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### THE SILVER ARROWHEAD

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# Message from the NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

#### My Brothers,

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and that you have settled into 2024. Looking back over the past year, it is amazing what the Order of the Arrow has accomplished. In the coming months, you will receive an electronic copy of the OA impact report highlighting the accomplishments of the Order over the past year. A "sneak peak" at the highlights include successful National Leadership Training Seminars and Developing Youth Leadership Conferences, OA membership growth despite a decline in overall BSA membership, countless hours of service across the country, impactful OA High Adventure, and ending the year in a positive financial position.

Our Operation Arrow team provided significant service to the BSA through staffing at the 2023 National Jamboree in addition to the numerous previous DSA recipients that served in leadership roles. Congratulations to **Tico Perez DSA '04** for a job well done chairing the 2023 National Jamboree.

In 2023, we conducted surveys of our members, nonmembers, and parents regarding how they perceive the Order of the Arrow. We have some insightful data that will help guide us as we explore our Mission and Purpose and how we can continue to be an integral part of the National Council. We further evaluated our use of Native American iconography and are taking steps

### **On the Cover**

Clyde Mayer at the 2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference.



to ensure that we our respectful but still cognizant of maintaining our important history and traditions.

As we continue our journey through the OA Business plan, we look forward to conversations on how we can help the BSA with membership retention and membership growth as well as how our induction process can be improved. We continue to evaluate our organizational structure in relation to the BSA as our two regions have developed their distinct identities and are establishing their new traditions under the leadership of our region chairs: Don Hough DSA '09 and Tracy Atherton DSA '20. We will be developing the next 3 year business plan that starts in 2025 under the guidance of **Preston Marquis DSA '15**.

Our signature event of this year will be the 2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference at University of Colorado Boulder under the leadership of our 2024 National Chief David Gosik and 2024 National Vice-Chief John Andrew Segebarth with Clint Takeshita DSA '92 serving as the national conference chair. We hope that you will join us for the conference and "recharge your Scouting batteries." If you aren't able to attend with your lodge contingent, check out the options for staffing and individual registration at noac2024.oa-bsa.org.

I want to close by thanking each of you for all you do for Scouting and the Order. If you are not currently engaged in the OA or Scouting, please consider joining the OA Alliance to maintain your connections. You can find more information at <u>oa-bsa.org/alliance</u>. I hope to see each of you at the national conference in Boulder.

Yours in Service,

Christophen a Sum, mo

Dr. Chris Grove National Chairman Class of 2006



## The Order's consummate professional

### By TIMOTHY C. BROWN CLASS OF 2015

It's been said that the term 'professional' is not a label you give yourself, it's a description you hope others will apply to you. Most of us know someone whom we consider to be a professional whether it be in their chosen occupation, their avocation, or simply in their dealings with others. Countless professionals can be found in most every walk of life, and such professionals are evident throughout the Scouting program and the Order of the Arrow. However, rarely do people distinguish themselves through word, thought, and deed as professionally as Clyde M. Mayer did in his role as the national director of the Order of the Arrow (OA). As such, Clyde was considered by many to be the Order's consummate professional.

Clyde Melvin Mayer was born April 2, 1948, in Elgin, North Dakota, the first of Melvin and Irene Mayer's five children. Clyde's siblings were comprised of two brothers and two sisters. His parents were extremely influential in the lives of their children often demonstrating the value of such character tenets as commitment to faith, hard work, and service to others. These character traits were adopted by Clyde early on, and they served him well throughout the rest of his life. As the oldest, Clyde set the example for his siblings in many areas of everyday life, especially in the area of Scouting. Clyde and his two brothers entered the Scouting program, but only Clyde saw it through to the end attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in 1962. Clyde would also be inducted into the Order of the Arrow, but not until 1974 when he was encouraged to become an OA member while serving as camp director. Unbeknownst to Clyde at the time, the Order of the Arrow would eventually become the culmination of a life's work in Scouting.

The Mayer family would move several times throughout Clyde's formative years, spending a large portion of it in Bismarck. However, the family eventually relocated to Fargo, North Dakota during Clyde's teen years. At West Fargo High School, Clyde developed into a good student and promising athlete in three sports...football, wrestling, and track and field. He graduated in 1966. He was also an avid outdoorsman, which he primarily attributed to both his early life in North Dakota and to Scouting. He especially liked fishing, hunting, boating, and snow skiing. These outdoor endeavors would endear him to both family and friends over the course of his life. After high school, Clyde wanted to pursue a higher education, and enrolled at North Dakota State University in Fargo, where he obtained bachelor's degrees in both History and Psychology. Following graduation, Clyde taught high school for a couple of years in South Dakota. While there, Clyde served as the school's track coach, and volunteered in the local Boy Scout troop.

In search of a different career, Clyde left teaching and became a BSA professional effective June 17, 1974. His first tour of duty was as a district executive in Huron, South Dakota. Over the next 20 years, Clyde would accept numerous professional opportunities in a variety of locations including service as a district executive in Grand Junction, Colorado; as a district executive in Waterloo, Iowa; as a senior district executive in Des Moines, Iowa; and as a Scout executive in Danville, Illinois, which was his last BSA professional post before joining the national OA staff in Irving, Texas. It was during this early part of Clyde's career that he learned his most valuable lesson, and one that he often quoted to others: "Scouting belongs to the youth and the volunteers, not the professionals." This personal philosophy would help to guide Clyde through the balance of professional career.

Although extremely dedicated to his work, Clyde found time during all the moves and promotions to married...marrying Patricia get 'Pat' Partridge in Glenwood Springs, Colorado on February 2, 1980. Pat told this author that Clyde chose Colorado as the location for their marriage so that all of the guests could stay over and go snow skiing and snowmobiling. Clyde and Pat had three wonderful children... Jacob, Cole, and Kala. Of course, all three would enter the Scouting program. Jacob and Cole joined the Boy Scouts, while Kala joined the Girls Scouts. Jacob and Cole both became Eagle Scouts.

On June 1, 1993, Clyde accepted a position with the Order of the Arrow, and he and his family subsequently relocated to the Irving, *Continued on page 4*  Clyde Mayer, circa

Clyde favored the peace and quiet of sitting on the back row in reverent observance of the events. 2014 Southern Region Section Officers Seminar in Huntsville, AL.

Clyde enjoyed the outdoors including snowmobiling. Colorado, early 2000's

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Texas area. There he would mentor a mere three months under then National OA Director **G. ALLEN MOSSMAN DSA '88** who had recently announced his pending retirement. Upon Director Mossman's retirement, Clyde Mayer became the eighth national director of the Order of the Arrow effective September I, 1993. Shortly after becoming national director, Clyde would select **JOHN L. ALLINE DSA '98** to be his associate director, Clyde would see three individuals serve as associate director.

Those close to Clyde have stated that when he became the national director, he was fairly inexperienced with the OA's national program, its operations, and the concept of regular interaction between youth Arrowmen and their adult advisers. Needless to say, that first full year (1994) was truly a learning experience for Clyde. Although his previous 19 years of professional Scouting experience served him well in his new role, he learned to listen, trust, and respect the knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers that often surrounded him. To Clyde's credit he realized early that doing the work of the Order of the Arrow was going to occupy a large portion of his life. Clyde was dedicated to his work, and over time, he came to love the work he did for the OA.

As national director, Clyde was responsible for all aspects of the Order, which included such dayto-day tasks as managing the organization's membership, training, rechartering, awards and recognitions, and youth protection. However, Clyde was also tasked with such high level responsibilities as serving as the staff adviser to the national Order of the Arrow committee and providing primary oversight for all national Order of the Arrow conferences (NOACs) and other national OA events. Albeit daunting, Clyde was immediately able to accomplish these seemingly impossible responsibilities in a manner that was both efficient and effective...all while typically giving credit to others. A true professional.

Those who regularly worked with Clyde would agree that he was not a risk taker, but instead was rather guarded and deliberate in his decision making with a work ethic that was second to none. As an experienced professional, he was uniquely proficient at handling difficult situations and tactfully making decisions where often the answer had to be no. This ability would serve him well throughout his career whether he was working with youth, adults, volunteers, or professionals. Over time, Clyde became arguably one of the most adept BSA professionals at navigating all of the intricacies of running an organization like the Order of the Arrow, and doing so with only an associate director and two administrative assistants at his disposal. Clyde was extremely frugal when it came to the OA's finances, and his management of the Order's money was truly legendary, so too was his ability to squeeze the last penny out of every dollar. Clyde knew all too well the realities of working within the BSA's administrative framework, and that, even though you can't win all of the battles, you can still make incremental change.

Throughout his tenure as national director, Clyde felt strongly that the Order's ability to develop youth into leaders was quite possibly its greatest strength, and that the National Leadership Seminar (NLS) program may well be the Order's most important venue in the development of those leaders. From the time he was first introduced to it, Clyde was a staunch supporter of the Order's NLS program. He immediately saw the value that the program offered to young Arrowmen, and quickly assessed that its positive impact was, and would remain, timeless. His belief in and endorsement of the NLS program is continually shared by many. Clyde was fondly known for his ability to assess Scouting's many programs, and he did so through a very focused lens... "How does this help youth?"

It's been said that the Order of the Arrow's modern legacy was defined by the tremendous success of ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup>, and that such a project could not have happened without Clyde Mayer. ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup> was the Order's 2008 program of emphasis. The program was a joint project between the Order of the Arrow and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and provided site-specific environmental conservation to five select National Forests. ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup> provided the USFS with 280,000 volunteer service hours valued at 5.6 million dollars, and remains the largest service project conducted by the Boy Scouts of America since World War II. Immediately upon hearing the project's proposal, Clyde embraced the scope of the initiative and his subsequent vision, management, and trust in others not only laid Continued on page 5

the foundation for the project's success, but helped to ensure it. On behalf of the Order, Clyde forged the professional relationship with the USFS, and served as its liaison throughout the project. The long-term impact and significance of ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup> may never be fully known, but one thing is for sure... ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup> proved to Clyde (and to countless thousands of others), that the OA can do anything. Along with his efforts to develop OA service programs at the BSA's four national high adventure bases, Clyde considered ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup> to be one of his (and the Order's), greatest achievements.

At work, Clyde was the consummate professional, but at home, Clyde was the ideal husband, father, friend, and at times...comedian. When asked by others why she married Clyde, Pat often stated that he always made her laugh. These personal, at home images of Clyde are mostly unknown to the average Arrowman, and they show a side of Clyde that was definitely different than that of his professional persona as the Order's most loyal advocate, its unwavering administrator, and its most faithful defender. Additionally, it was no secret that Clyde loved to both fish and hunt, and did so every chance he could. One of Clyde's most ardent outdoor companions was the Order's own MATT WALKER DSA **'92**, and Matt has stated that on many of their traveling adventures, Clyde would often fish for Walleye and Northern Pike in the mornings, and then hunt for Ringed-Neck Pheasant in the afternoon. Afterwards, they would spend the evenings playing cards, laughing at jokes, and telling fond stories about their families... all while reminiscing about the past. However, Matt revealed that one night during a moment of laughter at something Clyde had said, he got something stuck in his throat and couldn't breathe. In true Eagle Scout fashion, Clyde ran over and gave him the Heimlich maneuver. Matt said that it definitely wasn't funny at the time, but the two of them laughed about it for years to come. Yes, the Order's consummate professional definitely had a softer side to his personality. Clyde was fiercely dedicated to his family, active in his community as a Rotarian, and was a devoted man of faith working tirelessly in positions of leadership for the United Methodist Church.

Clyde was not one for the spotlight, but rather favored the peace and quiet of sitting on the back row in reverent observance of the events at hand. It was obvious to those around him that Clyde had every confidence in the Order's youth and adult leaders to further the mission of the organization with little need of micro-managing. Although personal awards and recognitions were the farthest thing from his mind, Clyde's peers and colleagues saw to it that his hard work and dedication to Scouting and the Order of the Arrow were publicly recognized. Along with thirty-six of his fellow Arrowmen, Clyde was awarded the Order of the Arrow's Distinguished Service Award during the 1998 NOAC at Iowa State University. Admittedly, it was one of his greatest honors. However, another award of equal significance to him was NESA's Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, which was presented to Clyde in 2011.

President John Quincy Adams once stated, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then you are a leader." This simple statement, albeit historical, aptly illustrates the life of Clyde M. Mayer and his legacy as a friend, mentor, and leader. Clyde is the longest serving national director in the history of the Order of the Arrow, and during his tenure he worked with a total of twentythree sets of national officers and three national committee chairmen. He consistently carried the Order's torch not only through challenging times, but through the best of times. Clyde was truly thankful for the opportunity to guide the Order of the Arrow through its Centennial Celebration at the 2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference, and he did so splendidly in the spirit of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. Some would say that the Order's Centennial Celebration was the perfect culmination to an exemplary professional career.

Clyde significantly contributed to Scouting's greater good as a BSA professional for over forty years. His efforts to enrich the Order will be felt by future generations of Arrowmen for decades to come. He was a true servant leader. Let it be known that if there is a list of Order of the Arrow heroes, Clyde M. Mayer is certainly among them.

The author would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to this article: Patricia 'Pat' Mayer, Debbie Dyson, Matt Walker, Mike Hoffman, Scott Beckett, and Kaylene Trick. Clyde pictured with two national committee chairmen: Edward Pease, Clyde Mayer, and Bradley Haddock (left to right). Photo taken at the 2013 BSA National Annual Meeting in Grapevine, TX.

David Joyner (left) and Clyde (right) at the 2012 Southern Region Section Officers Seminarin New Braunfels, TX.

> Debbie Dyson (left), Clyde (center), and Stephanie Jordan (right) at the 2018 NOAC where they both received the 2018 Red Arrow Award.



## Finding Billy Clark: 125th Birthday

### By BILL TOPKIS CLASS OF 2012

#### JOSEPH BUCHMAN, PH.D. CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Most Arrowmen who receive The Silver Arrowhead have heard the "Legend of Billy Clark" and how he served, prior to the founding of the Wimachtendienk, as a kind of muse for Founder E. Urner Goodman an embodiment of cheerful service. Goodman was fond of telling the tale, and it has been included in the OA History Timeline (https://oa-bsa.org/ history/goodman-influenced-storybilly-clark), NOAC Shows, Bound in Brotherhood, The Order of the Arrow Centennial Scrapbook, and others. All the time, no living Arrowman knew who Billy Clark was, what happened to him, and some even wondered if he was a fiction created by Goodman.

While there were doubts whether he was a real person, WWW historians had evidence that there was indeed a Billy Clark in Troop I, because his name appears on 1915 Philadelphia Troop I stationery as an "assistant scribe" when Goodman was still Scoutmaster. The big problem finding Billy was his name. "William Clark" is exceedingly common. There were dozens of children with that name born around the correct time period in the Philadelphia area (and hundreds more beyond) rendering finding him virtually impossible. Without more information the historians were stymied...

Until there came a break. A member of the OA's old Recognition, Awards, History & Preservation subcommittee learned of a collection of items from **GIL TALMADGE DSA '79** and traded for them. Gilson "Gil" Talmadge, along with Boyd Johnson, were patrol leaders in Philadelphia Troop I and are credited by Goodman as the "Founder's Finders." Together they knocked on Goodman's parents' door to inquire if Urner could be their Scoutmaster.

The Talmadge collection included letters between Dr. Goodman

Click here to hear our Founder E. Urner Goodman tell 'The Billy Clark Story.' Recorded at Wakpominee Lodge Fall Weekend, September 11, 1970. Note that in this telling Goodman refers to Billy Clark, as 'Bill'. In other recordings he referenced him as 'Billy Clark.' For this story, the relevant portion is about 12:46 to 14:38. Recorded by Joe Berlant and the audio was edited by Joseph Buchman. and Gil, the earliest known First Degree Ritual (printed on island on a mimeograph or Gestetner), and most importantly for the purposes of finding Billy, a pamphlet from 1921 for the 10th anniversary reunion of Goodman's Troop I. One alumnus Scout had been chosen to represent each of Troop 1's first 10 years. Billy was the Scout chosen to represent 1913. Naturally, because the program was for a reunion, it also included the addresses for each of the Scouts from Troop I's first ten years. Included was Billy's address! With that address, and a bit of genealogical research by loe Buchman, Billy Clark's family was found in the 1920 census.

We learned his mother's name, who his older brothers were, and much more. Then, like watching a crash in slow-motion, opening the images for the 1910 and 1900 Census records, the horrifying realization that Billy's father, not only had passed away before 1920, but also before 1910 census. Billy grew up without his dad. We cannot express how heartbreaking it was to learn that Billy had lost his father on April 30, 1900. The boy whose smile set the example of "cheerful service" for every one of us, had lost his father when he was only a small toddler.

From the genealogical research, we eventually identified Billy Clark's occupation, his spouse, heirs, and to our mutual delight (both for us and them), we spoke to and corresponded with Billy's daughters. We learned from them, firsthand who Billy was, why he was so special, how much they loved him, and how it was no accident that his early character came to be so important to our Order. We also for the first time could identify Billy in a photograph and astonishingly, after all of these years, "see" Billy's wonderful smile. And so can you!

The Clark family knew nothing about how Billy was held in venerated high esteem by so many other Scouts. They had never heard our "Billy Clark" story, and were thrilled to learn of his significance. Before our contact, they knew he was a part of Scouting in Philadelphia near the beginning of the BSA, and that he had stayed in touch with several of his Scout brothers. Perhaps most exciting was the family had their own special "Billy Clark Story" that they would tell about Billy in his formative years from an event years before his "cheerful spill". This new story about young Billy helps illuminate why he had the character to be Goodman's personification of Cheerful Service. (Consider this a "tease" for a future article with a new Billy Clark story for The Silver Arrowhead and further understanding of why Billy smiled.)

So, who was Billy Clark? William McIntyre (later MacIntyre) Clark was born December 17, 1898, 125 years ago, to Gertrude Helen Wilson Clark and William Crispin Clark. Billy faced *Continued on page 7* 



hardships early. His dad passed away at the age of 34 when Billy was only 16 months old. His widowed mom went to work as a milliner (women's hatmaker). Billy had two older brothers who had to leave school to work as young teenagers to support the household. They were not always the nicest to young Billy...

Around 1912 Billy joined E. Urner Goodman's Troop I. No doubt he found escape from his older brothers, but also, in Scoutmaster Goodman, a father-figure. It was of course on a campout with Troop I on Treasure Island that the notorious "bedpan" incident occurred. Billy's best friends for decades to follow were also members of his troop (who later in life would go family camping together, calling themselves, "The Bachelors", even after all but one of them had married...). It is very likely that Billy was caring for one of these lifelong friends when he had his momentous spill. We can only presume the two teenagers laughed as only young teens can, when Billy told his buddy about the "wrong kind of a bath" he had taken. And smiling likely came easy as we now know Billy had

experienced far heavier burdens and irksome tasks earlier in life.

As a young adult, Billy wanted to be a comic strip writer, but to support his family he spent his career working in a bank. His daughters were thrilled with the serendipity of Bound in Brotherhood (2015) relating the Billy Clark story as a comic. They told us that Billy was beloved by his family, that he was a wonderful father, and grandfather. When told the Order's story of Billy, his daughters reacted with laughter and love, and shared that they were not surprised at all how their father responded.

Billy passed away Saturday August 28, 1965 at about 9:00 pm at the age of 66. At that exact moment, the Order was in the midst of celebrating its 50th Anniversary NOAC at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. We like to imagine on that evening of NOAC, at 11:30pm as Taps played to mark the end of the day, it also played for Billy, that he heard it, shared in the celebration, and ... smiled again.

We ask that readers respect the Clark family and not use the information provided herein to contact the family.

### Troop Members

#### 1911 то 1920

<text>

A listing of Troop I members as listed in the troop's 10th anniversary program from January 15-17, 1921.

### **Arrowmen serving SCOUTING AND THEIR COMMUNITY**

### **By KYLE BRENDEL** ASSOCIATE EDITOR





FR. STEPHEN MIMNAUGH DSA '86 was named the Vice President of Mission Integration for the St. Bonaventure University, a Catholic university in New York. BOB WADE DSA '86 released the 100th episode of his Apple Podcast, Stark Integrity, which focuses on healthcare compliance.

CLAY CAPP DSA '02 was elected to serve as District 6 Metropolitan Nashville City Council Member. DAVID JOYNER DSA '15 was elected to serve on the city council of Wilmington, North Carolina. BRADLEY TAYLOR DSA '20 was re-elected to the Clemmons Village Council in North Carolina.

Acting Without Boundaries (AWB) recognized MARK CHILUTTI DSA '90

with their 2023 Hero Award. The AWB Hero Award is given to a community leader with a physical disability who displays remarkable efforts to overcome adversity, enhance awareness, reduce stigma, and increase community access for people with physical disabilities. ROBERT MASON DSA '09 was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Wyoming Humanities Council.

ED PEASE DSA '71 and STEVE SILBIGER DSA '88 were selected as 2023 recipients of the NESA Distinguished Service Award for service to NESA on the national level.



DONALD R. ADKINS Class of 1990 Professional, Silver Beaver November 11, 2023

DR. KURT E. EWEN Class of 1986 Eagle Scout October 21, 2023 CARY L. ROBERTS Class of 1988 Eagle Scout December 3, 2023

REV. DAVID C. SURRETT Class of 1986 Eagle Scout, Silver Antelope January 21, 2024



James R. "Jim" Montgomery 1952 National Conference Chief Died October 24, 2023

Jim Montgomery served the Order as the second youth to serve as National Conference Chief. Jim was an Eagle Scout from Troop 14 in Knoxville, Tennessee, and was a Vigil Honor member of Pellissippi Lodge.

Jim Montgomery presided over the 1952 National OA Conference.

For his election as Chief – and this is the only time a youth Chief was so elected – he was selected by the Area Chiefs before the end of the 1950 National OA Conference. When elected, he was a student at the University of Tennessee, a ROTC cadet, and member of a social fraternity. He had also helped organize Alpha Phi Omega at the University of Tennessee in early 1950 and served as the chapter's first President.

Montgomery enjoyed a life full of interesting accomplishments and endeavors. After the end of the 1952 NOAC, he began serving in the US Army as a Second Lieutenant and continued his military career in the Army Reserves while pursuing further education. He earned a MA from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Montgomery served as a university administrator, as Director of Institutional Research at the University of Tennessee and later at Virginia Tech. Montgomery served as a member of the Association of Institutional Research and helped organize the Southern Association of Institutional Research. During his academic career, he authored five books and published over fifty papers on history and educational research. His final role in the Army Reserves culminated in service as Commanding General of the 310th Theater Areas Command, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. He retired as a Major General, earning the Distinguished Service Medal from the US Army.

Upon retiring from university administration at Virginia Tech, at the age of 60, Montgomery went to law school, eventually earning a J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law at Penn State. Because of his experience as a non-traditional law student, he created a financial scholarship award at the law school for non-traditional law students, endowing it in 2002. After earning the law degree, he returned to Blacksburg, Virginia and practiced law for 27 years, in the arena of wills, trusts, and probate.

Jim Montgomery maintained involvement in the BSA for many years and served on numerous charitable boards. He was inducted into the University of Tennessee Army ROTC Hall of Fame in 2016. In 2015, Pellissippi Lodge selected him as one of its recipients of the Centurion Award, given on the 100th anniversary of the Order.