

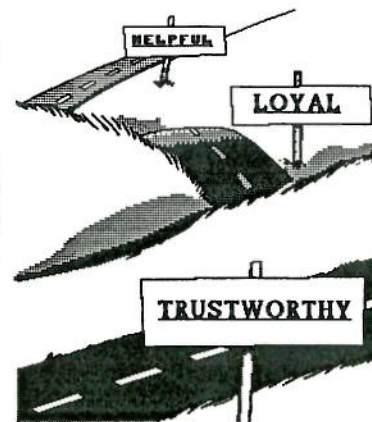
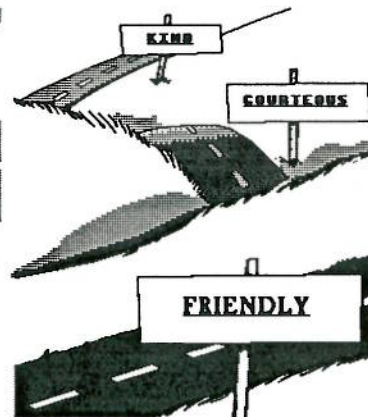
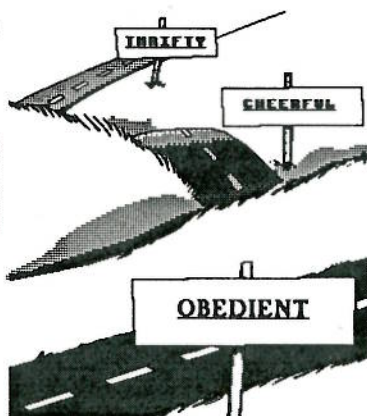
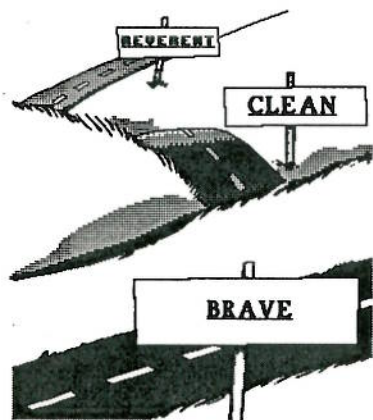
# CAMP BULLOWA

1947 - 1997

50 YEARS

AND STILL

GOING STRONG



## PREFACE

In March of 1992 the Bullowa Archives Committee held its first meeting to begin preparations for celebrating the upcoming Fiftieth Anniversary of Camp Bullowa. One of the projects proposed was the preparation of a history of Camp Bullowa. It was felt that this would be of interest to Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Explorers, and adults currently active in the Rockland County Scouting Program. It was also felt that it would be of interest to those who had been active in the program in the past, as well as to the general public in Rockland County. With the merger of Rockland County into the new Hudson Valley Council, this history may be of interest to people outside of Rockland County.

The information contained in the history was obtained primarily from minutes of meetings of the Council Executive Board, the Council Executive Committee, and the Council Camping Committee. Some information was obtained from other sources.

## INTRODUCTION

The founding date of Camp Bullowa has been selected as September 12, 1947. This was the date that the DeBaun Lake Properties were purchased by the Rockland County Council, B.S.A. The history of Camp Bullowa begins on that date and continues through the years, not only with the camping by boys, but also with the decisions and actions of the various Council Committees trying to provide excellent camping facilities for the boys.

## CAMP COWAW - KANOHWAHKE LAKES

The Rockland County Council, B.S.A. was organized in October 1924. In the Spring of 1925 the Council made special arrangements with the Perth Amboy Council to use the facilities at Camp Cowaw on the first of the three Kanohwahke Lakes in the Palisades Interstate Park for long-term Summer camping by our Scouts. 72 Scouts attended in 1925 with Joseph D. Carstang serving as Camp Director, and Scout Executive Julian H. Salomon serving as Assistant Camp Director. 78 Scouts attended in 1926 with Lloyd C. Colsey, Scoutmaster of Troop 3 in Nyack, serving as Camp Director, and Julian H. Salomon again serving as Assistant Camp Director.

## THE FIRST CAMP WINAKI - LAKE SEBAGO

During the Camp Cowaw years members of the Executive Board became interested in the Council obtaining a Camp of its own. The Camp Committee spent the best part of two years looking at possible sites. Finally, in the Spring of 1927, they arranged to rent a site on Lake Sebago from the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, which constructed the necessary buildings.

This Camp, the First Camp Winaki was originally planned to accommodate 32 boys a week for a six-week season, but was quickly increased to 40 boys per week. Summer Camp was attended by 110 boys representing 17 Troops for a total of 202 boy weeks. Following the Summer Camp season Camp Winaki was used by many Troops for short-term camping during the Fall, Winter and Spring months. During this first year, William P. Abbott suggested the establishment of an Endowment Fund to take care of the maintenance and operation of Camp Winaki. This Fund was established in 1928, with Mr. Abbott being the single largest contributor.

102 boys attended what has been considered the best Camp Winaki on Lake Sebago in 1928. Scout Executive Julian H. Salomon served as Camp Director for the two years of camping at this Camp.

### THE SECOND CAMP WINAKI - BREAKNECK POND

Following the 1928 camping season, a more remote and better suited site (at Breakneck Pond) for Camp Winaki was leased from the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. This Camp Winaki was used for long-term Summer camping from 1929 through 1940, with anywhere from 68 to 161 boys attending any one Summer. Louis A. Hornbeck served as Camp Director from 1929 through 1937, followed by Carl Grosch, Jr.

This Camp Winaki was also used for short term camping the rest of the year.

During this period of time an attempt was made to encourage Home Troop camping instead of Provisional camping. This only met with partial success.

Henry I. Stetler, an active member of the Executive Board, died in 1932, leaving a bequest of \$5,000 to be used for Camp Winaki.

Charles A. Bruce, a former Finance Committee Chairman, and Camp Committee Vice-Chairman, died in 1936. His family donated a gift of \$1,000 which was used to establish the Charles A. Bruce Endowment Fund for Camp Winaki.

### THE THIRD CAMP WINAKI - PHILLIPS HILL ROAD, NEW CITY

As early as 1933 an attempt was started to locate a new site for Summer Camp. However, it was not until February of 1941 that a decision was made not to renew the lease for Camp Winaki on Breakneck Pond. Early in March of 1941 it was decided to purchase two parcels of land on Phillips Hill Road in New City for use as a Camp. The actual purchase probably took place some time in the early Summer of 1941.

There was no Summer camping at Camp Winaki in 1941. Arrangements were made with other Councils to accommodate Rockland County Scouts.

This new Camp Winaki was developed to accommodate 60 Scouts a week in long-term Camp. From 1942 through 1946 the Camp was used by 112 to 201 Scouts during the Summer. In addition it was used for short-term camping the rest of each year.

In June 1944 consideration was given to increasing the capacity of the Camp to 100 Scouts a week. This would have required the purchase of additional property. In the Summer of 1944 it was decided to hold up on the purchase of additional property. It was also decided that Camp Winaki should be used only for short term camping, and that a special committee should be appointed to locate a suitable site for long-term camping within 100 miles of the center of Rockland County.

By October several properties had been investigated, including the DeBaun Lake Properties on Franck Road in Stony Point but it was not available at the time.

Summer Camp at Camp Winaki was considered the most successful up until that time with the highest number of boy-weeks of attendance (396) in the history of the Council.

In October of 1946 the matter of purchasing the DeBaun Lake Properties (also known as the Stony Point Lake Properties, Inc.) was discussed again and was finally made in September of 1947. The result of this delay was the use of Camp Winaki for Summer Camp, with 353 Scouts attending.

In November of 1947 discussion started concerning the sale of Camp Winaki. The bidding process continued into September of 1948, when the property was sold to Irving Maidman of Suffern. The pending sale of the Camp resulted in Rockland Scouts attending other camps during the Summer of 1948. 237 boys attended Camps No-Be-Bosco and Aheka that Summer.

## THE BEGINNING OF CAMP BULLOWA

A New Camp Property Committee was appointed in September of 1944 to investigate suitable properties within 100 miles of the center of Rockland County, which could be used for long-term Summer camping. Mr. W. Reynolds and Mr. Walter Hamilton were appointed to serve on the Committee.

The first report from the New Camp Property Committee was made in October 1944. It mentioned that they had looked at three properties. One was in Sterling Forest, and another was the DeBaun Lake Properties (Stony Point Lake Properties, Inc.). Neither of these properties were available at that time. The third property was available. It was the Fowler Property in Tomkins Cove.

In March of 1945, Mr. W. Reynolds reported that the Committee had looked at a potential site near Monticello, New York, but it was not considered to be desirable for several reasons. The following month, the Executive Committee agreed to exclude the Fowler Property from further consideration because the lake and dam were not suitable for use in a Scout Camp.

Beveridge C. Dunlop, Council President, called a special meeting of the Council Executive Board on October 3, 1946. The purpose of the meeting was to have Mr. Edward Adler report on a potential new Campsite for the Council. The property, known as the Stony Point Lake Properties, Inc. (also DeBaun Lake Properties) consisted of 288 acres including a 30 acre lake, and a house which was currently occupied.

After considerable discussion concerning the suitability of the lake, the question was raised about financing the purchase of the property. In answer, Dr. Dingman read a gift agreement drawn up by Miss. Grace A.M Bullowa and Dr. Addison S. Boyce, in which they agreed to give the Rockland County Council a check for \$85,000 for building and maintaining a permanent Summer Camp for the Boy Scouts. The Camp was to be a memorial to Dr. Alma Bullowa, who had died after a long illness.

Considerable discussion took place concerning legal ramifications of accepting the gift, along with some of the ideas mentioned for Camp Development. The items of particular concern were a Memorial Chapel in memory of Emilie M. Bullowa, the oldest sister who had died of a stroke, and a Memorial Gateway. The Board finally agreed to accept the magnificent gift offered by Miss. Bullowa and Dr. Boyce, and President Dunlop was authorized to sign the gift agreement.

At one of the October meetings the Board agreed to accept the option on the Stony Point Lake Properties, Inc. held by Dr. Dingman. However, there was a considerable amount of interest expressed in investigating other potential properties. The New Campsite Committee, under its Chairman, Fremont Lovett, continued to seek out and investigate other potential campsites. Before the matter was ended, they had investigated and reported on about 20 sites, including the Stony Point Lake Properties, Inc. Although some members favored this property, there were those strongly opposed to purchasing it, right up until the time that Orville Mann was authorized to close the title on the property with the then current owner, Morris Arvutine.

During this same period of time, Orville Mann carried on continuing negotiations with Morris Arvutine concerning the property.

The next 11 months turned out to be very busy ones for the members of the Executive Board. A number of special Executive Board meetings were held relating to the gift of Miss. Bullowa and Dr. Boyce and to the purchase of property for a new Camp.

One of the main points of disagreement concerning this property was the quality of the water in the lake, and therefore the use of the lake for swimming. This disagreement continued right up until September 10, 1947. The Executive Board, at its meeting on this date, authorized Orville Mann to close on the purchase of the property with Morris Arvutine. The closing on the property took place two days later, on September 12, 1947.

However, planning for the development of the Camp started prior to the closing on the property. Late in July the Camping Committee was authorized to retain the services of an Architect to prepare plans and specifications for the buildings to be constructed. They were also authorized to retain the services of an Engineer to prepare plans for a water distribution system, as well as drainage and sanitary systems.

By August a preliminary layout had been prepared for the development of the Camp based upon an attendance of 100 to 150 boys per week at Summer Camp. The layout showed a general location for the various buildings and facilities being considered, including 5 Troop campsites.

Following the closing on the property things really began to happen at Camp Bullowa. Miss Bullowa and Dr. Boyce cleared all the brush from the entire length of the entrance road. They also provided another check, for \$3,000, to cover the cost of the additional 60 acres purchased. They also agreed to assume the cost of a hard surfaced road leading into the parking lot. George Schofield had started working on the plans for the Ranger's house.

Troop 23 of Suffern claims to be the first Scout Troop to have conducted a Work Weekend at Camp Bullowa on September 20 and 21.

In October, Dr. Charles Pohl was hired as the Sanitary and Hydraulic Engineer. Plot plans and contour maps of the Camp had been completed, as had a sketch of the Ranger's House. It was decided that the Lake be name "Lake Boyce" in honor of Dr. Addisone Boyce. 250 Scouts attended the Fall Camporee at Camp Bullowa the weekend of October 12 and 13, the first Council camping activity held at Camp Bullowa.

By the end of December Mr. Ernest Bobb was hired as the Camp Ranger on a part time basis with his responsibility being the construction of the Camp facilities. The Camp Committee was preparing a layout for the waterfront.

During January 1948 the Camping Committee began preparing plans for a number of items related to the Camp - water testing and purification; sanitation; rifle range site; kitchen; Dining Hall; first aid or infirmary facilities; and regulations for swimming and boating on Lake Boyce.

Troop 23 of Suffern spent another Work Weekend in Camp Bullowa on March 20 and 21.

During April Miss. Bullowa and Dr. Boyce presented the Council with an additional check for \$50,000, bringing their total contribution up to \$138,000. Troop 23 of Suffern spent a third Work Weekend at Camp Bullowa on April 24 and 25. While there they met Ranger Ernest Bobb who informed them that they were the first and only Troop to work at the Camp.

In May it was decided that there would be no Summer Camp at Camp Bullowa in 1948 because the physical facilities would not be complete enough. Scout Executive Russell S. Gallagher was to check with neighboring Councils about the possibility of Rockland County Scouts attending their Summer Camps.

By the middle of May Mr. A.D. McLeod reported that Camp Development was progressing well.

By the end of July Mr. A.D. McLeod reported that the contract for nine buildings had been awarded to Fred L. Holt, Inc. Boys camping at Camps No-Be-Bosco and Aheka seemed to be doing OK. Attendance was 237 boy weeks.

Construction continued in the Camp during the Summer. On September 25 the Annual Council Meeting was held at Camp Bullowa. The program included a barbecue and tours of the Camp area to show the progress in the development of the Camp.

The Council Camporee at Camp Bullowa, October 15 - 17, included a plug casting contest for those interested in fishing.

In November Mr. McLeod reported that the contracts for plumbing and wiring had been awarded. In December Mr. McLeod reported that Camp Bullowa had been opened up for Winter camping with the completion of Winter Lodge.

In February 1949, Mr. McLeod was asked to prepare plans for a combination Health Lodge, Camp Store, and Winter Cabin. This building was to be named the Stetler Lodge in memory of Henry I. Stetler. It was also approved to re-establish the Bruce Lodge (named after Charles A. Bruce). Approval was given to construct 4 Adirondack Lean-Tos, 2 of which would be erected in memory of former Council Treasurer Walter G. Hamilton.

In March the site for Stetler Lodge was cleared and construction began. Negotiations were started with Mr. Arvutine for the purchase of his easement and some of his property.

In April sites were selected for the Adirondack Lean-Tos and construction was begun. Tree trunks and boulders were removed from Lake Boyce with no loss of fish. The tent platforms and float sections for the waterfront were received. All of the equipment was moved from Camp Winaki, except for the stove.

May saw the completion of a number of construction projects: Stetler Lodge, the 4 Adirondack Lean-Tos, a partition in the Dining Hall, the fill for all roads was in place, and Rockland Light and Power Co. had installed a power line to serve the Camp.

The Avrutine house burned to the ground. This led to the purchase of the Avrutine easement. Development of a Recreation Field was started on a part of this property.

By the time Summer Camp started in July 1949 most of the remaining buildings and other facilities had been completed. They included: the Memorial Gateway; swim dock and float; boat dock and Waterfront Tower; Rifle Range; Archery Range; 7 latrines; 3 wash stands; Garage, Workshop, and Storage area; Central Showers; Nature Lodge; and the Lakeside Storage Building. In addition 50 tent platforms, 25 tents, and 100 bunks with mattresses were in place.

This first Summer of operation at Camp Bullowa was attended by 118 Scouts in 5 Troops with Home Troop Leadership and 183 Scouts from 24 Troops as provisional campers. The highlight of the season occurred on the afternoon of July 17 with the Camp Bullowa Dedication Program. Over 1,000 people attended the ceremony despite a heavy rain. Honored guests for the ceremony were Miss. Grace A.M. Bullowa, Dr. Addisone S. Boyce, and Senator Thomas C. Desmond.

## CAMP BULLOWA THROUGH THE YEARS

Short term camping has continued through all of the years since 1947. Also there have been numerous outdoor activities including District Camporees and Council Camporees, training courses, Cub Scout Field Days, and Father-Son Explorer days.

Construction of the Ranger's House started in February 1948 and was completed in July.

Construction of the Rec Hall started in June 1949 on the site of the Avrutine house which had burned to the ground early in May. The remaining foundations probably were used for the Rec Hall. In March of 1981 a decision was made to renovate the Rec Hall. The renovations were started in October and completed in June 1982. The building was now classified as the Training Center. In the Spring of 1986 consideration was given to expanding the Training Center as one of three options to house the Scout Service Center, then located in Dingman Lodge. Construction started in June 1988 and was completed in January 1989. The Service Center moved from Dingman Lodge shortly thereafter. The Service Center closed the end of February 1997 when it moved to the Hudson Valley Council's consolidated Service in Salisbury Mills, NY. As of the end of July no decision has been made concerning the use of the vacated space.

During 1950 it was decided that an Administration Building should be constructed on the Camp property. Construction started early in 1951 and was completed early in 1952. On May 18, 1952 the building was dedicated as Dingman Lodge in honor of Dr. John C. Dingman, the person who had negotiated with Miss. Grace A.M. Bullowa and Dr. Addisone Boyce for funds to construct and maintain a Scout Camp.

The Scout Service Center seems to have moved from Nanuet to Dingman Lodge during 1954. In response to request for a more centrally located Service Center, a building in New City had been selected by September 1957 and the move out of Dingman Lodge took place in January 1958. The Service Center moved back from New City into the Lodge in March 1973 and then moved out of the Lodge into the expanded Training Center building in January 1989.

In the Fall of 1951 it was realized that a real need existed for a full-time Ranger to handle the relations with Units in Camp as well as handling maintenance problems. Ernest Bobb, the part-time Ranger accepted the job before the end of the year.

Long term Summer Camp started in 1949 and continued through the Summer of 1970. The first Summer Camp was held at the Bullowa Adirondack Scout Reservation (BASR) in Racquette Lake, New York, jointly with Camp Bullowa. Summer camping continued at the BASR through the 1975 season. The facilities at Camp Hayden in the Ten Mile Scout Reservation, Narrowsburg, NY, were used by Rockland Troops from the 1976 through the 1979 seasons. Other Council Camps were used from 1980 through 1995.

In 1996, following the merger of the Rockland county Council into the new Hudson Valley Council, it was recommended that all Troops in the new Council use Camp Ranachqua in the Ten Mile River Scout Reservation. The Camp had formerly been rented by the Hudson-Delaware Council and then rented by the Hudson Valley Council.

The first Cub Scout Day Camp was held at Camp Bullowa in the Summer of 1971 with Dottie Barrett as Camp Director. The program seems to have included the following Cub Scout level activities: swimming and rowing at the Waterfront, archery at the Rifle Range, arts and crafts, and campcraft. Other activities were added : nature in 1973, field sports in 1978, use of canoes in 1982, emergency preparedness in 1986, Scoutcraft in 1987. The program in 1991 included an Opening Ceremony, a Closing Ceremony, a Campwide activity on the "A" Field following the Friday afternoon Closing Ceremony, an Open House for the Camper's families early Friday evening followed by a Campfire in the Campfire Arena below the Dining Hall. These may have been used earlier, but this was the first reference that was found.

Non-Cub Scouts were permitted to attend the Day Camp and bus transportation was made available starting in 1981.

A Boy Scout program for mornings was started in 1992 to accommodate the number of boys who were continuing at Day Camp from ages 11 through 14. This program has 2 week periods and include an overnight camp-out during the second week of the period.

In May 1950 the establishment of an Order of the Arrow Lodge was authorized, and the Munsee Lodge #444 was chartered. The Lodge has done a considerable amount of work at the Camp during its Ordeal Weekends and Brotherhood Weekends held at Camp. In January 1996 the Munsie Lodge became the Munsie Chapter of the Natcha Nimat Lodge #88, a change made necessary by the merger of the Rockland County Council into the new Hudson Valley Council.

A Campmaster Corps. began operations in 1971. The purpose of the Corps. was to assist the Ranger with relation to the Units that were in Camp.