



90th Anniversary

Troop 7

Boy Scouts of America

The Pride of Port Washington

April 22, 2004



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Congratulations to Boy Scout Troop 7.
Much continued, and well deserved success.
Happy 90th Anniversary.

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Troop 7 Boy Scouts of America Port Washington, NY

Sponsored by the United Methodist Church of Port Washington since 1914

Dear Friends of Troop 7,

It is my pleasure to greet all present and past supporters of Boy Scout Troop 7. This year is a major milestone in the history of the Boy Scout program in Port Washington. Thanks to the long term commitment of the United Methodist Church of Port Washington and the many leaders and scouts before us, we can proudly say that we are in our 90th year of continuous operation.

"If you are going to do anything for the average man you have got to begin before he is a man. The chance of success lies in working with the boy not the man." Theodore Roosevelt said this almost 100 years ago. In fact, his belief was so strong, that in 1914 he convinced the National Boy Scout Council to start a Boy Scout Troop in Port Washington. This was the beginning of the current Troop 7. Thanks and a big Bully to Teddy Roosevelt!

Reverend Henry Du Bois, the Pastor of the United Methodist Church of Port Washington at the time, became the first scoutmaster of the Troop. We were initially assigned the number Troop 1 of Port Washington. But in 1917, the Nassau County Council was formed and the troops in existence at the time were renumbered. We then became Troop 7.

The Boy Scout organization's main function is to help boys grow into young men that live their lives according to good values that stress service and respect for others, as well as, self-respect. Each boy commits to this by pledging the scout oath and law.

I have had the pleasure to work with the United Methodist Church, Cub Scout Pack 77 and Troop 7 for about 15 years. During that time I have had the opportunity to meet many boys and their families and experience the joy of seeing the boys develop and mature into young men. The same boys, who at ages 6 or 7 got frustrated trying to tie a knot or bowl a bowling ball, have grown into young men able to meet challenges, manage others through eagle projects, and help others to learn and develop.

On March 29th, the troop members were given the pleasure of meeting with a number of alumni to informally share stories about the troop's history and their experiences as scouts and scouters. The adventures and emotions that they shared, really confirmed the impact that scouting had on their lives.

In closing, on behalf of all of the boys whose lives you have touched, and from the bottom of my heart, for giving me the opportunity to share in the program, I thank all those who have come before me along the scouting trail at Troop 7.

Rocco Gibaldi, Scoutmaster

**CONGRATULATIONS
ON THIS GREAT ACHIEVEMENT!
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VIN, EILEEN, ROBERT & MARCIA**

	THE			
	CHAN			
	FAMILY			

PECK GROUP DEVELOPMENT CORP.
B U I L D E R S
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Troop 7

2003-2004 Roster



Junior Assistant Scoutmasters

David Gibaldi
Scott Peckelis

Senior Patrol Leader

Christopher Costa

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Brandon Chan

Beaver Patrol

Matthew Selbach
(Patrol Leader)
Evan Owen
(Assistant Patrol Leader)
Christopher Cottitta
Sam Iazzo
Michael Velasquez

Bucks Patrol

Matthew Gray
(Patrol Leader)
Andrew Martinolich
(Assistant Patrol Leader)
Edgar 'Almazan
Winston Anyarin
Daniel Cottitta
William O'Neill

Wolverines

Joseph Reichmann
(Patrol Leader)
Steven Lee
(Assistant Patrol Leader)
Justin Almazan
Bailey Chan
Stephan Ferguson
Sam Kazer

New Scouts

Richard Branciforte
Jai Sajani

Troop 7 Scoutmasters

<u>Name</u>	<u>Approximate Dates</u>
Rev. Henry DuBois	1915-1915
Rev. Hubert Jones	1915-1920
Homer Bartlett	1921-1926
Herbert U. Irwin	1927-1932
Howard B. Reid	1932-1933
Donald Ross	1933-1938
Harry Boggess	1939-1941
Dan J. Hegeman	1941-1945
Harold Wick	1945-1946
Olav Andreasen	1946-1948
Welford McBrian	1948-1949
Robert W. Walter	1949-1952
Walter Speck	1952-1953
David Hughes	1953-1955
Robert Stanley	1955-1958
Frank Quinn	1958-1960
Phineas Verity	1960-1980
Arthur Mittelstaedt	1980-1980
Dennis Riordan	1980-1984
Leslie Schonbrun	1984-1984
Anthony Petito	1985-1985
Steven Klinkowize	1985-1997
Lenord Wersan	1997-1999
Rocco Gibaldi	1999-Present

N. B. The names of the scoutmasters and their dates of service are approximate. They were based on a compilation of information from various sources both from within and without the Troop. There may be inaccuracies and omissions.

*Serving the youth of Port Washington for 90 years
1914-2004*

Memories of Troop 7

By Dolly Larsen

Preface

First, I wish to convey my best wishes and congratulations to Troop 7 on this very special anniversary celebration. When I was asked to help out with some of the history of this wonderful Troop, I had no idea how to begin. But through some strange intervention, information kept coming to me from many people whom I had known many years back and, unfortunately, I had forgotten all about them. I must say I was troubled at first for fear that I would not be able to do justice to this project. Once I got into it I did begin to enjoy it (even though I grumbled a bit), and I sincerely want to thank the Committee, Rocco Gibaldi, Toni Reichmann, Jim Interdonati and Joe and Alice Peckelis for entrusting this project to me; I do hope I have completed it to their satisfaction.

My only regret is that I never knew anything about this organization's activities with our youth when my son was a young boy. I should have, because my late husband, Henry (Wolf), had been a Boy Scout. I vaguely remember him mentioning Troop 7. I can only assume he may have been in the Troop with Tony DeFeo who he grew up with in Port Washington. Unfortunately, Tony cannot remember any of the boys who were in the Troop with him. The only tangible memory I had was a small Boy Scout first aid kit that was in my basement for 50 years. Foolishly, it was put out with some garage sale items and is now gone forever.

Finding out all of the wonderful things they accomplished without my knowing it, astonished me. Well, to make up for it, as soon as my grandson is old enough, I will certainly make an effort to influence my daughter to start him out as a Cub Scout. During this time of world turmoil and not knowing what the next day might bring, I realize now that Boy Scout training should be mandatory for all of our boys. The teaching of basic survival skills, group leadership, respect and camaraderie certainly would not be a disadvantage to them.

Louie Epaminonde

Louie is retired and lives in Westbury with his wife. His sister Josephine Gnecco visited him and received the following information about his memories of the time he spent as a Boy Scout in Troop 7. In 1932 Louie joined Troop 7 at the age of 12. His scoutmaster was a Mr. Phillips who was a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. Their meetings were held at the Methodist Church.

Under the direction of Scoutmaster Phillips, Troop 7 initiated the Sea Scouts. Louie's most memorable occasions were the group outings on Manhasset Bay. The boys would board a 16' boat and learn boating and survival skills. Occasionally, the group would spend the night on the boat. During his years with Troop 7, Louie was the recipient of several merit badges (He later went on to become an Assistant Scoutmaster). He was a devout scout member, never failing to attend the meetings and Port Washington's Memorial Day parades.

In 1943, he was forced to leave the Troop when he was drafted into the United States Army. His military service included a tour of duty in the Pacific Theater. His saddest memory was when he learned of the death of his best friend and fellow troop member Joseph Atwood who was killed in action during World War II. At least six alumni of Troop 7 were killed during the war. Their names are included in a plaque at the Port Washington Town Dock of other World War II casualties. "I lived on Preston Street in Wysong's Hollow," said Epaminonde, "and my best friend, Joseph 'Buddy' Atwood used to walk with me to the meetings at the Methodist Church. We were such good friends and shared so many fun times together in Troop 7. The saddest day in my life was when I received the news that my Buddy was Killed in Action during World War II. I will always remember the fond memories of the times we shared."

Louie was discharged from the Army in 1946 and attended a television repair school on the G. I. Bill of Rights. For a time he worked for Alper's Hardware. Later he was employed at Grumman Corporation where he worked on the Lunar Module projects. He retired in 1985 at the age of 65. His recreation activities included roller skating at the Mineola Roller Skating Rink where he was a member of the Port Rollers, entering many skating competitions.

Louie is married to the former Marguerite Fletcher, who is also a Port Washington native. They have three daughters, Jo Anne, Diane, and Jane, a son, Peter, and three grandchildren, Theresa, Megan, and Joseph.

Troop 7 Eagle Scouts

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Amodeo, Michael	7/23/1999
Borgman, Ronald	4/28/1952
Boza, Richard	10/27/1983
Broedel, Jr., Sheldon	8/17/1973
Caruthers, Bruce	7/27/1988
Cheron, Daniel	3/16/1998
Cooney, Jr., Winston	6/19/1957
Costa, Vincent	7/15/2002
Di Toro, Mark	12/01/1990
Frankel, Richard	4/07/1982
Gibaldi, Christopher	6/19/1998
Gibaldi, David	6/19/2003
Goetz, Gerard	1/12/1999
Hare, Jason	5/11/1995
Hodson, Michael	7/23/1999
Idaspe, Joseph	6/24/1975
Idaspe, Patrick	12/26/1973
Jennings, Patrick	4/10/1970
Jones, Arthur	1/24/1956
Jurkowski, David	10/29/1993
Klinkowize, David	10/28/1991
Klinkowize, Sean	1/29/1988
Makofsky, Robert	8/28/1992
Messina, Gregory	6/18/1999
Mittelstaedt, Kurt	10/27/1983
Mockler, John	3/12/1973
Mueller, Glen	1/31/1968
Muller, Richard	6/24/1975
Olsen, Gregory	10/01/1986
Owen, Daniel	2/05/2002
Oxenber, Bertram	8/27/1954
Pahk, Brian	6/18/1999
Peele, Paul	4/22/1963
Petito, Anthony	6/24/1983
Plotkin, Alban	4/12/1993
Quinones, Frank	9/10/1956
Reichmann, Nicholas	10/24/2001
Saraydarian, Gregory	7/16/1984
Sarfas, Gerald	6/19/1957
Schartzman, Robert	7/07/1977
Schnier, Gregory	7/17/1981
Schwartz, Victor	1/19/1972
Solomita, David	1/29/1968
Stanley, Gordon	9/03/1954
Stodard, Jonathan	1/24/1956
Zarub, Ross	10/06/1975

Alphonse Epaminonde, Jr.

Alphonse Epaminonde is the younger brother of Louis. He is retired and lives in Coventry, Rhode Island with his wife Barbara. His sister Josephine Gnecco communicated with her brother over the telephone to gather some of his fond memories of Troop 7 which she conveyed to me.

Al was a Cub Scout from 1945 to 1947 after which he joined Boy Scout Troop 7. Al's experiences in Troop 7 were the same wonderful ones that his brother Louie had, acquiring all the survival skills, the educational meetings at the Methodist Church and marching proudly with Troop 7 in the annual Memorial Day parade. Al also earned several merit badges during his years with Troop 7.

After graduating from Port Washington High School, he enlisted in the Air force. He was a member of the Radio Maintenance Technician Group and was stationed in Alaska. After serving in the Air force for three years, he was discharged in 1956. Al and his wife Barbara are the proud parents of three daughters and two sons, and four grandchildren.

Josie Gnecco said, "Our parents were very proud to have their sons under the leadership of Troop 7's scoutmasters. I believe the experience they received was a great influence in helping make these two gentlemen the wonderful, patriotic and special people they are. I know because I am their sister."

Rick Hyde

Rick Hyde, now residing in Dallas, Texas, belonged to Boy Scout Troop 7 from 1952 to 1958. Rick told us about some of his happy memories. During his beginning years his scoutmaster was Bob Stanley and in the later years it was Dave Hughes. Their meetings were held weekly at the Methodist Church from 7:30 p. m. to 9:00 p. m. Rick recalled, "Once a month we would take a hike, leaving the Church (which was then located on Main Street), walking along Shore Road to Sands Point. We camped on a hill that overlooked a salt marsh that has become a residential area. The land we camped on was surrounded by a hundred acres of woods located across Middle Neck Road from the U. S. Naval Special Devices Center."

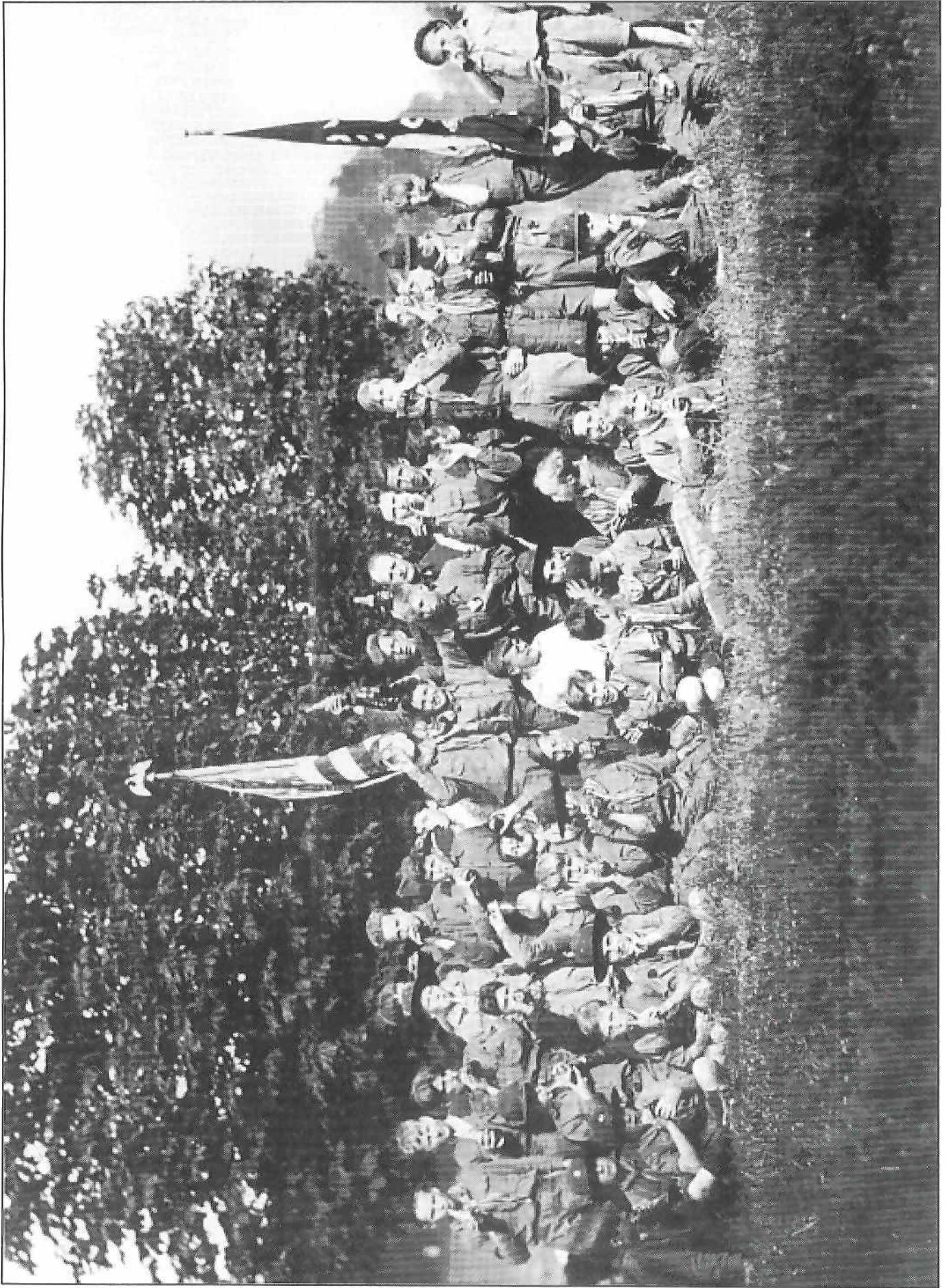
Rick continued, "Camperees and Camperalls were usually held on the land behind the Boy Scout Center in Manhasset Hills. I was a member of the Order of the Arrow and our meetings usually took place in the Scout Center because there were boys and men from many different troops from Nassau County who attended. Several houses have since been built there, but I believe the Scout Center is still in existence (*Editor's Note: it was sold a few years ago*)." He said, "I can remember three of the fellows who were in the troop with me. Clayton Pond, who resides in Alpharetta Georgia, Brian Fay from Greenlawn, New York and Rick Kramer who lives in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

Rick also mentioned the importance of the Nassau Store which was a five and dime store which sold everything from kitchen gadgets, sewing materials to school supplies. He remembered that "at the back of the store there was a special Scout counter where everyone bought their uniforms, accessories, insignias, mess kits, hatchets and camping equipment."

Fran Balducci Hoover of the Nassau Store

Fran Balducci Hoover was the key employee at the Nassau Store for thirty years from 1952 to 1982. She imparted some of her memories from all of the wonderful years she worked there serving the scouts and den mothers. Fran said, "The original owner was Mr. Jost Jacobs who started the business in 1939 in a store on lower Main Street. After the business flourished, he relocated to 41 Main Street, a much larger facility. Louie Malewicz, his assistant manager, handled the major ordering for the scouting organizations.

She said, "I worked for Mr. Jacobs from 1952 to 1982. The scout section had a large counter with fifty drawers containing scarves, badges, caps, pins and other accessories. Some of the Boy Scouts were given the responsibility to keep the drawer organized. A lovely woman, Mrs. Brown, whose son was a scout, was very involved with the activities of the scouts. She placed the order for the special equipment, such as tents, bugles and other equipment the stored did not carry. The scouts were not allowed to purchase any scout items unless they had a certified letter from their scoutmaster. All of the scouting items were meticulously secured and cared for. The Nassau Store was the official supplier for the Brownies, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and the Sea Scouts. Memorial Day was the busiest day of the year; I worked every one of them for thirty years. After thirty years the Nassau Store was sold and became Raimo's. Sadly, shortly after that it was destroyed by fire."



Boy Scout Troop 7 - 1929

Eugene Seraphine

From 1933 to 1937 between the ages of 12 and 16 Gene Seraphine was a member of Troop 7, Boy Scouts of America under the leadership of Scoutmaster Don Ross. Gene recalls some of the members of the Troop: Robert Dargan, Theodore Minich, Egbert Montell, Arthur Moore, Eugene Oglethorpe, Oscar Petersen, Jim Rankin, Fred (Bud) Walsh, Thomas Watson and Bob Dusenberry. The scout meetings were held in the Methodist Church on Main Street where the public library is today. Members of the congregation finished a room in the basement where the Troop meetings were held.

The young scouts were taught the basic techniques of survival. They learned knot tying, how to prepare wood fires and the proper use of knives and axes. In the event a scout should become lost, instructions were given on determining north, south, east and west. They also used the sun, moon and stars for directions.

Mrs. Hicks of Sands Point owned property on Half Moon Beach. She was a very generous woman and a benefactor to community and civic affairs. Often she allowed the scouts to pitch a tent on her property and camp there for two to three nights. They were able to enhance their survival skills by making fires, cooking meals, fishing and swimming.

There was a rock jetty, leading from the beachhead out to deep water where the black fish swam among the rocks. These fish fed on fiddler crabs who live around the rocky and sandy bottom of the beach. Gene said, "We caught black fish from the jetty and they became our delicious dinner." The Hempstead Harbor beach which consisted of many acres of open, undeveloped land was also used as an overnight camp site."

Gene continued, "Each summer we looked forward to the biggest annual event with our proud, accomplished troop marching in the Memorial Day parade. That started our summer fun season. Several of us Troop 7 kids were members of the Port Washington Yacht Club where our recreation included swimming, tennis, and chasing the girls in and out of the water."

Gene expressed his deep admiration for Don Ross for his strong leadership and devotion to Troop 7. "Don was an artist and an advertising assistant in an art studio in Manhattan. He took the time to try to mold us into the self-sufficient men that he had hoped would benefit our future. We started out as Tenderfoots and were required to take simple tests on the techniques and skills Don so patiently tried to teach us. Our goal was to progress and reach the highest achievement level which is to become an Eagle Scout. The teen years are rambunctious ones and as boys will be boys, myself and a few others would occasionally, playfully, torment Don. One day he finally had enough of our nonsense and said very sternly, 'If you guys don't study and get the rating of a second class scout, we are going to ask you to get the hell out!' After that ultimatum, we all buckled down, studied very hard and finally made the grade.

Gene credited his scout training for being an asset to him throughout his lifetime. He became accomplished in many fields. He was in the Class of 1941 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, majoring in Journalism. He performed on his tenor saxophone with the Washington and Lee Swing Quartet, traveling with them during the summer on the Cunard cruise ship to and from England, visiting London, Paris and Belgium.

Gene served with the U. S. Merchant Marines and the U. S. Navy during World War II in the European Theatre. After his years of service, he owned and operated a public relations firm in Manhattan. He was president of the Manhasset Bay Sportsmen's Club in 1955 and is a life member. He lives out in the Hamptons and is still active doing free lance writing for sporting magazines and performs with his Seraph Hampton Jazz Combo in supper clubs throughout Suffolk County. This one time Boy Scout has come a long way and he is still blowing his horn!

Gene concluded with some remembrances of Troop 7 members in later years. "Most of these guys served in the military during World War II. Bob Dusenberry was last seen in Manhattan. He was in the real estate business. Egbert Montell was a director of a national plastics industry association, also in Manhattan. Arthur Moore was a life time resident of Port Washington. He was a self-trader in the securities business. Arthur passed away twenty years ago. Gene (Heels) Oglethorpe owned a cabinet making shop in Port Washington. Gene passed away twenty years ago. Oscar Petersen was an aide to Senator Hults and became director of Manorhaven Park & Pool, and was a president of the Manhasset Bay Sportsmen's Club in 1953. He passed away 17 years ago. Jim Rankin was a Port Washington Police officer who went on to become Chief of Police. Fred (Bud) Walsh was advertising manager for True Magazine, a Fawcett Publication. He was a resident of Plandome until his retirement to Hobe Sound, Florida until he died about five years ago. Ted Minich is retired and living in Islamorada, Florida Keys on his boat with his wife Kitty. Ted was also president of the Manhasset Bay Sportsmen's Club in 1954."

Anthony "Tony" DeFeo

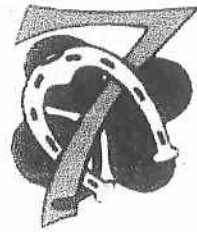
Tony was a member of Troop 7 in the late 1930s. Due to his recent illness his memories of Troop 7 have dissipated somewhat. At this time he can't recall the names of the other boys he was in the Troop with. However, some memories are still vivid. He remembers the Troop meetings held in the basement of the Methodist Church which were fruitful and educational. He fondly recalls camping, hiking and the basketball games played in the Merriman School on Pine Street (since demolished). Tony said, "The discipline, pride, friendships, basic survival skills and the Boy Scouts' honor that he learned have remained with him throughout his lifetime.

Tony was born on Preston Street in 1924. Shortly after his birth, his dad Augustine and his mother Marie moved to 7 Jefferson Street where Tony grew up and still resides with his family. In 1941 as a teenager, Tony worked after school and on weekends in the produce section at the A & P Supermarket on Port Washington Blvd. (Eckerd Drug Store today). After graduating from Port Washington High School in 1943, he worked at the A & P until he received his "Greetings" telegram from the United States Army. After his induction at Camp Upton, New York additional training followed. He was then sent overseas with the 348th Combat Engineers under the command of General Omar Bradley's First Army which landed on Omaha Beach as part of the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

After the war, Tony's job was waiting for him at the A & P. He was the produce manager for forty years. He retired in 1990. In 1999 he was honored as the Grand Marshall of the Port Washington Memorial day Parade.

He and his wife Josephine have three children, Augustine, Anthony, Jr. and Maria as well as several grandchildren. One of his grandsons, Michael Cannella, was a member of Troop 7 for a few years.

Boy Scouts of America



Troop 7

"The Pride of Port Washington"

Proudly serving the Port Washington community for 90 years

1914-2004

With gratitude to the
PW United Methodist Church
and all the Troop 7 adult leaders
through the years
for their work in guiding
boys to become fine young men

The Gibaldi Family
Rocco, Judy, Chris and David



"If you are going to do anything for the average man you have got to begin before he is a man. The chance of success lies in working with the boy not the man."

Theodore Roosevelt

Congratulations
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on your
90th Anniversary!

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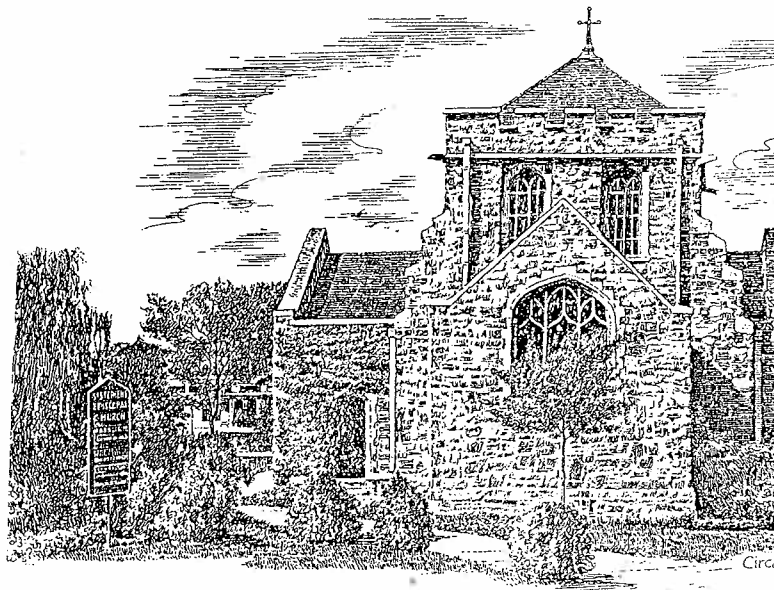
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BOY SCOUT TROOP 7

ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR

**90TH
ANNIVERSARY**

THE PECKELIS FAMILY

ALICE, JOSEPH

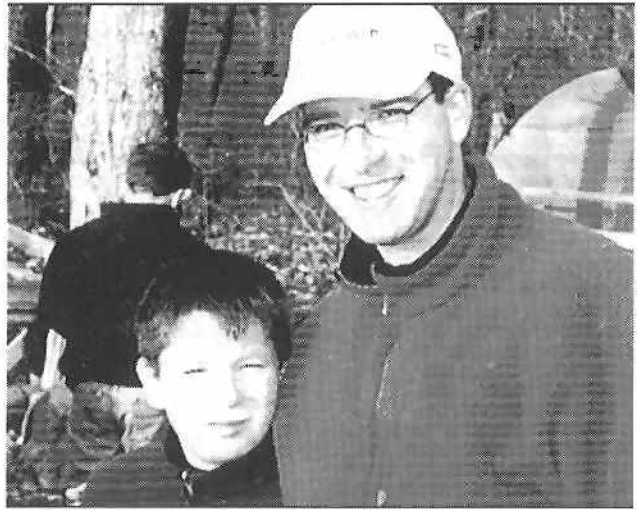
&

SCOTT

TROOP 7
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK



Toni Reichmann with his son, Joe



Thomas O'Neill with his son, William



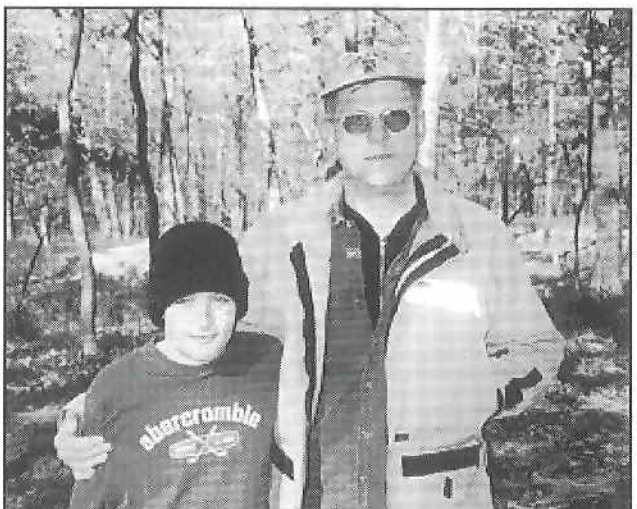
Rick Gray with his son, Matt



Rocco Gibaldi with his son, David



Joe Peckelis with his son, Scott



Mike Selbach with his son, Matt



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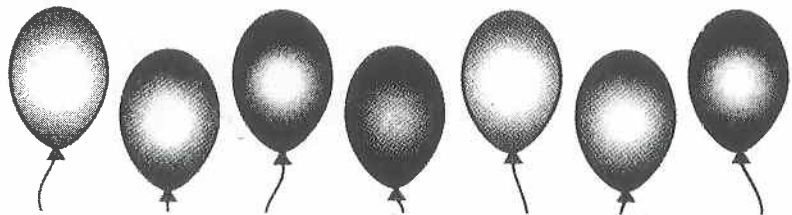
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The year was 1939 — 65 years ago, the effects of the stock market crash and the depression ten years earlier still having a negative effect on America. It was also the beginning of what was to become World War II. Europe was in turmoil, and news from abroad did not offer an optimistic view of what lay ahead.

And it was that same year Hy Zausner, then 30 years old, anxious to protect his and other children from the reality of this dark period in America's history,

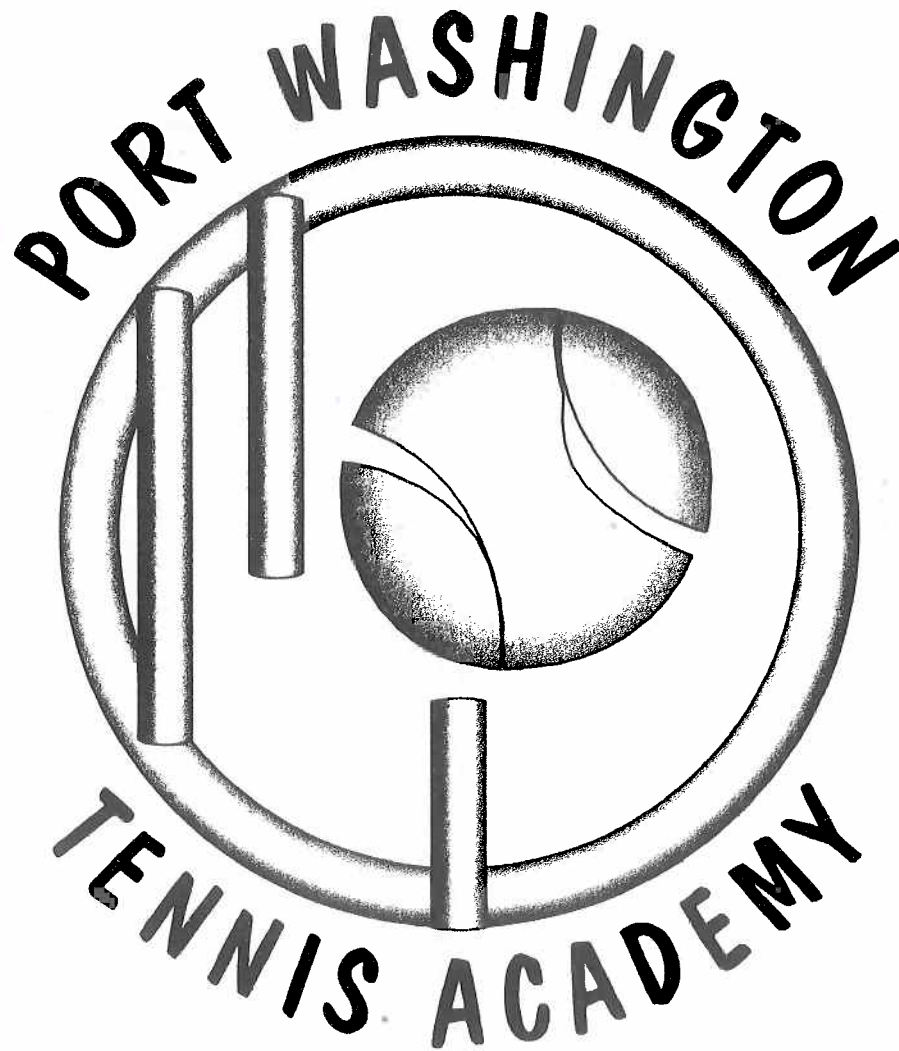
volunteered to become Scoutmaster of Troop 780, meeting in a room at P.S. 187 in the northern section of Manhattan known as Washington Heights.

Leap ahead to 1966 when Hy Zausner founded the Port Washington Tennis Academy, using the same guidelines, principles and desire to protect our children by providing a safe haven of wholesome activity.

Now jump ahead almost 40 years more to

today, when the Tennis Academy has just completed a major construction and renovation program that makes it the world's largest single-site indoor tennis facility, with 17 courts using state of the art lighting, a spacious viewing gallery and an unheard of ¼ mile indoor running track elevated above the courts.

And while he is no longer physically with us, rest assured the spirit and ideals of Troop 780's Scoutmaster lives on at the Port Washington Tennis Academy.



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TO TROOP 7

ON ITS

90th ANNIVERSARY

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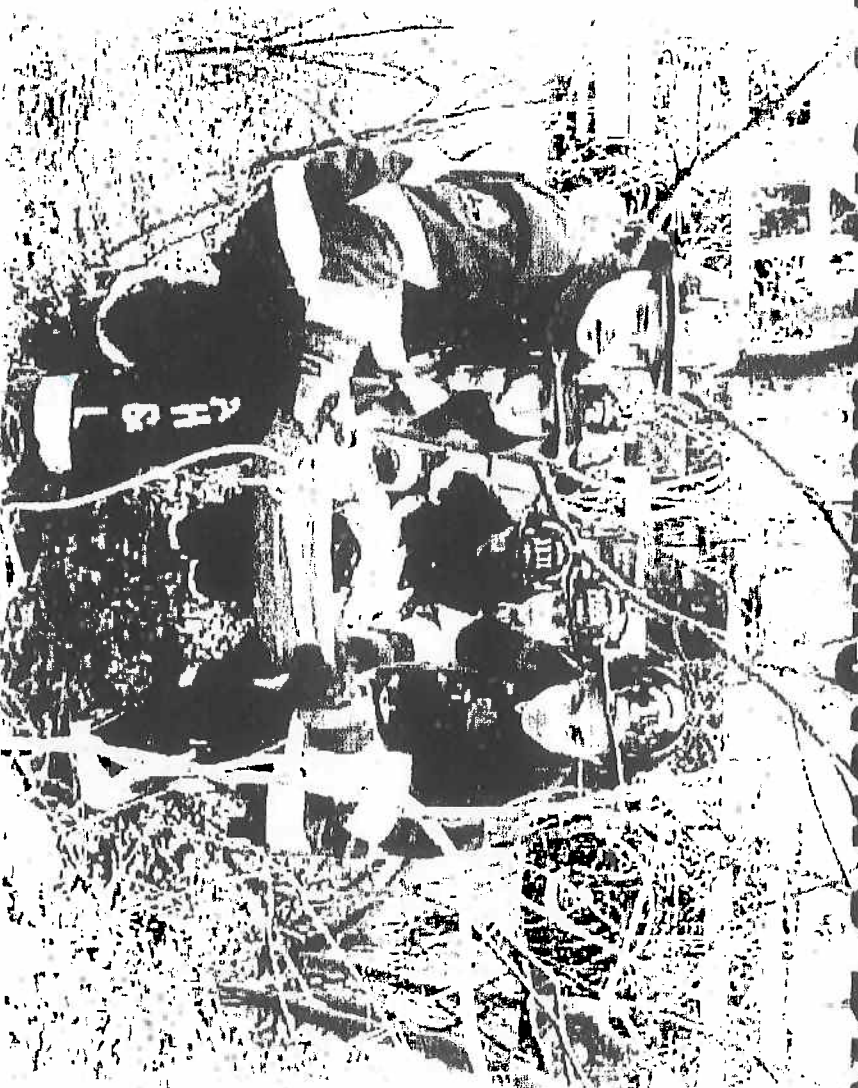
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CONGRATULATIONS & GOOD LUCK

To Boy Scouts of America

Troop 7

Port Washington, New York

On your 90th Anniversary

Keep up the good work!!!

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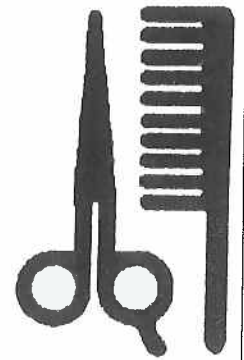
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Best Wishes To Boy Scout Troop 7 Celebrating Their 90th Anniversary



Troop 7 - 1929
Photo from the Port Washington Public Library



Dolly Larsen
*Down Memory
Lane*
biographer

The Port Washington Sentinel

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*Congratulations to Troop 7
on its 90th Anniversary.*



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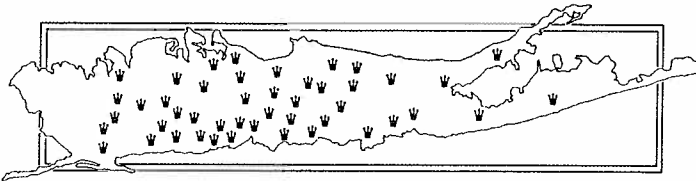
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From the Eagle Patrol, Troop 7 (1970 -73)**

In honor of our Scoutmasters

**Phineas (YT) Verity, Scoutmaster (25 Years)
Sheldon Brodel, Sr. Assistant Scoutmaster**

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March 25, 2004

Boy Scout Troop 7
29 Soundview Drive
Port Washington, New York 11050

Dear Members and Families of Troop 7,

I regret that I cannot be at your gala dinner celebrating the 90th anniversary of Troop 7, but it's an honor indeed for me to express my warmest wishes to you all for a successful and enjoyable evening.

My sincerest congratulations for 90 years of being a vital force in the development of our youth through its many programs which encourage the ability of its members to do things for themselves and others in the community.

I send my deepest appreciation and thanks for the dedicated and devoted service being performed by leaders and staff for the benefit of the youth in Port Washington. Again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

Thomas P. DiNapoli
Member of Assembly
TPD:js

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Congratulations Troop ↗



Happy 90th Anniversary,

The Costa Family
Vincent, Laura, Chris, Lauren and Vincent

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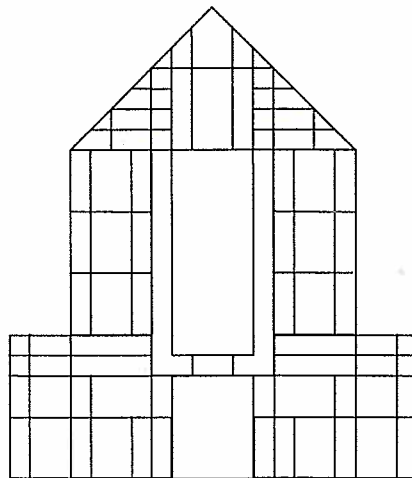
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