

The Silver

Arrowhead

Presented for distinguished

service to the Order since 1940

He helped us become ourselves

Jason Peoples
Class of 1998

Certain moments in one's life are never forgotten. I remember meeting John Dowe for the first time; it is a most distinct memory, as clear as any, before or since. I was standing on the corner of the dining hall porch at old Camp Tukabatchee at a lodge event in 1994. From the parking lot walked an older gentleman; wearing glasses, his characteristic felt Vigil sash and a wide smile. Upon being introduced, he shook my hand and I was immediately embraced in the most incredible hug. A John Dowe hug was easily remembered. Will Parker (Class of 2000) recalled, "John hugged everyone he saw. These weren't casual, half-hearted back slaps. They were great, big bear hugs --- even well past the time when age required him to use a walker to get around. Someone who didn't know Mr. Dowe might think this habit was a little odd. But those of us who knew him, those hugs were simply a reflection of the genuine love and abundant generosity that animated his personal character. Mr. Dowe took seriously the principle embodied in our Order's Admonition and, in turn, applied that

standard in everyday life. His effect on those of us who looked up to him was incalculable."

The youngest of four children, John Joseph Dowe was born on September 4th, 1911, in the house in Montgomery, Alabama where he lived until his death. Built in 1863, the house was stately with large, Corinthian columns and green shutters enclosed by a black wrought iron fence. His parents were both children of first-generation Irish confectioners. He described his childhood as wonderful, being "spoiled rotten" in a home full of love and attention.

As a youth John idolized General Robert E. Lee for his gentlemanly ways. He attended Montgomery Public Schools and Starke University, a private military school in Montgomery. Following graduation he spent a year in Mobile at Spring Hill College before transferring to the University of Alabama in 1929. Upon graduating he worked for the Alabama Highway Department and then the U. S. Forest Service. In 1939, John became the property manager for a family's real estate holdings, responsible for everyday administration and maintaining the books. He continued to work there until he retired in 1981.



E. Urner Goodman, John Dowe, and Carroll Edson at the 1973 NOAC.

When the United States entered World War II, John enlisted in the Army. As an intelligence analyst, it is believed he was assigned somewhere in the Vatican, but when asked he only admitted being stationed in Italy. He preferred to discuss traveling through Florence, Pompeii, Rome, and Pisa.

See **John Dowe** on page 4

Coming in 2011: OA History Timeline



Goodman at the 1954 NOAC. Photo by Dwight W. Bischel

Bill Topkis

History, Preservation & 100th Anniversary

As part of the lead up to our Order's centennial celebration in 2015, the National Committee will be launching a website in 2011 that will be an interactive timeline history of the Order of the Arrow. The "OA History Timeline" will feature over 500 historical points in time illustrated with over 1,500 images. In addition, more than fifty Arrowmen will be featured in expandable profiles. Users will be able to learn more about significant Arrowmen such as H. Lloyd Nelson, Paul Siple, Dr. Carl Marchetti and Arthur Schuck.

The Timeline will include a profile of the history of the Distinguished Service Award as well as a listing of each DSA member with their NOAC class. Other points on the Timeline will

highlight each National Conference, National Officer elections and the Order's involvement at National Jamborees. Examples of items included on the Timeline are the details of the first ceremony in 1915 on Treasure Island and one describing E. Urner Goodman keeping the first vigil at the Devil's Tea Table. Modern era points on the Timeline include each Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and the OA's involvement in High Adventure and conservation at Philmont and beyond.

A team of Arrowmen has been assembled to build the Timeline that reports to Tony Steinhardt and the History, Preservation and 100th Anniversary National Committee. The OA History Timeline Subcommittee is led by

See **Timeline** on page 3

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It will be no surprise to any of you that the Order of the Arrow is a vibrant, living organization which continues at the same time to remain devoted to our founding principles while exploring new ways to carry out the mission with today's youth.

In support of that, you will see many things emerging from the national organization over the next few years. These items will drive our strategic plan to remain a factor in the lives of young people.

One way of doing so is to continue to involve folks like you, who have a strong history of commitment to the Order in what we are working to accomplish. This newsletter is a strong first step in that direction. You will see us reaching out, similarly, to Founders' Award recipients, Vigil Honor members, and previous lodge, section, and regional officers. We wish to act out Dr. Goodman's vision of the Order as a living breathing thing of the spirit, a fellowship.

As part of this initiative, we will be inviting our Order of the Arrow alumni to participate in local service projects, in Council/Lodge events and to explore with them if and how they might wish to be more involved with Scouting.

We are also doing much more to support local units, chapters, and lodges with program ideas and tools. Expect to see many, many more tools for lodges and chapters. We want to make it easier for them to do the many things that they are asked to do. We will publish "best practices" of how the most successful are accomplishing their missions and invite all to send in their success stories, photos, and articles. We want to share the passion and excitement which exists out there...we know that every chapter and every lodge can teach almost any other how to do something well...and we will create a resource that facilitates that.

In this edition of the Silver Arrowhead, the editors have captured some of the vibrancy which exists "out there". The story of John Dowe is a perfect example of a servant leader devoted to the welfare of others. We highlight the beautiful historical timeline being put together by Bill Topkis and the team assembled by Tony Steinhardt to best prepare us for our 100th Anniversary. The exciting new project Mike Hoffman is leading to support the new Summit, (Bechtel Family Scouting Reserve) in West Virginia begins to suggest the growth vector of our program, and the description of the weekend retreat (called a forward) by Scott Beckett gives a glimmer of what is new in our outdoor program support. Finally, Jason Hood and Glenn Ault have made huge strides in articulating the mission of our Alumni outreach efforts, and Jason's article is both a celebration of our people and a cry for assistance from each of you to help us to help share the enthusiasm we all feel for the OA and spread it to the next generation.

Hoping to see each of you down the old Scouting trail, I remain, devotedly,

Yours in Cheerful Service,



Ray Capp
National Chairman



Order seeks alumni involvement

Jason Hood
Class of 1986

The National Order of the Arrow Committee is seeking to reach out to those brothers who are not currently active in the OA—"OA Alumni." The committee wants to make sure OA Alumni have a way to keep in touch with what is happening with the Order and provide inactive members with ways of connecting with Scouting and the Order. This effort follows similar efforts of the Boy Scouts of America to identify former Scouts through the Alumni Connection where Scouting alumni reconnect to share Scouting memories, connect with other Scouting alumni, plus find ways to volunteer and support Scouting.

OA Alumni are part of Scouting's National Honor Society and represent those Scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law. The National OA Committee would like to make sure these special Scouting alumni are kept informed of current

events, programs, achievements, and provided an opportunity to reconnect with friends through a network of other OA Alumni. The OA Alumni Network will also give OA Alumni opportunities to volunteer and support Scouting and the Order.

Similar to the Silver Arrowhead, the OA Alumni Network will seek to provide a means for alumni to share OA memories while sharing information about present efforts and plans for future projects as well. The committee is exploring various means for reaching out to OA Alumni and is interested in your comments and suggestions. Please share your recommendations for how the OA Alumni Network can best share information and connect with OA Alumni with Jason Hood at alumni@oa-bsa.org. If you are willing to complete a brief online survey about this effort please email Jason for the link.

Look for more information about the OA Alumni Network in future issues of *The Silver Arrowhead*.

Looking for last Distinguished Service Award recipient

Thank you for the collective efforts to help locate recipients. The Silver Arrowhead is searching for one recipient out of 840 awards conferred. Do you have any information on him? Send an email to stephanie.jordan@scouting.org or write to the return address.

Class of 1963

John L. Johnston, Jr., Pontiac, MI



"Broken Arrow" pin that recognized Unami Lodge members that died in World War II. Image from OA History Timeline

Never before published material to be included

Timeline continued from page 1

Bill Topkis. The construction efforts began February, 2010 and have been sustained for months. The subcommittee includes a writer's group that includes Bill Topkis, Craig Leighty, Terry Grove, Nelson Block, Marty Tschetter, Tim Brown, Joe Buchman, Robert Mason and Tracy Mesler. All articles for the Timeline will be peer reviewed by noted historians Nelson Block and Ken Davis. The articles will also be peer reviewed by Robert Mason and Jack O'Neill for a youthful perspective.

An effort has been made by the entire Timeline team to locate photographs, original documents, audio clips and video to illustrate the history. Tracy Mesler has led the effort to "wrangle" the multimedia files. He has created an extensive archive that will be an immense resource available for all OA endeavors. These images and sound clips, many of which have never been published before, will be wonderful assets for publications and shows to meet the needs of the Order's 100th Anniversary celebration.

Tim Brown has been leading the web design specification efforts along with Craig Leighty. Ryan Zambom has been selected as the web designer. Frank Davis has worked as the interface between the Timeline Subcommittee and the OA Web Team. Terrel Miller will be producing the short introductory video for the Timeline and Josh Hunt has signed on as an illustrator to draw OA events that were never photographed, such as Harry Yoder leading the campers to the first Wimachtendienk ceremony.

There is great excitement surrounding this ambitious project. The Timeline will be a new twenty-first century way for Arrowmen to meet their obligation to "Observe and Preserve the Traditions of the Order of the Arrow."

Arrowmen wishing to donate future gifts to the OA Archives can be made to Tony Steinhardt, Vice-Chairman for History, Preservation, and 100th Anniversary at tsteinhardt@ratioarchitects.com



Unami Lodge members arriving at Camp Irondale, 1938 National Meeting.

Order to host SummitCorps at the New River

Andrew Knott

National OA Promotions Team

Since *ArrowCorp*⁵ many Arrowmen and Scouters have been asking when and what will be the next national Order of the Arrow service project. Arrowmen who attended *ArrowCorp*⁵ have eagerly awaited another significant conservation type service project.

In 2010, the Order of the Arrow announced another national service project: SummitCorps – The New River Experience. Based on the successes of *ArrowCorp*⁵ and the OA High Adventure programs, this project will combine cheerful service with adventure. The experience will take place over four weeks during July 2011: July 3-9, July 10-16, July 17-23, and July 24-30. It will be held at the New River Gorge National River in West Virginia this time benefiting the National Park Service.

The goals of the project will be to improve the Garden Grand Hike and Bike Trail which will link The Summit: Bechtel Family Scout Reserve, home of the new National Scout Jamboree site, with the National Park. This critical link will help Scouts and Scouters to have access to many acres adjacent to The Summit location for outdoor recreation and to be able



The New River National Gorge

and also have time for recreation, which will strengthen brotherhood through camaraderie. Over the course of a week, Arrowmen will meet and network with one of another and will leave with memories of the cheerful service that will last a lifetime.

SummitCorps will be supported by both youth and adult staff. Members from the National Committee will serve as lead advisers

and implement the federal government incident command system for their leadership structure. The OA will hire approximately 40 Arrowmen to serve on the Instructor Corps that will lead and train participants in the field.

Interested Arrowmen for this exciting program should talk with their lodge key 3. To learn more about SummitCorps, visit event.oa-bsa.org today.



to enjoy various activities on the river. The removal of

invasive species will also be included.

Participants at SummitCorps will be actively involved in both of these projects

First recipient in Alabama

John Dowe continued from page 1



John Dowe, 1955 V-A Area Fellowship

Following the war, John returned to Montgomery, resuming the life he had left; his career, civic activities, and most notably his work with Scouting. It is his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America that would be such a large part of his lasting legacy. Two program areas that were extremely important and inspiring to John were efforts to advance the youth ministry of the Roman Catholic Church through the Scouting program and the Order of the Arrow.

John served as Scoutmaster for over 20 years of Troop 4 chartered by the Church of St. Bede the Venerable in Montgomery earning Eagle Scout as an adult.

The Order first came to Alabama in 1930 to the Birmingham Area Council and was the first one in the former Region V (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee,

and the Florida panhandle). A new lodge was chartered to the Montgomery Area Council in 1940. The name, Alabama, was originally chosen but was changed in 1948 to Alibamu to acknowledge the Muskogean tribe that had lived near the Alabama River.

Early documents show John's leadership in the young lodge serving as treasurer. He and another lodge member became the first two Vigil Honor recipients in Alibamu in 1950. During this time an important friendship developed between John and National OA Committee Chairman H. Lloyd Nelson (Class of 1940), who relocated to the state in 1952.

There was a period when John held three key leadership positions at the same time. In 1952 he became the first area adviser for the former area V-A serving through 1965, then joined the National OA Committee in 1959, and also served as lodge adviser from 1967 to 1970. Dowe was conferred the DSA in 1963, the first recipient in the state. At the next conference he presented the award to Morgan Weed, the first youth recipient from Alabama (Issue 2, Summer 2009).

His involvement in the Order was so extensive he overlooked what others argue was history being made on his doorstep. John told a story of the day he heard a loud noise from the street. As he stepped out on to the balcony, he realized it was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. nearing the end of the March from Selma to Montgomery. He recalled reflecting on the importance and significance of the Civil Rights movement, though he was not directly involved.

John retired from the National Committee in 1995 after 36 years of service. During his tenure he was constantly involved in serving as adviser to many young men at national conferences, national leadership seminars, conclaves and other events. He was very active in subcommittee work carrying out the business of the committee and could always be



John Dowe, circa 1957

seen working behind the scenes to help the OA succeed, never caring who got the credit for the good work he was doing. He was a servant leader before we began to use the term.

Afterwards his association with Scouting continued. While he no longer traveled to national events, visitors to his home were always made welcome. If your travels took you through Montgomery a visit to Mr. Dowe's home was a special event.

Being a very humble and genteel man, Mr. Dowe considered the tokens of appreciation he was presented to almost be embarrassing, but he continually thanked God that he lived as long as he had to enjoy it.

John passed away on November 14th, 2007 at the age of 96. At his funeral, Steve Willis (Class of 1981) shared a passage by Walker Percy that many felt best-described John, "Surely it is the highest tribute to the best people we know to use them as best we can, to become, not their disciples, but ourselves." Larry Newton (Class of 2009) reflected, "Even after his death his legacy, mentorship, and experiences in life live on through thousands of men and women throughout this nation. To say one life cannot make a difference is an understatement."

About Alibamu Lodge

Alibamu has had ten DSA recipients, which include the 2000 National Chief and 2007 National Vice Chief. Jason Peoples served as lodge chief there and then as the 1997 Southern Region Chief. He recently became the lodge adviser for Itibapishe Iti Hollo in Albemarle, NC.



Left: Unami Lodge Second Degree Pin (oldest known Brotherhood pin) Circa 1921.



Right: Unami Third Degree Pin (Oldest known Vigil pin) Circa 1919, OA History Timeline

Outdoor program brainstorming meeting held

Scott Beckett
Class of 1996

The Order of the Arrow's beginnings and long history has been firmly grounded in camping, the out-of-doors, and the haunts of nature. Our Arrowmen for generations have been the leaders at our summer camps, been the foremen on trail crews, and led troops and crews to some of the highest peaks. In the last 16 years the Order has played an active and important role in expanding that love of the out-of-doors in significant ways.

Our work began at Philmont in 1995 with the launch of the OA Trail Crew. That was soon followed by the OA Wilderness Voyage in 1999 at the Northern Tier Canoe Base and then the OA Ocean Adventure program at the Florida Sea Base. In 2008, the Order of the Arrow broke new ground under then-chairman Brad Haddock's leadership when the vision for a truly national impact in the outdoors was realized in *ArrowCorps*⁵. As the Order prepares for our 2011 SummitCorps project in West Virginia, it turns one's thinking to what is next for the Order and our efforts to provide outdoor adventures, education, and program



OA Trail Crew staff show holiday spirit at Philmont Scout Ranch.

for the Scouts, families, and communities of America.

Under the guidance of current National Committee Chairman Ray Cap, the Outdoor Program Subcommittee has taken on building a strong, thoughtful, and committed group of individuals to serve at the core for the next several years. Made up of a few National Committee members and about two dozen key volunteers,

our subcommittee greatly expanded in 2010. However, just having a large subcommittee wasn't going to make much of a difference—we needed to get together and dream about the future.

In November of this year nearly 30 of us gathered in Denver, CO for a weekend of critical thinking, boundary pushing, and creativity. The intent of our Outdoor Program Fall Forward (note: we would have called it a retreat, but who wants to retreat?) was to think anew about OA outdoor program and where we could really make a difference in supporting the mission of the Boy Scouts of America given our assets, experience, and network of individuals. It was a great weekend!

Our product was a lot of good fodder... big ideas on impacting the Cub Scout to Boy Scout transition, being of service to councils as high-octane outdoor skills trainers, national guides for high adventure programs beyond our typical playgrounds, and much, much more. Our agreement was to think more and let these ideas marinate. We start 2011 with our plate full by carrying out SummitCorps and delivering three high adventure programs at our national bases.

If you are interested in being a part of the conversation going forward, we would love for you to be involved in some way. Here's to big adventures for all of us. See you down the trail and you contact me at scottwbeckett@me.com.



Foremen Chris Sandrock and Dominique Baker (Class of 2002) reflect on their day after canoeing at Northern Tier.

	<p>Marty Tschetter <i>Editor, Class of 1996</i></p>	<p>Ray Capp <i>National Chairman, Class of 1973</i></p>	<p>Clyde Mayer <i>OA Team Leader, Class of 1998</i></p>
	<p>Craig Salazar <i>Vice Chairman, Class of 1994 Communications and Marketing</i></p>	<p>Michael Thompson <i>Vice Chairman, Class of 2006 Recognitions and Awards</i></p>	<p>Carey Miller <i>OA Specialist, Class of 2002</i></p>
	<p>Brad Lichota <i>National Chief</i></p>	<p>Will Swingle <i>National Vice Chief</i></p>	<p>Jeffrey St. Cyr <i>Layout Editor</i></p>

The Silver Arrowhead is distributed two times each year via electronic communication to recipients of the Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award. Articles, photographs, and updates may be sent to stephanie.jordan@scouting.org.



**DSA recipients
who have gone to meet
their maker.**

Gerald Lee Schomacker
Bloomington, Indiana
Eagle Scout, Ranger Award, Silver Beaver
Class of 1971
February 7, 2010

O.M. Tommy Thompson
Montgomery, Alabama
Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope
Class of 1988
March 5, 2010

Esten F. Grubb
Whittier, California
Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope
Class of 1986
March 24, 2010

John Z. Perry
Norton, Massachusetts
Silver Beaver
Class of 1988
April 3, 2010

Donald K. Chilcote
Lake Oswego, Oregon
Former Western Region Staff
Class of 1992
July 20, 2010

Ben H. Love
Cedar Park, Texas
Former Chief Scout Executive
Class of 1986
July 31, 2010

Alan S. Gaynor
Savannah, GA
Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver
Class of 1971
August 21, 2010

Jerry L. McCurley
Bardstown, KY
Eagle Scout, Former Central Region Staff
Class of 1996
October 15, 2010

**2011
NATIONAL
CALENDAR**

FEBRUARY

7 OA Steering Committee Meeting, Irving, TX
12-17 BSA Report to the Nation, Washington, D.C

MAY

25 National OA Committee Meeting, San Diego, CA
25-27 BSA National Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

JUNE

19-25 Philmont OA Adviser Training, Cimarron, NM

JULY

3-9 SummitCorps: The New River Experience, Session 1
10-16 SummitCorps: The New River Experience, Session 2

17-23 SummitCorps: The New River Experience, Session 3
24-30 SummitCorps: The New River Experience, Session 4

AUGUST

1-6 Indian Summer, Ridgecrest Conference Center, Asheville, NC

OCTOBER

10 OA Steering Committee, Irving, TX
31 OA Service Grant Applications Due

DECEMBER

27-30 National Planning Meeting, Dallas, TX

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Boy Scouts of America**
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The Silver Arrowhead

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ★ 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING



CELEBRATING THE ADVENTURE ★ CONTINUING THE JOURNEY