



Democrat Photo by Lori Brown

**FROM THE LEFT,** John Dowd, June Koester, Bernie Sussman, and David Malatzky were on hand last weekend to welcome one and all to the new Ten Mile River Boy Scout Camp exhibit at the Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville.

## Ten Mile River Scout Camp's Secret History Revealed

By Lori Brown

**HURLEYVILLE** — On Sunday, visitors to the Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville enjoyed a presentation on the brief history of the Ten Mile River (TMR) Scout Camp at the Sullivan County Historical Society.

The curator for this event was June Koester, who introduced the three gentlemen who were the hosts for the afternoon. Bernie Sussman is the curator for the museum, David Malatzky is the associate curator for the TMR Scout Museum in Narrowsburg, and John Dowd is a museum trustee as well as a knowledgeable individual about the CCC Camps (Civilian Conservation Corps).

Sussman started off the afternoon by talking about the many artifacts found at the Scout camp dating back 4,500 years. This left behind an enormous history to the area, he said. The dig in 1969 was able to uncover some artifacts, including stones, money from different countries, and white pine used for lumbering. The memorabilia is on display at the museum off County Route 26 near Narrowsburg.

Malatzky showed a short movie regarding the history of Ten Mile River. In 1924, Franklin D. Roosevelt wanted a large parcel of land for a Boy Scout camp. In May of 1926, lands in Tusten, Bethel, and Highland were bought from approximately 33 people. This agreement took place in secret at the Monticello Court House. In April of 1927, Roosevelt helped raise \$1 million for the largest council-owned Boy Scout camp in the United States.

There were approximately 5,000 NYC scouts in camps spaced far apart for the daily activities the campers would participate in. In 1933, Roosevelt visited Camp Man

and made a speech.

Dowd talked about the CCC Camps. Boys were brought up from the city to camp and learn many aspects of country life. The CCC



camps had enrollment periods every 8 months, but in 1936 the camps closed, and every boy was moved out.

But the scouts remained, and Malatzky shared his insight with the listeners about the history of TMR

from 1933 up to the present.

"The 1930s was the golden age of the Ten Mile River history," he said.

During the late 1950s, the borough camps were broken up. Ten Mile River Scouts or home troops could go wherever they wanted. The 1960s saw the development of the Headquarters Camp. The dining halls were closed, and the boys also started sleeping in tents. In 1977, the federal government found money to help city youth to go to camp. In 1991, there were different camps created, with themes like sports, adventure camping, etc.

The exhibit will remain at the museum in Hurleyville through June 22. For more information, call 434-8044.

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum in Narrowsburg is open to the public in July and August and is operated by the Greater New York Council of Boy Scouts. The museum is located within the 12,000-acre Ten Mile River Scout Camps at the Headquarters Camp. The museum websites include [www.tmrmuseum.org](http://www.tmrmuseum.org) and [www.tmrarchive.org](http://www.tmrarchive.org).