

Expansion Project Underway at Philmont Museum

By John Clark

General Manager of Philmont Scout Ranch, retired

The circle of thought that resulted in the construction of the Ernest Thompson Seton Memorial Library and Museum actually began more than 100 years ago—the day Seton and Lord Baden-Powell met to discuss plans for the organization that eventually became the Boy Scouts of America.

Construction of the 5,194-square-foot building, designed by the Properties Division of the BSA, began in 1966 and was finished the following year. The blend of Southwestern architecture ranges from Indian to Spanish territorial. The building became the home for Seton's collections: 3,250 drawings and paintings, more than 2,000 bird and mammal skins, a library of 30,000 volumes, and hundreds of artifacts. Those donations, previously housed in Seton's home in Santa Fe, came in 1965 from Julia Seton. Financial backing for the \$150,000 original museum project came as a gift from L.O. Crosby Jr., a longtime volunteer Scouter from Mississippi, an Eagle Scout, and a National Executive Board member.

The Philmont Museum-Seton Memorial Library, as it became known in 1981, strives to fulfill Waite Phillips' dream of inspiring young people to pursue freedom, integrity, self-reliance, and excellence. It does this by offering opportunities to learn about art, science, wildlife, natural history, our American heritage, and those who have made this way of life possible.

Of course, during the past 49 years the museum's collections and archives have grown, and due to several bequests, more is coming in the near future. More importantly, the educational needs of the Philmont staff, participants, and our regional community have also increased and evolved. The current facility houses the information and objects necessary to meet those needs, but more space is required; an expansion will allow the staff to "unpack" the educational opportunities, reconnecting visitors with our past and helping them move toward their future.

The proposed expansion project will triple the exhibit and gallery space; create archive storage and a research room for scholars; update the library system; and offer an independent reading room and



Proposed renderings of the future Philmont museum project, courtesy of Conron & Woods Architects

a specialized community room capable of seating 60. This space will allow the staff to better provide educational exhibits, research opportunities, lectures, and hands-on workshops for Scouts, local organizations, schools, universities, academic organizations, and the general public.

The expansion will increase the overall size of the building by 6,850 feet, more than doubling the current size. Plans are also being made to increase the number of exhibits so that the Philmont Museum-Seton Memorial Library can thrive as a place where people and program combine to help others fulfill their own possibilities.

The overall goal of the capital campaign is \$7.2 million with \$5,815,641 either pledged or paid to date. The construction costs are \$5.6 million with construction scheduled to begin in August 2016. The remaining \$1.6 million is designated for an endowment fund to support the program for years to come.

The dreams of Ernest Thompson Seton, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Philmont staff will come true! For information on how you can contribute to this project, please call the museum director, Dave Werhane, at 575-376-1136.



Proud Moments

You Said, 'I Do!' Now You Say, 'I Don't!'

By Don Rogers



I have been blessed with the privilege to serve as a career Scouter for 39 years. As with many in the profession, those years have passed quickly for me, filled with wonderful experiences, great satisfaction, and some tough times, too. But that is what life is all about!

My experiences in local councils and 22 years as a member of the national staff provided wide-ranging positions and exciting ventures serving the movement. My responsibilities included being a staff advisor to the National Court of Honor, directing African American church relationships across the nation, and serving the American Indian Scouting Association. Each and every experience was rich and gratifying.

Early on, when I was recruited to join the professional service, I could scarcely imagine the scope, responsibility, commitment, and demands of a BSA career. Nor did I anticipate the impact of so many Scouting responsibilities away from home in the evenings—and the toll it can take on a young couple's marriage.

Life as a district executive put a tremendous strain on my new marriage. I can remember vividly the demands of budgeting my time between job and home. The survival of my marriage is truly a blessing from God.

My call to ministry came very early in my Scouting career. I was serving as a young district executive in the Allegheny Trails Council in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, providing Scouting experiences for youth with special needs. It was a life-changing time for me.

Since retiring in 2008, I have found time to acknowledge and continue my call to ministry as a Sunday school teacher, associate pastor, pastor of operations, and director of public relations for three churches.

Bobbie, my wife of 46 years, and I were inspired and encouraged by the Holy Spirit and friends to write a book on marriage based on our many years of providing marriage counseling as well as our personal triumph through long commitment, lasting love, and deep caring for one another. Marriage is such a big commitment, one that is sanctioned by God.

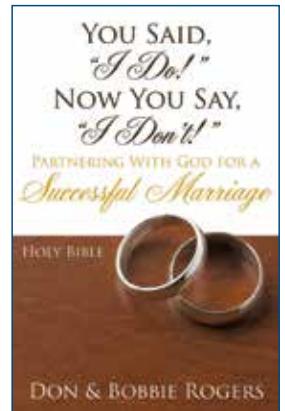
We chose to title the book *You Said, "I Do!" Now You Say, "I Don't!"*

Our intent is to provide practical information and ways to maintain a Christian-based, successful marriage. Some of the topics covered are the keys (and threats) to a successful marriage, how to divorce-proof your marriage, how to deal with in-laws and "out-laws," and navigating the stages of marriage.

Our personal experiences in a long marriage journey have taught us that there are no perfect marriages because there are no perfect people. However, we have learned that with God as a partner, a successful marriage can become a reality. It is our hope that readers will learn from our experiences and will make a lifelong investment in their own marriage. After all, it was the first institution ordained by God.

Writing and publishing this book has been an extremely satisfying and rewarding adventure. It has proved to be helpful to many couples in sustaining and enriching their marriage journey together with love. Although the insights shared in this book have not come easily, the rewards of a successful marriage have made it all worthwhile.

Editor's note: *If you are interested in obtaining a copy of Don and Bobbie's book, it can be purchased at www.amazon.com.*



Groundbreaking News

Commitment to Next Generation of Leadership Excellence

Leadership and character are the cornerstones of our movement. For all of the adventure we provide youth such as hiking, camping, and sailing, those activities are proven pathways and opportunities to develop leadership skills. This is how youth become individuals of character and good citizens of their communities and our nation.

To reinforce the commitment of the Boy Scouts of America to building the next generation of leaders, we broke ground in June on the new Thomas S. Monson Leadership Excellence Complex at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia.

The complex is named after the president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The groundbreaking celebrates Scouting's 100-year partnership with the church and recognizes the ongoing commitment of our philanthropic sponsors.

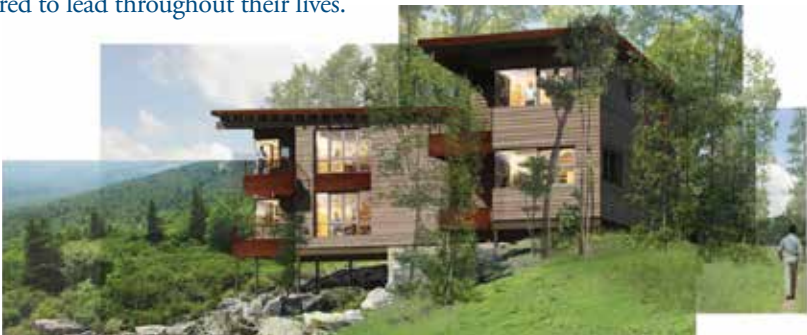
It also honors Monson's ongoing commitment to the values of Scouting. He has been a selfless volunteer and cornerstone of Scouting for many years. In fact, he has been a member of the National Executive Board since 1969, and is also a recipient of the organization's Silver Beaver and Silver Buffalo awards, as well as two international awards, the Silver Fox and Bronze Wolf. Those are all amazing accomplishments that show his enduring dedication to our movement.

While character-based leadership skills are already taught and learned in our programs, this complex provides a tremendous opportunity to formalize that training so that Scouts can be better prepared to lead throughout their lives.

The complex, set to be completed in 2020, will include a state-of-the-art facility where Scouts can learn the principles of leadership and put them into practice with hands-on training. The complex will host guest speakers and offer a variety of training methods and learning experiences in categories such as communication, storytelling, and conflict resolution.

It is truly fitting that the Thomas S. Monson Leadership Excellence Complex will be developed at the Summit, as the location has become such an important landmark within our movement. The complex will expand upon the life-changing adventures already offered at the Summit to help Scouts gain a respect and appreciation for the outdoors, sustainability, and service. We look forward to seeing the complex help shape tomorrow's leaders from across the country, giving them character-building, foundational experiences, and instilling positive life values.

The Summit has become a pinnacle of the Scouting experience, with state-of-the-art facilities and incredible outdoor programs that take Scouts beyond the limits of what they imagined they could do in life. Beginning in 2020, the new complex will be there helping the next generation of Scouts learn the principles of leadership and put them into practice. Youth and adults will continue to have unforgettable life adventures at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve.



An architectural rendering of the bunkhouse being built as part of the Thomas S. Monson Leadership Excellence Complex

Your Questions and Comments

Question

Allen, I'm trying to make sense of the membership stats in the summer issue of *Now & Then*. The figures listed for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers total 1,669,217. That figure is 2,666 less than the Total Traditional listed as 1,671,883. Varsity or Sea Scouts maybe?

Subtracting Total Traditional and Explorers from All Served leaves a balance of 388,694. Is this Learning for Life and other non-traditional membership? Adding figures listed for Packs, Troops/Teams, and Crews/Ships, I get 91,588 Total Traditional Units. Total Posts—4,154—are considered non-traditional, correct?

Are Learning for Life groups and other non-traditional groups not counted? Are Sea Scouts considered part of Exploring or Venturing, or are they a separate program entity?

Bill McCleery, retiree

Answer

There have been several comments similar to yours. A little detective work brought to light the following information: The membership information came from data reported on MyBSA.org. It is my understanding that the information on the website was collated from several sources.

A Membership Growth Group in the National Service Center has been created and, in the future, this will be the source for the information printed in *Now & Then*. We anticipate that the new format and data will be easier to interpret.

Question

Allen, I was reading the *Scouts in Action* section in *Boys' Life* magazine. I noticed that the Troop Sponsorship is missing. I hope this is not the BSA being "politically correct," for some reason. I hope you can determine the reason for this omission. Thanks.

Bill Moran



Answer

Thanks for your question. I talked to Mike Goldman, editorial director for *Boys' Life* magazine, and he discovered that, indeed, chartered organization information is no longer included in the database from which *Boys' Life* pulls the Scouts in Action stories. Neither of

the two staff members who now manage the database know why the information on chartered organizations was removed. Those who made the decision to do so have since retired.

Because of your inquiry, efforts are being made to restore that information in future Scouts in Action stories. Although success cannot be guaranteed, rest assured that the *Boys' Life* staff will do their best to get that accomplished.

Question

Allen, I am in the same boat as Robert Steele, who wrote to you in the last issue of *Now & Then*. I have two membership cards for 2015 and 2016. One card identifies me as a retired professional, and the other lists me as a council member at large. By my calculations I should be a 70-year veteran member.

Donald Harrod, retired professional

Answer

The two registration cards were created because your primary registration has been through your local council as a member at large, rather than through national as a retired professional. In the future, you should use only the retiree registration form from the National Service Center, typically included in the mailing of your BSA retirement annuity payment notification in December. Be sure to register as a retired professional for your primary registration using that form. The Member Care & Shared Services team has been requested to take appropriate action regarding your veteran status concern. Thanks for the opportunity to be of service!

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

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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*.

Scouting Update

BSA's Lion Pilot Program for Kindergarten-age Boys

Research shows that child educational development begins by age 4, as children engage in the formal educational process at school. We want to support their efforts with Scouting programs.



Four councils have already participated in the Lion pilot program. Based on the results in those councils, the pilot is now being expanded nationally, and any council can apply if they believe the program will enhance their ability to grow and serve local youth. Approved councils will start offering the program this fall when the school year begins.

Program materials are available at Scout shops in the approved councils. Lions entering the program this fall will graduate in the summer of 2017 and attend day camp as new Tigers, making the transition into the Cub Scout program. Retention statistics will be tracked by name, as well as by pack and den.

Trailblazing Good Turn Project at Top Hands

The 2016 Top Hands meeting was held in New Orleans, and participants chose to partner with Youth Rebuilding New Orleans (YRNO). The program is focused on educating and empowering young people while also reducing urban blight and providing affordable housing for deserving teachers. Abandoned homes are acquired and renovated by volunteers. When each renovation is completed, the house is sold to a teacher for less than the appraised value.

Top Hands participants, spouses, and youth ages 16 and over brought their work clothes and joined YRNO staff and volunteers for a half-day community service project. They helped to renovate an old house in New Orleans. In addition, approximately 100 of the spouses rolled up their sleeves and assisted in preparing school supply packs for children in the community.

This first-time option at Top Hands was truly a groundbreaking service project and a living Good Turn to give back to the host city and help other people. It gives us all pride to be a part of a movement that practices the Good Turn and the call in the Scout Oath "to help other people at all times."

Welcome Center Construction on Target at the Summit



The Boy Scouts of America broke ground last fall for the J.W. and Hazel Ruby West Virginia Welcome Center, which will serve as the main entrance and parking area for the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve. This exciting facility is on schedule for completion before the opening of the 2017 National Scout Jamboree.

This project is made possible by a generous gift from the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust, which has long supported Scouting in West Virginia. The Welcome Center will greet the thousands of Scouting youth and adult members and volunteers who travel to the Summit each year, as well as area residents and visitors interested in learning more about Scouting, the reserve itself, West Virginia, and the Ruby family.

The center is located on U.S. Route 19. It will welcome and credential all visitors and guests as they arrive at the Summit Bechtel Reserve and will eventually provide parking for more than 12,000 vehicles.

Health and Well-Being

Don't Keep Secrets From Your Doctor

Even when you don't think it's important, choosing not to share everything about your health with your doctor can lead to serious risks.

Often we avoid consulting the doctor about certain health habits or conditions because we are afraid of the answers or recommendations we might get. We may not want to admit that we are not eating properly, not going to the gym often enough, or engaging in other bad habits that are easy to fall into.

However, your annual physical is a great opportunity to open up and level with your doctor. You need to be open about any non-prescribed vitamins, herbs, or supplements you have been taking—which can potentially do more harm than good. Also let your physician know if you have stopped taking a prescribed medication. Don't hesitate to discuss your reasons, whether the medicine was failing to work or making you feel tired, or even if it involves the delicate subject of bathroom functions.

Some of this may sound trivial, but the trust you hold in your doctor and the depth of the doctor's knowledge about you is essential to ensuring you receive quality health care and an accurate diagnosis.

It's time to 'fess up with your doctor and tell the truth about secrets you may have been keeping. An open, full-disclosure relationship with your physician can mean living longer and living better.

Take Control of Your Health

Putting some thought into what you do each day and how you feel about it can have great benefits for your well-being. Social and productive activities are as important as physical ones for staying healthy.

As we age, even simple things like reading, cooking, walking the dog, or going to church have an important impact on our health, both physically and mentally. Therefore, our daily lifestyle needs to be a blend of social, spiritual, physical, and productive undertakings. Following are some positive actions we can take to keep ourselves *“physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.”*



Photo courtesy Shutterstock.com, ©Monkey Business Images

Eat healthy. Combined with physical activity, eating nutritious foods in the proper amounts is always a wise thing to do. Illnesses such as heart disease, obesity, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and osteoporosis can be prevented or controlled with dietary changes and exercise.

Maintain healthy weight. Gaining too much weight increases your risk for heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Use a BMI (body mass index) calculator to find out what you should weigh in relation to your height. Once you reach a healthy weight, stay there by eating right and remaining active. Drink water instead of sugary beverages.

Prevent falls. It's only natural that as we age and remain active, we become more vulnerable to falling. Remove loose carpet or throw rugs. Keep walking paths clear. Use night-lights in hallways and bathrooms. Wear shoes with good support to reduce the risk of falling.

Keep up-to-date on immunizations and health screenings. Many preventive screenings are available. Retirees who are on Medicare are entitled to an annual wellness visit. During these visits, make sure to discuss any preventive screenings and vaccinations that you may need. Have regular dental checkups, eye exams, and hearing tests.

Manage stress. Use exercise or relaxation techniques. Try meditation as a method to cope. Take time to have fun with friends and family. This can affect our health, how we feel, and our state of mind. Acquire the habit of positive thinking.

Financial Well-Being

Money Mistakes Are a Common Learning Experience

Making mistakes with money can be more catastrophic during retirement than at any earlier time of life. That's because, as retirees, we depend on our nest eggs, and the ability to replenish our savings is greatly diminished. Below are a few tips on how to avoid such a crisis.

Adopt a simpler lifestyle. Among the biggest mistakes retirees make is not adjusting expenses to a new, post-retirement budget. Some retirees have trouble adjusting to the fact that food, clothing, and entertainment expenses should be reduced if they are no longer earning the same amount of money as they did when they were employed. It may mean eating at home a little more rather than eating out.

Also, retirees often forget that greater health-care and long-term care costs will come into play as we age. If you have never considered this, it's time to talk to a trusted financial planner to discuss your needs. Appropriate adjustments in budgeting and smart planning will steer you on a good course of action.

Don't be house rich and cash poor. Many people pay for a mortgage most of their life and, by the time they retire, end up with a lot of equity in their home and not much cash left. While houses appreciate in value, the costs of upkeep including taxes, utilities, services, repairs, and maintenance can be too much for a retiree to handle. Your children have probably moved out by that time, and you can cut expenses by selling your house and moving in to a smaller, more affordable home. You can also invest money in more predictable forms of income to support your lifestyle needs in retirement.

Don't spend too much too soon. Take into consideration that you will be living on a fixed amount of money for a long time. Bearing in mind that your money will

have to last the rest of your life, avoid the temptation of spending large chunks of your nest egg early in retirement. The temptation to spend money can seem almost irresistible, so financial discipline is vital. Depleting your money beyond the interest that it earns will hurt the principal and can leave you with nothing after only a few years.

Move to more conservative investments. Retirees can't afford large negative swings in their investments. Financial advisors tend to recommend a long-term strategy, leaving money in the market regardless of the ups and downs; that's because over time, the market, while very volatile at times, has historically ended up rising in the long term. However, as retirees we need to think more short term as we will need to access the cash. That said, it's probably still smart to keep a percentage of your money in more aggressive growth investments. A financial advisor can offer advice on how your investments should be diversified.

Be on guard against frauds and scams. Retirees are unfortunately among the most targeted groups for scams. Be sure to consult an advisor prior to making any investment or laying out a large amount of cash on anything. Scammers will prey upon your desire to grow your savings. Keep a certain level of skepticism when it comes to the investments offered. You might discover it's a money scam.



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New BSA Southern Region Director and Chief Diversity Officer

Chief Scout Executive Michael Surbaugh has appointed Ron Oats as Southern Region director and Chief Diversity Officer following the retirement of Ponce Duran.



During his 10 years as Scout executive of the Central Florida Council, Ron has made huge strides in attracting a diverse range of youth members, volunteers, board members, and staff. Specifically, his team launched a Hispanic Initiative Program and developed a Hispanic Heritage Luncheon to recognize local leaders, resulting in the engagement of more than 250 diverse community leaders who had no prior relationship to Scouting.

From his start in the South Florida Council in Miami to a stint as Scout executive of the Gulf Stream Council in West Palm Beach and as deputy regional director for the former Southern Region office in Atlanta, he has a history of cultivating strong relationships within the community and on his teams of professionals and volunteers.

National Membership Participation Report June 30, 2016

Tigers	14,395
Cub Scouts	428,645
Webelos Scouts	426,428
Cub Scout–age Youth	869,468
Boy Scouts	695,232
Varsity Scouts	60,648
Boy Scout–age Youth	755,880
Venturers	111,431
Sea Scouts	2,905
Explorers	79,477
Coed Young Adults	193,813
STEM Scouts	1,852
New Market Youth	1,852
Subtotal	1,821,013
Learning for Life	390,778
Grand Total Youth	2,211,791
Total Adults	858,469
Total Units	99,259

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