

29th Anniversary of Dedication Is Tomorrow

Scout House: Goolsby Memorial

Twenty-nine years ago Tuesday ceremonies were held dedicating the Thomas Goolsby Memorial Boy Scout House, the small building next to the police station. Feb. 11, the birthday of Thomas A. Edison, also is the birthdate of Goolsby, an Eagle Scout who died July 10, 1928, of ptomaine poisoning at the age of 15.

A deep loss was felt by all who knew Charles Thomas Goolsby, a boy who reached the highest rank of scouthood by excelling in citizenship and scout crafts.

While funeral orations were being made over his grave, the Civitan Club started a movement to build a memorial to him. Other civic clubs joined in, and donations provided all the funds to construct the building.

Barron G. Collier gave \$50 to help start the fund. Collier was honorary president of the Royal Palm Council and member of the national council of Boy Scouts of America.

Robert L. Newman Jr., Thomas' scoutmaster, was chairman of the fund drive. It was on a trip with Newman and about 100 other scouts to Cuba that Goolsby received his eagle badge from President Gerardo Machado of Cuba.

Capt. George F. Kinzie, president of the Boy Scouts that year, accepted the memorial on behalf of the council.

Mrs. W. W. Stewart, Goolsby's sister and only kin still living here, said many newer residents may have wondered how the scout house came to be on the city hall lot. She said that telling scouts today how they came to have a memorial building may help them to realize the deep obligation they have in scouthood.

Goolsby's other sister, Mrs. Yvonne Ryder, now lives in Scottsboro, Ala., and a brother, Louis C. Goolsby, lives in Gainesville.



Thomas Goolsby, above, Eagle Scout, as he looked in 1928, after President Gerardo Machado of Cuba gave him his Eagle badge.