

EXPLORING HISTORIC CAMP MAN

A Walking Tour of Historic Camp Man, T.M.R.

DRAFT

Ten Mile River Scout Museum, 2005

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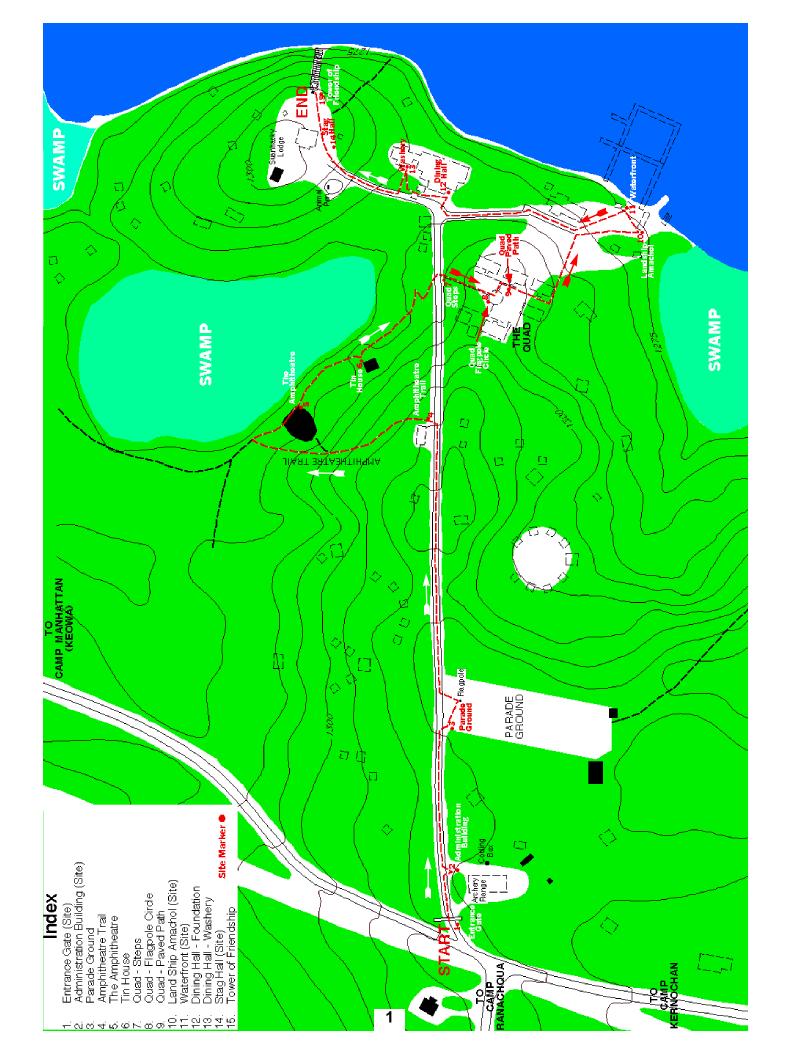
Camp Man, the Queens Council Borough Camp from 1930-1955 is long gone except for the memories of former campers. While virtually all the buildings were torn down years ago, a surprising amount is left, including the historic **Tower of Friendship** and the **Amphitheatre** where President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke in 1933.

On this self-guided walking tour, you will visit the key landmarks of historic Camp Man. Use the map and site markers to visit each landmark. The tour guide provides the history and photos of each site. In the back of the guide is the history of Camp Man from 1930-1938, when Camp Man was largely constructed.

The walking tour starts at the entrance to The Village (see map) and ends at the Tower of Friendship.

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Before Camp Man

When the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York acquired the Crystal Lake Tract in 1929, the site that became Camp Man already had a notable history.

The Van Allen family from New York City purchased about 1,000 acres here in the late 1880's, when the lake was known as Big Pond. They developed the property by erecting buildings and making various improvements. Every summer, the Van Allen family and their friends spent a month or more at Big Pond. Stag Hall, the Camp Man headquarters until it burned down in 1937, was used as a hunting lodge.

The property was then purchased by some New York millionaires, also for summer family vacations and outings. In 1923, 3,000 acres of the property was purchased by three Monticello residents as an investment. Two years later, they sold 800 acres to Isidor Liebow of Brooklyn, for use as a youth summer camp. The property included a hotel, large club house, cottages and various outbuildings.

During the late 1920's, Camp Wel-Met for Girls was developed on the former Van Allen property. Many Wel-Met buildings were utilized when the Crystal Lake Tract was purchased by the Boy Scouts in 1929. These consisted of a waterfront, five wooden buildings on the hill, a dining hall and two wooden buildings on the lakeshore. Stag Hall had numerous bedrooms and was used as an administration center, trading post and medical office.



Wel-Met Campers at the Quad, 1920's



Wel-Met Entrance Gate, 1920's



Wel-Met Camper's Cabins, 1920's

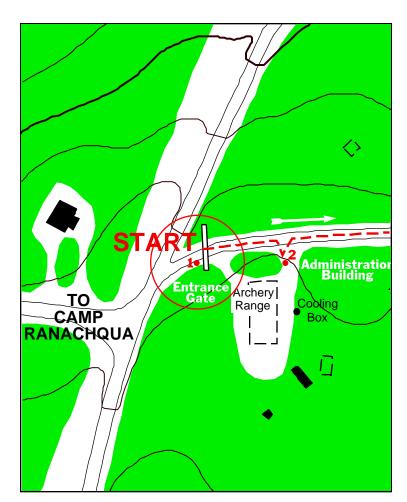
Entrance Gate (Site)

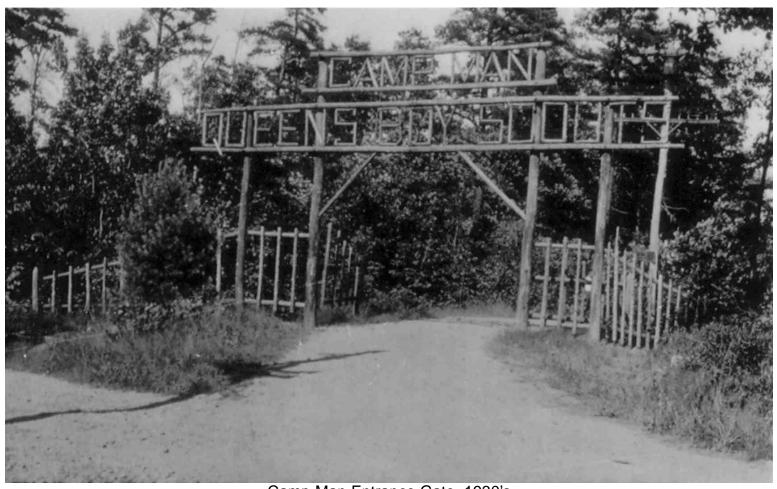
Entrance Gate (No. 1). This was the entrace to the Camp Man Lakeside and Central Divisions from 1930 until the mid-1950's. Kernochan Division (1938) had it's own entrance further down the road.

Alrick Man was a lawyer and real estate operator who developed Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens in Queens. He was a great believer in the Scout movement and President of Queens Council for fifteen years starting in 1915.



Camp Wel-Met Entrance Gate, 1920's





Camp Man Entrance Gate, 1930's

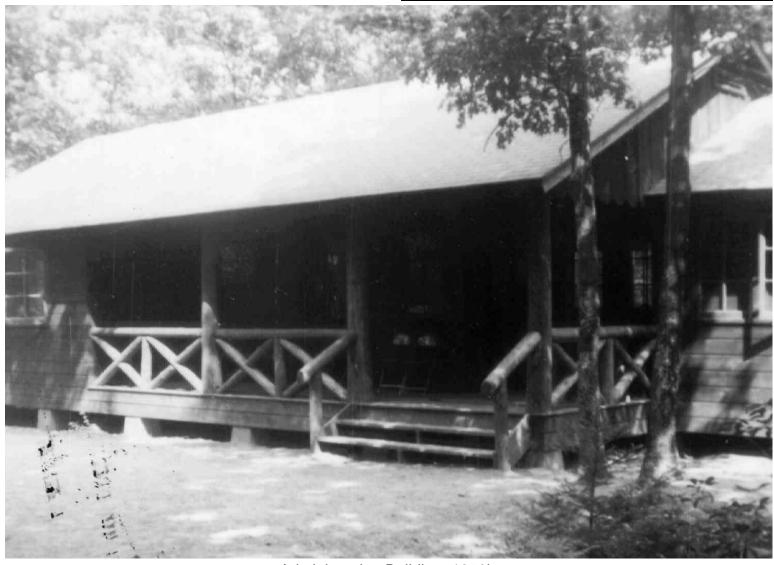
Administration Building (Site)

Site of Camp Man Administration Building (No. 2). If being used as an Archery Range, skip and continue along walking tour. If accessible, see the concrete pillers that used to hold up the building and the cooling box, used for a water fountain.



Concrete Piller (2003)





Administration Building, 1950's

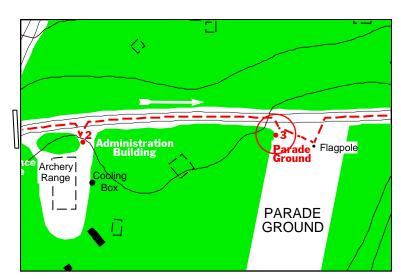
Parade Ground

Each evening all three Camp Man Divisions met at the **Parade Ground (No. 3)** for the impressive campwide retreat ceremony, complete with cannon and buglers. Troop recognitions were awarded and scouts were tapped out and led away for induction into Suanhacky Lodge, Order of the Arrow. Special activities such as indian pagents and push-car races also took place on the Parade Ground.

The **metal flagpole base** dates from 1946-47 and is reputed to have been obtained from the Brooklyn Navy Yard.



Retreat Ceremony, 1930's

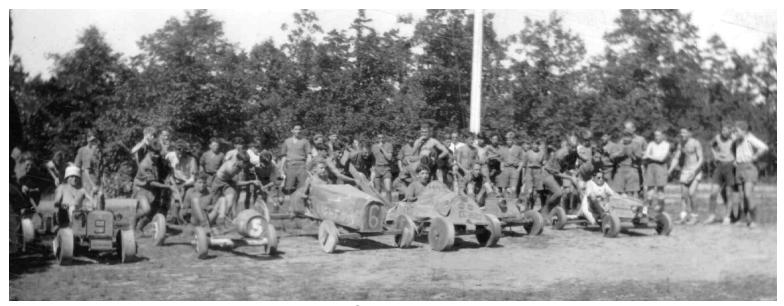




Sundown, Camp Man, 1937



Retreat Ceremony, 1936



Push-Car Race, 1930's

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt's Visit, 1930

On August 23, 1930, Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt received the Silver Buffalo award from Frederic Kernochan, Special Sessions Judge, in the presence of a group of officers of the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York as well as Scouts camping at T.M.R. The Silver Buffalo award is the highest in Scouting and was made for distinguished service to boyhood. The Governor received a gift of a "totem cane" by a group of Queens

Scouts, which depicted the history of the Governor's life. In response he said:

"This meeting will mark the completion and dedication of these 10,000 acres to boyhood. It is the achievement of one of the two major objectives which the members of the executive board set up eight years ago."



F.D.R. Receives Silver Buffalo, 1930

The Amphitheatre

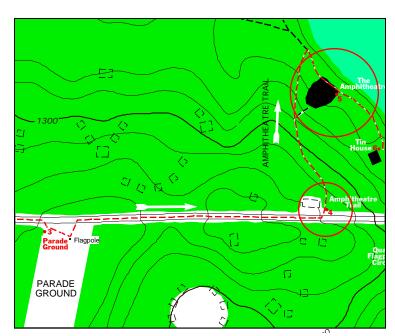
Prior to 1933, **The Amphitheatre Trail (No. 4)** (leading down the hill) was the only trail leading to **The Amphitheatre.**

The Amphitheatre (No. 5) was used for campwide campfire programs, special events including indian pagents for visiting parents and speeches by guests including President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Chief Scout Executive James E. West.

The **road** leading past the Tin House was constructed in 1933 specially for President Roosevelt's visit.



Speech by James E. West, 1930's

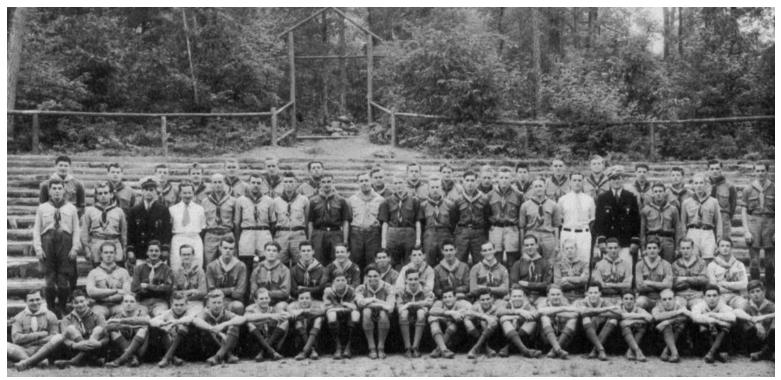




Court of Honor, 1936



Amphitheatre, 1930's



Man Staff in Amphitheatre, 1935, with trail entrace in rear.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Visit, 1933

On August 23, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Camp Man. His arrival at the camp at 12:30 pm was marked by a salute of twenty-one guns following greetings at the gate by Scouting officials. Twelve mounted Scouts from the Brooklyn camps formed a guard of honor for the President as his car was driven down the camp road between lines of Queens Scouts standing at salue to the Land Ship Amachol. The Scouts ran up the President's flag and fired a salute. The President was next driven to The Amphitheatre where he was greeted by 1,000 Scouts.

The Scouts sang 'Happy Days are Here Again' and drilled in honor of the President, who organized the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York in 1921 and lead the efforts resulting in the purchase of the T.M.R. Camps property in 1927.

The President first was inducted as an honorary member of Suanhacky Lodge, Order of the Arrow. Scouts from the various camps gave him tokens of friendship, including a plaque bearing the NRA symbol, an indian headress, leather book cover and a tee-pee incense burner. His speech mentioned the National Recovery Administration (N.R.A.), development of the Civilian Conservation Corp (C.C.C.) which he said was inspired by Scouting and said the following about the Ten Mile River Camps:

"I haven't been here for over two years, and all sort of things have happened up here in that time. Among other things you have all joined the cavalry, I see. And you have also gone in for a navy on one of he lakes.

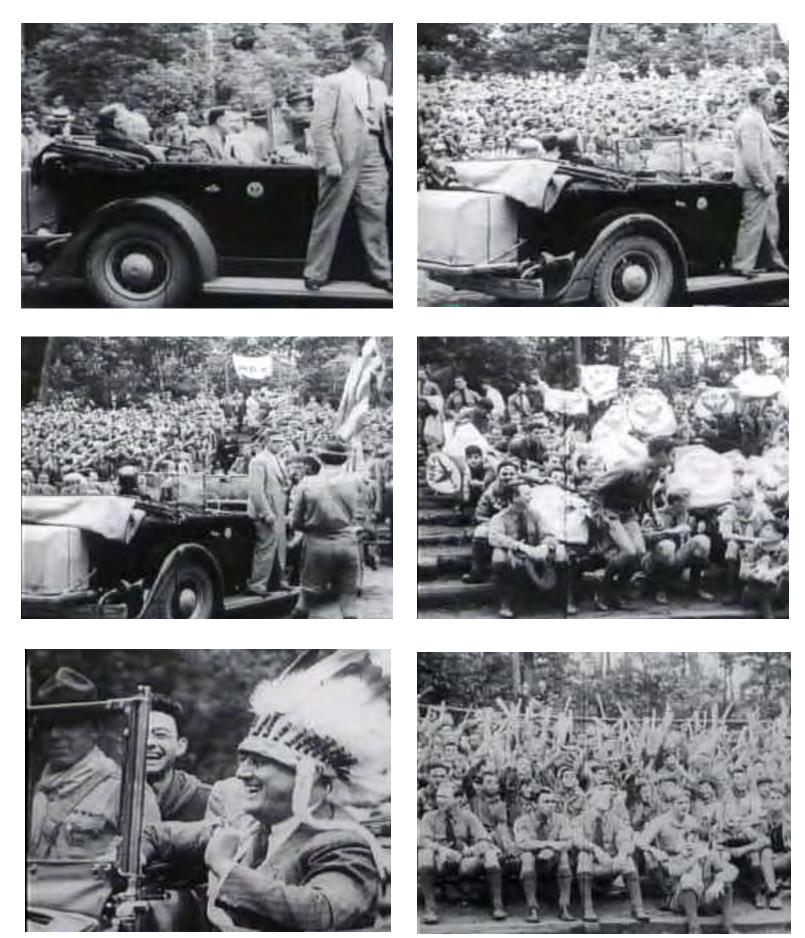
I don't know what will happen next. I suppose that we will turn you all into farmers before we get through, but

every year that does goes by here brings us a little bit closer to an ideal that a lot of us had in the Boy Scout Foundation years ago when we wanted our own place in the sun and we wanted a big enough place to take care of the Boy Scouts of the City of New York and the neighboring territory for generations to come. Well, we got that place and now we are developing it. This is one of the finest monuments to scouting that there is anywhere in the country."

After his speech he went to the mess hall for a lunch of steak, potatoes, corn on the cob, bread, apple butter and milk.



F.D.R. at Camp Man, 1933



President Franklin D. Roosevelt Arrives at Camp Man Amphitheatre, 1933.



F.D.R. receives gift From Camp Ranachqua



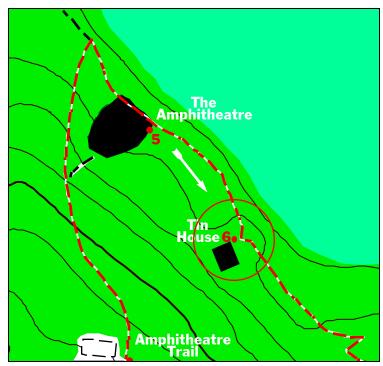
National, N.Y.C. Scouting officials and officers from Suanhacky Lodge in the Amphitheatre awaiting President Roosevelt's induction into the Order of the Arrow.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressing Scouts at Camp Man Amphitheatre.

Tin House

The Tin House (No. 6) was used to store straw for bed ticks, tools and other camp storage.





Tin House (2003)

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The Quad (Site)

The six buildings in **The Quad** included most of the key administrative buildings in Camp Man. They were part of Camp Wel-met acquired with the Crystal Lake Tract purchase in 1929. The Quad included the camp office, trading post, nature and handicraft lodges, camp shop and staff lodge. During the 1950's, the Cook's cabin and camp library were located here.

Walk up the Quad Steps (No. 7) leading from the road up the hill. See the Flagpole Circle (No. 8) and the Paved Path (No. 9).



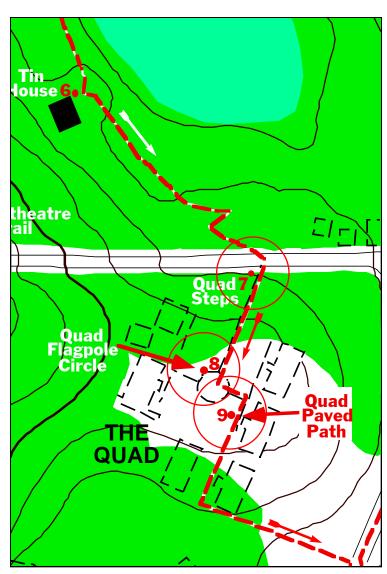
View of steps and Quad Buildings in background.



The Nature Lodge, 1930's



Quad buildings from the Vollyball Court





Camp Director Lou Eberspeacher at steps, 1950's



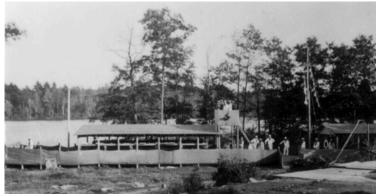
Camp Wel-Met Campers at the Quad, 1920's.



Camp Man Campers at the Quad, 1930's. See the flagpole in the middle of the flagpole circle.

Landship Amochol (Site)

The Land Ship Amachol (No. 10) was used by Sea Scouts and other older scouts engaged in an aquatics program. It was replaced with the Amochol 2 in 1937.



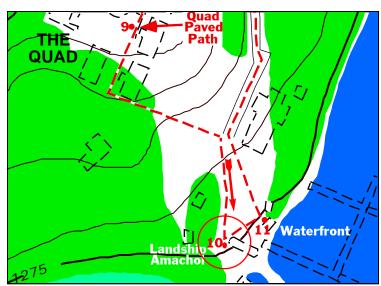
Landship Amochol, 1930's



Sea Scouts on L.S. Amochol's deck, 1930's



L.S. Amochol 2 Control Room, 1950's





Landship Amochol 2, 1950's



Landship Amochol 2, 1950's



Amochol 2 and Quad in background, 1950's

Camp Man Waterfront (Site)

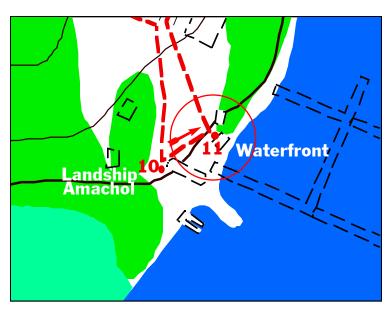
The Camp Man Waterfront (No. 11) was shared by Lakeside & Central Divisions. Kernochan Division had it's own waterfront further down the shoreline.



Camp Man Waterfront, 1930's

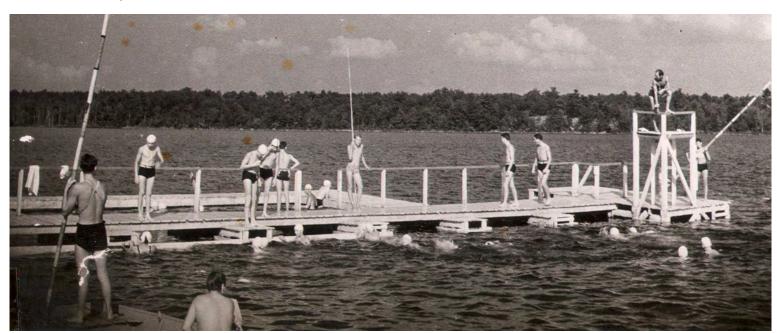


Camp Man Waterfront, 1950's





Camp Man Waterfront, 1950's

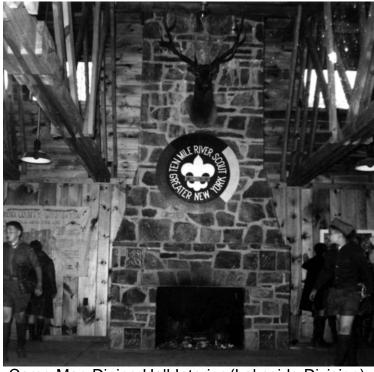


Camp Man Waterfront, 1937

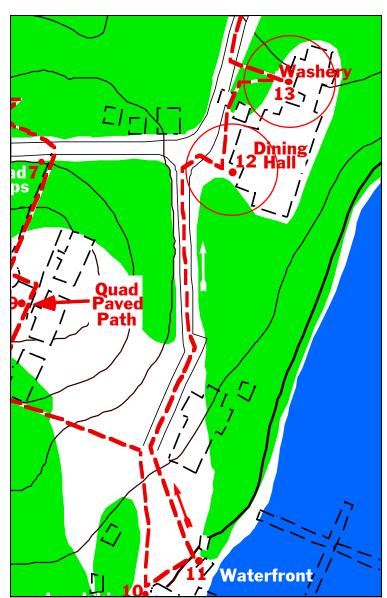
Dining Hall

The large Camp Man Dining Hall was used solely by Lakeside Division Scouts after separate dining halls were constructed for Central and Kernochan Divisions. See the Foundation (No. 12).

Attached to the **Dining Hall** was a **Washery (No. 13)** used to clean pots and dishes. See the **concrete slab** and **various pipes**.



Camp Man Dining Hall Interior (Lakeside Division), 1950's





Camp Man Dining Hall, 1950's

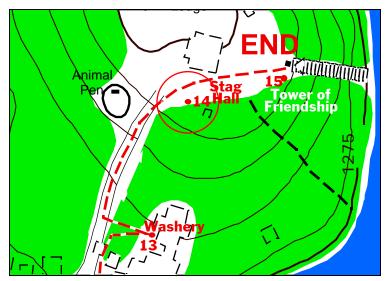
Stag Hall (Site)

Stag Hall (No. 14) was originally used as a hunting lodge on the Van Allen Estate.

It contained Camp Man's administrative headquarters, trading post, camp bank, telephone switchboard and medical office. The camp's post office was nearby.

Senior camp staff stayed in its numerous bedrooms, including the camp director, chaplains and senior staff in the quartermaster department.

When it burnt down on July 13, 1937, personal belongings for 12 staff were lost, including much office equipment.





Stag Hall, 1936



Stag Hall from Quad steps, 1936.



Remains of Stag Hall with Tower of Friendship in rear, 1937.

Tower of Friendship & Stag

The Tower of Friendship (No. 15), constructed in 1938, was conceived in 1936 by Queens Scout Executive Charles M. Heistand, Camp Director Joseph H. Brinton, and Assistant Camp Director Russell A. Turner as a symbol and reminder of camp friendships. It was located near the site of Stag Hall, which burnt down in 1937. The tower was designed and built by A.G. Jeffery and consists of stones contributed from many national and local leaders, each state of the Union, several foreign countries, and from camps associated with Camp Man.

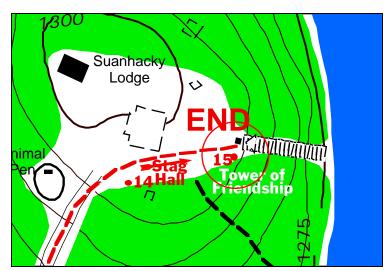
President Roosevelt donated a stone from his home at Hyde Park, N.Y. New York State Governor Lehman gave a stone obtained along the shores of Lake George. Eagle Scout and Antarctic Explorer Paul Siple sent a stone from an extinct volcano from Antarctica. Baden Powell contributed a stone from Gilwell Park, England from the old London Bridge.

The bust was sculptured in the likeness of Vincent Kohler, a Suanhacky Lodge brother, by the famous illustrator, Norman Rockwell. Landscaping of the surrounding area was completed by members of Suanhacky Lodge. The Tower's "eternal flame" was lighted with ceremony the first evening of each season. From the flame, sparks were carried to light the first campfire in each unit at Camp Man. It was extingished only at the season's end as the last Scout quit camp.

A statue of a **Stag**, the camp's totem, predated the Tower and was located nearby.



Tower and Stag, 1930's







A.G. Jeffery and Tower, 1937

Placing cornerstone, 1936



Tower of Friendship, 1930's



The Stag, Tower of Friendship, Stag Hall, 1937



Tower of Friendship & Stag Hall, 1937



The Stag, 1930's



The Stag from Stag Hall, 1930's

Before Camp Man (1880-1929)

The Van Allen's, a wealthy family from New York City, purchased about 1,000 acres here in the early 1880's, when the lake was known as Big Pond. They developed the property into an elaborate country estate, by erecting buildings and making various improvements.

Every summer, George W. and William H. Van Allen, their family and friends, spent a month or more at what was known as the "Van Allen Grange." A photo of Crystal Lake from the 1910's shows gas lamps and formal gardens, hinting at an elegant past.

The Van Allen estate was home to the Sullivan County Turtle Club, an organization with many New York publishers as members. The club hunted, fished and shot guns on the property. Stag Hall was used as a hunting lodge. George W. Van Allen, a printing press manufacturer, was acknowledged as a marvelous host.

In 1916, the 8,000 acre property was sold to Otto Gassman for use as a game preserve.

In July, 1917, 4,000 acres were sold to Fred A. Kuenzli, assistant appraiser of the U.S. Customs, Port of New York. Mr. Kuenzli planned to develop the property into a year-round resort, including a winter resort, with skating, tobogganing and coasting.

In October, 1917, the property was sold to Emil Girard, a cafe and restaurant owner from New York City. Mr. Girard planned to develop an extensive year-round resort and social colony. At the time of purchase, the property had accommodations for 130 people, with plans to erect an additional 30 modern cottages. Mr. Girard also planned to add to the property several thousand sheep and pigeons, a large number of partridge and pheasants, and native trout in Crystal Lake.

In 1923, 3,000 acres of the property was purchased by William Miller, Blake Washington and Lui de Hoyos of Monticello as an investment. In 1925, they sold 800 acres to Isidor Liebow of Brooklyn, for use as a youth summer camp. The property then included a hotel, large club house, cottages and various outbuildings.

Mr. Liebow previously operated a boys and girls camp in Putnam Country, but his land was taken

over for the N.Y.C. water supply system. Much of the camp equipment was obtained from the Putnam County camp. Camp Wel-met for girls opened on this site soon afterwards.

History of Camp Man (1930-1938)

When the original 9,776 acres was purchased in October, 1927, the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York stated that the property would be sufficient to house camps for all five New York City Borough Councils.

By 1929, attitudes changed and it was felt necessary to acquire additional property for the Queens and Manhattan Council Camps. Less funds were available for camp construction, so the emphasis was on acquiring already exisiting camps so that minimal new construction would be necessary

As a result, the 970 acre Crystal Lake Tract was purchased on September 18, 1929, consisting of two existing camps: Camp Utopia for Boys was converted into Manhattan Council's Camp Manhattan (later Camp Keowa) and Camp Wel-Met, a girl's camp, at today's Village, was converted into Camp Man, the Queens Council camp.

The Wel-Met property consisted of a waterfront, five wooden buildings on the hill, a dining hall and two wooden buildings on the lakeshore. One building was Stag Hall, which had numerous bedrooms and was used as an administration center, trading post and medical office.

The camp was renamed after Alrick Man, a lawyer and real estate operator who developed Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens in Queens. He was a great believer in the Scout movement and President of Queens council for fifteen years starting in 1915. From 1915-1918 he was president of the Federation of Councils of Greater New York.

The property was divided into Division "A" - Lakeside, and Division "C" - Central, with the parade ground between them. The letter designations were dropped in 1938. Lakeside Division had seven campsites and the landship Amachol, with an aquatics program.

Central Division had four campsites and the outpost camp Adirontrek, with a hiking and cooking program. By opening day, the camp's construction was not complete - sites not cleared, water lines not

filled in, no trails or clearings, amphitheater not complete. The Lenni-Lenape dictionary had been used to name the troop camps, confusing the first staff to arrive.

In 1938, Kernochan Division was opened further down the lake with it's own waterfront, dining hall and administration building.

Although camp was for 2-week periods, the average Scout stayed for 3 weeks in 1938. Almost 1,100 scouts attended camp in 1937, second only to the Brooklyn Camps.

Virtually all Scouts attended Man as members of 32-scout provisional troops, with Troop leaders provided by the camp. Staff in each Troop site consisted of a Scoutmaster, a Senior Patrol Leader experienced in handicrafts and a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster experienced in nature study. Scouts from a home troop were assigned to the same camp troop.

Scouts usually arrived in camp by bus and were dropped off at the main parade grounds. Staff directed the scouts to Stag Hall for check-in, a medical recheck, and then a swim test. The scouts returned to the parade grounds, picked up their equipment and proceeded to their assigned campsite. After being shown his bunk, the scout met with the Scoutmaster to review his advancement record and discuss opportunities for the next rank.

Lakeside, Central and Kernochan Divisions each operated like a separate camp with its own staff. Lakeside Division was the largest and contained most of the camp buildings, including a dining hall and waterfront. A handicraft lodge and a nature lodge occupied small buildings on the property. An archery range was set off into the woods and a fine nature trail led along the lake shore and over wood planks thru a swampy terrain. Troop sites were Amochol, Landship named Schawonge, Pachsegink, Wipochk, Elemieken, Tachanigeu, and Cuwe. In 1938, Cuwe became a staff camp. Kiwiken was used by visiting leaders.

Central Division had four troop sites, its own dining hall and shared the waterfront with Lakeside Division. Troop sites were called: Waugapoak, Achewen, Tauwatawique & Pachgeeken.

Kernochan Division was named in honor of Justice Frederic Kernochan, Chief Justice of the

Court of Sessions. His generosity and that of his friends, made the camp possible. It included four tent sites like the other divisions and had its own administration building, dining hall, staff tents, parade ground and waterfront. Troop sites were called: Schingeu, Wipunquoak, Pindalanal and Esseni. Troop sites and programs paralleled the other divisions.

Each Lakeside and Central troop tent site contained four 16' X 16' platforms with large canvas tents, each capable of housing eight scouts on steel army-type cots with straw-filled mattresses. Troop cabin sites had a capacity of 8 boys each, usually two on each side of the campfire circle. A 9' X 12' tent platform with a 9' X 9' canvas tent housed the Troop Leader or Scoutmaster and an assistant. In the mid-1930's, these staff tents were replaced by sturdy wooden cabins, open on all sides. In the forward section of the shelter was adequate space for two large tables. One was intended for nature activity and the other for handicraft activity. The rear of the shelter housed a Scoutmaster and his two assistants. Often a general staff member was also housed in a troop cabin.

Kernochan also had lean-to shelters that could house 6-8 scouts each.

Scouts spent much of the day in their campsite, receiving instruction and working towards second and first class requirements and merit badges. Afternoon activities included swim periods, archery and pioneering projects. The Craft and Nature Lodges were also open to interested scouts. Scouts also had to prepare for campsite inspections. After dinner, units competed in volleyball and softball. Canoeing and boating on Crystal Lake were also available. Evening programs were either at the unit campfire ring or in the amphitheater for special all-camp shows, skits, songfests and recognitions.

Almost all of the program at Camp Man was on a Troop basis, including Troop campfires, overnight hikes to Trout Pond, and bird hikes. Many other activities were done on a division or an all-camp basis, including aquatic programs, like swimming, boating, sailing, and canoeing. There were athletic events, like archery and camp Olympics; camp-wide council fires, stunt nights, song fests and story nights. Each evening the impressive camp-wide retreat ceremony took place on the Central Parade Ground. Troop recognitions were awarded, and, on

certain evenings, scouts were tapped out and led away for induction into Suanhacky Lodge, Order of the Arrow. The general camp program included campcraft instruction, handicraft and axmenship demonstrations, pioneering projects, indian lore, nature study, and special sessions on merit badges, especially in outdoor subjects. Scouts could use the Nature Lodge and the Handicraft Lodge. Scouts could participate in canoe trips on the Delaware River or on Lake Wallenpaupack in Pennsylvania, on an all-camp basis, under qualified leadership.

Usually a camp-wide program stressing scout skills was held the first week. The second week was a fun event, including scout-powered auto races or a water carnival. A Scout Circus featured side-shows and animal acts, including giraffes and elephants.

On Sundays, Parents visited the camp. Sunday afternoon programs for parents included a waterfront fleet show, each unit selecting a theme and displaying it. Pageants included an American Indian theme and Countries of the World theme, where each troop represented a different country, and scouts dressed up in native costumes. Parents could also see an indian pageant in the amphitheater.

The Camp Chapel was completed in August 1934 by Suanhacky Lodge and provided interfaith services. Religious organizations back in Queens or Manhattan usually provided chaplains in each major denomination. In 1938, the second campsite in Division "A" was changed into a staff camp with three chaplains cabins.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited Camp Man frequently, as both Governor of New York and as President of the United States. In August, 1930, he received the "Silver Buffalo" from Justice Frederic Kernochan. He was inducted into Suanhacky Lodge, Order of the Arrow on August 23, 1933. Many national and local Scouting dignitaries were present.

In 1931, Paul A. Siple, Antarctic Explorer and Eagle Scout, visited Camp Man, and was inducted into Suanhacky Lodge. Governor Herbert Lehman visited in 1934 and saw a water pageant. Chief Scout Executive James West was a frequent guest.

The Tower of Friendship, constructed in 1936, was conceived by Scout Executive Charles M. Heistand, Camp Director Joseph H. Brinton, and Assistant Camp Director Russell Turner as a symbol

and reminder of camp friendships. It was located near Stag Hall, which burnt down in 1937. The tower was designed and built by A.G. Jeffery and consists of stones contributed from many national and local leaders, each state of the Union, several foreign countries, and from camps associated with Camp The bust was sculptured in the likeness of Man. Vincent Kohler, a Suanhacky Lodge brother, by the famous illustrator Norman Rockwell. Landscaping of the surrounding area was completed by members of Suanhacky Lodge. The Tower's "eternal flame" was lighted with ceremony the first evening of each season. From the flame, sparks were carried to light the first campfire in each unit at Camp Man. A statue of a Stag, the camp's totem, was near the Tower.

The land ship Amachol, and later the Amachol 2, served Sea Scouts and older scouts interested in nautical skills and aquatic events. Camp Adirontrek was opened for Senior Scouts. Campers and staff lived in small lean-tos, cooking two of their three meals daily in their campsite. Each Scout participated in least one 3-4 day backpacking trek each two-week period. Scouts in each of the specialty camps were easily identifiable. The Amachol scouts wore a blue kerchief hooked onto the right pants belt loop. The Adirontrek scouts wore a red kerchief in the same place.

All Senior Staff wore long-sleeved white shirts and dark green neckties on Sundays and other visitor days or special occasions. After each breakfast in the camp dining halls, some prearranged, usually Senior Staff member gave a short "Big Idea" to start the day. Each evening after the camp bugler had played Taps, in each campsite the Scoutmaster or his assistant, or an invited guest gave a short vesper - a story or poem or homily to end the day. In other worthy occasions, applause was given, at a leaders cue "Does he get it?" by a vigorous 'HOW HOW!'

Camp Man provided staff for administrative work and feeding operations. Also, program directors and support staff for campcraft, handicraft, nature and other activities like Indian lore, and archery.

Charles M. Heistand was the Scout Executive of the Queens Council from 1929-1937. Joseph H. Brinton, Assistant Executive, was the Director of Camp Man from 1930-1937. Field Executive, Russ Turner served as assistant Director in the last several of those eight years. Boards of Review and Courts of Honor and were held at the end of each two-week period in camp. Scouts could earn a Camp Man Emblem. Requirements included Campcraft and Woodcraft, Nature Study, Advancement, First Aid, Swimming, Boating or Canoeing. There were also Honor Camp, Honor Troop and Honor Tent Awards.

The Camp Man Bugle was the Camp newsletter during the 1930's.

Suanhacky Lodge was organized by Heistand & Brinton the summer of 1930. Charter members were inducted in July at a very primitive circle off the trail leading north from the Amphitheater. They continued to induct 10-15 new members each two-week camp period throughout the season. From the beginning, Suanhacky Lodge was very active providing service to Camp Man. Members served as ushers at the Amphitheater and at all gatherings of the entire camp. They were guides for Sunday visitors, and handled parking, conducted Tapping-Out Ceremonies at the Parade Ground Retreat Ceremony, and fire-lighting ceremonies at general campfires. The Lodge also built the Suanhacky Ceremonial Circle at the original sites.

In 1938, Camp Man's independence as a Borough Camp ended with the consolidation of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps under Alfred C. Nichols, Chief Camp Director. Many camp traditions ended, and new ones were started. Camp Man continued until the mid-1950's, when Borough Camps were discontinued and it was divided up into Camps Lakeside, Kernochan and Central.