover faster and feel better during the day.

**Don’t work out on days when you feel ill.**

First, this helps prevent the spread of illness to other people. Second, such rigorous physical activity can affect your immune system and may make you feel sicker.

**Drink plenty of fluids.** Avoid dehydration by drinking plenty of fluids, especially water. This will help loosen mucus, making it easier to blow out. Using a saline nasal spray and gargling with warm salt water also breaks up the mucus and helps to keep things moving.

**Wash your hands often, and keep your hands away from your nose and mouth as much as possible.** It is amazing how many germs we pick up from door knobs, telephones, keyboards, utensils, etc. It is wise to carry disinfectant wipes or hand-sanitizing lotion to use before eating anything.

**Watch out for crowds.** Common sense tells us that when people in a group are coughing and sneezing, it fills the air with germs. Holiday shopping and festivities are times when we need to be alert to the risk of spreading or catching colds or the flu.

So be alert, and take precautions to stay healthy and enjoy a wonderful holiday season.



# Financial Well-Being

## **Generous Giving Doesn't Have to Put You in Debt**

One of the less desirable hallmarks of the holiday season is the tendency to overspend on gifts and other items. Yes, the holidays are a time when we receive joy from bestowing gifts. However, you must take care to not let a heart for giving jump too far ahead of your holiday spending budget. So here are a few tips that you might want to consider to avoid a financial hangover after the season ends.

### **Evaluate all of your giving plans before you start shopping.**

Think about what you want to give to family members, friends, and neighbors, and write down a complete gift list. Then set a budget for when and how much you will spend, making sure to keep within the limits of your finances. One possibility: Maybe you can agree on a gift exchange among your family and circle of friends, so that everyone buys one gift for one person within a set dollar limit. This will help you avoid excessive spending and fiscal worries in the new year.

**Remember that gifts are probably not your only holiday expense.** There may also be travel costs, food, candy, greeting cards, and postage—not to mention all the decorations. Make sure your budget includes everything.

**Don't be afraid to cut back.** We all know this saying, but it truly is “the thought that counts”! Consider alternatives to extravagance, such as homemade gifts and home-cooked meals or treats. Those are perfect gifts, because the recipient knows you cared enough to put yourself into the giving.

**Don't let yourself be tempted.** Once your spending budget is established, set aside the specified amount and avoid using it for anything else. If “cash and carry” makes you nervous, consider putting the funds on a low-



*Photo courtesy Shutterstock.com. ©Shutterstock/3Dstock*

fee prepaid card that charges no purchase, activation, or maintenance fees. Another option: Deposit the amount in a dedicated, no-fee checking account—and remember, “When the green is gone, you're done!”

**Consider gift cards.** It's easy to spend an unplanned \$5 here and \$10 there in your search for the right gifts, but with a gift card, you can be sure of spending exactly what you intended. Popular retailers occasionally sell the cards at a discounted rate.

**Be careful with your credit card.** Yes, it does sound appealing to pay off your purchases at a later date, and the various rewards and discounts make the deal seem sweeter. But excess could damage your credit and cost you dearly in the long run. If you do charge some items, be sure to save your receipts as a reminder throughout the season of how much you have already spent. (Of course, you may also need the receipts in case of returns.)

Finally, keep in mind that there's more to gift giving than the gift. This holiday season, make a love-centered commitment to do and say the things that make life feel festive.



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## 2015 will be here before we know it!

Have you given it any thought?  
Or will you let it just happen?  
Every new year we each have  
the opportunity to start on a fresh,  
clean, blank page of life. You're  
the one who will choose what to  
write on that page.

## Make this your 2015 resolution!

*Now & Then*  
is now online! You can find  
it at <http://scout-wire.org>  
in the BSA Newsletters section.

### BSA membership as of September 30, 2014

Cub Scouts	1,129,611
Boy Scouts	813,691
Venturers	139,922
Explorers	83,570
<b>Total Youth</b>	<b>2,166,794</b>
<b>Grand Total Youth and Adults</b>	<b>3,093,147</b>
Packs	39,841
Troops and Teams	44,239
Crews	14,487
Posts	4,509
<b>Total Units and Explorer Posts</b>	<b>103,076</b>
<b>Learning for Life, Estimated Served</b>	<b>427,506</b>
Local Councils	280

*Now & Then* is published by the  
Compensation and Benefits  
Department of the Boy Scouts of America,  
P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079.  
Editor: Allen Mossman  
Staff Advisor: Jim Brown  
Staff Editor: Mark Parsons