

in the Lodge 489 Dance Team. Her son Joe would also achieve the Ad Altare Dei award, participate as a member of Lodge 489 Dance Team champions and become a founding member and Officer of one of the first Coed Explorer Posts in the Region. In another area of the Diocese, Msgr. Vincent Micola presented eight Cub Scouts the Parvuli Dei Awards as the first known awardees within Northwest Texas Council (2/26/66). Later, Cub Scouts of Pack 97 (5/27/77; 4/6/84; 5/31/69), Pack 15 (4/29/77) and Pack 180 (1981) appear in Texas Catholic newspapers. The type of recognition ceremony within each parish varied but rewarded the boys and promoted awareness of the program. Since many of the Cub Scout awardees would later achieve the Ad Altare Dei award, the general increase in participation of religious awards was ensured from the late 50's through the late 60's.

Emergence of Exemplary Unit Programs

One of the lifeblood characteristics of a good Boy Scout unit is its consistency of program and its leadership. Once a unit builds a foundation where each scout "knows how things are done," the unit has a life of its own where the boys run the program and the adults advise. As the leadership from many of the local Catholic Troops began to meet as a committee to administrate the Catholic Religious Awards Program, a tradition began to evolve which would reach heights never expected. The Committee reflected the strength of each Catholic Troop and the resolve of its leadership to raise the respect of the Ad Altare Dei Award to that approaching Eagle Scout.

Long time volunteers, such as Ole Man, were prevalent in many units throughout the Diocese. One of these perennial supporters of the religious program was Troop 152 Scoutmaster Lupe Felipe. Still another was Troop 315 Scoutmaster John Hernandez. They were instrumental in bringing Catholic Scouting and the rich Hispanic culture to the CCS from boys living in the north side of Fort Worth. On one such occasion, Lupe made an expedition to the Diocese of Houston's Boy Scout Retreat in order to experience how other scouters conducted a religious retreat program. The CCS was

looking for more ideas when they participated in a Catholic Scout Camp-O-Ree competition at Camp Strake in the morning and a Boy Scout Retreat in the evening. The pine needles cracking under their feet and the presence of a water moccasin during a canoe race made this a memorable event. The tall skyscraper trees and swampy landscape provided a sharp contrast to short stubby trees at Camp Leonard. The Bishop of the Diocese attended the event in full scout uniform and said the mass at the close of the retreat. Although this experience was illuminating, it gave attendees a broader vision where different styles of program were not immediately dismissed.

One cannot speak of leadership without mentioning the year in and year out dedication of scouters from Troop 97, Troop 497 and Trinity Trails District in south Fort Worth. Legendary scouter Bob Connelly (See Profile Section), James Sawey (See Profile section), and Dr. Sid Holleman Jr. (See Profile Section) are among many who have kept



Bob Connelly. Circa 1995. Co-Founder of Boy Scout Retreats within the diocese held from 1961 to present day.

the light of Catholic religious programs burning during thick and thin. This adult leadership, along with a presence of scouts



Circa 1975. James Sawey, left, (attendee of every retreat), and Dr. Sid Holleman Jr. (Retreat Chairman 1974/75) receive St. George Award from Bishop Cassata.

from these troops, provided the staffing for dozens of retreats and awards Sundays hosted by the CCS.

The length and breadth of the CCS was not without its participation in the time-honored traditions of the Scouting Good Turn. From 1962 through 1964, the Scouting for Sisters (Scout Show for nuns) program was held near the grounds of the University of Dallas in Irving, TX. Over 175 sisters enjoyed scout skills on one day in which CCS members from Fort Worth and Dallas participated. On the level of the individual unit, T507 assisted in polio immunizations at Jefferson High School in Grand Prairie (1963), scouts of T32 in "Get out the vote" campaign (1950's), and scores of units in the annual "Scouting for Food." During the 1990's, Pack 850 was recognized with having donated the most poundage of any pack in the Roadrunner District during its annual participation, Pack 777 planted trees provided by the Army Corp of Engineers at Silver Lake Campgrounds on Grapevine Lake and earned a conservation award while conducting needed community service, while Troop 7 scouts worked with the local Lion's Club to provide safe, convenient parking for participants of Grapefest in downtown Grapevine.

What New York was to the immigrants of the world, Scouting is to cultures and faiths of boys everywhere. However, one unit, which has personified a "melting pot" of international flavor, was Troop 314. Throughout most of its history were boys of Caucasian, Spanish, African and Vietnamese descent. Those of poor consequences from St. Theresa's Orphanage also found a home with this unique group. It was this group of scouts that were the receiving end of an unprecedented effort by the CCS to build a scout hut on the grounds of Holy Name Church. Once built, it was furnished with a storage room, benches and a fireplace before the Bishop dedicated it in the early 60's. After James Farek took over as Scoutmaster, a friend of his from a new troop in the Como area asked if his unit could accompany Troop 314 on a campout. Both units traveled to Benbrook Lake and camped near the beach before beginning a conservation project. They spent all morning working side by side clearing brush and

piling it up for the Army Corp of Engineers to take care of. However, a storm blew in during the afternoon and dumped torrential rains down upon the scouts. As the scouts waited for the rain to subside, the leaders noticed the lake water was approaching their tents as well as cutting them off from the roadway out of the camping area. They hurriedly packed their personal belongings, left the tents secured and drove out before being cut off by the rising water. As they drove out, their hearts sank as they watched the neatly stacked piles of wood reduced to floating limbs scattered over the entire area. On another occasion, the troop had wandered outside the confines of the Worth Ranch fence line near the shores of the

Brazos River. It was a long time practice of the troop to choose one scout to lead the troop and keep an eye out for "snakes." However, most boys disregarded the snake threat as another unnecessary adult safeguard. After taking a break, SM Farek requested one boy be "point man" to look for snakes as they made their way back out of the wilderness area. There were so many volunteers that he devised a scheme to narrow the choice to one boy. Once organized, they began to hike single file down the trail singing and talking towards the Worth Ranch Boat Docks. Suddenly, the "point" man spied a snake not fifty yards from where they started as it began to cross the trail. The nonchalant hikers quickly turned to white eyed alert scouts with a new appreciation for adult warnings.

John Wayne emulating the characteristics of Davy Crockett in The Alamo, Tom Cruise taking on the characteristics of a heroic fighter pilot in Top Gun, or Luke Skywalker following the good vibrations found in the force, are heroes worthy of outward



Circa 1971. Harry K. Werst, President of Longhorn Council, joins Frank Artega, a boy from T314, representing the 250,000th Boy Scout registered within Longhorn Council since 1920.

recognition. So too are scouts looking up to scout adults who have achieved great things in the Scouting Program. In an effort to recognize those adults who have earned religious awards as boys, Bob Connelly proposed a square knot to be worn by adults. Besides recognition, this has an added effect of giving religious awards added prominence and allows a presence seen by the young boys looking up to their scout leaders. Young men wishing to emulate the accomplishments of their leaders is another way to invigorate the Scouting Religious Award Program. The BSA acknowledged the intrinsic value of this recognition when it officially approved the religious knot during 1969.



Ole Man Campsite Gateway, Worth Ranch, Longhorn Council

A special relationship had grown between Longhorn Council Scout Executive Kirk Henry and Ole Man Gillespie during the 1960's. When Kirk Henry heard that Troop 32 was secretly working on a 40th Anniversary celebration that would honor Ole Man's devotion to Scouting, he became a very special part of it by approving the creation of a new

campsite at Worth Ranch. On Sunday June 30, 1968, Ole Man Gillespie Campsite was dedicated to a legend in his own time at his favorite camp. Sunday services were celebrated by three of his Eagle Scouts: two Catholic priests and one Baptist Minister.

Although the CCS follows Roman Catholic Theology with regard to program, there have been some men who have transcended the boundaries of religion and patriotism in molding young men. Frank Pellizzari Jr., Scoutmaster in Breckenridge and a scouter of Comanche Trail Council, is a "man for all seasons." W.G. "Bud" Arnot, Chief Justice of the 11th Court of Appeals in Eastland, recalled how Pellizzari stressed faith in God and went to great lengths "to eat only fish on Fridays when we were camping out." On trips, scouts also went to Mass with him, "no matter what religion." Arnot, A Baptist Deacon whose grandfather was President of Hardin-Simmons University explained, "I was very fortunate to grow up in Breckenridge and have a role model like Frank Pellizzari Jr." Arnot, who at the age of thirteen became the youngest Eagle Scout in the nation in 1964, owes no small debt to a man who saved soles (Frank was a shoe repair man) for a living. It took a man of his stature to help establish a foothold in Comanche Trail Council for religious Scouting programs in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Since Comanche Trail Council is divided between the Diocese of San Angelo and the outskirts of the Diocese of Fort Worth, it is a council that does not have a catholic unit as a CCS foundation in the area. During the 60's, long distance phone calls, long hours in a car going to CCS events, and timely communication were all part of trying to maintain the presence of the CCS in Breckenridge. Frank made a religious awards program come alive with twice the effort and half the resources than those living in Fort Worth.



Frank Pellizzari Jr.