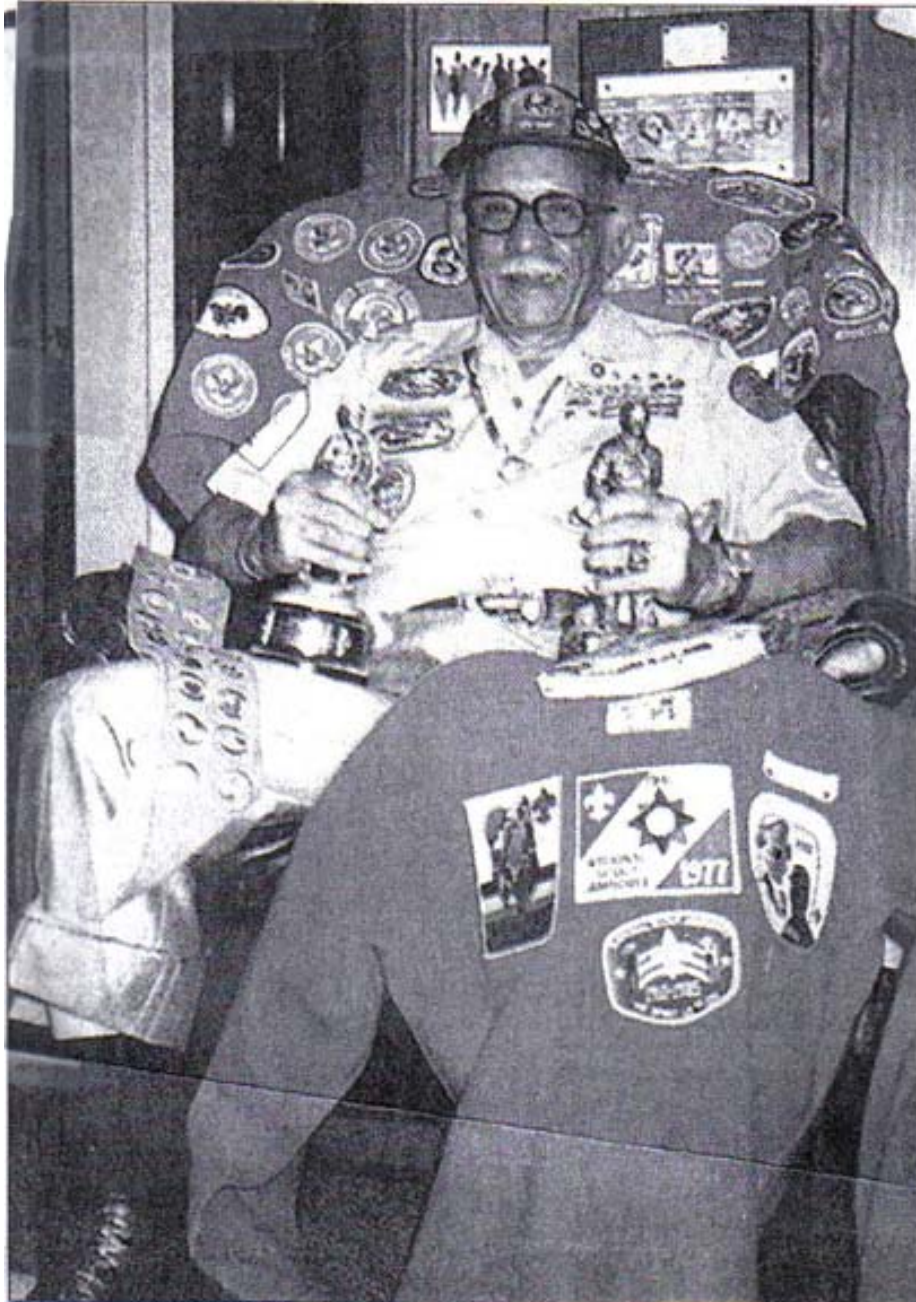


Appendix 95 to
*The History of the Boy Scouts of America
in Southwest Georgia*
(Formerly *The History of Chehaw Council*)
Frank M. Staley, Jr. Items



Frank M. Staley Jr. surrounded by 60 years of medals, badges and patches earned in service to the Boy Scouts of America. (T&D photo by Thomas Brown)

INSPIRED BY HIS FATHER who recognized the value of scouting in a boy's life, Frank M. Staley Jr. joined Cub Scout Pack 47 at Asbury Methodist Church in Savannah, Ga. when he was 9 years old.

That step gave him his first experience in dedication and commitment which became trademarks in his life. He characteristically gave scouting the best that was in him.

"From the first, they made sure that we did our best, not just in scouting but in everything," Staley said. "They wouldn't settle for less and wouldn't let you settle for less than your best. Most of those boys that started out with me went on to make something of themselves."

With the experience he gained in the Cub Scout pack, Staley moved on to the Boy Scout Troop 47 where he started earning the badges that would eventually bring him scouting's highest award.

Along with the original scouting handbook issued to him, Staley still has the sash with the 15 patches that earned him the award of Three Palms and the sash 21 patches placed him among scouting's elite, the status of Eagle Scout.

"I earned Eagle Scout when I was 15 years old," Staley said. "I was in Troop 200 in Americus, Ga., as the time. We didn't have to do special projects then to earn Eagle. We just had to earn the badges. I also earned the God and Country Medal."

When Staley entered South Carolina State College as an undergraduate in 1948, he offered his services, experience and commitment to Scout Master Earl Middleton of Trinity United Methodist Church Troop 190.

Upon graduation from SCSC, Staley went to work in Fort Valley, Ga., where he became scout master for Troop 60 where he earned his first Scouter's Key. He was the second black scout master in the Savannah Coastal Empire Council to earn the Silver Beaver award.

In 1958, after returning to Orangeburg, Staley became scout master for Trinity United Methodist Church Troop 190, where he earned his second Scouter's Key and served in that capacity for more than 15 years.

"That's why I still have an honorary parking space at Trinity," Sta-

Profiles in living



"We are living our lives to the fullest."

ley laughed.

Staley served Troop 190 through many historical changes for scouting.

"Before integration, the black scouts went to Camp Brownlee," Staley said. "Troop 190 was the first black troop to go to Camp Barstow. We went there in 1968."

When counting his accomplishments, Staley is most proud that the first black honor camper at Camp Barstow was Horace Felder, an Eagle Scout from his beloved Troop 190.

"And Troop 190 won the marksmanship trophy three years in a row," Staley said.

Along with his dedication as a math teacher at SCSC, Staley continued his commitment to scouting, continuing to earn honors, continually a role model for the boys under his guidance.

From 1971 through 1974 he was a member of the Central South Carolina Executive Board, now the Indian Waters Council. He was the chapter adviser for the Order of the Arrow. He earned his first level of the Order of the Arrow for ordeal in 1971, his second for brotherhood in 1974 and his third for vigil in 1984.

"When you earn all the levels for the Order of the Arrow, they give you an Indian name," Staley said. "My Indian name was Pesoop. That means he who waits. I guess that was appropriate. I had waited."

Among his awards for scouting, Staley also earned the Wood Badge for an outdoor training course for adults. In 1980 he was the recipient of the District Award of Merit. And he was affiliated with the National Jamboree for several years.

"I drove truck to carry equipment to the jamboree several times," he said. "It was a good time. Those were some good days."

Quick to praise those who in-

Please see **Profile, 2B**

Staley is also quick to give credit to what he calls his "backbone," his wife, Valeria, without whom he said he could not have accomplished the many achievements in his life.

"She was always there to help me," he said. "I could always depend on her. I knew that whatever I wanted to accomplish, she would do whatever she saw that needed to be done to get me where I wanted to go."

One of Staley's fears is that scouting is waning in popularity among younger adults.

"We need more volunteer workers," he said. "I'm getting up there in age and sleeping in the woods is no fun for me anymore. I wish more young adults would take an interest in giving the boys the experiences that we gave them when they were boys."

But faithful to the end, Staley has even given scouting a place in his final wishes.

"I've told my wife, when I pass, I want the Army to blow the bugle over me," he said. "But I want my scouts to be my pallbearers. I can't think of a more honorable way to go."

spired him, Staley said Mrs. Geraldine Zimmerman was his guiding light.

"Mrs. Z was the Girl Scout leader," he said. "And when she told me to do something, I did it without question because I knew she knew what she was talking about. To this day, I'm the same way with her."

Staley calls himself a 60-year veteran of scouting. From the time that he joined the cub scouts in 1939, scouting has been one of the many things in his life to which he has been committed.

"Scouting is a training course for life, for adulthood," he said. "Of all the cadets in military academies, 75 percent of them were Eagle Scouts. While I was Scout Master of Troop 190, I saw 15 boys earn Eagle Scout and I required every one of them to earn the God and Country Medal which meant that their pastor had to write a letter of recommendation for them. That was good training for them."

("Forever a Boy Scout" by Thomas Brown, *The Times and Democrat*, 1999. Used by permission.)



FRANK M. STALEY, JR.

TROOP 200

OF AMERICUS, GA.

IS HEREBY CERTIFIED AS AN

EAGLE SCOUT

BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

DATE 4/30/45

Harry Zinner

HONORARY PRESIDENT

John H. Kliff

PRESIDENT



Arthur Schuch

CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Harry Zinner



