

HIGH-LIGHTS OF 1961

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The year opened on two unpleasant notes: one, the aftermath of an unauthorized trip to Guatemala which Troop 37, Fort Myers, had made in August, 1960, and, second, actions of Jack Kellogg, Camp Ranger, resulting in his dismissal by the Council's Personnel Committee. The Scoutmaster and Assistant of Troop 37 were also dismissed and barred from further participation in Scouting. The firing of Kellogg generated a considerable amount of dissention among Bradenton and Sarasota troop leaders, who had built up a considerable personal loyalty to him.

The Council's 33rd Annual Recognition Dinner was held at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, on January 16, with 266 persons in attendance.

"Scouting in Action" shows were staged in Sarasota and Fort Myers in the early Spring. The latter was highly successful, bringing out a total attendance of some 5,000 persons.

The Council's area-wide Good Turn was, again, the annual drive for clothing for the Goodwill Industries.

Under the leadership of Richard Hinze, Executive Board member, a Trust Fund was established in the Palmer First National Bank, Sarasota, in May.

On March 7, the Bradenton Kiwanis Club broke ground at Camp Flying Eagle for the fine, \$27,000.00 dining hall it was building for the camp. It was completed in time for camp's opening on June 11 and formally dedicated on the 27th, when about 60 Kiwanians attended and had supper with the campers.

The Selby Foundation, Sarasota, furnished over \$4,000.00 worth of equipment for the dining hall and its kitchen.

The summer camp season had the largest attendance in the camp's history. 28 troops came under their own adult leadership and a total of 521 camper-weeks was achieved.

A lodge of the Order of the Arrow was chartered in July, with 15 Scouts, five adult leaders and the professional staff as charter members. First initiation of members took place the last two nights of camp, July 13-14.

A Philmont Expedition, by chartered bus, had 34 older Scouts and Explorers and three adult leaders in attendance, in June and early July.

Robert Tye, District Executive for Sarasota County, resigned as of August 15th and was replaced by Hugh McPherson who reported on the job as of September 1st.

President William G. Price, Fort Myers, completed a most successful two-year term of office on September 1, and was succeeded by James G. Spencer, Jr., Sarasota.

The largest-attended camporee in the Council's history was held at Warm Mineral Springs, the week-end of October 13-15. An estimated 407 Scouts, adult leaders and judges took part.

On the same week-end, 66 Explorers and 15 adult leaders went to the Homestead Air Force Base for an encampment. A visit was paid to Everglades National Park, enroute home.

Biggest problem of the Council's year was that of finance. Every possible resource was tapped. When the Council still faced ending the fiscal year with a \$1,500.00 deficit, Finance Chairman George Sanders, Fort Myers, came to the rescue again, as he had several times in past years, with a contribution of this amount. Through his generosity, the fiscal year ended "in the black".

End of the previous year (1960) had disclosed a total boy-membership of 3,668 - by far the highest in the Council's history and an 18% increase during that calendar year. Membership fell steadily through 1961, however, until the end of August when a "low" of 3,368 was reached. An upturn then began, with a real spurt on November and December. The year closed with a December 31 membership of 3,815 boys, a net increase of 4.1%. The increase in total units, however, was only nine.