

THE LANTERN'S LIGHT

by the Many Point Staff Alumni Association

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Message from the President

Exciting times are evolving for the Many Point Alumni Association. With a new season of camp on the horizon, the Board Members, Staff Alumni, and Many Point are working to make camp an even better place.

Before this article goes too far in explaining the goals for the season, I would like to take a few minutes to introduce myself to the members. My name is Mike Kuklok. I started my journey as a camp staffer in 1999, and have been going strong ever since. With roles ranging from First Class Adventure Director to Camp Director, I have been a huge advocate for the camp's program quality and improvements over the years. In recent years, I have helped with some special projects / programs including the All Things Wilderness Response Program and the Week 8 Lumberjack Rendezvous.

In the winter months, I continue to guide the Many Point Staff at North Wind Winter Adventures, a winter program held at Stearns Scout Camp.

In my non-Scouting life, I am a project manager / purchasing agent for a software firm in Medina, MN, and am also spearheading a outdoor adventure startup.

Last April, at the Spring Fling, I was voted in as the President for this organization, and look forward to bringing it and its members to the next level of excellence.

In mid-September, the MPSAA had its first Board Meeting of the season, and had great discussion on how we can keep the MPSAA on the leading edge of Alumni

groups. Some cool things that we are working on include:

- A Communications Crew - primarily responsible to maintain better communication among the Staff Alumni. Not only with hard copy mailings, but with digital technology including a significant update to the website that has an interactive photo gallery, user logins, and semi-monthly email newsletters to keep everyone up to date. To take a sneak peak at the photo archive, go to <http://www.mpalumni.org/photo/>



- The MPSAA is also working to make it easier for people to donate through the website. Details on this are still being hashed out, but will be coming soon.

- We are also continuing to archive and display information for full member access.

The primary focus for this year is to reach out to more members, and make sure all people who would like to help guide the organization have a spot and / or channel to do so.

If anyone is interested in attending or becoming more active in guiding this organization, please feel free to contact me any time.

My email address is klm0@cpinternet.com, and my phone number is 763-234-7642.

Thank you for a great summer. I assure you will be pleased as we approach the new camping season!

-Mike Kuklok, MPSAA President

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Next Issue

Facebook Contest Results

Release of the new [mpalumni.org](http://www.mpalumni.org)

Preview of the Premium Gift

Upcoming Events

December 16th

Winter Newsletter Arrives

March 16th , 2012

Spring Newsletter Arrives

April 13th, 2012

Spring Fling (Location to be determined)

May 18th-20th, 2012

MPSAA Work Party

June 1st-June 3rd, 2012

Many Point Work Party

August 24th-26th, 2012

Many Point Campout



Vic Eastman “Many Point Pioneer”

Interviewed by Douglas Palmer
(1954-1964)

On a rainy morning in June 2010 Terry Frazee (1954-1957) had arranged for Curt Cheese and I to meet with Vic Eastman, one of the “Many Point Pioneers” at his senior residence in Litchfield, Minnesota. We were invited into the social room where we met Vic and were invited to enjoy some fresh sweet rolls and cookies that Mr. Eastman had baked. We found Mr. Eastman to be a spry 80 years old with vivid memories of his days as a “Pioneer”. He also gave us some of his personal memorabilia that we hope to display in the Many Point History Center.

“Local Boy Scout Helps Build New Scout Camp” (1)

“Victor Eastman, son of Mr. and Mrs. V.H. Eastman of Bird Island and a member of the local Boy Scout Troop, has been spending the past seven weeks at Many Point Lake, near Itasca State Park, where he is assisting in the building of the Many Point Scout Camp, which the Minneapolis Area Council is erecting under the direction of D. Wint Hartman, Camping Director of the Council.”

Below is an edited transcript of our interview.

L.L. (Lantern’s Light) I would like to thank you for the wonderful morning treat and for taking time to meet with us.

V.E. Vic how did you become involved as a “Many Point Pioneer” in 1946?

V.E. (Vic Eastman) I was working as a lifeguard at Nest Lake Scout Camp (2) that summer when a Camp Official asked us if any one would like to work at the new Minneapolis Area Council Camp (Many Point). They offered us a job at \$25 per month. I said I would go!

L.L. Where was your family living in 1946?

V.E. Bird Island, Minnesota

L.L. Did you know any of the “Pioneers” before you went to Many Point?

V.E. Only one, my friend Dean Olson who was two years older than I. I discovered that the rest of the crew were city kids from the Minneapolis area.

L.L. What was your first impression of Many Point?

V.E. It was a wilderness. Life was like the olden days. We had a running toilet. You ran to use it!

L.L. How many young men were there?

V.E. There were 38 young men and a former Navy cook in our group.

L.L. Where did you stay?

V.E. We stayed in this old resort of six or seven small cabins. (3) There was no running water, just a pump. Water was pumped into a cattle tank, which was also used to keep the milk cool.

L.L. What was a typical day like at camp?

V.E. After getting up and brushing our teeth and a quick wash-up breakfast was served. The schedule was that we worked only half day. Some weeks we worked mornings and then the next week afternoons. The group was divided in two work groups. After several weeks the leaders asked if anyone had a driver’s license. Dean and I said we had licenses. I was just 16 and Dean was 18, but as country kids we had obtained driving licenses at 15. So Dean and I became the drivers of each group. As a result Dean and I became the defacto leaders of each group. I was the only Eagle Scout and I was also the youngest person in the group.

L.L. What did you do on your half-day off?

V.E. Swimming was a popular activity and washing your clothes was a constant job. Without running water or even a scrub board, we would just walk into the lake with our clothes and wash them on our bodies. Since the crew were Scouts, some worked on personal Scout advancements.

We would swim from the point (Christie’s) to the dam site on the south end of the lake. Of course we were good Boy Scouts, one guy would row, one guy would watch us



swim and then on the way back we would change positions.

Each Sunday we would go to Church in Ponsford. We did make one trip to Detroit Lakes in the back of a truck and camped in the city park. On this occasion we experienced a rainstorm. When we returned to our camp our tents were down and several had fallen trees on top of them. We were lucky to have been in town. We also made one trip to Itasca State Park.

L.L. What kind of work did you do?

V.E. In the beginning we mostly cleared campsites. When we arrived at a future campsite the trees that were to be cut had been marked. At an opening council fire, each Scout was presented with a double bitted ax by the Camp Director Wint Hartman and were told to keep it sharp. Axes were our only tools. We tried to keep them sharp enough to shave with. Dean I did a lot of the felling. Most of the trees were 6-8 inches. We didn’t cut big trees. As country kids we knew how to fell trees. The group made tree cutting a contest. A stake was put in the ground where the tree was to fall. We would try to drive the stake into the ground with the falling tree. We then piled the trees for future firewood.

When the campsites were cleared we spent time gathering rocks. After we picked the roads clean we gathered rocks from the lake. I am not sure what was done with



VIC EASTMAN'S LETTER TO THIS MOTHER UPON ARRIVAL AT MANY POINT, JULY 7, 1946

Dear mom:

Well mom today I felt foolish with this letter so I went out into the forest and got some birch bark.

We (Dean and I) went fishing down at the dam and caught 12 bullheads & 1 rock bass. Tomorrow is when the fun starts, 5 hours of hard work daily and a little longer to make up for the days lost.

We had our swimming classifications today and also our boat test. I made both with flying colors.

We had a council fire last night and Wint Hartman came over and issued each of us an ax. I got the size I wanted, a 4 lb., the biggest ones they have out here. They are double bit axes.

Your son,
Vic (5)



L.L. You would always be welcomed.

Postscript: Many Point Pioneer Victor H. Eastman Jr. 80 of Litchfield, formerly of Cosmos, died Monday, September 27, 2010 at his residence. Survivors include his wife Lois

all the rocks. (4)

L.L. Any funny experiences you remember?

V.E. As I said, our cook was a former Navy man. One day we came back to camp and there was a strong smell. We found out that our cook was making "Raisin Jack" a home brew. The leadership found out and the home brew disappeared.

L.L. Where there any major accidents?

V.E. Only two come to mind. One young man was using an ax incorrectly and cut his foot. Another came down with a serious case of Poison Ivy and had to go home.

L.L. Did you ever keep in contact with your fellow "Pioneers"?

V.E. No, except for my friend Dean Olson. He was a pilot who died young in a plane accident.

L.L. Today, after almost 65 years, how do you remember your experiences as a Many Point Pioneer?

V.E. It was an experience of my life! I think we learned a lot.

L.L. Was it a good experience?

V.E. Oh yes! We had a lot of fun. It was a good group of kids. We all got along real well. I think the Boy Scouts are usually a good group, no troublemakers.

L.L. Did you ever visit Many Point after 1946?

V.E. No. In my line of work as a cook and hotel manager left little time to travel to Many Point. My friend Terry has encouraged me to visit, maybe I will take him up on his offer.

Eastman and son David Eastman.

(1) Headline in local paper, Fall 1946

(2) Nest Lake Camp located on the eastern shore of Nest Lake, north of Spicer, Minnesota, was operated by the Minneapolis Area Council, BSA from 1935-1946.

(3) Vic didn't remember the name of the old resort but from his description and location it was probably "Christie's Resort". For additional information on Christie's Resort see the spring 1989 issue of Lantern's Light.

(4) If you look at the foundations and footings of the camp original buildings i.e.: the Dining Hall, Administration Building, Trading Post, and Family Camp Lodge, you will see that rocks were a major construction material.

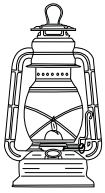
(5) Vic Eastman's Letter to his mother, July 7, 1946, written on his arrival at Many Point on a piece of birch bark.

References/sources:

Eastman, Vic, Interview with the author, June 8, 2010

Eastman, Vic., Letter to his mother, July 7, 1946

Kenney Dave. Honor Bright: A Century of Scouting in Northern Star Council, 2009



Message from the Camping Director

After 65 years Many Point continues to break records, uphold traditions and be recognized as an innovator. Over 4100 Scouts (450 more than 2010!), 252 troops and crews, 1450 adult volunteers and 700 Family Campers spent a week or more by the shores of Many Point Lake this past summer. In traditional style, we also saw an equal number of smiles and happy faces at Saturday check out, indicating that each had a great experience.

We also saw tremendous success with our new Water Sports Outpost. 150 youth participated in a program that taught them how to use jet skis while having fun and being a responsible rider. Each youth also worked on water skiing skills, kayaking skills, Water Sports Merit Badge and completion of the Minnesota Watercraft Operator's permit. Several adult leaders remarked that these are the types of activities that will continue to keep Scouts involved in our great program.

Though the high water caused trouble for some in Northern Minnesota, it also meant more adventuresome kayaking for our out of camp trips on the Otter Tail River. This trip was one of the key features of race style adventure called the Amazing Pace that had Scouts competing for points throughout the week.

Many Scouts also had the opportunity to earn the new Geocaching merit badge, try their hand at making homemade

root beer at the Frontier Outpost or shoot crossbows and blowgun paintball at the Flintlock Outposts. We even witnessed a helicopter landing as part of the incredible All Things Emergency Response Week.

Construction crews were also busy at camp this summer. We



just completed a major renovation to the Dining Hall kitchen that promises to keep producing tasty treats like Granny's homemade bread for many more seasons. In early August we dedicated the new Bjelland Flintlock Lodge that will serve as the hub for our expanding

older Scout programs. Plans continue with the approaching groundbreaking of the new storm shelter/handicrafts building in Buckskin.

Currently we're busy analyzing feedback so we can make improvements and additions to make 2012 an even greater season. We already know that we'll focus on rotating in new merit badges while making physical and program improvements to the tree houses, Frontier, nature and outdoor skills areas.

As a participant in a national pilot program during the summer we agreed to have all of our participants be a part of a summer camp survey. Recently the results of the survey were released, which showed that 83% of respondents were 'very satisfied' (highest rating) with Many Point. Even more impressive was that over 90% of respondents noted that the staff was one of greatest factors in making camp exciting for them. You can't ignore that these figures prove that our proud tradition of exceptional staff continues to be Many Point's strongest attribute.

-Travis Suttan, Northern Star Council





2012 Gift Request from Many Point

The following items are submitted for consideration by the board of the MPSAA as possible options for a 2012 gift. All items listed (unless noted) are in the range of \$5000 each. Members who pay their dues have the opportunity to vote their preference in December dues mailing.



Request 1: Two Sailboards - \$2,500 Each

Sailboarding is a unique program that continues to be one of the most requested at the Flintlock Adventure Base. We would like to be able to expand this popular program.

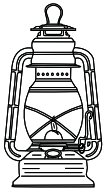
Request 2: Tree House Program Expansion \$5,000

The tree house program is a significant draw to Many Point. However, the complete program vision has not been realized. Proposed improvements include connecting the two existing villages by a series of cables, bridges, cargo nets and platforms. In addition, a central gathering deck would be constructed to serve as an elevated fire ring as well as a gallery for a blow gun paintball range. Two poles and climbing equipment would also be needed for adding spar pole climbing.

Request 3: Voyager Climbing Tower Poles \$5,000

Climbing also continues to be one of the most popular programs at camp. To meet demand, two 44ft tall climbing towers were added to the existing towers in Buckskin and Ten Chiefs in 2009. As a result, overall tower usage has increased, and Voyager troops are asking when a taller tower will be constructed in their subcamp. The cost to build each tower is in-between \$35,000 to \$40,000. Many Point does not have enough in its budget to cover the costs at one time, so we will have to pursue completing the project in phases. \$5000 would be sufficient to purchase the 3 – 60ft class one utility poles this year.





Flintlock Upgrades - Bjelland Lodge: An Incredible Gift



Inside Bjelland Lodge Dining and Meeting Area



Rolf and Idelle Bjelland



Front of the New Bjelland Lodge



On August 3rd, a group of us on the Many Point staff, the Northern Star Council staff and some MPSAA members met to dedicate the new Flintlock Staff Headquarters Building, which is named the BJELLAND LODGE. Also attending the dedication were MPSAA members and their wives; Rolf Bjelland and his wife Idelle, Jerry Downes a former director of MPSAA (1951 to 1957) and his wife Joanie, and Merritt Bartlett (1949 to 1953) and his wife Marilyn.

Rolf is a proud MPSAA member who worked at Many Point from 1952 to 1959. His camp career began as a CIT and culminated in the role of Flintlock Director, opening the then new Flintlock Headquarters Building in 1957.

This new building was made possible with a generous gift from Rolf and Idelle Bjelland. In addition to funding the building, the Bjelland's also established an endowment fund to provide funds to maintain the structure.

In his short dedication remarks, on August 3rd, Rolf shared with the group the importance of his Many Point experience in his corporate, community and family life. As Rolf said, "working at Many Point during my high school and college years allowed me to learn and then practice organizational, leadership and personal effectiveness skills and the ability to then use those skills when dealing with situations and people. Equally important were the life long friendships that were developed at camp."

Rolf's career was in banking, investments and real estate and he retired as Chairman and President of the Lutheran Brotherhood Mutual Funds and the LB Bank. He has been a member of the Viking (now Northern Star) Council board since 1966 and was named Scoutmaster

of Philanthropy in 2008.

I reach out to all MPSAA members to think about giving back some of your time, talents and treasures to Many Point and the Scouting programs as a thank you for the skills and experiences that you were given. Jerry Downes shared with us that he and Joanie have set aside funds in their estates to also help maintain the new Flintlock Headquarters building.

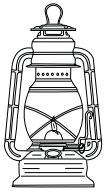
A special thank you to Rolf and Idelle for this most generous gift.



Rolf, Idelle, Marilyn, Merrit, Joanie, and Jerry (above)

Jerry Downes, Rolf Bjelland, Merrit Bartlett, and Travis Suttin (below)





In Memory of Orly, our first Program Director



He continued his volunteer work in Boy Scouting and was awarded the Silver Beaver in 1954. In 1951, Orly began his 31 year working life with Honeywell serving in many areas, most notably

their boating experiences. In 2005, Orly was asked by Timothy Davis and the Greatest Generations Foundation to take a trip back to Normandy as well as Omaha Beach, where he had lead a deployment of sailors to destroy German tetrahedrons blocking the entrances to the beach in the hours before the invasion.

Orly entered the Minneapolis, MN Veterans home in 2009, and entered Hospice in 2010. The family was blessed with the thoughtful care Orly received by the MVH staff, Social Worker Emmanuel Woode, and the Hospice team. Special thanks to Scouting friend Eddie Culbert and to Fr. Bart Ryan and Fr. Paul Kolisch of the Anglican Church of St. Dunstan. Mass of the Resurrection Fri., Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Anglican Church of St. Dunstan, 4241 Brookside Ave, St. Louis Park. Interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery at 2 p.m. Visitation Thur., Sept. 8 at 5-7 p.m. at Gearty-Delmore Park Funeral Chapel, Wooddale Ave. at Excelsior Blvd., St. Louis Park, and one-half hour prior to Mass at the church. Memorials are preferred to: Brian's Fund, c/o Associated Bank, Attn Wm. Hodgson, 7760 France Ave. So., Edina, MN 55435-5833. Gearty-Delmore Park Funeral Chapel 952-926-1615

Thornsjo, Orelad Adolph "Orly" Age 91, of St. Louis Park, was called peacefully home Aug. 30, 2011. Survived by beloved wife of 63 years, Lucille; Daddy to Jan (Ron) Bruncati; Dad to Mark (Lynne), Dale (Mary Kohl) and the late Brian who left us in 1979; grandpa to Cara Mia (Angelo DeFrancesco) Bruncati, Arnie (Melissa) Drusch, and Jeremy Drusch; great-grandpa to Lila DeFrancesco, and Jacob, Maya and Noah Drusch; brother to Douglas (My Thien); many cousins, in-laws, nieces and nephews; and special friends Ron and Kathy Spargo.

He walked through early life as an aspiring concert pianist and was an active member of Boy Scout Troop #187 at Mayflower Church, attaining his Eagle rank in 1937. He enjoyed his Swedish and Polish heritage, and sharing a bedroom with brother, Doug. His love of the north woods and the Boundary Waters canoe country deepened his friendship with Hod Ludlow and the island on Lake Vermilion. He gave four years to the U.S. Navy during WWII, first as a Beachjumper, then as a Submariner.

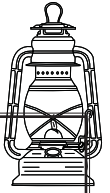
Separating from the Navy in 1946, he entered Graduate School at the U of MN working for Dean Roy Shumway. In 1948, he became a professional Scouter with ties to the beginning of Many Point Scout Camp as its first Program Director under the innovative Camping Director, Wint Hartman.

working to prevent unionization of Honeywell engineers and as Director of Honeywell's involvement in NASA's Apollo project.

In 1960, Orly and Lucille joined the Land O' Lakes Region of the Sports Car Club of America. Together with family and a great group of young men like Dan Bohlen and Ron Spargo, he raced cars ranging from an Allard to McLaren Can-Am cars. He and close friend Jack Baker shared "The Works," a small race car garage across from the old Met Stadium. Orly also officiated over numerous SCCA races at Donnybrooke/BIR and other courses throughout the country, and eventually become Chairman of the SCCA National Competition Committee, the final arbiter of SCCA race rulings nationwide. After retiring from Honeywell, Orly was involved with the Honeywell Retiree Group and the formation of The Shop in conjunction with Project For Pride In Living.

Because of their love of boats, Orly and Lucille were part of the founding of the Bob Speltz Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, and worked over many years with Todd Warner on boats and other projects. From May to July in 1980, Orly and Lucille brought the 45 foot Chance-Trumpy launch "Chicora" home, by water, from Wilmington, NC to St. Paul, MN. In later years, narrowboats on the canals in England rounded out

Many Point Chronicles - Robert March Gaylord



By: Douglas Palmer (1954-1964)

Robert March Gaylord (1888-1980)

Robert March Gaylord was born October 11, 1888, in Minneapolis, Minnesota the son of Edson Starr and Louise (March) Gaylord. Gaylord graduated from North High School and the University of Minnesota.

Instead of following his father in the law profession young Gaylord took a bench job with the Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Company, a tractor firm, immediately after his graduation in 1911 from the University of Minnesota. The next year he left there to work for the Emerson Brantingham Company in Rockford, Illinois, remaining with this company for two years. He made still another change in 1914, taking over the vice-presidency of the Gray Tractor Company in Minneapolis. The following year he had the good fortune to marry into the machine tool business, as he expressed it himself, through his marriage on October 30 to Mildred Ingersoll, the daughter of the founder of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company, Winthrop Ingersoll. In 1917 he left the Gray Tractor Company to assume the position of vice-president of the Ingersoll firm and in 1928, upon the death of Winthrop Ingersoll, he became president, an office he held until he retired.

The Ingersoll Milling Machine Company specialized in the manufacture of heavy machine tools. A small company in peacetime, after the beginning of World War Two it doubled the number of its workers until, by December 1943, it was employing more than 900 men. Over the years the company has changed. In 1917 the company built \$750,000 worth of machine tools



to build 50-caliber machine guns for World War One. During the Second World War Ingersoll built large-scale machine tools used in the manufacture of reduction gear drive cases for battleships, hulls and turrets for battle tanks, torpedo tubes and antiaircraft gun mounts. It also pioneered in the development of carbide cutting tools. Today Ingersoll is part of an Italian conglomerate that makes machine tools for making the composite body for the Boeing "Dreamliner."

A Newsweek article in December 1943 described Gaylord's labor policies as "liberal, citing his twenty-year record of no slowdowns or work stoppages. The company was one of the first to have a profit sharing plan for employees."

Robert Gaylord was President of the National Association of Manufacturers in 1944. He was known as a staunch believer in small business and free competition. During his tenure as the President of the NAM he told the House Campaign Committee that NAM mem-

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Travis Suttan, Many Point Camping Director

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Here's a contest for people....worth a \$25 Best Buy gift card donated by Mike Kuklok. We want to highlight some fun stories in the next newsletter, so here's the deal. On a new wall post, on this page, tell us your favorite camp story (stories), and tag as many of your friends in it as possible. The new MPSAA Communications Crew will review the stories, contact the winner, and send you the Best Buy Gift Card! That easy. Contest Ends November 30th. No facebook? Email them to klm0@cpinternet.com!



bers are Republicans, Democrats and New Dealers, and that “it would be improper to use common funds for partisan political purposes.”

In a 1944 article in *Current Biography*, Mr. Gaylord was described as being a “blue-eyed ruddy-faced man with sandy hair well flecked with gray. Tall, lean, and athletic, a hunting enthusiast, owning half-a-dozen hunting dogs and a camp in Minnesota. His reading tastes ran toward the history of early America, of the Northwest, and of Indian tribes and lore.”

Gaylord joined Ducks Unlimited in 1938. He served as the national president in 1953-1954 and board chairman from 1955-1960. Gaylord was also active in the Canadian Organization as a National trustee and a vice president and director.

Since he returned to Many Point in the spring for fishing and in the fall for duck hunting, most Many Point staff members had limited contact with him. Mr. Gaylord’s major contact with the camp was with the Camp Ranger, Boots Hanson. He would contact Boots when he was planning a visit and request that the Lodge be ready. According the Barb Hanson

Hamry, “Whenever he came to camp, he would either fly the company plane to Wadena where Dad or Dewey would pick him up, or he would take the train to Staples and his personal car would stay there until he was ready to leave. He was a very interesting person.”

After the Many Point Rod and Gun Club sold their property to the Minneapolis Area Council, Mr. Gaylord was the only member of the club that continued to use the property. Under the sales agreement Mr. Gaylord was given life use of the Lodge, which he gave back in 1966. In later years his visits were rather short. For many years two household employees Dewey and his wife Bertha would come to Camp to clean and prepare the Lodge for his use. For most of his years at the Lodge there was no electricity, no indoor plumbing, or central heat. For many years the Camp maintained the old icehouse north of the lodge. It was filled with ice each winter, but in later years this small icehouse was discontinued with ice being delivered from the Trading Post Ice House as needed by the Gaylord party.

Until the 1960s the Gaylord Lodge was “off limits” to most camp staff. It

was considered a private residence and was not used by the camp until this time. I believe Mr. Gaylord only spoke to the Camp Staff once at an opening banquet in the early 1960s. I remember him as a tall good-looking older gentleman who wore a cowboy hat.

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Hamry, Barbara Hanson, e-mail to author, June 17, 2009.

