

THE SILVER ARROWHEAD

PRESENTED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE ORDER SINCE 1940



Uncle Otto: The Fire Maker

By **JAY BOTTORFF**
NOQUET LODGE CENTURION

Otto Hornung was a colorful character during the formative years of Scouting and his adventures were heard around the world. An early supporter of Scouting in Auburn, New York, he got to personally know the founders of the Boy Scouts of America, James E. West and Ernest Thompson Seton while serving as a Scoutmaster.

As a young man he was heavily involved in the local YMCA as its physical fitness director and was known for his incredible strength and for competing in championship strong man contests. He attributed much of his endurance to his job as a steel mill worker and later used his ability to craft some of the most revered neckerchief slides out of metal, wood and bone.

Born July 5, 1877 in Rochester, New York, to German immigrant parents, Otto Casper Hornung or "Uncle Otto" as he later in life became affectionately known, was a member of a handful of youth groups that pre-dated the BSA. According to newspaper articles, in 1895

he was a member of the Hiawatha Indians and by 1900, the American Pioneers.

In late 1910, Otto moved to Detroit, Michigan, at the invitation of Dr. Edward Pense, a local pastor of the Fort Street Presbyterian Church. His role at the church was to develop a fitness program for the youth in his congregation and at the same time develop a new Scout troop for the boys. His ability to recruit youth into the movement led him to other positions along the way.

For the Detroit Area Council, Otto volunteered for commissioner service in 1912, serving nearly 50 years. In 1939 at the age of 62, Otto earned the Eagle Scout Award, which adults could do at the time, and then received the Silver Beaver in 1940.

As Otto aged, he found more notoriety and became the Scouting face for the Detroit Area Council by promoting every facet of the program: from national and world jamborees, council events and his second love, the Order of the Arrow. Well documented in

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Oldest Scout plaque, two years before Scouting came to the US. February 7, 1960. *Detroit News*.

Schnell: Unit 41, Brother Eagle

By **MARTY TSCHETTER**
CLASS OF 1996

Every summer since the inception of the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (OATC) program over 23 years ago, Gene Schnell has continuously served as the lead adviser, secondary to his full-time staff position at Philmont. A staff icon, his commanding, lean physique and towering frame, easily stands out in any crowd with his field uniform and gold epaulet loops. Working on the seasonal staff for over 32 years, Gene's quirky quips are a large part of his persona.

Some Gene stories sound part mythical, while others are simply legendary.

Always very supportive of the Philmont staff and focused on the youth experience, as the director of services from 1986-90, where crews obtain their gear and food before hitting the trail, Gene gave a classic orientation speech to crew leaders, building up the anticipated adventure. He always greeted youth crew leaders with an outstretched arm, "Welcome, Brother Eagle." Then proceeded to empower

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2017 Silver Antelope recipient Gene Schnell

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Otto made handcrafted neckerchief slides

UNCLE OTTO, CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

local newspapers, often with photographs, Otto talked to youth about his journey in Scouting. In 1947, he was voted Volunteer of the Year for Detroit by the United Community Service, which later became the United Way. In May 1948, the City of Detroit named him Volunteer of the month.

Scouting afforded Otto the opportunity to travel to international events. He attended the first Canadian Jamboree in 1949, the world jamboree in France in 1947, and four years later in Austria. He participated in or staffed all the national jamborees from 1937 through 1960, and several national OA conferences. Due to his high-energy, engaging story-telling ability, he developed into the 'must see character' at events, also visiting councils across the country. As a recognized ambassador for Scouting, in 1956 Region 7 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin) presented Otto with the Silver Antelope.

One talent he loved to demonstrate was the ability to start a fire at long distances. In 1947, he placed first in the World Champion Fire Lighter competition. His flint and steel was always ready to be pulled out to show off his talent. One account stated that when Otto struck flint he could send a spark ten feet away onto a pile of dry



Spring conclave at Charles Howell Scout Reservation, May 3, 1958. Uncle Otto, Lodge Chief Larry Dittmar, Vice Chief Alan Pulk, Edward Dittmar. Courtesy of Thomas Trainor Museum.

tinder and it would ignite.

Professionally, Otto was a millwright, a tradesman that worked with factory machinery. He used these skills to handcraft neckerchief slides from bone that he often gave to Eagle Scouts and Vigil Honor recipients in his home lodge, Mi-Gi-Si O-Paw-Gan. In fact, photographs of E. Urner Goodman often show him wearing an Uncle Otto slide.

Otto received the Vigil Honor in 1951, given the name Tindeuchen, translated as The Fire Maker. At lodge events he eagerly shared his contagious Scouting spirit with other Arrowmen, often talking with new Ordeal members. The 1958 Lodge Chief Larry Dittmar

shared, "Otto was a character, and he had a never-ending spirit to get the boys in Scouting motivated for the cause. He never missed an opportunity to share Scouting with others. When you came to an event, you knew if Otto was there, you could always expect a good story or his ability to keep everyone around him captivated by his speech."

In 1961, Uncle Otto Hornung received the Distinguished Service Award from the Order of the Arrow, making him the oldest recipient. Otto passed away on October 13th, 1967, at the age of 90. A man of many talents and skills, he lived an incredible life, not only as an early Scouting pioneer but also as an uncle to all Scouts.



ON THE COVER: National OA Executive Secretary Martin Mockford introducing Uncle Otto at the 1961 NOAC. Photo courtesy of Dr. Louis Marchetti, Class of 1961

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

My Brothers,

This time of year many of us who are involved locally and nationally prepare for the national meeting of the Boy Scouts of America. As the Chairman of the Order of the Arrow committee, I start preparing for these meetings months in advance as this is the time that we deliver our annual report to the national executive board.

I thought I might take a minute in this update just to give you the State of the Order of the Arrow. If you are involved with the program on a day-to-day basis, some of this is old news to you; but for many I think what you will see is the Order of the Arrow is alive and well and producing outstanding service to Scouting and its many constituencies.

At the end of 2016 the Order of the Arrow consisted of 88,305 youth and 66,605 adults in 275 lodges divided into 48 sections. 32.03% of eligible youth Boy Scouts were Arrowmen. In 2016, 30,144 youth were inducted into Order of the Arrow membership, 12,970 Arrowmen sealed their ties of Brotherhood and 2,138 Arrowmen were recognized with the Vigil Honor. The Order's support of local councils continues to be overwhelmingly strong. On average lodges provided \$80 per member in cash and materials support. Cash and cash equivalents added up to over \$12,900,000 in support of Scouting in 2016.

In 2016 the Order hosted two national events. Prism, held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve over a four-week period in the summer, introduced 1,400 Arrowmen to the Summit Circle which is a recreation of the original Treasure Island Ceremony site. At the end of July in Bloomington, Indiana, we hosted an event we called Next: A New Century. The purpose of this event was to learn, grow and be inspired to be the driving force behind the Order's second century.

If you are looking at the calendar in 2017, the Order will mobilize the largest group of Arrowmen to ever serve Scouting at the national jamboree. We expect well over 600 Arrowmen to fulfill our Order's commitment to serving the jamboree program. This will not only be the largest jamboree staff the Order has ever gathered but once on site the Order of the Arrow will make up the largest program staff group at the jamboree. In late summer of 2018, we will

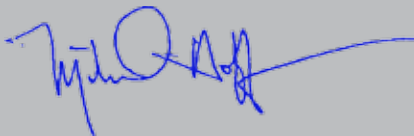
again return to Indiana University for the National Order of Arrow Conference. We expect 8,000 to attend, which will fill every bed available on the IU campus.

Our high-adventure programs at all four of the national high-adventure bases continue to have success. In 2017, we will operate at well above attendance figures from prior jamboree years. Our training programs continue to develop quality leadership training. Our National Leadership Seminars trained over 800 youth and adult leaders in 2016, and we expect to surpass that figure in 2017. The newly created adult training called Developing Youth Leaders Conference was piloted in 2016 and will go to full rollout in 2017 with 10 DYLC training weekends scheduled.

For 30 years the national Order of the Arrow endowment has provided funding for the national Order of Arrow committee's approved special project allocations. In just the last four years the endowment has supported key OA programs with more than \$1 million in direct funding including more than \$200,000 in direct support of local councils through lodge matching service grants. At the end of 2016 the endowment had assets of over \$7 million. You can know that the Order of the Arrow leadership spends a good amount of time thinking about the future and how a self-sustaining Order can further our mission and purposes in support of Scouting.

So, I hope you can see that the leadership of the Order of the Arrow at all levels is doing its best to continue the momentum built up over so many years of great service to Scouting. I loved getting the emails from some of you following *The Silver Arrowhead* newsletter, and would encourage any of you that want to have further dialogue about what we are doing, to reach out to me directly. My email is the same mikeh@azben.com.

My best to all of you,



Mike Hoffman
Class of 1986



Some Gene stories are legendary

SCHNELL, CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

youth by talking directly to them, not the adults, encouraging him or her to take ownership of their trek. A central part of his presentation stressed the importance not to lose their crew leader's itinerary because it served as a meal ticket in the backcountry. "Sleep with it; never let it out of your sight. If you lose it, your crew will perish in the wilderness from starvation. Have you ever heard about the incident at Donner's Pass? Just remember crew leaders if you lose this paper, your crew will vanish into the abyss of oblivion."

An ardent hiker with long strides, Gene often claimed he could hike a full ten-day itinerary from sunrise to sundown. As an OA chapter adviser from 1973 to 1980 he led 11 Philmont treks, using the experience as preparation for backpacking trips across the Grand Canyon, exploring Canadian wilderness, and other national parks.

Gene grew up in the St. Louis area, earning Eagle Scout in 1955, and being inducted into Shawnee Lodge in 1957 at Irondale Scout Reservation; receiving Brotherhood the next year. After earning degrees at St. Louis University and Southern Illinois University, he taught and served as the Dean of Students

and men's track coach at Trinity Catholic High School in St. Louis. Gene received Vigil in April 1967; appropriately given the name "Teacher of young men."

Before Philmont, he worked nearly 20 summers for Greater St. Louis Area Council summer camps, including waterfront director at Camp Sakima from 1967 through 1981. During the summers of 1982-84, Gene worked at Philmont as Scoutmaster for the National Junior Leadership Instructor course, and then in 1985 directed the training center as the last volunteer manager.

Starting in 1991 he worked nearly two decades as a backcountry manager at Philmont, and became known by the Philmont staff as Unit 41 for his assigned radio channel. In this position Gene's typical workday started around 5:30 am, spent nearly all day in the backcountry with frequent check-ins with the OA leadership, lending important support to the fledging trail crew program. As far back as the first two summers, Gene provided encouraging words and remained in the background which empowered our judgment as young adults.

Since the very beginning, the only time Gene insisted on his way was by covering the entire check for all the OATC staff to have a

fabulous steak dinner - his special way of saying "thanks."

Todd Turner (Class of 1998) reflected, "Over the years, all of my fond memories of working with Gene have evolved into a larger than life persona. Whether it's his unwavering advocacy of youth, or his relentless pursuit to ensure that youth always have the resources necessary to be successful, we could always count on Gene."

David Stowe (Class of 2000) shared, "In the summer of 1997, Ryan King (Class of 2000), our crew, and I, were bushwhacking our way down from the Tooth of Time on the last day of our trek. The participants, although tired and looking forward to the conveniences of civilization, were energized about that morning's mountain top experience. As we weaved in and out of trees and jumped from boulder to boulder, an imposing silhouette appeared in the distance. Was it a black bear? Was it Bigfoot? Was it the ghost of Waite Phillips? No, it was Gene Schnell in full class A uniform an hour from basecamp with a GPS in hand, no rain gear, and no water bottle. He was almost as surprised to see us as we were to see him. Our crew, being properly initiated in the importance of hydration and managing exposure, proceeded to question Gene about his apparent

lack of preparedness to which Gene responded in his regular pointed and witty manner. He informed the crew he was out looking for a water source up on the ridge to help support the pending Tooth of Time trail project the OATC would be starting later that summer."

Tim Riedl shared, "As the director one summer, I walked into a situation with an irate parent who made demands that simply could not be met. This participant was overweight, completed the work week, but was petrified of the hiking portion. As a result, he was determined to leave the program. While in the backcountry waiting for transport back to basecamp, his father waited expecting to take him home. Gene was able to intervene and calm the parent. He asked about his son - the challenges he faced at school, sports he played, etc. Gene always had a way of getting to the root of the problem and, in the case of irate parents or participants, 'killing them with kindness' as he would put it."

In August 2013, the Philmont Staff Association (PSA) recognized Gene with the Silver Sage Award (past recipients include professional Scouters Jack Rhea and Joe Clay, Ed Pease, Chope and Virginia Phillips, the US Air Force Academy, and the Order of the Arrow). This award acknowledges people who provided exceptional service to Philmont, its participants, the PSA, or any field of human endeavor that brings honor and credit to the legacy of the Philmont staff.

Gene also served as section adviser from 1981 to 1986, the year he received the Distinguished Service Award. He subsequently served as the North Central Region OA Chairman from 1988 to 1991. On the national OA committee he served as a vice chairman for a number of years and lead adviser for several national conferences. Gene wrote the original Situational Leadership session for NLS and helped make revisions.

The concept of bringing youth more in touch with a challenging but positive high-adventure program fit Gene's belief in youth spirit, which fit the mold that became OA Trail Crew.



1966 Camp Sakima staff, St. Louis Area Council. Back row center is Gene Schnell.

By the numbers: All in the family

By **MAC MCLEAN**

CLASS OF 1988

The list of the 965 recipients of the National OA Distinguished Service Award surprisingly includes 24 families with more than one recipient. Each of these families has an interesting story to tell.

The Heistand brothers received the award in 1950 (Robert H.) and 1952 (Charles M.), respectively. Both served as longtime professional Scouters and OA leaders in the era prior to a youth-led OA. A son/father combo, James R. Feil and L. George Feil, received the award in 1956 and 1958. Jim Feil served as the 1954 National Conference Chief and George Feil served on the National OA Committee beginning in 1955 (later serving as Chair). Brothers Carl M. and Louis J. Marchetti received the award in 1958 and 1961 as youthful selections.

In 1975 and 1977, Joseph B. Alexander, a recent conference vice

chief, and his father Joe P. Alexander received the award. A father and son pair of adult recipients, Roscoe R. Bryant and William R. "Bill" Bryant, received the DSA in 1977 and in 1979, after years of service on NOAC staffs. Brothers Albert E. "Bert" Bender, Jr. and Hugh T. Bender received the DSA in 1979 and 1981 as youthful selections. Brothers Gary D. and Kurt E. Christiansen similarly received the DSA in 1981 and 1983 as youthful selections.

When the OA recognized B. Jay Fairbanks, II with the DSA in 1990, he joined his father, Bryce J. Fairbanks from 1979, as a DSA recipient. Brothers Craig B. and Michael A. Salazar received the award at the same time in 1994 – the only time the OA recognized two family members in the same year. When 1995 National Chief Joshua M. Feigelson wore the DSA in 1996, he joined his older brother, Daniel J. Feigelson, a 1988 recipient. A pair of Nebraska brothers, who both served as CVCs, warranted selection

in back to back conferences – Barry P. McFarland in 1998 and Seth P. McFarland in 2000.

The selection of Peter A. Cash in 2000 enabled him to join his father, C. D. Cash of 1988, as a DSA recipient. A pair of youthful brother recipients resulted in 2004 – former National Chief Scott W. Beckett of 1996 and Steven H. Beckett of 2004 – as well as in 2006 when Mark C. Bicket joined his brother John C. Bicket from 2000. The selection of former National Chief Clayton T. Capp in 2004, son of Raymond T. Capp from the 1973 DSA group, created another formidable father/son team. In 2006, Jared P. Davis joined his father, OA Historian Kenneth P. Davis of 1977, as a DSA recipient. The DSA Class of 2006 also featured another son, Matthew K. Harris, child of Bradley K. Harris, a 1979 honoree. The year 2009 completed a pair of father/son recipients; Andrew J. Kuhlmann joined his father, Kurt A. Kuhlmann of the Class of 2002, as a DSA

recipient and Forrest I. Bolles joined his son, Cortland E. Bolles from 2004.

More recently, the family relationships have begun to include spouses. Douglas W. Seaborne received the DSA in 2004 and Sara L. Seaborne received it in 2012. Robert G. Westmyer and Deanne J. Castrey-Westmyer received the DSA in like manner. The selections at the 2015 National OA Conference added two more brother pairs to the list – former Section Chiefs Ryan D. Bajan from the Class of 2012 and Gregory W. Bajan from 2015, as well as former Region Chief Ian M. Pinnavaia from the Class of 2004 and Colin R. Pinnavaia from 2015.

Interestingly, the only family of three DSA recipients is the Jones family of Rantoul, Illinois. Young Jon E. Jones, a former region chief, earned the recognition in 1988. The OA recognized his father, John H. "Jack" Jones, in 1996. Jon's older brother, Jeffrey L. Jones, received the honor in 2002.

National Commissioner leads by example

By **KYLE PALMER**

RECOGNITION, AWARDS, HISTORY & PRESERVATION

On March 25, 2017, Boy Scouts of America National Commissioner Charles Dahlquist completed his induction into the Order of the Arrow. The Ordeal took place at the Tooele Wigwam Camp of the Great Salt Lake Council, of which Dahlquist served as council president from 2010-2012. Dahlquist was a longtime supporter of the council's OA Lodge El-Ku-Ta, and had been trying for years to find a date to go through his induction weekend. When he was named national commissioner, he renewed his efforts to join the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service and made time for his induction. Dahlquist is the first national volunteer (president or commissioner) to be inducted while in office.

Prior to the Ordeal ceremony, Dahlquist, age 69, asked not to be given any special treatment and expressed a desire to work alongside the other candidates. As the weekend went, Dahlquist would not only serve alongside his

fellow candidates and Arrowmen-to-be in cheerful service, but he would do so in extremely poor and trying weather conditions. Cold rain spanned the entirety of the event, so bad that vehicles had to be pulled out of the mud in one part of the camp. Despite the bad weather, all candidates completed their Ordeal, donned in rain jackets and with smiles on their faces.

Induction into the Order of the Arrow is fitting for this devoted servant leader. For decades, Dahlquist has been active in the Boy Scouts of America and in his religion, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). In his youth, he was a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Explorer. Later, he served as Scoutmaster and explorer adviser. He has served in the posts of Chairman of the LDS General Church Scouting Committee and LDS Young Men General President. The Young Men is the organization through which Scouting is chartered within the LDS Church.

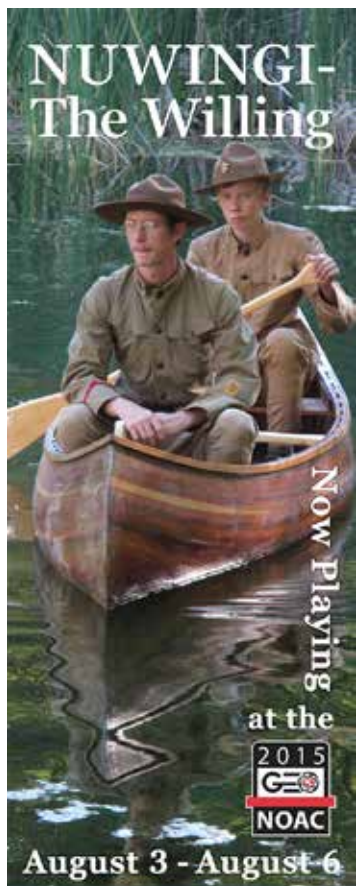
It was an honor for the El-Ku-Ta Lodge to facilitate National Commissioner Dahlquist's



National Commissioner Charles Dahlquist and El-Ku-Ta Lodge Adviser Blair Hope.

induction into the Order of the Arrow. When asked what it meant to him, Lodge Chief Nathaniel Rodgers said, "After having Charles serve Scouting and the LDS Church for so long, I was happy to see the

national commissioner inducted into the OA. Charles is a great example of servant leadership, and we look forward to seeing him complete the Brotherhood ceremony in the coming year."



By NIK NEWMAN
LEAD ADVISER JAMBOREE 2017
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

This summer the Order of the Arrow and the National Scouting Museum are partnering to host the Jamboree 2017 Oral History Project. Youth-focused and youth-led, the

NUWINGI – The Willing

By BILL TOPKIS
CLASS OF 2012

During the summer of 2014, over the course of two long nights, more than 35 Arrowmen served together to film *NUWINGI – The Willing*. NUWINGI served as the entry exhibit for the 2015 NOAC GEO (Goodman Edson Observatory). More than 10,000 Arrowmen experienced the story of the Order's first Vigil during their visit to the NOAC museum. Now you can watch the film!

NUWINGI is the cinematic telling of founder, E. Urner Goodman's Vigil and how he received his Vigil name. It is a story Goodman was fond of telling about his experience during his first season as Camp Director at Treasure

Island in 1915. That was the year he, along with his Assistant Camp Director Carroll A. Edson, began Wimachtendienk. Goodman credited his night alone keeping a fire while overlooking Treasure Island from a rock formation known as The Devil's Tea Table as transformational in his vision for the young Order.

NUWINGI is also a story of servant leadership. Not just for Goodman, but even more so for his young guide, Treasure Island staff member Harry A. Yoder. In the film Yoder sets the quiet example of servant leadership. Yoder paddles Goodman up the Delaware River. He shows Goodman the way up a trail he had prepared earlier in the day to a site he had readied with ample firewood for the night. And

then, as a Spirit, tells us the story. The writing and directing of the film encourages viewers, through learning and understanding our OA history and the story of the first Vigil, to ask the pertinent question, "How can I make a difference?"

You can watch this film that includes a compelling original score on YouTube by searching for *Nuwingi – The Willing*.

We always admonish viewers to turn the sound up and the lights down. A companion film made in 2012 can also be viewed on YouTube searching for *Original Induction Experience* that shows the start of the OA.

We recommend watching the companion film first so that the stories are in chronological order.

Recording Scout memories

group hopes to attract great stories, big and small, old and new. The Jamboree 2017 Oral History Project is a continuation of the efforts executed by the GEO Oral History Team at the Centennial National Order of the Arrow Conference at Michigan State University in 2015.

History has been limited too frequently by the myopic viewpoint that its domain should be confined to mere reminiscences of many

years prior. The goal of the 2017 Oral History Project is to capture not only personal histories of yesteryear, which are often wonderfully augmented by time and perspective, but also to record contemporary accounts of individuals who may be experiencing Scouting on a national level for the first time. Regardless, the aim is simple: to create a repository of personal histories that will provide a rich,

living tapestry of Scouting history, and, in so doing, further the mission of historical discovery and understanding within lodges and local councils. If anyone would like to be considered for an interview slot this summer at the Jamboree, or would like to be identified for a future opportunity in a different venue (e.g. NOAC 2018), please contact nikolaus.k.newman@gmail.com.

ARROWMEN SERVING SCOUTING AND THEIR COMMUNITY



Doug Nelson

DOUG NELSON (Class of 1988) has been named Scout executive of Northeast Illinois Council in Highland Park, Illinois. Doug began his Scouting career as a district executive at the Anthony Wayne Area Council in Fort Wayne, Indiana, then most recently successfully served as the Scout executive of Miami Valley Council in Dayton, Ohio.

BRETT WARNER (Class of 2015) is the new SR-7B section adviser that serves six councils in central and eastern North Carolina. SR-7B consistently has the largest attended conclave in the country. Brett is a member of Occoneechee Council in Raleigh, where he also serves on the executive board.



Brett Warner

LARRY WARLICK (Class of 1988) from the Old North State Council in North Carolina received the William T. Hornaday Gold Medal, the highest conservation award in Scouting. This award is by nomination only and for an adult Scouter who has rendered distinguished and unusual service to natural resource conservation and environmental improvement over a sustained period of at least 20 years. As a Scout Warlick, became interested in conservation by earning various related merit badges. After receiving Eagle Scout in 1955, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife

Management and a Master of Science in Wildlife Biology and had a career with the US Forest Service and NC Wildlife Resources Commission that spanned over 30 years. Larry served as a section adviser in the 1990s.



Cornie Warlick and Larry Warlick