



Vol. 23 Dedicated to Preserving the Memories of T.M.R. Campers No. 10

The Newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum - October 2023

This issue of Smokes Signals has a focus on things named “Ranachqua.” The Ranachqua Foundation is celebrating its 75th anniversary and is publishing a 200+ page book mainly about Camp Ranachqua campers. We also celebrate the announcement of our own Phil Sternberg (a Ranachqua scout) to the presidency of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. We also preview the upcoming Kintecoying Trade-O-Ree.

If you have a TMR memory you would like to share please email it to us.

[Join the TMR Scout Museum](#)

From the Chairman - Mitchell Slepian

A lot is happening at the museum as we head deeper into fall. We have been open a few times. We are preparing for the Nov. 18 Trade-O-Ree at Alpine Scout Camp. One thing we need is young blood. I would love to see younger Scouters and scouts begin volunteering for the museum. We have a lot of fun things everyone can participate in, i.e., working on this newsletter, new exhibits, and events at scouting events across the tri-state area. Join us and help write your TMR history.



26th Annual Kintecoying Trade-O-Ree - Camp Alpine

John C. Whitehead Dining Hall
441 US Highway 9 W, Alpine NJ
Saturday November 18, 2023
From 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Free Admission to All



Kintecoying Lodge# 4 is hosting a Trade-O-Ree at Camp Alpine where you can learn about the history of Scouting through memorabilia. Never been to one? It's like a Sports Card or Comic Book Show. Traders and Sellers from throughout NJ, NY, PA, and New England set up at the TOR. At their tables, you may find those special items that have eluded you for years. Forty plus tables full of old and rare (and some not so old and rare) Scouting items; patches, handbooks and other paper, neckerchiefs, vintage uniforms, bugles, first aid

tins, and many other items. Maybe you can trade some of your extra patches for something you just can't live with without!

A unique day event for your troop, or if you're in camp that weekend, something different to add to your troop's regular camp program. Take advantage of the climbing tower (arrangements made directly through Camp Alpine) for a fun filled day at Camp.

For additional TOR info or Table Rental info please contact Robert Mirabella via email: RJBELLA234@aol.com or [Click Here for More Info.](#)

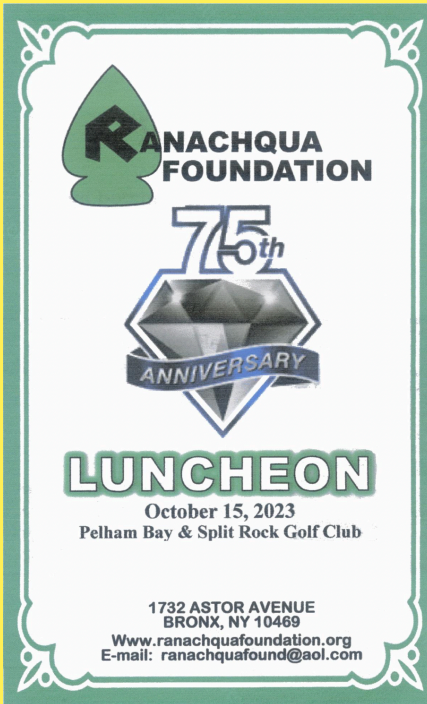
Consider Being and Editor of This Newsletter

Stay connected to TMR all year round! Keep your finger on the pulse of GNYC Scouting! Express your own creativity by being an editor of the TMR Scout Museum's monthly newsletter. To learn more contact Michael Drillinger at this email: michael.drillinger@gail.com



Ranachqua Foundation 75th Anniversary Luncheon

by David M. Malatzky



Ranachqua Foundation (RF) celebrated its 75th anniversary with a gala luncheon at Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Club, Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023. It was an amazing venue, with the golf course visible outside the mostly glass building. Museum Board members Steven Benini, Johannes Knoops and I attended. Representing GNYC were CEO/President Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez and Deputy Scout Executive Chris Guarriere.

Participation was strong and mostly consisted of Foundation members and Bronx Scouters. I set up a display of photos of Camp Ranachqua from the 1930s, which was viewed by the participants, including decedents of individuals in the photos. There were other displays on Ranachqua Foundation and a silent auction.

The main program was preceded by a cocktail party in the clubhouse. Scouts from Bronx Troop 102 started the program with a color guard, followed by an invocation by Phil Sternberg, former Bronx Scout and President of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting.

Ranachqua Foundation President Jan Schwartz welcomed the participants. Roberts-Schwartz presented posthumous awards to RF members Robert F. Weinberg, Rhoda & Sol Hirsch. She also honored and recognized Donald Fleishaker, a major donor, Jay Unger, RF webmaster and son of a founder, and Fern Hertzberg, board member and current treasurer.

GNYC CEO Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez presented Jan with the BSA Alumnus of the Year award. Longtime RF Board member and widow of one of the founders, Marilyn Kass, talked about the Foundation in past years via a video recording. Jan showed a slideshow of past Ranachqua founders, from their days at camp in the 1930s through their decades of fundraising activities and events.



(Pictured above right are President Jan Schwartz holding the honoree plaque and Chairman of the Board Joel Meltzer, far right, presenting the plaque to the family of the late Robert F. Weinberg.)

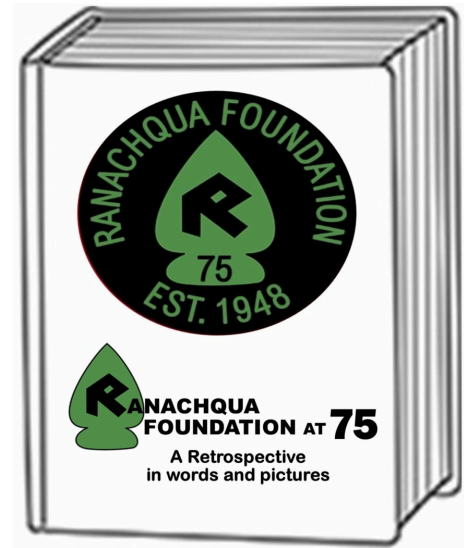
Congratulations to Jan and luncheon chair Fern Hertzberg for a marvelous event which will long be remembered by the participants.

Since 1948, Ranachqua Foundation has provided over \$975,000 in camperships to Bronx Scouts and Cubs attending summer camp at T.M.R. and Cub World. It has also provided over \$515,000 in Collage Assistance Grants to Bronx Scouts. RF has almost 200 members, living throughout the U.S. and abroad, and membership is encouraged. For additional information on Ranachqua Foundation, visit their website at www.ranachquafoundation.org.



BOOK PREVIEW: RANACHQUA FOUNDATION at 75: A Retrospective

The approach of Ranachqua Foundation's **75th ANNIVERSARY** led to thoughts about how **a single gesture of kindness** by a handful of former Bronx Boy Scout campers, sending **one scout to summer camp** in memory of the tragic passing of a beloved fellow Ranachqua camper at age 26, evolved into the **“MILLION DOLLAR GOOD DEED.”** Founded by a handful of Camp Ranachqua alumni in 1948, the all-volunteer organization has provided close to one million dollars in campership subsidies, plus over a half million dollars more to Bronx scouts through its newer merit-based College Assistance grants program.



The resulting book, **“RANACHQUA FOUNDATION AT 75: A Retrospective”** is a 200+ page comprehensive examination of the Camp Ranachqua of our founders, campers in the 1930’s, and on staff in the 1940’s. Read about their activities and recollections of camp and their ascent up the camp leadership ladder, through archival newsletters, photos, transcripts of interviews with the founders, and countless inherited and accumulated documents. Additional highlights include recollections of children of the founders. The Retrospective illustrates how the founders’ time at camp helped to shape and influence their development, building them into extraordinary men, whose core desire was to do good for others.

The **Retrospective** highlights the organization’s founders, the **Exceptional 12- AND 13-YEAR-OLD scouts from all over the Bronx and their slightly older camp leaders.** Our founders were boys who were lucky enough to escape their Depression-era urban environment to spend a series of summers together at their version of Eden. Camp Ranachqua provided a wide array of recreational options not available to city kids and increasing leadership responsibilities. Most importantly, it gave them an opportunity to bond with nature, the camp, and each other. And bond they did, staying in touch between camp seasons, and returning to Camp Ranachqua for reunions year after year, ultimately creating their favorite charity and devoting their lives to its mission. **What made them so truly unique among the estimated 110 million Americans who have participated in the programs of Boy Scouts of America?**

First you will meet **“The Zumis,” “The Elders,”** and **Buddy Gordon** and his tragic passing in 1947 at the age of 26, considered by his fellow campers as “the best of the best,” and learn their roles in triggering the formation of Ranachqua Foundation and its robust existence. You will see how the organizational and leadership skills honed at camp allowed them to create a vibrant incorporated organization in just three months. Next meet over more than 160 leaders, members, and supporters, who followed in their footsteps, playing a part in building a robust Ranachqua Foundation, focused on improving the lives of Bronx youth by giving them the benefits of the summer camp experience.

Finally, witness those who had created and built this truly unique institution welcome a new generation of total strangers to join them at the dawn of the new millennium, so that the

organization could continue past their lifetime; inspiring them to become an integral part of the mission with a generosity of spirit, and working together to create the new College Assistance Grant program, as well as new avenues of fundraising, together contributing to the remarkably successful still all-volunteer, non-profit organization that is the Ranachqua Foundation of today.

Join us as we travel through time, from the “Early Years,” through the “Vintage Years” and the “Ranachqua Renaissance.” Relive the days of our founders’ youth at their beloved camp, and the creation of our organization, when they harnessed their emotions at a time of tragic loss to create a positive force for the good of others. Follow along to the present day and discover how they and we together have sustained the **“MILLION DOLLAR GOOD DEED.”**

ORDER INFORMATION: See future issues of TMR Smoke Signals or visit the Ranachqua Foundation website - www.ranachquafoundation.org.



Phil Sternberg Announced as President of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting.

Phil Sternberg, former Bronx Scout, Ranachqua Lodge Chief, TMR staffer and Museum dues-paid member, was announced as President of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting.

Phil was born and grew up in the Bronx, NY. He attended and graduated from the Bronx High School of Science in 1960. His Undergraduate majors were Chemistry and Math. He graduated with a BA from New York University in 1964.

He has a life-long involvement in Scouting. As a youth he was involved in scouting for 10 years, from 1951-1960. He earned his Eagle Award in 1959. Phil was awarded his Vigil Honor in Ranachqua Lodge in 1965 and was Ranachqua Lodge Chief from 1964-1965.

Phil was Assistant Scoutmaster from 1961 to 1973 for Troop 77, Bronx Council. In 1965 he was Crew Advisor for Troop 77’s 16,000 mile cross country hiking and camping trip. His accomplishments in scouting and the recognitions he has been awarded are many.

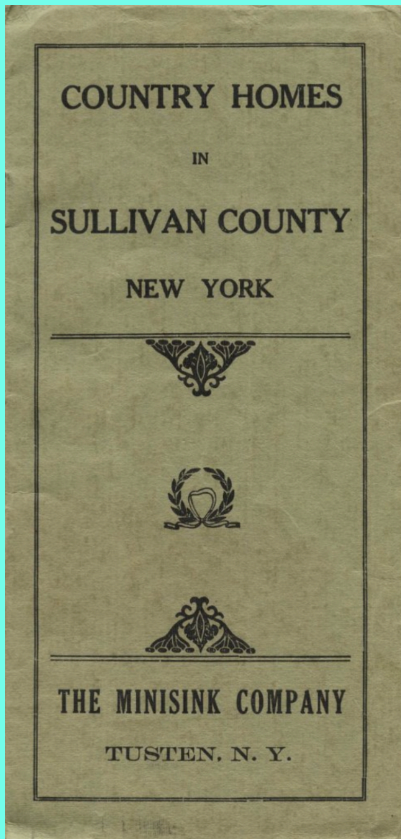
Phil is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the US Air Force.

In 1959 he was Camp Aquehonga Aquatics Director, Ten Mile River Scout Camps. In 2016 he collaborated with David Malatzky on the 90th Anniversary of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting Display at the TMR Scout Museum.

The TMR Scout Museum congratulates Phil Sternberg on this appointment and we wish him great success.

T.M.R. Property For Sale (1911)

By: David M. Malatzky



Do you realize that in an alternative T.M.R. history you might today be an owner of waterfront property and a home on Rock Lake, Davis Lake or the Delaware River?

If you ever considered what it would be like to own your piece of T.M.R. property you should see a small pamphlet recently acquired by the Museum entitled "*Country Homes in Sullivan County New York - The Minisink Company, Tusten, N. Y.*" This 1911 pamphlet solicits the purchase of home plots, completed homes and farm plots in 4,000 acres of what we know today as the western section of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps, including all of Rock Lake, Davis Lake and all the camp property between them and the Delaware River.

The pamphlet and map describes an extensive network of roads and streets bordering the Delaware River, a bridge across the Delaware River, a railroad station, and other physical improvements,

none of which apparently existed at the time.

Much of what the pamphlet describes about the property we can easily recognize today:

"The property of the Minisink Company comprising about 4,000 acres, is located amid the hills of Sullivan County on the bank of the upper Delaware, in a region widely known for the beauty of its scenery and salubrious climate. A large portion of the property is covered by groves and forests of white pine and other woods enclosing two large natural lakes of native beauty unsurpassed. These lakes, Rock Lake and Davis Lake, are fed by springs and their water is pure, wholesome and neverfailing. The Ten Mile River, long famed as a haunt of the brook trout and for its cool glens and picturesque scenery traverses the length of the property. The elevation rises gradually from a level of about 800 feet above sea level along the Delaware River to about 1500 feet around Davis Lake."



"Owing to the excellent drainage as a consequence of this slope, the atmosphere is remarkably dry. The nights are cool and the thermometer registers an average of ten to fifteen degrees lower than the temperature of New York and Philadelphia. The pine forest too lends its aid rendering the air always pure, healthful and invigorating and in welcome change to the air of the city."

According to the pamphlet, the Minisink Company had laid out into 100 ft. x 200 ft. lots two miles of property fronting on the Delaware River and constructed streets and roads connecting

various portions of the property. The streets were described as being fifty feet wide with ten-foot sidewalks. The Delaware River lots were supposed to be ready for purchase by August 1, 1911 at a price of \$400 each and other lots in this section at \$300 each.



Rock Lake

Rock Lake was described as being nestled in a cluster of forest-covered hills, about a fifteen-minute walk from the Delaware River along Lake Road. Its water was of remarkable purity, fed from mountain springs and the lake was peculiarly well adapted for bathing as it had a fine sandy beach of gradual slope. The Minisink Company was in the process of laying out in lots

the portion of the property surrounding Rock Lake, which would be shortly available for sale.

The Company was also preparing lots for farming purposes to be later placed on the market. These farms would be adaptable for either summer or permanent residence, and would be suitable for raising garden products, daily and chicken farming, which, as the pamphlet noted, was carried on extensively in the vicinity.

Davis Lake, with a tract of 500 acres, would be sold as one parcel for a club, hotel or summer estate.

The lots along the Delaware River were considered to be particularly well suited to villas and bungalows, which the Minisink Company could construct (according to the buyer's plans) at a cost of from \$500 upward, according to the style and permanency desired. Discounted lumber would be obtained from the Company sawmill and extensive lumber tracts. The Company also planned to erect bungalows and sell them at reasonable prices.



Davis Lake

It was noted that the Delaware River lots were within ready driving distance of Narrowsburg, from which point delivery of groceries and butcher's supplies could be arranged via daily wagons. A telephone connection on the property with Narrowsburg would facilitate ready transmission of orders.

A schoolhouse and a church upon the property were available for those who desired permanent residence.

Access to the property would be via the Erie Railroad on the opposite side of the Delaware River, utilizing a train station and a bridge that were planned but not yet constructed. A ferry then operating across the Delaware would provide access to purchasers. According to the pamphlet, a fast express train leaving Jersey City at 2:30 p.m. would get a busy man to the mountains before dinner to spend the weekend with his family. A similar fast service would get him home on Sunday without loss of time from his business.

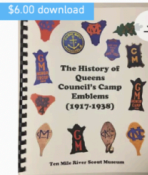
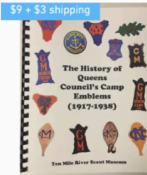
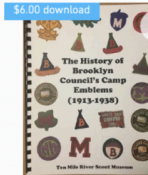

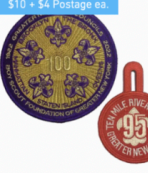



Arrangements could be made with the Minisink Company for a special \$2.00 round trip fare on the Erie Railroad to inspect the property.

The pamphlet contains a foldout map depicting 325 numbered lots, 27 named streets and roads plus Delaware Ave., which ran alongside the Delaware River. It includes a church, post office, schoolhouse, Minisink Company office building, three unidentified buildings, a bridge across the Delaware River (proposed) and a Tusten Train Station on the opposite side of the Delaware River from the Ten Mile River.

It also includes a “Bird’s Eye” aerial view of the entire property with one obvious mistake. The bridge across the Delaware River at Lackawaxen appears to be immediately across the property, while in reality it is more than seven miles away.

Additional information on the Minisink Company's property, including booklets and large-scale maps, was available from their office at 2 Rector Street, New York City.

Except for the Tusten Baptist Church, which stands today, we have no evidence that any of the numerous physical improvements or structures cited in the pamphlet actually existed or that any of the plots were actually sold. It was the failure of this venture by the Minisink Company in 1911 that made the 4,000 acres it owned available for purchase by the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York in 1927. The rest, as they say, was (T.M.R.) history.

 <p>\$6.00 download</p> <p>Download: The History of Queen's Council's Camp Emblems (1917-1938) \$6.00</p>	 <p>\$9 + \$3 shipping</p> <p>Printed: The History of Queens Council's Camp Emblems (1917-1938) \$12.00</p>	 <p>\$6.00 download</p> <p>Download: The History of Brooklyn Council's Camp Emblems (1913-1938) \$6.00</p>	 <p>\$9 + \$3 shipping</p> <p>Printed: The History of Brooklyn Council's Camp Emblems (1913-1938) \$12.00</p>
 <p>\$10 + \$4 Postage ea.</p> <p>Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch with FREE TMR 95th Dangle \$14.00</p>	 <p>\$25 + \$4 postage</p> <p>Greater New York Councils/Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary CSP Set \$29.00</p>	 <p>\$10 + \$3 Postage ea.</p> <p>Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch DELIVERED VIA MAIL \$13.00</p>	 <p>New - P&H Included</p> <p>Ten Mile River Scout Camps Trail Map \$10.00</p>

The Museum's Website Store

Did you know that the Museum sells a variety of T.M.R. and Museum merchandise from our Website Store: <https://www.tmr-museum.org/online-museum-store/>

This includes most every patch set issued by the Museum in recent years, the 2021 Guide to Memorabilia of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps, Indian Cliff puzzles, Scout Service Corps CSP's from 1996-2003, and the two new booklets on Brooklyn and Queens Council emblem histories.



TMR Wall of Fame

Do you want to recognize some individual, group or organization for their contributions to the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and/or New York City Scouting? A custom-engraved tile on the T.M.R. Wall of Fame might be right for you.

[Wall of Fame - Learn More](#)

Donate Scouting Memorabilia

Donations of T.M.R. and other Scouting memorabilia to the Museum by individuals like you are the main way the Museum grows.

These include, but are not limited to: photos, color slides, 8-mm film, videos, patches, neckerchiefs, neckerchief slides, uniforms, banners, menus, paper items, etc. We can also photograph items and return them to you, or photograph notable items at your home.

[Learn More](#)



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