



# **History of Scouting in Washington**

**PTC Class 616 - October 17, 2020**

**Fred Poyner IV, Webelos Den 5 Leader, Pack  
682, Alpine District, Chief Seattle Council**

# **Early Scouting in King County & Formation of the Chief Seattle Council**

**Key dates:**

**April 18, 1911; December 8, 1916; October 28,  
1919**



**William D. Boyce (1858-1929)**  
**founder of Boy Scouts of America in**  
**the United States, 1910**



**Reginald Parsons (1873-1955).**  
**First President of the Seattle Council**  
**chartered by the BSA in 1916**



**Marion Street from Second Avenue, Seattle, King County, WA, Sept. 1917. The Boy Scout Headquarters is visible in the lower right corner. The first BSA HQ was at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Columbia in May 1911.**



**Edmond S. Meany (1862-1935). Seattle Public Library.**



Location of Mount Tom in Washington





**Boy Scouts practicing artificial respiration on a sandy beach, Seattle, King County, WA area, ca. 1916.**



World War I poster and  
BSA scout, 1918.

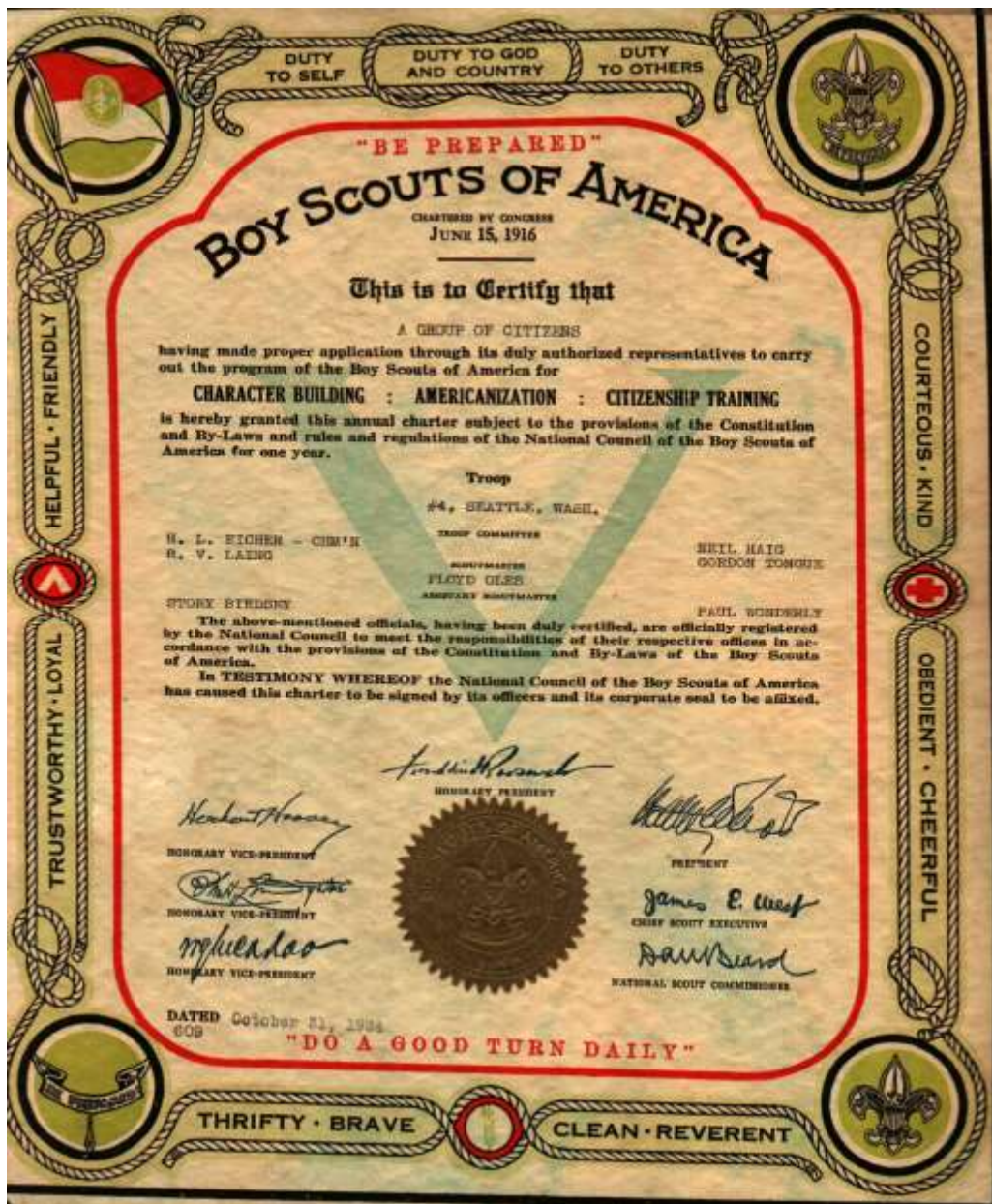


Boy Scout handbook, 1959.

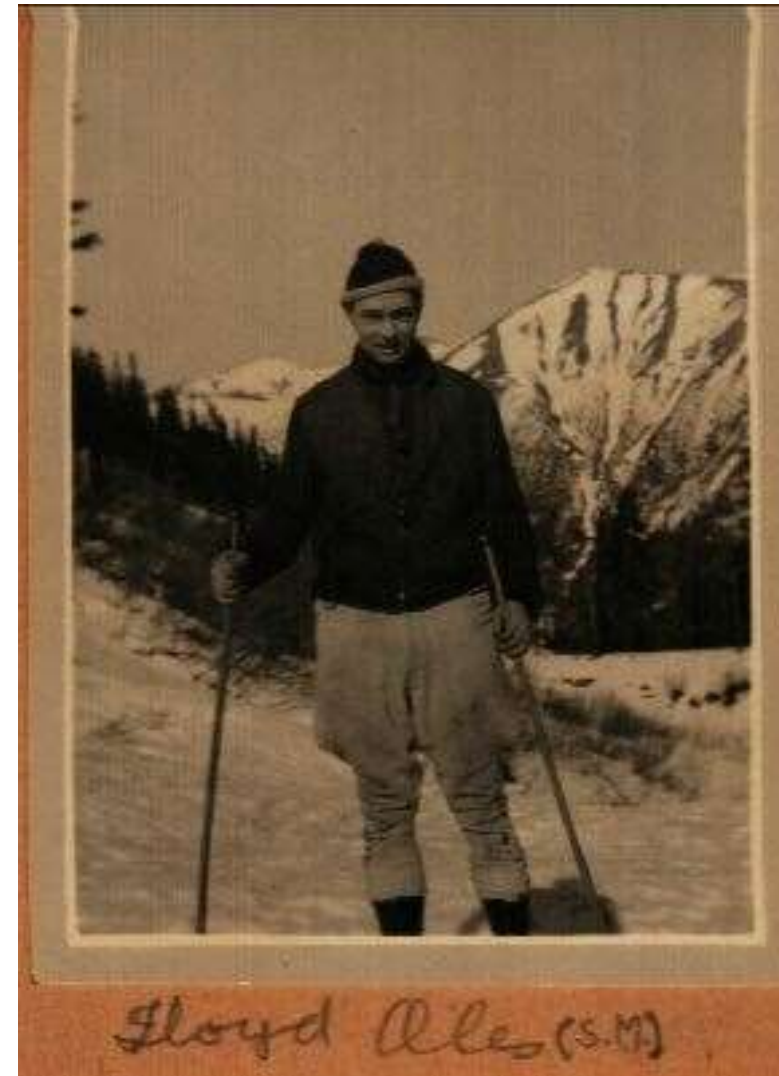
**Seattle Troop No. 4**  
**June 15, 1916**

**Scoutmaster Floyd Oles**





BSA Troop 4 Seattle charter, June 15, 1916.



Floyd Oles, Scoutmaster, Troop 4, ca. 1936.



## Application for Membership in the Boy Scouts of America

SEATTLE AREA COUNCIL—King, Kitsap, Clallam and Jefferson Counties, and Alaska  
Headquarters, 5118 Arcade Square—Phone SEneca 1450, Seattle, Wash.  
(To become a Scout a boy must have passed his twelfth birthday.)

To be signed by candidate, approved by Parent or Guardian, and forwarded with proper fee by Scoutmaster to Council Headquarters.

1. I HEREBY APPLY for membership in Troop No. four of the Boy Scouts of America. I agree to be guided by its rules and leaders, and help make it a creditable troop.

Name Doe, John Address 0000-00th Ave. SSW  
School R-E-M-E-M-B-E-R- HIGH School grade Eighth  
Church Catholic Phone QQ0000

Were You a Cub? Yes What Pack? 00

2. PARENT'S OR GUARDIAN'S APPROVAL:  
WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT OUR SON John Doe  
was born on Jan 9 1900 We have read the Scout Oath and Law and are  
Month Day willing that he be a Scout. We shall try to assist him to become a First Class Scout and to attend the summer camp.

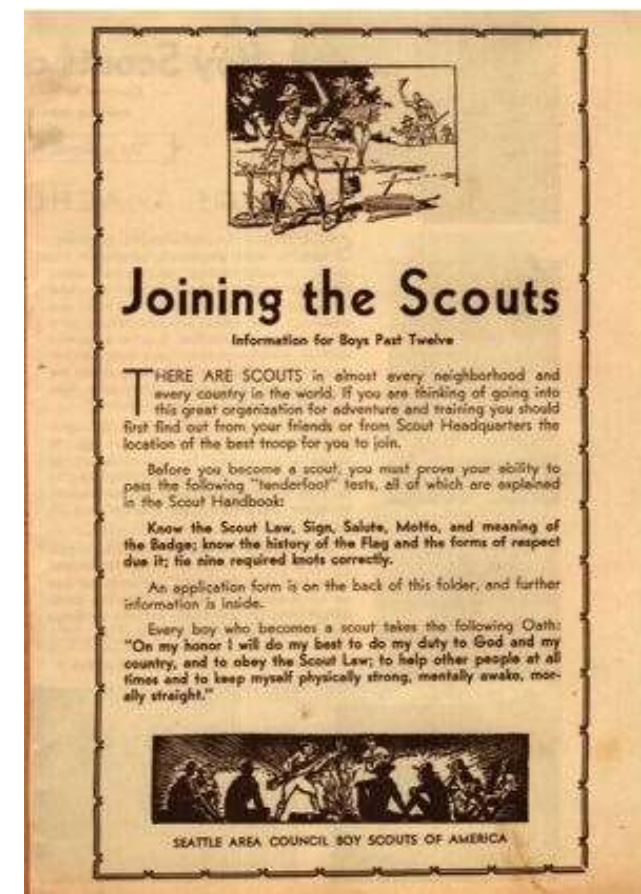
Mary Doe Ralph Doe  
Signatures of Parents (or Guardians)

3. SCOUTMASTER'S ACCEPTANCE:  
This application is forwarded with registration fee of (50 cents if troop charter has 11 to 12 months to run; 45c for 10 months; 40c for 9 months; 35c for 8 months; 30c for 7 months; 25c for 5-6 months; 20c for 4 months; 15c for 3 months; 10c for 2 months; 5c for 1 month) thirty-five cents for remainder of this troop's chartered year.

Scoutmaster Floyd Oles

**NOTE**

A Membership Card, issued from Headquarters on receipt of application, is required when a scout or his parents purchase a uniform.

(L) BSA Troop 4 Seattle membership application for John Doe. (R) Joining the Scouts pamphlet.




**BSA Troop 4, Seattle, ca. 1924.**




GIVE  
APRIL 3, 4

annual Boy  
held April 3  
by William G.  
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Pavilion to  
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this year.  
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arranged  
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been received  
program is  
are planning  
as the main  
in Green Lake  
direction of  
In other dis-  
participants in  
being devel-  
veterans leader  
n will direct the  
new ideas gener-  
ation.  
A paper  
secretary-Laurel-  
I handle all the  
business, can man-  
180, said the sub-  
a Chinese dragon,  
master of Park  
W. Wallen-  
is working with  
using a "wooden  
which over 1,000  
etc.  
questioned that the  
as an all-scout  
boys having rules.  
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a competent to  
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Director of scout  
will give the ann-  
and Stuart P.  
mentive, who will  
r Jubilee Year for  
a Council.  
ree Silver Beavers  
masters' boys will  
leading scout lead-  
to Jess Kennedy,  
organ, chairman of  
committee, will  
of his committee,  
and executive  
be held.




Presenting The  
14th Annual  
**BOY SCOUT  
CIRCUS**  
at the  
University of Washington Athletic Pavilion  
**APRIL 3rd and 4th -- 8:00 p. m.**  
Where You Will See  
**5,000 SCOUTS IN ACTION**  
*A Swift Moving Portrayal of the Activities of Scouts, Cubs and  
Sea Scouts of Seattle and Vicinity*  
**18 BIG ACTS—including**  
Grand Entry Parade—5,000 Participants  
March of the Wooden Soldiers  
Clowns, Clowns, and More Clowns  
Paul Bunyan and His Famous Blue Ox  
Giant Pyramids, Tumbling  
Chariot Races . . Thrills . . Spills . . Laughs  
Camping, Pioneering, and Unbelievable Engineering Feats  
Wilderness Scene Conjured Before Your Eyes  
And Many Other Major Acts.  
*It's Stupendous—*  
*It's Colossal—* **Adults 40c**  
*It's Incomparable—* **Children 20c**  
*And It's Worth the Price of Admission* **Reserved \$1.00**




14<sup>th</sup> Annual Boy Scout Circus, ca. 1930.

**TROOP FOUR**  
SEATTLE, WASH.



December 1, 1939

*Scribble*



**Troop Committee:**  
C. B. Finnegan, Chairman  
A. M. Goldstein  
Harold Maddock, Sr.  
Harry Marcus  
Ellis Vachon, Sr.

**Senior Staff:**  
SM Floyd Oles  
ASN Joseph Marcus  
JASH's Keith Oles  
Jimmy Nussbaum  
SPL William Maddock

**Junior Staff:**  
PL's  
Chas. Heifner TB  
Benny Marcus SC  
Joe Finnegan BA  
Stuart Oles PE

**Scribe** Robert Miller  
W.M. Lawrence Nieder  
Historian Jimmy Nussbaum

**APL's**  
Robert Silver PE  
Bill Webster BA  
Carl Rockwood TB  
Jimmy Rier SC

**Editorial Staff:** PL Finnegan and  
the BA Patrol.  
**Reporters:** Jimmy Nussbaum  
Stuart Oles  
Clair Silver

Printing courtesy of Miss Henseth,  
Secretary to the SM.  
**Staff Artist:** Harry Nussbaum.

PL Conference, November 24-25, at  
U. of W., was a big event and  
afforded unusual chance for leader-  
ship preparation. Troop 4 delegates  
were Benny Marcus and Bill Webster.

These Scouts were sent at  
Troop expense (\$1.00 registra-  
tion), in line with Troop  
custom. We hope they brought  
back some ideas for the Troop.

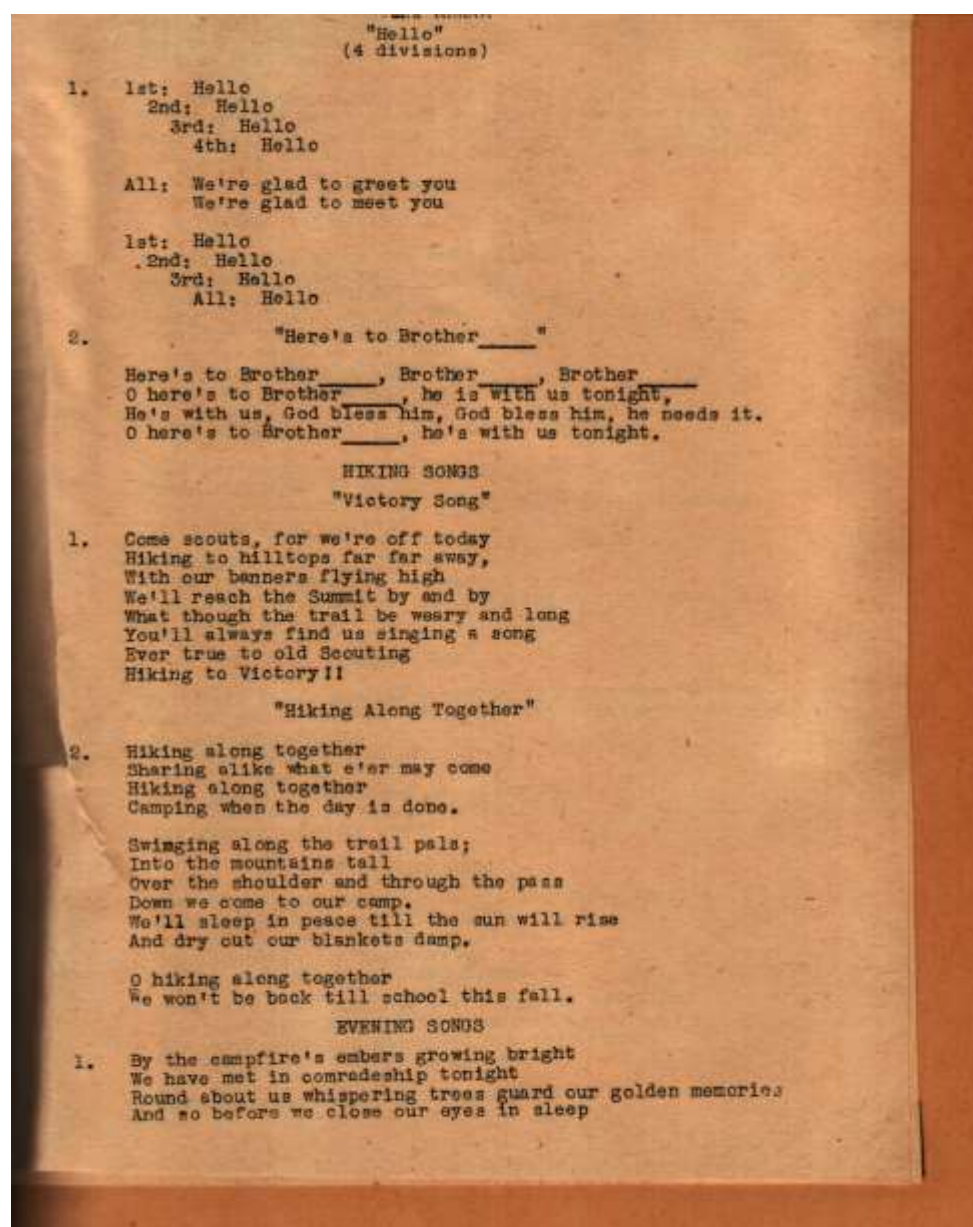
**Civic Service.** At request of  
Scout Headquarters, Troop 4  
furnished a group of Scouts  
to usher at a performance of  
"Pinocchio" at the Moore  
Theatre, on Friday, November  
24, starting duty at 9:00 A.M.  
Our Scouts were headed by PL  
Charlie Heifner, and included  
beside him, Carl Rockwood,  
Clair D. Silver and Bill Web-  
ster. Hike points (5) in IP  
Contest are being given for  
this civic service.

**Scribble Editors** for this  
edition are the entire Blazing  
Arrow Patrol led by PL Finn-  
egan, plus some help they  
dragged in. That they are good  
at getting others to assist is  
proven by the fact that the  
SM is penning this remark,  
also by various articles and  
even poetry written by various  
Scouts.

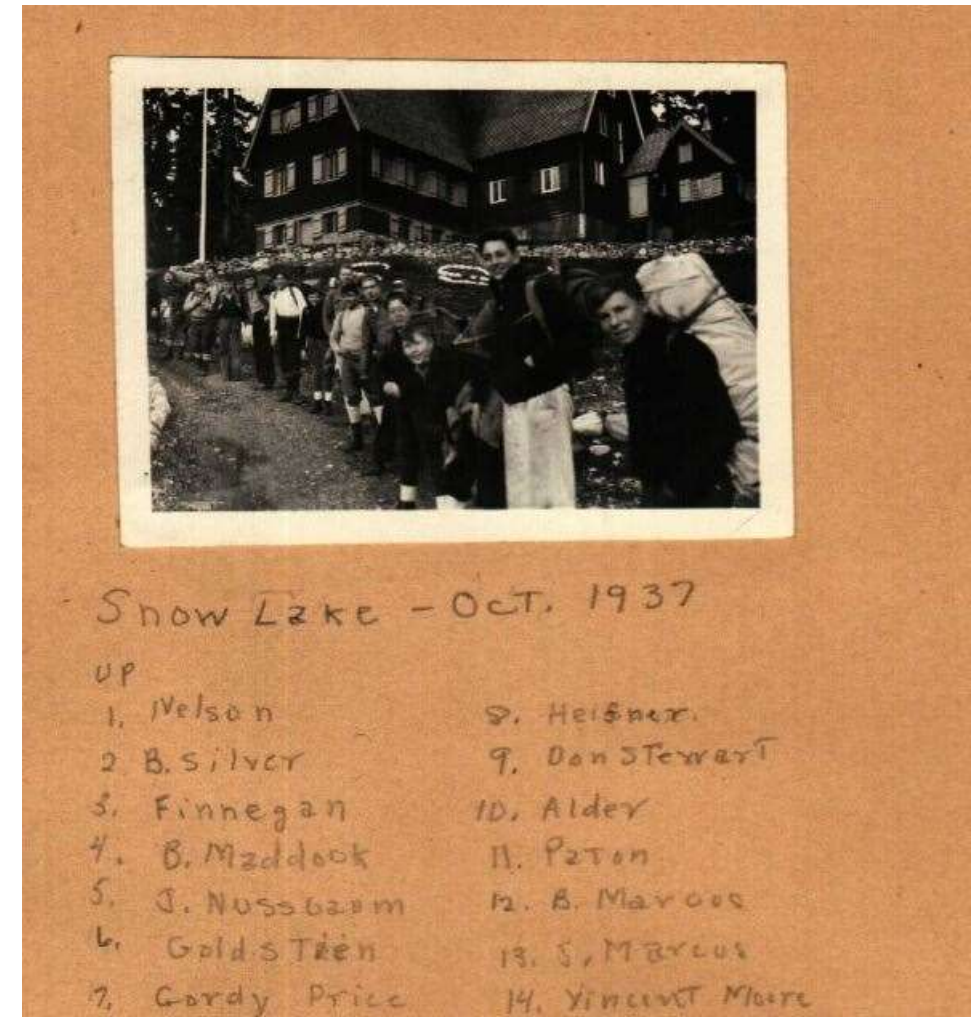
**Ratings for September & October  
1939**, as determined by the  
Senior Staff, follow. Note  
that there are no ratings for  
Scouts of Life or higher rank,  
and none for Candidates. "S"  
means satisfactory and indi-  
cates that a Scout is doing  
good Scouting. "S+" indicates  
some added work or merit above  
usual and satisfactory Scouting.

"Scribble" newsletter for Troop 4,  
December 1, 1939.

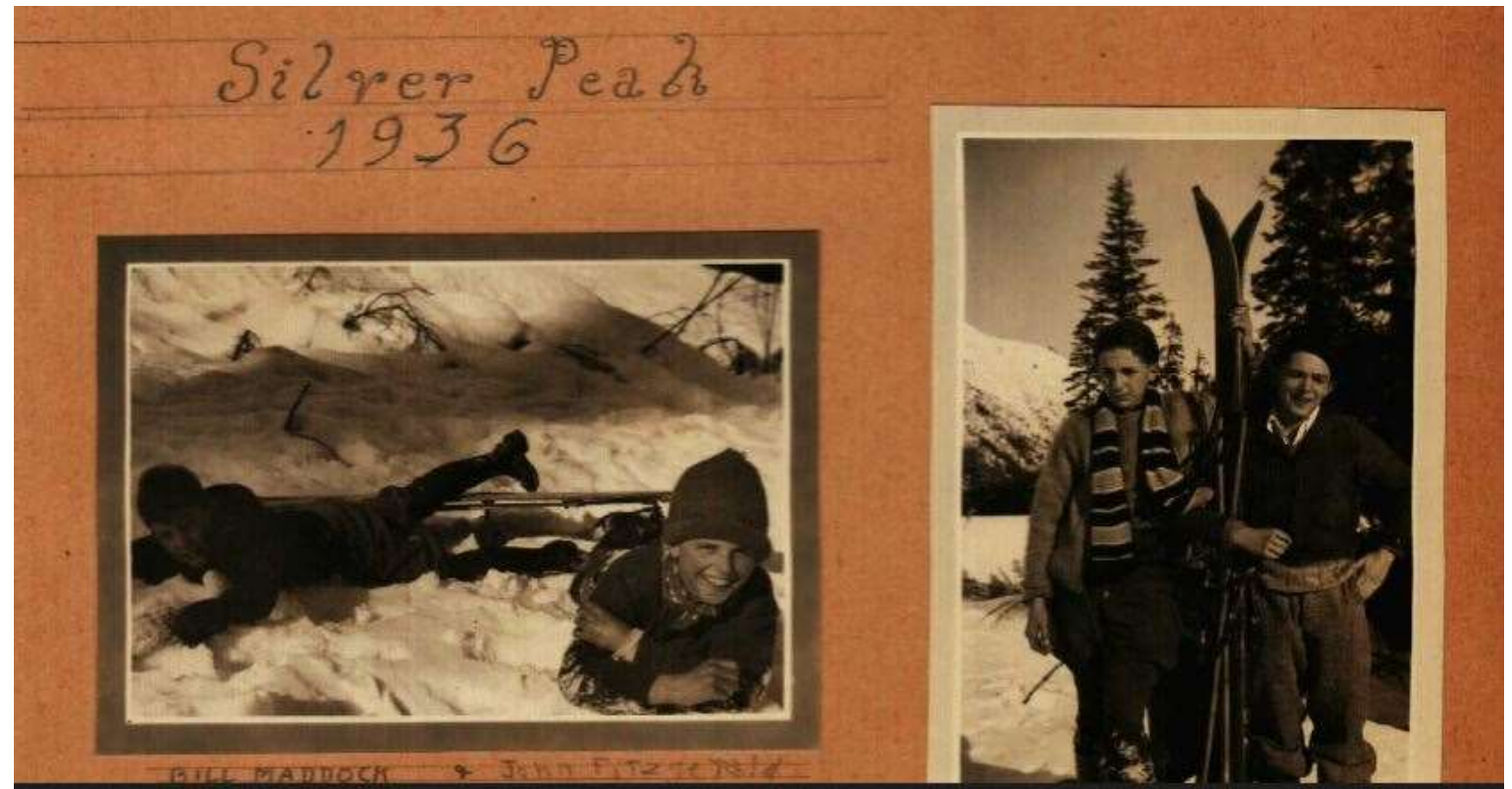
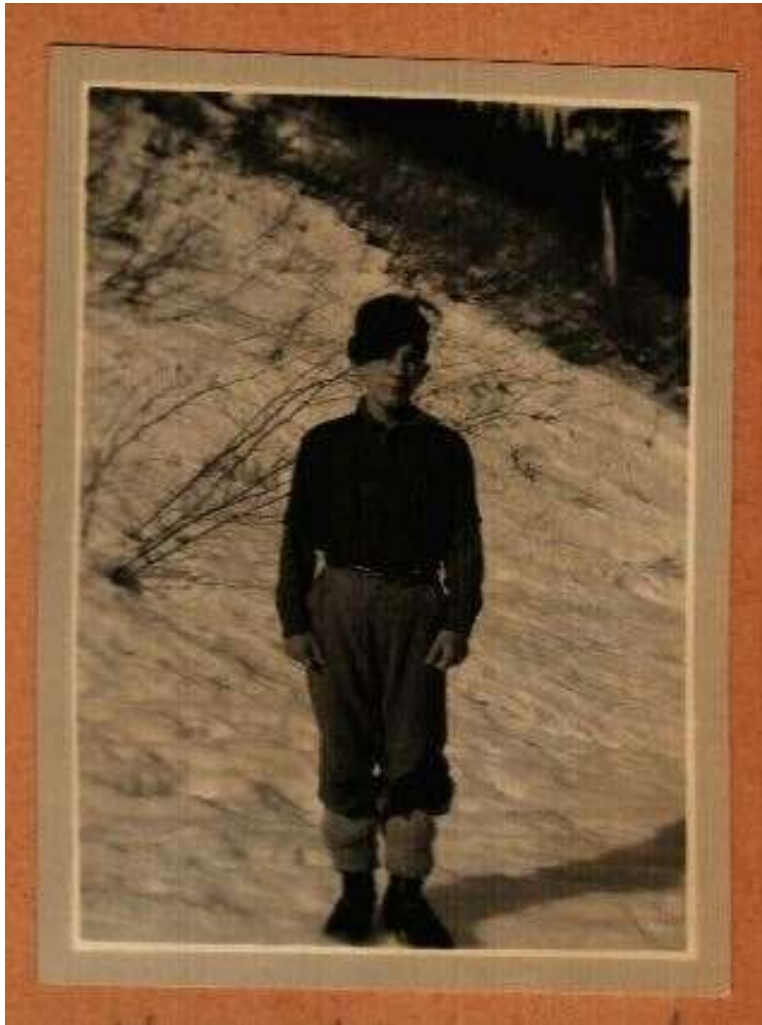




**"Welcome" song and "Hiking" songs,  
BSA Troop 4.**

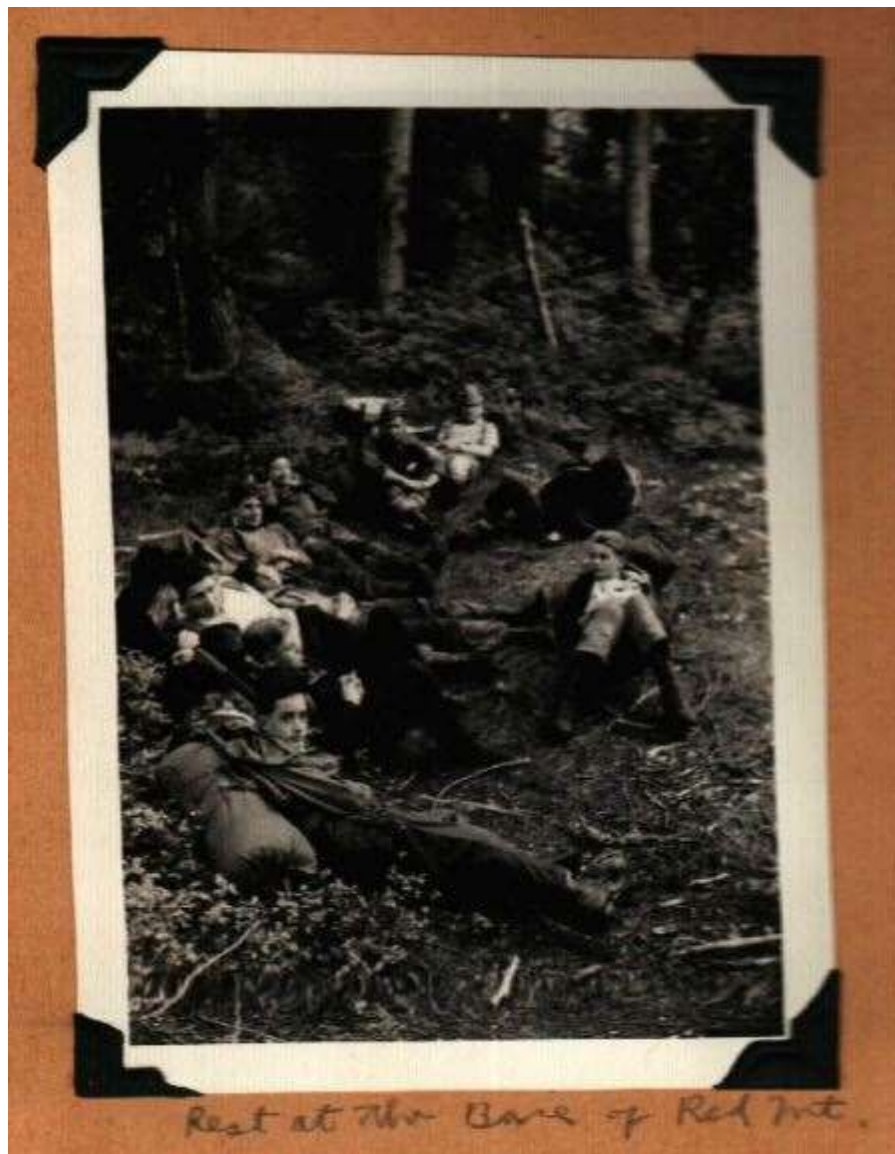


**Snow Lake hike, October 1937, Troop 4 – List  
of 14 Scouts.**



**Series of photos showing Boy Scouts at Silver Peak winter outing, 1936, BSA Troop 4, Seattle.**





Boy Scouts resting at the base of Red Mountain (undated photo), BSA Troop 4.

TROOP 4 - B.S.A.  
SEATTLE AREA COUNCIL

Scoutmaster's Bulletin No. 23 April 5, 1941

THE GOSLOW HIKE

This bulletin is being sent to get to you on Monday, since the Scout Circus interfered with a Troop meeting this week-end.

Goslow Hike. All Scouts go on the Goslow Hike, the oldest of Troop 4's famous annual hikes.

Instructions. Be at the Lowell School Handball Court 8:30 A.M. Wednesday, April 9th. If your parents are taking you to the dock, try to come by Lowell School anyway and give some other Scouts a lift. All the rest of the Troop will take the streetcar and catch the Bremerton ferry at the Colman Dock at 9:40 A.M. From Bremerton we go by the truck of our old friend, Sam Miller, who will take us to ~~these~~ Bear Point, from which we hike in again to Mr. Young's place.

Cost--\$1.10 per Scout. Q.M. Bailey will take charge of funds at the Handball Court or at the dock.

Return--by ferry, arriving at Colman Dock at 5:15 P.M., Friday, April 11th. If your folks are going to meet you on your return, tell them this.

Food--cooking is by "Buddy System"--two or three Scouts cook together, bring your own food. (See attached list of suggestions.) The \$1.10 covers transportation and milk and just comes out even.

Goslow Hike is not a tough hike, but it is one of the most interesting. Troop Committeemen are invited--whenever they have come in the past they have had a fine time.

Bring "B" Books. This is a chance for outdoor advancement. If you are taking 2nd or 1st class cooking or cooking merit badge tests, bring the necessary food. Second class includes roundsteak for Kebob, potatoes and salt; 1st class may include bacon and eggs, must include materials for Hunter's Stew. Bring Handbooks if taking tests. There will be plenty of chance to get tests on Nature, Tracking, Signalling, Knife & Ax, Fire-building, Compass, Mapping, and Judging.

You need on this hike: Good shoes, warm clothes, rain-and-cold-proof coat, rain-proof hat or cap, "B" book, flashlight if you have one, messkit, spoon, cup, knife or ax, towel and soap, matches, candle, sleeping bag or at least 3 heavy blankets (or 4 lighter ones) with blanket pins, your food, and \$1.10.

If you bring blankets, a piece of canvas or a tarpaulin is a big help in making a dry bed. Some fellows with pup-tents find them handy. Food and film is good. Cooking pots or frying pan are needed if your tent calls for them. First aid is O.K., but Troop will have it.

The Goslow Hike goes on, rain or shine, and good Scouts come regardless. See attached sheet.

Floyd Olsen  
Scoutmaster

Goslow Hike details, Troop 4, April 5, 1941.



TROOP 4 - B.S.A.  
Meeting of Friday, Feb. 28, 1941

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Prepare for Inspection.
4. Inspection.
5. Colors.
6. Announcement of new SPL--  
S. Oles.  
Ceremony of change of  
command.
7. Further announcements--by SM
  - a. Q.V. Patrol--insignia to  
S. Oles--password.
  - b. Senior Patrol--purpose  
and assignments--K. Oles  
Legatus--Finnegan,  
Heifner, Robt. Silver--  
insignia later.
  - c. Roll call of Senior  
Patrol. Q.V. 1st--then  
others.
  - d. Bill Webster--PL of B.A.
  - e. Bill Silver--PL of F.E.
  - f. Guy Boswell--APL of F.E.
  - g. Holland Smith--APL of TB

-2-

- h. assignments:  
Jack Smith to TB  
Gordon Woodward to FE  
Garrison Murphy to SC
1. Roll call by Patrols.

Game--led by new SPL.

Initiation: Halpern, Murphy,  
Jack Smith.

Advancement--Separate Patrol  
meets & instruction.  
Special meet of Senior Patrol

Campfire.

Songs  
Need for Lowell School  
candidates.  
Story by SM if needed.  
Closing ceremonies.

Meting notes, Troop 4, February 28, 1941.



Final "BLACKOUT" Bulletin

Attention Scoutmasters:-

You will be contacted during this or next week by a Captain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Air Raid Warden Organization. He will bring with him a duplicate of this bulletin which will serve as his identification. Please give him your cooperation.

The final plans call for several changes as listed below:

1. Scouts to act as runners or aides to adult Air Raid Wardens only.
2. They are not to be used as fire alarm box guards or in a house to house check up. This work is going to be done by men.
3. All Troops to mobilize at their meeting place by 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise instructed by the Air Raid Warden Captain.

While we urge all Troops to participate this is as always, in calls of this kind, strictly up to each unit. However if you are not going to assist we would appreciate a telephone call as soon as possible.

Remember! Date-March 7th. Time-9:30 P.M.  
Location--Your Troop meeting place.

K. J. Dunsire  
Scout Headquarters

Call Se. 1460

"CALLING ALL SCOUT TROOPS"

All Seattle Scout Troops have been asked to assist in the "Blackout" which is being sponsored by the City of Seattle. The Executive Board of the Seattle Area Council has approved this help on the following basis:

1. Parents should consent to their son participating.
2. Scouts are to gather at their regular troop meeting place. From there they will be assigned to nearby locations which will correspond to regular city precincts. Their locations to be given later.

3. They will report to Air Wardens who will be adult members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion. Their only duties will be act as messengers or to leave printed cards with the occupants of any houses that are lighted.

The proper procedure will be for each troop to determine the exact number of Scouts who will be available, to perfect plans for the troop mobilization and to inform headquarters by means of the enclosed card that your plans have been completed and the number of Scouts who can serve.

The date is March 7th. The mobilization time is 10 P.M.  
May we count on your help?

Ken Dunsire  
Scout Headquarters

Bulletin #1

February 20, 1941

**"Blackout" bulletin for Air Warden Duty, sent to Troop 4, February 20, 1941.**

**Camp Parsons**  
**Jefferson County**  
**Oldest continuing BSA Camp in the United**  
**States**

**April 15, 1919**



**Reginald H. Parsons, Seattle Chamber of Commerce president (1873-1955). Camp Parsons is named after him.**



**Major Edward Sturgis Ingraham, first superintendent of the Seattle Public Schools (1852-1926). First Scout Commissioner for Seattle Council in 1916.**







**An early advertisement  
for the Boy Scouts of  
America and its camping  
program.**

**Camp Parsons Museum.**



**Boy Scout uniform,  
1919.**

**Camp Parsons Museum.**





Early Scoutmaster staff at Camp Parsons, 1920. The mules "Jack" and "Jim" also pictured.

Camp Parsons Museum.



**Approximately 100  
Scouts attended the first  
summer at Camp  
Parsons, June-August  
1919.**

**Camp Parsons Museum.**





**Ferries were the main transportation to and from Camp Parsons between 1919 and 1950. This photo shows the steamer KINGSTON unloading Scouts at a pier, 1930. Camp Parsons Museum.**



**Two Scouts from Troop 326 on board ship en-route to Camp Parsons, 1941. Camp Parsons Museum.**



**Post card from Scout  
Charlie Harris to his  
parents in Seattle, d.  
August 5, 1919.  
Camp Parsons Museum.**





**The Trading Post at  
Camp Parsons, aka “Fort  
Duckabush” ca. 1926.**

**Camp Parsons Museum.**





**“Whale Boat” crew races, 1922. Camp Parsons Museum.**



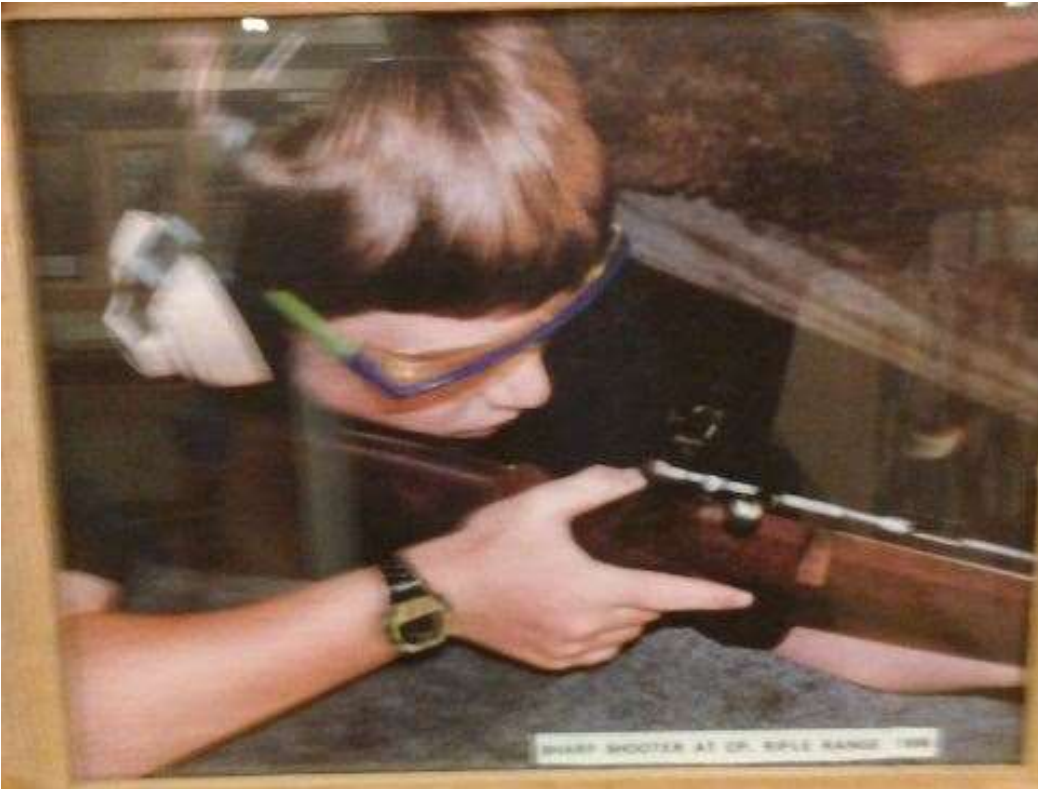
**Cub Scouts eating in Dining Hall, ca. 1938. Part of Camp Parsons was designated for Cub Scouts beginning in 1930.**

**Camp Parsons Museum.**









An Archery range was added in the early 1930s for Scouts at Camp Parsons. In 1955, a rifle range was added, allowing Scouts to earn their marksmanship badges and awards. The Marksmanship merit badge was one of the [original 57 merit badges](#) issued by the Boy Scouts of America in 1911. Marksmanship replaced the 1910 [Marksman "Badge of Merit"](#). The Marksmanship badge was discontinued in 1966 and replaced with the Rifle and Shotgun Shooting badge in 1988. Camp Parsons Museum.



# 1920s Daily Schedule

This carving was made in the 1920s by Victor Kaartinen of Troop 2A. It reads from top to bottom:

**BUGLE:** *Wake-up Call*  
**ARM:** *Morning Exercises*  
**BOWL:** *Eat Breakfast*  
**WHEELBARROW:** *Work Project*  
**SIGNAL FLAGS:** *Learn Scout Craft*  
**FISH:** *Morning Swim*  
**CABIN:** *Return to Camp*  
**CUP & SAUCER:** *Eat Lunch*  
**PEN IN INK BOTTLE:** *Write Home*  
**CROSSED PADDLES:** *Rowing*  
**FISH:** *Afternoon Swim*  
**HAMMER:** *Do Work Project*  
**KNIFE & FORK:** *Eat Dinner*  
**CANNON:** *Retreat (Lower Flag)*  
**FIRE:** *Go to Campfire*













**Scout summer hikes often were held in the second week following Camp Parsons. This photo shows a groups of Scouts at a Scout cabin in the Olympic Mountains, ca. 1930.**

**Camp Parsons Museum.**

**President Warren Harding speaks at  
“Boys Day” as part of Boy Scouts National  
Jamboree, Woodland Park, Seattle  
July 27, 1923**

**Sculptor Alice Robertson Carr creates new  
Harding Memorial featuring BSA in 1925**





**President Warren Harding's  
motorcade in Seattle, 1923.**



**Seattle sculptor Alice Robertson Carr works on modeling a Boy Scout relief (L) and the plaster model of a Boy Scout statue (R) in 1925 for a new memorial to President Harding in Woodland Park.**

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 22, 1925.

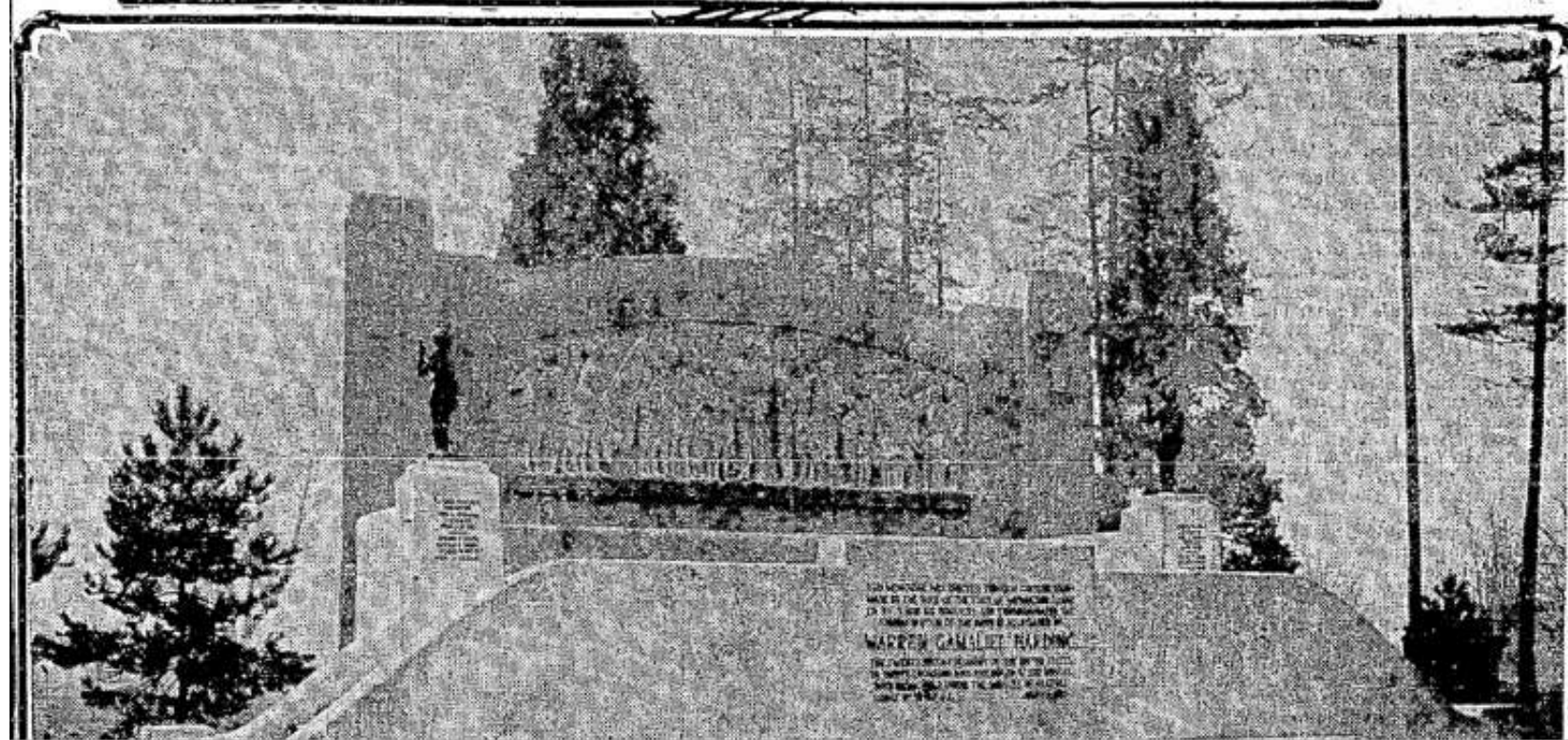
THE SEATTLE DAILY

# HARDING MEMORIAL TO BE DEDICATED NEXT SUNDAY

Boys to Whom President Administered Oath Will Take Part

DEPA  
Of EDU

SEATTLE F



TESTS MADE  
NATIONAL

Boys and Girls  
Here Sur  
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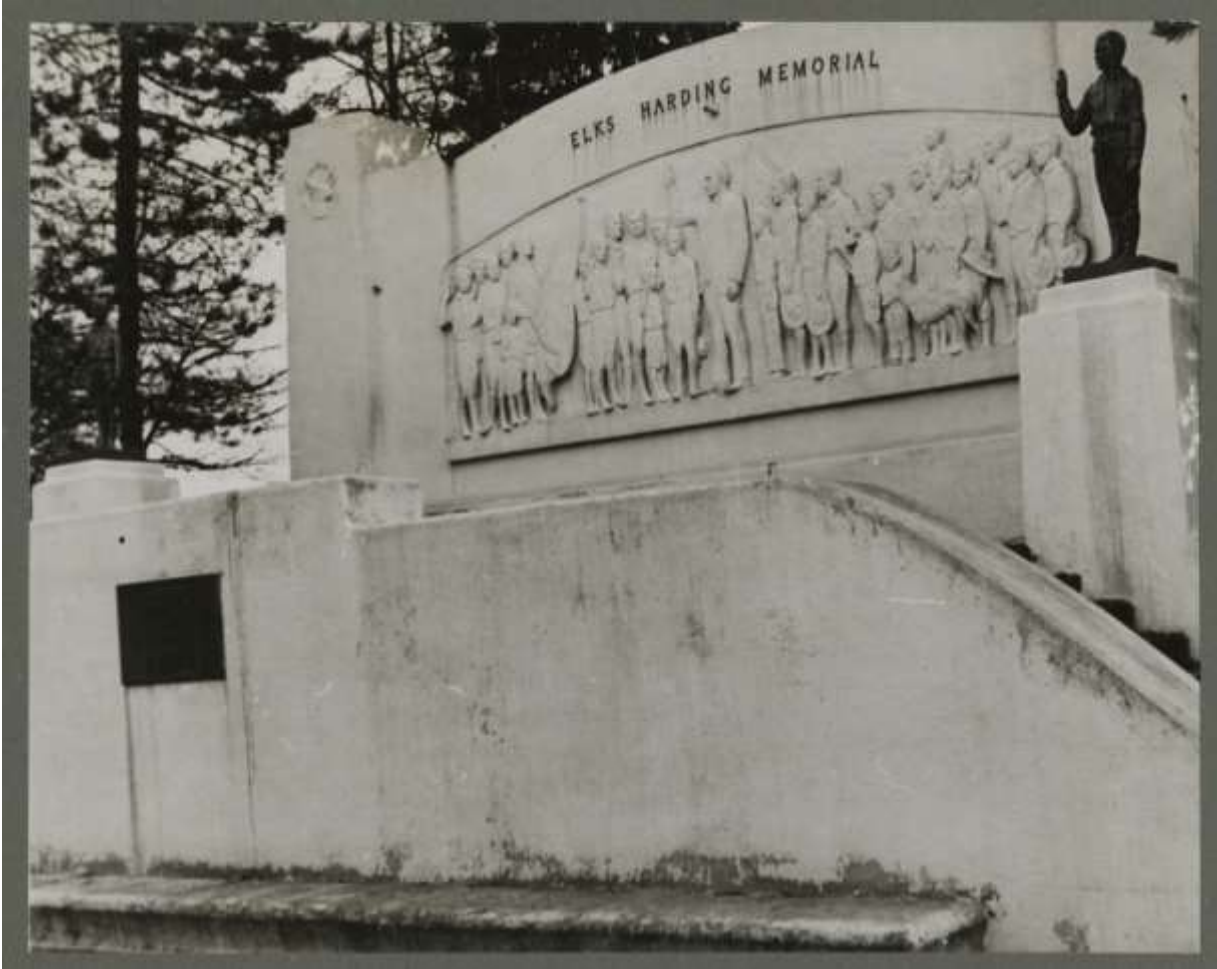
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Seattle was 17  
16 years and o

The Harding Memorial in Woodland Park is dedicated on March 29, 1925.





**(L) The Harding Memorial in Woodland Park (undated photo). (R) One of two bronze statues from the original memorial salvaged in 1978, today on display at the Chief Seattle Council building.**



**A second Boy Scout statue by Alice Robertson Carr in 1925, salvaged from the Harding Memorial at Woodland Park, today on view at the Camp Parsons Museum.**



**Sculptor Robert Tait McKenzie, *The Boy Scout*  
(1911) and *The Ideal Scout* (1937)**



**Sculptor Robert Tait McKenzie in his studio working on a sculpture of Benjamin Franklin, 1911. University of Pennsylvania Archives.**





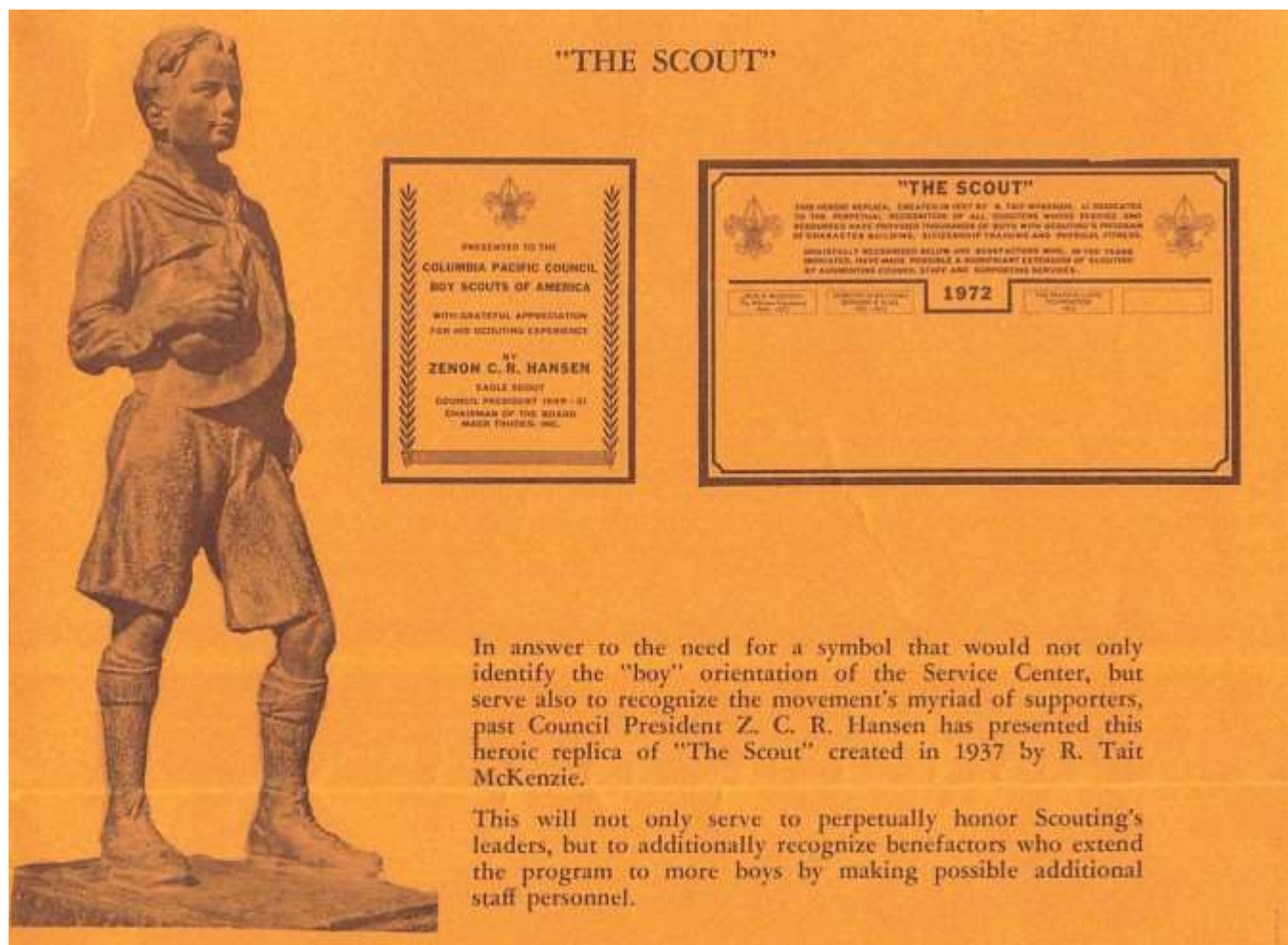
**President Calvin Coolidge receiving a copy of *The Boy Scout* bronze-cast statuette by R. Tait McKenzie (1911). Location shown is outside of the White House, Washington, DC, where Coolidge greeted 1,500 visiting Boy Scouts from NY, NJ, and CT. Photograph 1927. National Photo Company Collection, Library of Congress.**



***The Ideal Scout* by R. Tait McKenzie (1937).  
This was the original Bronze-cast statue  
installed in 1937 at Philadelphia Council,  
Philadelphia, PA.**

**Today, there are 42 statues across the United  
States, and three more in international  
locations.**





***The Ideal Scout* (also called The Scout) by R. Tait McKenzie (1937). Bronze-cast statue copy installed in 1972 at Columbia Pacific Council, Portland, OR.**





***The Ideal Scout* by R. Tait McKenzie (1937). Bronze-cast statue copy installed in 1972 at Chief Seattle Council, Seattle, WA.**

**For more information about Scouting history:**

- ***Chief Seattle Council, Boy Scouts of America*** – <https://www.historylink.org/File/20449>
- **Harding memorial unveiled in Woodland Park** – <https://www.historylink.org/File/20684>
- ***The Boy Scout*** – Two statues by Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie – <http://scouters.us/TheBoyScout.html>