



# the LANTERN'S LIGHT

by the Many Point Alumni Association

Vol. 35, Issue 1

Winter, 2020

Happy Holiday's everyone. This year certainly has been interesting, but it isn't stopping the Many Point Staff Alumni group from moving forward. The Alumni leadership team wishes everyone a safe and wonderful end of the year as we turn the corner into a more promising new year.

We'd like to tip our hats to the Many Point Staff of 2020. Many messages from Alumni came our way curious about how camp was going to operate. The answer was more detailed but identified the precautions and how it was a really good thing for the Scouts. Though the year certainly was different from what we'd be used to, it was a success, and Scouts were able to escape (with some interruptions in normalcy of course) to hear the loons call, play in the Many Point lake, and hang out with their buddies and favorite staff members.

Soon, we will be announcing how to get your hands on the Many Point History Book that many people are excited about. The 136 page book carries its readers through a timeline of how Many Point was

developed and has progressed. The book does an awesome job doing so with text, excerpts and some photos never before seen.

Our calendar is once again interrupted for 2021. With continuous precautions, it's too soon to have a spring event. We encourage everyone to stay tuned to the Facebook, Instagram, emails, and the website for virtual events. Also, there are events happening during the summer at Many Point as the camp celebrates its 75th Anniversary on July 10th. You're invited and can see the camp setup and in action. This year, contributions will be helping support the 75th program for Scouts and the camp. We also have the Alumni's traditional fall weekend campout being planned. We're excited to see all of those who can join us at these events.

Keep your wicks trimmed, smiles wide, and your Lantern's bright. Cheers to a positive outlook in 2021.

Mike Kuklok—MPSAA

## Upcoming Events

Check out our Calendar included with this letter. Also find updates on events at [mpalumni.org](http://mpalumni.org)

## Contents

Stories from History Center.....	2
History Book.....	2
2020 Summer .....	3
75 Year Celebration .....	4
Canoeing: Itasca—MPLS.....	6
<i>Contributions List on our website.</i>	



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/43753666056>



Follow us on  
**Instagram**

<https://www.instagram.com/mpalumni/>



## Many Point History Center magic built in time interview series

created by Jay Wescott

Over the past several years, Alumni member Jay Wescott has taken a strong interest and has been a vital contributor to the History Center Project at Many Point.

This month, four more interviews have been posted on the Many Point Staff Alumni website. Included:

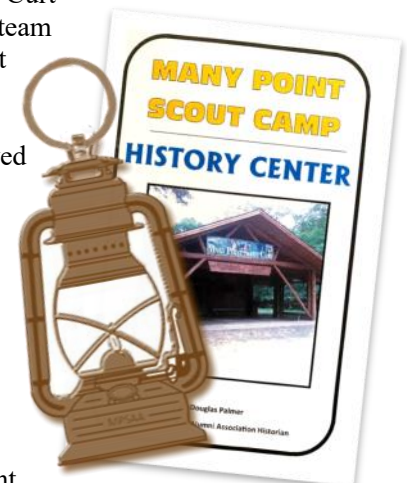
- Interview with Bob Gagner
- Interview with Travis Suttan
- Interview with Evan Yingst
- Interview with Jean Hanson-Benson (daughter of Boots Hanson).

Visit [www.mpalumni.org/interviews](http://www.mpalumni.org/interviews)



## THIS YEAR'S PREMIUM GIFT

For several years, Doug Palmer, Curt Cheese, and the history center team have made their way to Many Point to teach our tour guides and also the Counselor's In Training about our History Center. A lot has evolved and has been added in the history center. This year, after years of revising, the History Center pamphlet is ready for everyone to see. In addition to the 34 page pamphlet each premium sponsor will get a metal lantern keychain. Contribution information is on the last page of this newsletter. These items arrive in late January, and sent to premium contributors immediately.



# STORIES FROM THE MANY POINT HISTORY CENTER: CAMPING IN THE 1940s & 1950s

As you make the turn from the History Center's back wall (which contains the History of Scouting and of Many Point), you first see a small campsite display from the 1940s and 1950s. This campsite mock-up shows how early Scouts camped at Many Point. These Scouts were not the "Baby Boomers" who would start coming in the late 1950s. These Scouts were born before and during World War II. Many of these Scouts had fathers and other

family members who had served in World War II. This generation had never known the hardships of the Great Depression or of wartime scarcity. Troops arrived at Many Point to find a wilderness. Campsites were underdeveloped and primitive. While many Scouts camped in their Scout uniforms, some dressed in other outdoor attire. Poison ivy, brush, and mosquitos made wearing shorts impractical.

Scoutmasters were deeply influenced by their experiences in the military, and their military experiences would influence camping and troop organization and equipment for many years. Troops came to Many Point with a wide collection of equipment and gear, and it was not unusual to see World War II cooking gear and sleeping bags. Tents were made of canvas, lacked mosquito protection and, when

wet, were very heavy.

Buckskin Area troops ate breakfast and supper in the Dining Hall and prepared their own lunch. Ten Chiefs Area troops received a hot supper meal made in the Dining Hall and delivered by truck to their campsite, but prepared their own breakfast and lunch. Troops purchased food for the meals they prepared from the Trading Post grocery store in the Main Area. A block of ice from the Main Area ice house was delivered almost daily to each campsite for refrigeration of their food.

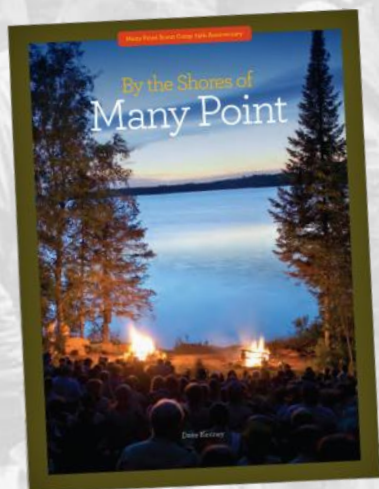
The program at Many Point focused on basic Scouting skills: swimming, camping, cooking, and pioneering. Since most troops came to camp for two weeks, they had time to take canoe trips or long hikes. Some Buckskin Area troops took canoe trips up the logging canal to Elbow Lake, while some Ten Chiefs Area troops took trips south down the Ottertail River to Round or Ice Cracking Lakes. Canoe trips were either day or overnight trips.

Personal note: My Troop 101 camped in Ten Chiefs Area in 1950 and 1953 in Sequoyah, the last campsite in Ten Chiefs. As a city kid, I felt that Many Point was in a vast wilderness. Camping in the 1950s, compared with today, was a real challenge.

By Douglas Palmer, MPSAA Historian



## MANY POINT HISTORY BOOK



The Many Point history book, By The Shores of Many Point, will soon hit the printing press and be available for purchase. The book captures the beginning of Many Point from concept to reality. It then explores the boom years when Scouting flourished throughout the United States with the growing demand of the Baby Boom generation. Every good story has some twists. With this one, the book looks into the cultural changes in American society and the challenges that came with it for the BSA. Part of the Many Point Magic is to always find a way, and that's what it did to remain one of the most highly sought after camps in the nation.

Not only does this awesome 136 page book tell the incredible story, it has over 400 photos—some we've never seen before. In addition, it also includes a full roster of the Many Point Staff.

A lot of work was put into this book. Hat's off to all of those who helped at the Northern Star Council, the dedicated staff members, leadership team of the Many Point Staff Alumni Association, and the generous Staff who helped fundraise to make this dream become a reality. Stay tuned on Facebook, Instagram, email and our website for availability announcements.



# 2020 SUMMER IN REVIEW

Many Point Scout Camp – that’s the place to be! And it was during the 2020 summer. We felt a need to be available for kids this year, and we were. Opening a camp this summer took an amazing amount of energy and commitment from our staff. The pandemic threw us new challenges... heightened communication efforts with guests and staff, engagement with government entities, working with the American Camping Association, building new protocols, and building a completely new program model. Planning to be open brought voices of support and voices that questioned us. All of this before one Scout drove past the gate lodge...

Being open, was equally challenging. Social distancing made camp feel different. Staff were in pods of 4 all summer, for both work and recreation time. Staff were asked to stay on camp as much as possible. We brought many of our programs to the

Scouts in their campsites. We redesigned our schedule, food system, and programs to be possible with masks and social distancing. Everyone logged their health each day. But, like we have for 75 years now, we persevered and kept the Many Point can do attitude. We served 1289

Scouts and the mission was alive and well in our programs. While this is 1/3 of the population we normally serve, kids needed camp 10 times as much this summer. We are very proud of our staff and their dedication and willingness to follow protocols.

Camp owes the biggest amount of gratitude to Dr. Chris Tashjian. He worked tirelessly for camp, both before and during the season. Through helping build protocols, giving advice, and answering hundreds of questions about different scenarios, beyond his role of coordinating volunteer doctors for each summer. Dr. Tashjian also sponsored staff



meals on weekends to help the staff stay safe. Without his work and generosity, we couldn’t have opened, nor could we have had the success of zero cases of COVID-19 (as far as we know).

Secondly, we owe a huge thanks to our main area program team. Doug Gerick, Mike McCollor, Sean Wachsmuth, and Joel Young put a lot of time into building a program and staffing model for camp. We’re lucky that they have all “found their way back” to camp. The program was fun and impactful.

We are looking forward to our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary summer! While we don’t know for sure what camp will look like, feel free to watch the Many Point website for updates. We hope for more normalcy, but no matter what, we will have a mission driven, fun program for Scouts this summer.

Evan Yingst  
Many Point Camping Director



## WINTER LODGING OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES



The Northern Star Council is opening some of its beautiful cabin facilities at Many Point, Tomahawk, and Stearns for families to rent and enjoy our properties. As you know, our camps are set in acres of forest that are beautiful in the spring and fall. We have a wide variety of cabins from ones that are small and cozy to beautiful log cabins that sleep 12. Many have full bathrooms, multiple bedrooms, and internet. There are great attractions nearby each property, and you can bring your own fun as well!

<https://camp.northernstar.org/families>





**D**uring the Summer of 2021, Many Point Scout Camp will celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The summer will be highlighted by special events for Scouts and Leaders camping at Many Point, special 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary memorabilia, and a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on July 10, 2021 for Many Point Staff Alumni, their guests, and friends of Many Point.

Scouts will take part in activities from the past this summer and have a chance to be part of Many Point's history by leaving their memories and predictions for the future to be included in a time capsule to be buried at the end of the summer. Troops will receive a Diamond Newsletter every morning highlighting camp history and have a chance to earn a special 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary award. Scouts will participate in special campfire programs and every Scout at camp this summer will have the opportunity to plant a tree in the Diamond Jubilee forest.

Keep an eye out for custom 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary memorabilia. There will be custom staff t-shirts, neckerchiefs and slides, hats, and many other items. Watch for ordering information later during the summer of 2021.

**Mark your calendars for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Many Point on Saturday, July 10, 2021.** Staff Alumni, guests, and friends are invited to spend some time at camp culminating with a dinner and program on Saturday featuring camp songs, stories from the past, and plenty of camaraderie. Accommodations including Family Camp cabins, Trailer pads, and campsites will be available during the week and weekend leading up to the Celebration to allow for a mini-vacation if you are interested. During the week and weekend, current camp program opportunities will be available to guests and families. More information on registration will be available in the Spring of 2021.

<http://manypoint.org/event/many-point-75th-anniversary/>



# 4 STAFFERS: LAKE ITASCA, JAIL, MPLS.

LAKE ITASCA TO BEMIDJI IN 2 DAYS

## City Is Goal for 4 Youths in Canoes

Four youths are paddling down the Mississippi river today from its source at Lake Itasca to Minneapolis.

Braving the estimated 500 miles of choppy, swollen waters are Larry Berglund, 5513

Park place S.; Lee Buehler, Anoka; Bonn Clayton, Glen-  
coe, and Norm Nelson, Kimball.

The youths—all 18 or 19 years of age—spent the summer counseling at Many Point

Boy Scout camp, northwest of Park Rapids, Minn. They set out at 8:45 a.m. Tuesday in two 18-foot aluminum canoes, borrowed from troop 96 in Minneapolis.

The foursome arrived in Bemidji 1:30 a.m. Thursday after two days of "hard paddling," according to a phone conversation they held with Larry's father, Lawrence Berglund. They had come approximately 140 miles through the river's northward loop.

The youths are doing their best to dodge floating logs and compete with rain, wind and mosquitoes.

"We were talking to one of the rangers and found out that we will be the second bunch to get all the way to Bemidji this summer," the boys wrote Tuesday on a postcard to Fred McCormick, assistant camp director.

"The boys have been plan-



Clayton



Berglund



Buehler



Nelson

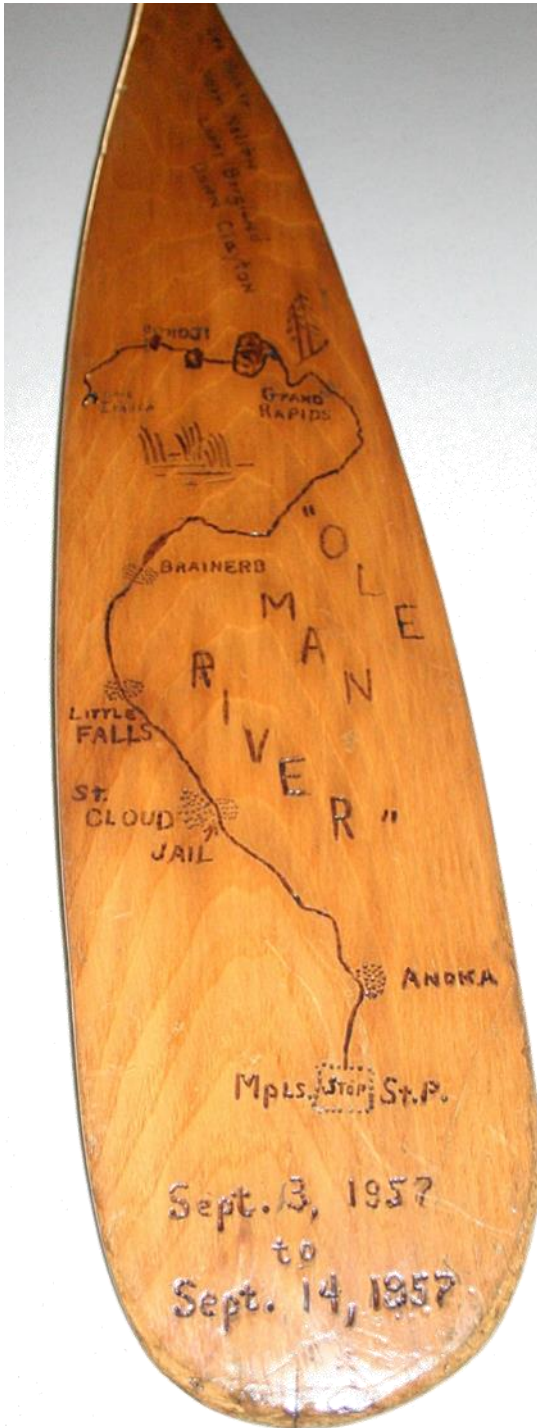
ning it all summer," McCormick said. They plotted their route from a number of county, city and highway maps. They sent to St. Cloud for city maps, planning to port-

age around buildings to elude the rapids of the river there.

The youths are doing their own cooking and sleeping under tarpaulins. All are good swimmers, qualified Red Cross water safety instructors and have proceeded through all boy scout and explorer scout ranks.

They figure the trip will take 8 to 10 days of steady paddling and hope to arrive in Minneapolis before Sept. 16. Berglund is due back for classes that day at St. Olaf college, Northfield, where he will be a sophomore. Clayton and Buehler are University of Minnesota students.

McCormick said he expected a welcoming committee to be on hand when the paddlers arrive in Anoka or Minneapolis. Mrs. Buehler has promised to have a steak dinner waiting for the travelers.



(above) - Back: Larry (left), Norm (right); Front Lee (left), Bonn (right)

(right) Summer before the Trip. Jerry Downes (Flintlock Director) (left), Lee Buehler (right)

Visit [www.mpalumni.org](http://www.mpalumni.org) for more on this amazing trip.



in a similar situation.

## 4 Young, Wet Canoeists Spend 'Night in Jail'

ST. CLOUD, Minn.—(Special)—Four cold, wet youths spent Thursday night at the city jail—voluntarily, that is. They are the Many Point Boy Scout camp counselors who left Lake Itasca Sept. 3 on a 500-mile canoe trip down the Mississippi river to Minneapolis.

Larry Berglund, 18, 5513 Park place S.; Lee Buehler, 19, Anoka; Bonn Clayton, 19, Glencoe, and Norm Nelson, 19, Kimball, got rain-soaked on the river yesterday and requested shelter indoors.

They had been sleeping outside under tarpaulins since leaving Itasca.

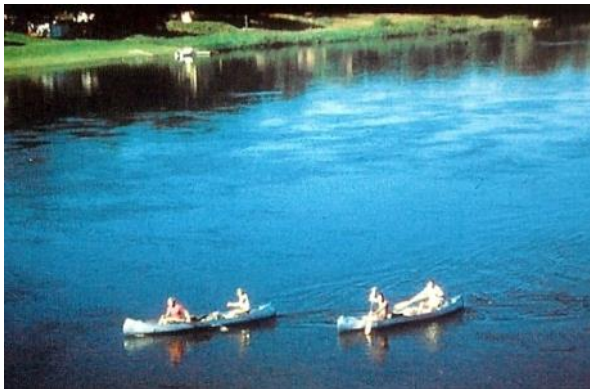
The boys left St. Cloud about 6 a.m. today to continue their paddling to Anoka, where they expect to arrive by 5 p.m. They had come 440 miles from the river's source. About 60 remain between St. Cloud and their destination.



First Coming in to Anoka



Coon Rapids Dam, Mississippi



169 Bridge in Anoka to Champlin



(above) Leaving from Anoka to MPLS

(right) Borrowed the 18ft AlumiCrafts. Scrubbed before brought back to the troop they were borrowed from.



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kukl0016@gmail.com

## JOIN THE MPSAA LEADERSHIP TEAM

We have opportunities for everyone that can meet your availability. Please contact us if you like web-design / content management, social media development, event planning, and helping grow the organization, mentorship, and membership development.

info@mpalumni.org to get connected  
OR call Mike Kuklok at 763-234-7642



Matt Mencke  
16796 Hutchinson Dr.



For the 2020-2021 season, the Many Point Staff Alumni Association will provide support to the 75th Anniversary summer long program features and festivities. Your contribution will make the year extra special for the Scouts and participants as the camp celebrates the amazing milestone year. Look inside this newsletter for more details and how you can be a part of this celebration. Your contribution is much appreciated.



# 2020 Contribution Form

Dear Staff Alumni Member,

## Contact Information

Our current records show this contact infor-

Please review the following address information. It is important to the organization that we keep updated records. If anything needs to be updated, please complete the update column as needed.

For the 2020-2021 season, the Many Point Staff Alumni Association will provide support to the 75th Anniversary summer long program features and festivities. Your contribution will make the year extra special for the Scouts and participants as the camp celebrates the amazing milestone year. Look inside this newsletter for more details and how you can be a part of this celebration. Your contribution is much appreciated.

Please Update My Information To:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: [     ] \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Dues and Contribution

### Contribution Amount

- \$15 (base membership)
- \$40 (premium - History Center Pamphlet & Key Chain)
- \$60
- \$100
- Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Preferred Payment Method

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Northern Star Council, BSA)

Cash: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type (circle):    **Visa**    **Mastercard**    **Discover**

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### Signature

### Employee Contribution

Employer (may match gift)

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

For any questions, please contact Mike Kuklok (763-234-7642), kukl0016@gmail.com or Matt Mencke at matt@mencke.com

\*The precise amount to be gifted will be determined by the Board based on funds available and operating budget. Any amount that comes in following the gift decision will be accumulated in the MPSAA treasury for future use.

## 2021 Calendar

Winter & Spring Virtual Events will be posted on Facebook, Instagram and mpalumni.org. Stay tuned!

**Wednesday January 20th, 2021**  
Board Meeting  
Virtual - email info@mplumni.org to join.

**Wednesday March 24th, 2021**  
Board Meeting  
Virtual - email info@mplumni.org to join.

**SPRING FLING - normally in April.** Due to COVID-19, the MPSAA will not be hosting this event at this time. Check out our other events.

**Thursday, May 13, 2021 through Sunday, May 17, 2021**  
MPSAA Work Party  
Contact Doug Palmer for more Information  
mn\_china@yahoo.com  
(952) 831-5006

**Wednesday May 19th, 2021**  
Board Meeting  
Virtual - email info@mplumni.org to join.

**June 27, 2021 - First Week of Scouts!**

**July 10, 2021 - 75th Anniversary Celebration**

**Friday August 27th to 29th, 2021**  
Alumni Campout  
Many Point Scout Camp  
Start Arriving at 12:00 PM on Friday!  
Goes all Weekend. More information on event details in the spring!

For MPSAA event details, visit [www.mpalumni.org](http://www.mpalumni.org)

For Many Point work party information, please visit [manypoint.org](http://manypoint.org)

