

# The Silver

# Arrowhead

Presented for distinguished

service to the Order since 1940

## Order celebrates services at Jamboree

Kenneth P. Davis, Ph.D

Class of 1977

As the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its 100th Anniversary, the Order of the Arrow will celebrate sixty years of service at national jamborees. The OA has provided service at Boy Scout National Jamborees since the second event, held in 1950 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. For most of the early jamborees, that service consisted of an OA Service Corps, made up of youth Arrowmen, led by selected adults. They were used all over the jamboree site for various short-term assistance in jobs that were undermanned or had not been anticipated in original planning for the event.

The first OA Service Corps in 1950 was made up of 36 Scouts from 15 states, led by Tom McBride, who would soon join the National OA Committee and would eventually serve as Chairman of the Committee from 1977 to 1984.

In 1953, at the second modern Jamboree, held at Irvine Ranch in California, Tom McBride again served as the OA Service Corps Scoutmaster, with Dennis Fernley and Hoffman Kreckler as his assistants.



**The Order of the Arrow Service Corps at the 1950 National Scout Jamboree. Courtesy of Dr. Lynn Horne, International Scout Museum, Las Vegas, Nevada**

The 1957 Jamboree OA Service Corps was again led by Tom McBride, and assistants George Feil and Jack Obermeyer. There was also a Jamboree-wide gathering of Arrowmen (actually shown in the post-event booklet).

The 1960 Jamboree marked the 50th Anniversary year of the Boy Scouts and was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in the shadow of Pike's Peak. The OA again provided a Service Corps, under the leadership of George Feil (soon to be National Committee Chairman),

Jack Obermeyer and Joe Carrington.

In 1964 the Jamboree returned to Valley Forge and by now became three troops under the leadership of George Feil, Ford Smith and Bill Slesnick. The OA Pow Wow (as it was called) at the Jamboree was attended by some 15,000 Arrowmen and included remarks from both Founder Uner Goodman and Chief Scout Executive Joseph A. Brunton. Brunton was

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## Nelson: an early national volunteer

Larry Faulkner

Coosa Lodge Historian

H. Lloyd Nelson made significant contributions toward what could be considered the modern leadership scheme found in the Order of the Arrow. A product of Scouting, Nelson was active in the Order as a youth and then continued as an adult volunteer at a time when most of the early national leadership were Scout professionals. He served as a Unami lodge chief in 1925, Grand Lodge Secretary from 1933-42, National Chief from 1942-46 and National Chairman from 1949 until his death in 1955. So important was his service to the Order that Dr. Kenneth Davis stated in his book *The Brotherhood of Cheerful Service*, "There is no denying that H. Lloyd Nelson is second only to Dr. E. Uner Goodman in his

importance to the maintenance and expansion of the Order during its first forty years."

Harry Lloyd Nelson was born November 23, 1903, in Philadelphia, PA. About 1915, he joined Troop 1 that had been organized and led by E. Uner Goodman. Just like Goodman, the Boy Scouts and the Wimachtendienk, as the Order was known at the time, remained Nelson's passion throughout his life.

He was inducted into Unami Lodge at Treasure Island Reservation and in 1921 attended the first Grand Lodge meeting, held in Philadelphia. He served on the Treasure Island staff as a youth for several summers and in 1925 was elected lodge chief. He became the forty-fifth Vigil Honor recipient on October 17th of that year during the



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**H. Lloyd Nelson, Circa early 1950s**

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*On the night it was deemed for me to take over this role, I was filled with a solemn stillness. I retired to my home office and reread the ceremony guides. My weary old handbook was turned from page to page. I went through my boxes of old memorabilia where I found the original arrow I had carved for my ordeal. The letter from my Sipp-O Lodge Chief informing me of my election was there. Many, many photos and letters from my camp staff buddies and my OA friends filled shoeboxes. And my lodge flaps from the four lodges in which I have had the honor to serve. It was both a somber night of discoveries and an enjoyable night of reverie.*



*Most of all, I remembered you all. Collectively and individually, we have impacted the lives of one another over the decades. My life has been inextricably intertwined with that of so many of yours. And that is one of the clearest, happiest, and most noteworthy hallmarks of our Order. As a true fellowship, we have found in one another a set of brothers who believe that service to others is a joy and an honor in and of itself. Each of you bears silent testimony to that commitment over the years. And it is a joy to continue in that life with you, now.*

*Today, I salute you as you continue to encourage and develop our younger Arrowmen along their paths of cheerful service and informed leadership. I also thank you for your many years of dedicated service.*

*As we continue to move through this Centennial year for the Boy Scouts of America, you will see many efforts to reconnect with Scouts who long since have not been able to fit into their uniforms. The OA, too, as we approach our 100th Anniversary in 2015 has begun the process of reaching out to Arrowmen who have allowed their service to lapse, but who may wish to reconnect. Through the Silver Arrowhead we are building a stronger network of DSA recipients; through the OA Alumni Outreach efforts led by Dr. Glenn Ault and Jason Hood, we are beginning to work on identifying former Arrowmen who would like to become more involved in our mission. The national Order of the Arrow committee would like to reconnect with Order of the Arrow Alumni who are no longer actively registered in Scouting. We consider them as valuable resources and would like to keep them informed of the activities and plans of the Order. We would also like permission to contact recipients of the OA Distinguished Service Award (DSA) as part of this effort. Please email us at [alumni@oa-bsa.org](mailto:alumni@oa-bsa.org) to "opt-in" to allow us to access your information in the DSA database so we may include you in our OA alumni outreach or to provide us any ideas you may have to further our efforts.*

*Let me thank you once again for the dedicated and distinguished service you have given to others and ask you to help us spread the good word of what the Order is doing to make itself a viable asset in the lives of our young people for the next 100 years.*

—Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature of Ray Capp in black ink, written over a stylized arrow graphic.

Ray Capp  
National Chairman

# National Committee continues to collect historical records

The History, Preservation, and 100th Anniversary Subcommittee of the National Committee will be available to accept gifts of items you want to donate to the national OA archives. Contact National Committee Vice Chairman Tony Steinhardt, [tsteinhardt@ratioarchitects.com](mailto:tsteinhardt@ratioarchitects.com) if you have questions or items that you would like to donate. The committee is seeking items documenting the national program such as national bulletins, meeting minutes, patches, information sent to OA service corps participants and other national events.

## Looking for recipients of the Distinguished Service Award

Thank you for the collective efforts to help locate recipients. We are only searching for one recipient out of 840 awards conferred. Do you have any information on him? Send an email to [carolyn.toler@scouting.org](mailto:carolyn.toler@scouting.org) or write to the return address.

*Class of 1963*

John L. Johnston, Jr., Pontiac, MI



Tom Fielder, front row, left side, (Class of 1971) served as the OA Service Corps Senior Patrol Leader at the 1967 World Jamboree held in Idaho. Fielder describes his experience: *The 1967 OA Service Corps was known as the "Singing Waiters" and provided importune a cappella entertainment as they waited tables in the VIP dining tent. The OA Corps served international celebrity guests including Vice President Humphrey, World Chief Guide Olave Baden-Powell, Juliette Low, (founder of the Girl Scouts), and Royalty including Prince Nikolaus and Prince Philipp of Liechtenstein.*

# Advocate for youth leadership opportunities

*Nelson continued from page 1*

National Meeting. By the end of 1925 he was starting a new job with U.S. Pipe and Foundry Company in Pittsburgh. He became an Eagle Scout as a young adult in 1932, which was a common practice during that era.

An interesting anecdote about Nelson is that during high school he developed an interest in magic. For two summers during his college years he and a friend performed shows around Philadelphia and southern New Jersey. Nelson loved to mesmerize crowds with magic acts at churches, weddings, schools, community and Scouting events.

He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1924 and pursued a career as a civil engineer working for the U.S. Pipe and Foundry Company for thirty-one years. He began his career as a salesman and eventual rose to director of marketing, research, and products at the time of his untimely death.

He married Gertrude Linda Zaun, also from Philadelphia in May 1925. The Nelson's had three children, Linda, Joan Ellen, and Warren. He and his family lived in Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, and California before eventually moving to Alabama when U.S. Pipe relocated its headquarters there in 1953.

At each stop he remained active with Boy Scouting and the Order of the Arrow activities and was drawn to the national scene of Scouting and served on the national Grand Lodge Executive Committee, the forerunner of the current National OA Committee. In 1933 he became the Grand Lodge Secretary and was responsible for fulfilling charter requests from new lodges, helping to authenticate Lenni Lenape Vigil names with a special dictionary that he kept.

During his time in Pittsburgh, Lloyd was awarded the Silver Beaver by the Allegheny Council in May 1936. The following year he relocated to the Philadelphia sales office and continued in his secretarial work with the Grand Lodge working closely with friends George Chapman and Tom Cairns as they worked to grow the Order.

According to his son Warren, while attending the 1938 Grand Lodge Meeting at Irondale Scout Reservation in Missouri, Lloyd first began to stew on the idea of a boy led Order. He envisioned adult leaders serving in an advisory role for a more youth led organization, a transition that would eventually take several more years to come to fruition. At the 1940 Grand Lodge Meeting at Camp Twin Echo, he received the Distinguished Service Award in the charter class for his contributions. His citation stated, "He served with distinction as National Secretary since 1933, and his untiring efforts have contributed greatly to its growth during this period. His intense interest, loyal cooperation, and wise counsel have always been outstanding."

During the Second World War the U.S.



**Left to right: Louie Williams (1955 Area V-A Chief), H. Lloyd Nelson, David Ivey (1956 Area V-A Chief). Courtesy of Dr. James Flatt.**

Pipe loaned Nelson to the federal government where he became a dollar-a-year man with the War Production Board in Washington, D.C. He continued as the Grand Lodge Secretary until late 1942, when he became National Chief. There had been plans to host a National Meeting at the University of North Carolina, but it was canceled due to the war.

After the wartime restrictions were lifted there were more opportunities to travel farther and more often on Scouting business. By 1948 the Boy Scouts of America had incorporated the Order of the Arrow within the movement as the official camping honor society. The Grand Lodge was disbanded and the National OA Committee was formed. There Nelson started to explore more youth involvement at the area and national levels. Furthermore, under Nelson's guidance as National Chairman the OA almost instantly changed from professional adult leadership to volunteer adult leadership. At the January 1949 meeting there was a decision that young men should be elected to assist with and oversee the annual area meetings. These youth would be called area conference chiefs.

Nelson assumed the job as National Chairman in the fall of 1949, due to the illness of Chairman Kel Hale, and expanded on Hale's groundwork. A new leadership scheme was used for the 1950 National Conference that included more youth involvement in planning and carrying out the conference. Each BSA region had been divided into OA "areas" and each area was encouraged to have its lodges meet, plan an annual event (a Pow Wow) and elect an Area Conference Chief. These new chiefs would be involved in planning national meetings, starting in late 1949. This scheme has remained relatively unchanged to the present day.

In November 1949 Region III awarded Nelson with the Silver Antelope. In 1952, U.S. Pipe relocated its headquarters to Birmingham, Alabama and the Nelson family moved south the following summer.

In Birmingham, Lloyd became active in

the Scouts as his son Warren joined a local troop in Homewood. He was also active on the Birmingham Area Council Executive Board. He loved to participate in the local OA Conferences and attended the 1955 V-A conference held at Camp Pushmataha, likely his last OA event. In early December 1955, Lloyd suffered a mild heart attack and missed his first day of work in thirty-one years. It was not considered serious, and hospital bed rest was the standard treatment at that time. On the morning of December 27, 1955, Lloyd had a massive heart attack having just turned fifty-two the previous month. All of our Brotherhood mourned as word quickly spread around the country of the loss of one of our most revered and respected leaders. Lloyd's ashes were buried at a family plot in Philadelphia.

His son Warren best summed up his father's commitment to Boy Scouting and the Order of the Arrow: "Scouting was always central to my dad's life. He felt his own experience as a Scout made a huge difference in his growing up and in his approach to life. In his work as an adult in Scouting, he wanted to build an organization that could do that for more boys in more places around the country. Although, he never said it outright, I always had the impression that in the Order of the Arrow he saw the cream of Scouting and the opportunity to develop the next generation of leadership, whether in science or government, business, or other career pursuits."

## **About Larry Faulkner**

An Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver recipient, and Vigil Honor member of Coosa Lodge based in Birmingham, Larry was interested to learn about H. Lloyd Nelson's involvement in Scouting activities in the area. After the 2009 NOAC, he started to research the various connections that Nelson had in the Birmingham area. Eventually he located Nelson's children, who provided in-depth family details, about their father's life.

Larry is also active with the staff association Friends of Camp Westmoreland and is a personal friend of Morgan Weed's brother Warren. Morgan was profiled in the summer 2009 issue.



**DSA recipients  
who have gone to meet  
their maker.**

**Norman C. Wood**  
South Hamilton, MA  
*Class of 1952*  
August 18, 2009

**Bill J. Fortier**  
Mount Clemens, MI  
Silver Beaver  
*Class of 1986*  
December 23, 2009

**John Lowell Alline**  
Eagle Scout  
*Class of 1998*  
December 19, 2009

directed the Corps in Pennsylvania, with five full troops of Arrowmen. George Feil was the supervisor for the effort in the West

Four years later, the BSA returned to its one-location model and again held its Jamboree at Moraine State Park north of Pittsburgh. It was at this 1977 event that the OA first expanded its role of handling other functions than an OA Service Corps. The Corps itself was comprised of over 100 Arrowmen and was again directed by Bill Slesnick of the National Committee. But OA Vice Chairman Carl Marchetti and Executive Secretary Bill Downs were asked to supervise a Youth Staff subcamp for the Jamboree. In this new organization, the Order would be responsible for oversight of not only the Service Corps, but all youth staff (aged 16-20) at the Jamboree. No matter what their program assignment on the site, they would be housed, fed, provided with transportation, recreation and other services by a team led by the OA. This increased the impact of the Order across the entire Jamboree, since there were between 600-800 youth staff members.

The 1981 Jamboree moved to a semi-permanent site at the US Army's Ft. A.P. Hill, just outside Fredericksburg, VA. The OA again provided a Service Corps and again ran the subcamp to oversee all youth staff. Marchetti and Downs again had the lead for this effort. Skip Montgomery of the national committee supervised the youth staff effort and George Feil was the OA Service Corps Director. By this time, the Service Corps was typically five troops of about twenty-five Arrowmen each.

The next Jamboree resulted in similar OA contributions, but with a change of personnel. Carl Marchetti, National OA Chairman by this time, was asked to oversee a group called Resource and Housing (which included OA operations) while Ken Davis became Youth

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## Brotherhood at the Jamboree

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the second Chief Scout Executive to have been an OA National Chief, following Arthur A. Schuck. Brunton spoke about the heritage of service that the OA had built and noted with pride that the headdress being worn by the master of ceremonies was the same one he had worn as National Chief, as it was made and donated by his home lodge, Anicus, in 1938.

In 1967 a special opportunity arose when the World Jamboree was held for the first time in Idaho. Future national conference chief Tom Fielder was a member of the twenty man OA Service Corps, led by Jim Weston with "Si" Simons as ASM. Fielder was the Senior Patrol Leader and they had a number of venues for work, including waiters in the VIP tent where they served Lady Baden-Powell and US Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

In 1969 the BSA national jamboree was held back on the same site in Idaho as the 1967 event. By this time Tom Fielder was national conference chief and served in the VIP tent. This garnered a story in the Jamboree Journal. The service corps was noted as being composed of members of the Knights of Dunamis (Eagle Scout group), Alpha Phi Omega (college service fraternity) and the OA. Its Director was G. Allen Mossman, later to become National Executive Secretary of the Order in 1985.

The 1973 Jamboree was unique in being the only time the BSA has held it on two sites at about the same time. Jamboree-East was held at Moraine State Park in Pennsylvania, north of Pittsburgh. Jamboree-West was again convened at Farragut State Park in Idaho, the location of the 1967 and 1969 events. Having two sites required two OA Service Corps operations. Bill Slesnick



Tom McBride (Class of 1952), Jack Obermeyer (Class of 1956) and George Feil (Class of 1958). Dabney Kennedy (Class of 1969) is on the far left, second row. Courtesy of Jimmie L. Brown.

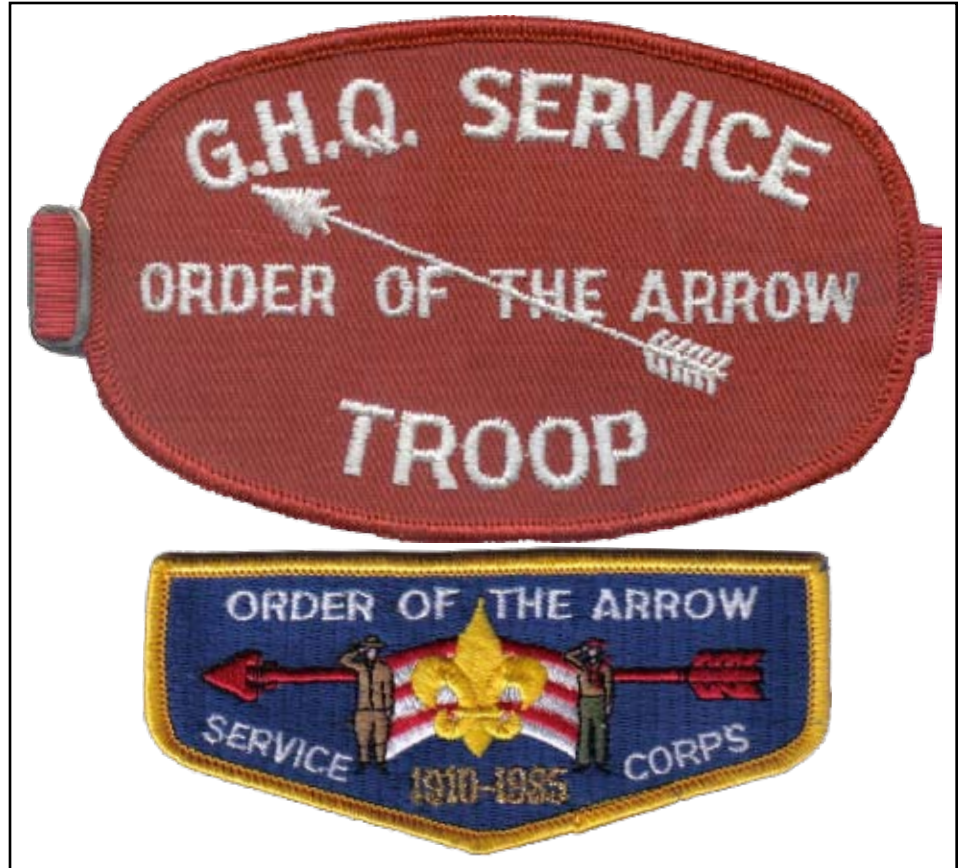
# Order's role expanded in the 1990's

**OA Service Corps** *continued from page 4*

Services Chairman with Bill Downs again holding the Youth Services Director job. Skip Montgomery returned as Vice Chairman for Youth Staff and Don Thom took on the role of Vice Chairman for the OA Service Corps. This 1985 event saw the creation of an Administrative Services support group for all OA efforts, headed by Bill Evans, a long time OA Conference staff member.

The 1989 Jamboree was a carbon copy of 1985 in terms of OA youth staff oversight, but several other activities were added to the mix. This was a significant increase in OA involvement at the Jamboree. Carl Marchetti and Bill Downs again had the lead for oversight, with Ken Davis dropping back to be the Deputy Chairman of OA operations. A five troop OA service corps (139 Arrowmen) was directed by Don Thom with Ray Lee as his Deputy. Bill Ketron ran the Youth Staff operation and Bill Evans again handled administrative support. An on-site radio station, WBSA, was conceived by Mark Chilutti and Angelo Cappelli and run by Cappelli. The arena shows for the entire Jamboree were written by Bruce Sanders and directed by Randy Cline and Ken Grimes. For the first time the Order set up an Indian Village with forty-five youth and adults providing a busy program of Indian crafts, skills and dancing. Don Thom was the leader of this new success. Finally, the OA conducted a rendezvous in the main arena with approximately 12,000 to 15,000 Arrowmen in attendance, again created and run by Cline, Sanders and Grimes. Chairman Marchetti and Chief Scout Executive Ben Love spoke to the group.

In 1993 the OA continued its expanded service to the Jamboree, again held at Ft. A.P. Hill. Carl Marchetti, who had just stepped down as OA Committee Chairman, again served as the overall leader for OA events. Don Thom ran the Indian Village again with expanded program including Indian culture, crafts, and dancing. Jamboree participants completed over 175 Indian Lore merit badges. The Service Corps was led by Del Loder from the national committee. The OA again took on the oversight of all youth staff, providing them with food, housing, Scoutmasters,



**The red armband was used by the OA Service Corps at the 1953 National Scout Jamboree. Courtesy of Dr. R. Lynn Horne, Las Vegas International Scouting Museum.**

transportation, recreation and any other thing they needed. A new event, the "model campsite" which demonstrated proper and back country camping techniques, was led by Scott Beckett the youth chief and advised by Bobby Rainwater and Dan Segersin. There was again an OA show with some 15,000 Arrowmen attending.

The BSA returned to Virginia again in 1997 and the OA again expanded its support. There was another OA Service Corps doing short term service all over the Jamboree site. It happened early at fishing locations and late at arena shows and everywhere in between—at the exhibits area, at VIP reception, as a large color guard to raise Jamboree headquarters colors and wherever they could be of service. David Halliday served

as the service corps director. Matt Walker served as the overall OA Chairman with Clyde Mayer carrying out the OA Director role, as the professional responsible. The new outdoor program, now called "The Outdoor Adventure Place (TOAP), was again under the guidance of Bobby Rainwater and Dan Segersin. The Indian Village was directed this time by C.D. Cash of the national committee with assistance from David Shettles. Oversight of the Youth Staff group of 700+ non-Arrow staff was carried out by Ken Davis, with assistance from Dan McCarthy and Bo Brogdon. The new big hit provided by the OA this time was "Odyssey of the Law," an

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**The Silver Arrowhead**

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# Pageantry builds inspiration

**OA Service Corps** *continued from page 5*

interactive show and video presentation which challenged Scouts to rely on the Scout Oath and Law in making decisions in their lives. This effort was one of the most popular attractions at the Jamboree and was led by Bruce Sanders. Ken Grimes of the national committee provided oversight for the OA show which attracted 20,000 to the arena, the largest OA meeting ever held.

In 2001 the OA again made significant contributions to the National Jamboree. Matt Walker had the overall lead as OA Chairman, supported by Clyde Mayer, as Director. There was another group of hard working members of the OA Service Corps, again led by David

Halliday. The Indian Village got a new leader in Ron Bell, an Indian specialist from the national committee. Scouts continued to visit this place to learn about dancing and crafts and to try some authentic Native American food. Dan Segersin returned to be the lead adviser for TOAP and jamboree participants continued to be challenged by new techniques for camping and learning in the out of doors. The big show this time was called "Scoutopia," again led by Bruce Sanders. After the big success of "Odyssey of the Law" in 1997, which had been funded by the OA, BSA leadership of the Jamboree built the cost of Scoutopia into the budget, along with some strong support from the US Marine Corps. Again the OA watched

over all non-OA youth staff, the job carried out by Ken Davis.

By the time 2005 rolled around, the OA was solidly engaged in providing a tremendous amount of service and program throughout the Jamboree. Matt Walker and Clyde Mayer again led the OA effort. Officials of the event decided that there was no longer a need for youth staff oversight and so that function was dropped from plans and all youth staff were housed with their program leaders. Dan Segersin again took the lead to ensure that TOAP would happen and Ron Bell carried out Indian Village, now a part of the Merit Badge Midway. The interactive show was called "Twelve Cubed," with the experienced staff under Bruce Sanders carrying out another very popular program for participants. The OA Service Corps was led by R.D. Dunkin, a long time OA Committee member who had served several times as a service corps Scoutmaster.

As the OA prepares to engage in the 2010 Centennial Jamboree, it will again provide an Indian Village, under Ron Bell, an OA Service Corps co-directed by Jeff Jonasen and Chris Grove and an interactive show/challenge event led by Max Sasseen. OA Vice Chairman Mike Hoffman is giving overall leadership to this effort with Clyde Mayer once again providing professional interface. If the past serves as any sort of guide, the 2010 Jamboree will be run a little bit better and offer some more challenging programs, thanks to the commitment of the Order of the Arrow, whose service goes back some sixty years.



Courtesy of Dr. R. Lynn Horne of the Las Vegas International Scouting Museum.

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*The Silver Arrowhead*

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ★ 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING



CELEBRATING THE ADVENTURE ★ CONTINUING THE JOURNEY