


The Early Years



1911 - 1957



SOUTH FLORIDA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA





A. S. "MAC" MACFARLANE

DEDICATION

This little booklet is affectionately dedicated to three great Scouters; Reese Combs, Charles A. Mills, and S. Grover Morrow; the three remaining Pioneers, who have loyally devoted many years of service to the boyhood of South Florida.

A Brief History of Scouting in South Florida

Early History - The history of Scouting in Miami dates back to the year 1911 at which time Miami became a Scout Council of the Second Class, without professional leadership, and continued in this classification until February 7, 1919 when it became a First Class Council and Mr. Oliver Hoover was employed as the First Scout Executive on March 2, 1919 and continued to serve until August 1, 1921.

The First Annual meeting of the Council was held on December 1, 1919 and the report of that meeting shows that there were 12 Scout Troops with an enrollment of 222 Scouts.

Mr. Arthur Cundy became the Scout Executive in September 1921 and served until April 1922, Membership figures - 16 Troops and 271 Scouts.

Mr. E. J. King succeeded Mr. Cundy as Executive and served from October 1922 until July 1923. Membership figures - 17 Troops and 322 Scouts.

Mr. E. E. Wilson served as Executive from July 1923 until July 1924 and the records show that there were 22 Troops and 343 Scouts registered.

Mr. John C. Norsk took over the Executiveship from August of 1924 until October 1929 and the membership jumped to 37 Troops and 1,003 Scouts.

Pioneer Men - Our early records show that the following outstanding citizens gave generously of their time and money to make Scouting successful:

J. E. Adams	H. L. McCay
Reese Combs	R. E. McDonald
Dr. James Cope	G. A. McKinnon
E. B. Douglas	W. F. Miller
C. S. Hall	Charles A. Mills
J. C. Hancock	S. Grover Morrow
A. E. Heyser	Alexander Orr
William S. Frost	W. J. Rogers
Dr. James M. Jackson	S. M. Tatum
J. A. Jenkins	J. T. Wethers
Morgan E. Jones	T. O. Wilson
A. E. Lewis	Grover C. Zaring
G. E. Lindsay	

The Lean Years - Mr. A. S. MacFarlane became the Scout Executive in February 1930. At that time the membership figures were 787 Scouts and 427 Adult Leaders. The Council indebtedness was \$7,141.47 most of which was unpaid bills on the old Pine Island Camp and bills due the National Council for supplies and Quota.

The Council owned no property except what was left by the 1926 hurricane of the buildings at Pine Island Camp on Government owned land and subject to the above mentioned indebtedness.

In the latter part of 1930 the Biscayne Bank failed with the loss of the Community Chest Funds.

For the next few years it was necessary for the Council to raise its own funds and this was a difficult task in the middle of the depression. From 1930 thru 1936 the Executive's salary and automobile allowance showed a deficit of \$7,431.70!

Owing to the damage to Pine Island Camp by the hurricane, the lack of Council Funds, and health hazards due to contaminated water supplies the Council decided to abandon Pine Island Camp and for the years 1933 and 1934 camps were conducted at Lauderdale Isle, Ft. Lauderdale.

Council camp was conducted during summers of 1934, 1935, 1936, 1938 and 1939 at Camp Connestee Cove, Brevard North Carolina. The first camp consisted of 47 Scouts and 10 adults.

Growth Continues - Despite the trying times of the early thirties Scouting continued to make progress and since 1930 there has been a steady increase in membership each year.

The old Miami Council became the Dade County Council, was incorporated in 1937 and later in November 1944 became the South Florida Council taking in all of the territory of Broward, Dade, and Monroe Counties. Recently the Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba became affiliated with the Council. The professional staff has grown from one Executive and one office helper to 1 Executive, 5 District Executives, 2 Field Executives,

1 Camp Ranger, and 7 Clerical workers.

Snapper Creek Camp - Owned outright by the Council containing 99 and 2/3 acres, 26 buildings, a beautiful swimming pool, a boating area, and camping and boating equipment on a par with any camp in the country. This property is valued roughly at approximately \$350,000. Purchased in 1937 for \$940.00. First Troop camping on site 1938.

Princeton Camp for Negroes - Owned outright by the Council comprising approximately 35 acres including a ten acre lake (rock pit), a dining hall, and a modern toilet building, 6 sleeping cabins and a water system roughly valued at approximately \$100,000.

West Summerland Key in Monroe County - A leased site secured in 1946 for short-term camping of Monroe County Scouts. This camp has 3 sleeping cabins, shower and toilet building (donated by Rotary Club), Caretaker's house, and 1 metal shed. Camp has a natural swimming area in salt water.

Sebring - The Council has purchased approximately 275 acres at Sebring for \$100,000 to be developed into a long-term camp.

Everglades Nat'l Park - Recently the Miami Rotary Club donated to the council a tract of 235 acres adjacent to the Everglades National Park near Florida City to be used for short-term camping.

Broward County Camp - 20 acres now and 20 additional acres to be deeded, donated by County Commissioners. One large Indian Chickee and 4 small ones, well and pump house. There are two 20 x 30 feet cabins under construction, 4 concrete block cabins, latrine and shower will be built and a 3 acre lake area surveyed.

Under the capable leadership of Mr. W. Cecil Watson, our Camping facilities have grown from nothing (or should I say indebtedness of \$7,141.47) to the camps listed above.

Financial condition - Under the supervision of our Finance Chairman, Edward F. Swenson we have been able to increase our budgets each year. Mr. Swenson has done a splendid job of presenting our financial needs to the Community Chests. Our friends have been most generous and we have received a number of substantial gifts including two yachts that were converted into funds. In 1949 a Trust Fund was set up with \$7,000 and today we have nearly \$14,000. This was due to the excellent management of Lyle D. Holcomb.

Men today - The following men, all members of our present Executive Board, deserve a great deal of credit for the splendid way in which they have carried on the work of those early Pioneers. Under the capable leadership Scouting will continue to march on:

Wright L. Pearson	Rev. Fr. Lawrence Higgins
W. H. Walker, Jr.	Lyle D. Holcomb
T. J. Sullivan	Rabbi B. Leon Hurwitz
Sidney S. Holland	Neil Knowles
Carl Fromhagen	John Lowe
W. T. Shivell	G. W. McCall
G. V. Crawford	Charles A. Mills
Arnold Renkoff	S. Grover Morrow
A. O. Sandquist	John Moyer
W. P. Hartman	Arthur H. Patten
Capt. G. M. Holley	J. E. Preston
Thomas E. Attwood	Dr. Paul Robertson
Pete Bluesten	George B. Romfh, Jr.
Terry Campbell	Dexter Saunders
J. H. Cheatham	Horace W. Scott
Dr. Sumner Cohen	Sam Searing
John B. Cook	Harry F. Smenner, Jr.
Reese Combs	D. R. Snyder
H. Dartigalongue	Edward F. Swenson, Jr.
Fred Deutsch	John B. Turner
Rev. A. W. Farabee	Palmer Tyler
Robert Hanley	W. Cecil Watson
J. Rex Hawkins	Ross G. Witters
Judge William Herin	Myron S. Zeientz

SOME OF THE CIVIC CLUBS AND INDIVIDUALS
DONATING TO SNAPPER CREEK CAMP

Miami Rotary Club (Dining Hall, Kitchen, and sleeping Cabin)

Miami Beach Lions (Water System, well pump, pressure tank & pump house)

Miami Lions (Latrine and Wash Rooms)

Miami Kiwanis (Custodian & Leader's Building)

Civitan Club of Miami (Boating area and Water-front)

Elks Club of Miami (Sleeping Cabin)

Knights of Columbus (Sleeping Cabin)

Optimist Club, Miami Beach (Sleeping Cabin)

Miami J. Chamber of Commerce (Sleeping Cabin)

Miami Masonic Lodge (Sleeping Cabin)

Knights of Pythias (Sleeping Cabin)

Pan American Airways (Sleeping Cabin)

Girl Scouts of Dade County (Sleeping Cabin)

Young Women's Christian Assoc. (Sleeping Cabin)

Allapattah Lions Club (Rowboat)

Station WGBS

Nelson Elsasser, Hollywood

1st National Bank of Miami (Rowboat)

Executive Board, South Fla. Council, Boy Scouts (Sleeping Cabin)

Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Sulzner (Swimming Pool, Boat House, Museum)

Snapper Creek Camp now consists of 13 Sleeping Cabins, Dining Hall and Kitchen, Recreational Hall, Museum, Boat House, Pump House, Cook's Cabin, Canteen, Custodian's Lodge, Infirmary, Swimming Pool, 2 Latrines and Wash Rooms, 1 small toilet building, Council ring, storage building, Canoes, and Rowboats.

INFORMATION ON ROCKY PINE NEGRO CAMP

1946 - The South Florida Council was given a tract of land by Lounsbury and Bryant, South Dade Farmers, to be used for a camp site for Negro Boy Scouts. The Council also bought a 20 acre tract which made a total of 39 acres.

1949 - The Council built on this site a latrine and 2 sleeping cabins.

1950 - A dining hall was built by the Divisional Committee.

1951 - The Divisional Committee built two sleeping cabins.

1953 - Two more cabins were added making a total of 6 sleeping cabins. The Council bought in 1952 one ice box and Unit for \$350 and stove for \$600.

A Few Mileposts Along The Way:

1928 - Monroe District became affiliated with the Council.

1933 - Broward District became affiliated with Council - withdrew in 1934.

1937 - Broward District reaffiliated with Council.

1940 - D. S. Zearley employed as custodian of Snapper Creek Camp.

- 1945 - Negro Camp at Magnolia Park, Opa Locka.
 1946 - Camp property donated by Loundsbury and Bryant at Princeton, Florida for Negro Camp.
 1951 - Engineering service survey made by National on Snapper Creek and Princeton Camps.

**DISTRICT AND FIELD EXECUTIVES
 SERVING COUNCIL**

- Rance Osborne (Broward District) 1937-1941- transferred to Anniston, Ala.
 Guy Jones (Broward District) 12/41-2/42 - drafted to military service.
 George Brockett (Broward District) 5/42-7/42- drafted to military service.
 Dorr S. Davis (Broward District 6/43-6/45- resigned, became Juvenile Judge.
 Ernest N. Taylor (Negro Field Exec. Dade & Monroe) 11/43-
 Fred DeMarco (Broward District) 6/45-11/47.
 Paul M. Brick (Dade District) 6/45-
 William N. Norris (Broward District) 3/48-7/50.
 George Brown (Broward District) 11/50-
 Norman W. Stevens (Dade District) 6/52-
 John Larsen (Beach and Monroe Districts) 2/55.
 Archie Carey (Negro, Broward District) 2/55.

Year	Salary Rec'd. by Exec.	Salary Set Up in Budget	Membership Boys	figures Adults	Dec. 31st Units
1930	\$2,283.75	\$3,600.00	787	427	35
1931	2,300.00	3,600.00	683	337	29
1932	2,371.25	3,600.00	770	384	30
1933	1,936.12	2,400.00	1,053	500	42
1934	2609.90	2,400.00	1,094	539	42
1935	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,110	557	42
1936	3,300.00	3,300.00	1,502	547	54
1937	3,600.00	3,600.00	1,606	581	56
1938	3,600.00	3,600.00	1,834	611	67
1939	3,600.00	3,600.00	2,214	679	79
1940	3,600.00	3,600.00	2,363	730	84
1941	3,900.00	3,900.00	2,411	775	93
1942	3,900.00	3,900.00	2,624	787	90
1943	4,200.00	4,200.00	3,114	872	100
1944	4,200.00	4,200.00	3,775	972	115
1945	4,200.00	4,200.00	3,899	1,145	132
1946	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,439	1,427	159
1947	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,504	1,342	155
1948	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,741	1,448	168
1949	5,500.00	5,500.00	6,279	1,838	195
1950	5,500.00	5,500.00	7,033	2,128	223
1951	5,500.00	5,500.00	7,902	2,432	252
1952	5,750.00	5,750.00	9,765	3,091	286
1953	6,200.00	6,200.00	10,755	3,576	322
1954	6,800.00	6,800.00	12,488	4,243	383
1955	7,000.00	7,000.00	14,397	5,151	423
1956	7,200.00	7,200.00	14,542*	5,252*	455*

Total different boys served since 1930 - 81,228 (thru Aug. 1956)

Total different adults served since 1930 - 17,710 (thru Aug. 1956)

*Membership figures only thru August 1956. Biggest increase will be in September through December 31st.

Year	Total Money Raised	Contributed By Community Chests	All Other Sources
1930	\$ 6,355.17	\$ 5,383.15	\$ 972.02
1931	4,251.49	4,037.93	213.56
1932	4,377.72	3,773.49	604.23
1933	4,080.03	2,763.05	1,316.98
1934	71,777.60	110.16	7,067.44
1935	8,476.55	5,467.40	3,009.15
1936	9,636.83	6,038.89	3,597.94
1937	13,516.36	8,759.36	4,757.00
1938	15,168.56	10,652.11	4,516.45
1939	15,023.53	6,591.40	8,432.13
1940	24,220.42	10,558.60	13,661.82
1941	15,366.96	11,641.69	3,725.27
1942	15,861.34	11,180.01	4,681.33
1943	16,615.30	11,341.70	5,273.60
1944	23,675.50	14,749.90	8,925.60
1945	25,995.77	16,251.00	9,744.77
1946	23,134.62	19,656.36	3,478.26
1947	30,994.08	23,547.12	7,446.96
1948	44,834.17	21,946.25	22,887.92
1949	52,768.03	27,430.48	25,337.55
1950	42,904.61	22,656.39	20,248.22
1951	46,934.77	30,012.75	16,922.02
1952	51,080.72	33,552.53	17,528.19
1953	64,735.59	39,523.03	22,203.16
1954	66,180.92	43,977.76	23,203.16
1955	75,567.80	44,690.58	30,877.22
1956	61,132.54*	40,013.20*	21,119.34*

Note* - Figures through August 31, 1956 only.

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

1914 - A. E. Lewis
1915 - A. E. Lewis
1916 - A. E. Lewis
1917 - A. E. Lewis
1918 - A. E. Lewis
1919 - Dr. Ira Adams
1920 - E. B. Douglas
1921 - E. B. Douglas
1922 - J. T. Weathers
1923 - J. T. Weathers
1924 - S. Grover Morrow
1925 - S. Grover Morrow
1926 - C. H. Reeder
1927 - Reese Combs
1928 - Charles A. Mills
1929 - Charles A. Mills
1930 - J. P. Caldwell
1931 - J. P. Cadlwell
1932 - D. J. Apte
1933 - D. J. Apte
1934 - Harry P. Hermance
1935 - W. Cecil Watson
1936 - W. Cecil Watson
1937 - Harry E. Simpson
1938 - J. N. Lummus, Jr.
1939 - J. N. Lummus, Jr.

1940 - G. M. McNutt
1941 - J. E. Preston
1942 - J. E. Preston
1943 - Van C. Kussrow
1944 - Van C. Kussrow
1945 - A. M. Balfe
1946 - James A. Dunn
1947 - Lyle D. Holcomb
1948 - Lyle D. Holcomb
1949 - Ross G. Witters
1950 - Ross G. Witters
1951 - John B. Turner
1952 - John B. Turner
1953 - John B. Turner
1954 - A. H. Patten
1955 - A. H. Patten
1956 - Wright L. Pearson