

Andrew Jackson Council Boy Scouts of America Brief History

IN LATE 1933 WHEN HARRY W. MAXFIELD BECAME THE SCOUT EXECUTIVE OF THE JACKSON AREA COUNCIL IN JACKSON, MS. THE SCOUT OFFICE WAS LOCATED AT 209 MILLSAPS BUILDING ON W. CAPITOL STREET (2 ROOMS).

IN 1937 AFTER THE MERGER OF THE KICKAPOO AREA COUNCIL AT VICKSBURG AND THE JACKSON AREA COUNCIL IN JACKSON, THE OFFICE WAS MOVED TO THE SECOND STORY OF THE TUCKER PRINTING HOUSE BUILDING LOCATED AT 1131/2 NORTH STATE STREET. THE ANDREW JACKSON COUNCIL WAS "BORN" ON NOVEMBER 4, 1937 WITH REX I. BROWN AS PRESIDENT AND R.H. ROBINSON AS COMMISSIONER.

IN 1940 THE OFFICE WAS MOVED TO THE CITY OWNED BUILDING AT 723 SOUTH STATE STREET AND SHARED THE UPPER NORTH WING WITH THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA. THE UNITED WAY/COMMUNITY CHEST OFFICES WERE ALSO LOCATED IN THIS BUILDING ALONG WITH THE FAMILY SERVICE ORGANIZATION, RED CROSS, ETC.

IN 1947 THE GIRL SCOUTS MOVED TO ANOTHER SECTION OF THE BUILDING AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA OCCUPIED THE ENTIRE NORTH WING OF THIS BUILDING.

IN THE EARLY 1960's THE WAR-TIME FRAME BUILDING HAD DETERIORATED GREATLY AND HAD BEEN CONDEMED BY THE CITY. ALSO, THE STAFF HAD GROWN.

THE COUNCIL BEGAN A LONG RANGE PLANNING PROGRAM UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GENE H. TOLLEY, SCOUT EXECUTIVE, SINCE SEPTEMBER 15, 1959. THE COMMITTEE SOON REALIZED THAT THE COUNCIL WAS BADLY IN NEED OF A NEW OFFICE FACILITY. WITH THIS IN MIND, A SITE FOR THE NEW COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER WAS SELECTED IN 1965.

THIS SITE WAS ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE AND SINCE THE LAND BELONGED TO THE STATE IT NECESSITATED A BILL TO BE PASSED IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE AUTORIZING THE SALE OF THIS LAND. THIS BILL WAS PASSED BUT ONE OF THE FUTURE OWNERS WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE PRICE OF THE LAND AND THE BILL HAD TO BE RE-INTRODUCED AT THE NEXT TERM OF THE LEGISLATURE, DELAYING THE BUILDING FOR TWO YEARS.

THE LAND WAS PURCHASED FOR \$32,650. AN ARCHITECT WAS SELECTED—THE FIRM OF DEAN AND PURCELL—AND THE SERVICES OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA NATIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE ARCHITECT GIVING GUIDANCE TO THE DESIGN FOR THE BUILDING.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE WAS DONALD J. GRAY WHO DIED SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE SERVICE CENTER.

THE HARVEY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ERECTED THE BUILDING AND THE OFFICE SUPPLY COMPANY WAS SELECTED AS INTERIOR DECORATOR.

JIMMY FOWLER ASSUMED THE ROLE OF CHAIRMAN AND GAVE LEADERSHIP TO THE COMPLETION AND DEDICATION OF THIS FACILITY. THE OFFICE WAS MOVED FROM THE SOUTH STATE STREET LOCATION TO THE 855 RIVERSIDE DRIVE SITE ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1967 WITH THE DEDICATION IN DECEMBER OF THE SAME YEAR.

THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION WAS \$160,000 BUT THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY WAS APPROXIMATELY \$225,000 BECAUSE OF THE GIFTS IN KIND FROM LANDSCAPE AND THE EXTRA WORK INVOLVED IN PAVING THE DRIVEWAYS, ETC.

THE BRONZE BOY SCOUT STATUETTE ERECTED ON THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING WAS GIVEN BY REX I. BROWN, FORMER PRESIDENT AND LONG-TIME SCOUTER OF THIS COUNCIL.

THE FLAG POLE ERECTED IN THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING WAS GIVEN IN HONOR OF E.H. (SHORTY) NATION, VETERAN SCOUTMASTER OF TROOP 8, SPONSORED BY THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JACKSON.

AFTER THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE WARREN HOOD RESERVATION WAS PURCHASED IN 1966, PAUL LaCOSTE GAVE \$100,000 AS A MEMORIAL TO HIS SON, PAUL LaCOSTE, JR. WARREN A. HOOD MATCHED THIS WITH \$100,000 AND FOR A PERIOD OF YEARS THIS REMAINED THE ONLY MONEY AVAILABLE FOR USE AT THIS CAMP. STORAGE BUILDINGS, RANGER'S HOUSE AND A WATER TANK WERE COMPLETED.

IN 1985 A SECOND CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN "ACTION FOR EXCELLENCE-WARREN A. HOOD RESERVATION" WAS CONDUCTED. P.W. BOZEMAN SERVED AS CHAIRMAN. THE MAIN GOAL WAS TO COMPLETE THE HOOD RESERVATION; ALSO TO REFURBISH THE SERVICE CENTER INCLUDING INSTALLING COMPUTERS AS REQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL OFFICE; MAINTENANCE OF THE BUILDING FOR ENERGY PURPOSES; THE 1985 SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE OPERATING FUND OF THE COUNCIL AND TO ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT FUND.

AFTER RETIREMENT IN MARCH 1987, GENE H. TOLLEY WAS RETAINED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE COUCIL TO COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS AT THE HOOD SCOUT RESERVATION SO THAT IT MIGHT BE READIED FOR SUMMER CAMP IN JUNE. GENE HAD SERVED FOR 27 YEARS AS SCOUT EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNCIL.

ON APRIL 29, 1987, LARRY BAIN ASSUMED THE ROLE OF SCOUT EXECUTIVE OF THE ANDREW JACKSON AND SERVED SUCCESSFULLY FOR 17 YEARS UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2004. FROM AUGUST 2004 TO PRESENT, ARNOLD LANDRY HAS BEEN SERVING AS SCOUT EXECUTIVE.

