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THE SILVER ARROWHEAD

PRESENTED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE ORDER SINCE 1940

Mark Benner: One Who Helps

By **JAY BOTTORFF**

NOQUET #29 LEGACY LODGE CHIEF 1990-91

Curious about the Arrowmen preparing for the Native American Indian Dance Show at the 1956 National OA Conference, 14-year-old Mark O. Benner was just “hanging out” backstage when asked to help with the lights. His task, to plug in a set of bulbs on cue, and then to unplug them to turn them off and then to repeat the task during the Brotherhood Ceremony. But, as an Ordeal member, perceiving an obligation not to see the ritual, Mark kept his back turned throughout the ceremony. Mark noted, “I was just there watching when I was asked to help; the whole NOAC experience was unimaginable.” This first involvement started a passion for professional presentations.

Raised in Evansville, Indiana, after the conference Mark Benner subsequently served as a chapter chief, earned Eagle Scout in 1959, followed by chief in 1960

for Kiondaga Lodge, and received the Vigil Honor, with the name “One Who Helps.” By 1961, he served as the Area 7-G vice chief, which happened to be the territory hosting the national conference. By this time he had gained plenty of Scouting leadership experience, affording him the opportunity to serve on the conference committee. He chaired the Production subcommittee for the General Sessions, what we call NOAC Shows today.

During the planning stages, Mark worked closely with Dr. Carl Marchetti (Class of 1958), who provided encouragement to “think bigger” as they both shared a passion for creativity. Mark explained, “In those days, the shows used voice over scripts and slides, not a great deal of moving parts. We had to create sounds, slides, sets and special effects, months in advance to get the desired effect.” The work experience of developing scripts,



Randy Cline and Mark Benner

CONTINUED **BENNER**, PAGE 6

National Chief's portfolio to debut at NOAC GEO

By **KYLE PALMER**

2015 NOAC GEO CHAIRMAN

On November 6, 1980, a fire engulfed much of the Order of the Arrow's treasured memorabilia, most notably the National Chief's Golden Eagle feather bonnet. This bonnet has been a symbol of leadership in our Order ever since Anicus Lodge presented it to National Chief Joseph A. Brunton, Jr. (former Anicus Lodge Chief and future Chief Scout Executive) at the 25th anniversary National Lodge Meeting in 1940. From its introduction until 1965, this bonnet passed hands from national chief to national chief in a large leather portfolio engraved on the cover, “Order of the Arrow; W.W.W.; National Chief.” After 25 years of use, the bonnet desperately needed repair, its undesirable

condition caused in part by its poor storage in the portfolio for all those years.

In 1965, the bonnet underwent an extensive restoration by Rhese Hoylman, Jr., who was well regarded nationally for his bonnet making expertise and talent. Hoylman worked diligently on the bonnet for the next two years, and then it was re-introduced in remarkable condition to the national chief at the 1967 NOAC with a more suitable storage vessel. Consequently, Hoylman left the old portfolio case on an upper shelf in his workshop. In 1980, after 15 years of further use, the bonnet became destroyed in a fire at the National Scout Office in Irving, Texas. To the few that knew of the original 1940 portfolio, most presumed that it was destroyed as well.

Rhese Hoylman, Jr. passed away in 2004,

which left his son, Rhese Hoylman, III, to sort through his belongings. During this time, Hoylman found the national chief's portfolio, and through a stroke of luck, the folder was identified through a mutual contact to a member of the national OA committee. The committee member realized the historical significance of this OA heirloom missing for nearly half a century and found just in time for the Order's 100th anniversary.

The portfolio contained the original letter from Anicus Lodge presenting the bonnet to the national chief in 1940, as well as personally written notes of advice and encouragement from every national chief to his successor through 1965. A truly momentous discovery, the portfolio is only

CONTINUED **NOAC GEO**, PAGE 6

LEADERSHIP

RAY CAPP

National Chairman, Class of 1973

MICHAEL THOMPSON

Vice Chairman, Class of 2006

Recognition and Awards

CRAIG SALAZAR

Vice Chairman, Class of 1994

Communications and Marketing

CLYDE MAYER

Director, Class of 1998

MATT DUKEMAN

OA Specialist, Class of 2004

ALEX CALL

National Chief

DONALD STEPHENS

National Vice Chief

MARTY TSCHETTER

Editor, The Silver Arrowhead

Class of 1996

JEFFREY ST. CYR

Layout Editor, Class of 2012

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

Wadsworth: Distinguished Forester

By **JEFFREY H. GOLDSMITH**

CLASS OF 1992

MARTY TSCHETTER

CLASS OF 1996

In 1931, Frank Howard Wadsworth from the Chicago Area Council had a conflict with the dates for his troop going to Owasippe Scout Camp in Michigan, so he went with a provisional troop for two different weeks. Without previous acquaintances he resolved to participate in all activities and to volunteer at every opportunity. On Thursday of the second week, after taps, an Indian woke Frank and gestured silence... his first knowledge of the Order of the Arrow. According to Wadsworth, "The Ordeal experience impressed me but something else was far more captivating. It turned out that my provisional troop mates, who a week earlier had not even known me, only selected me. They sacrificed their individual opportunities to be chosen. This impressed me more than anything else has during this life. As a younger brother with poorer grades it gave me, for the first time, self confidence that persisted and served me ever since."

Scoutmaster Alexander Kopp,

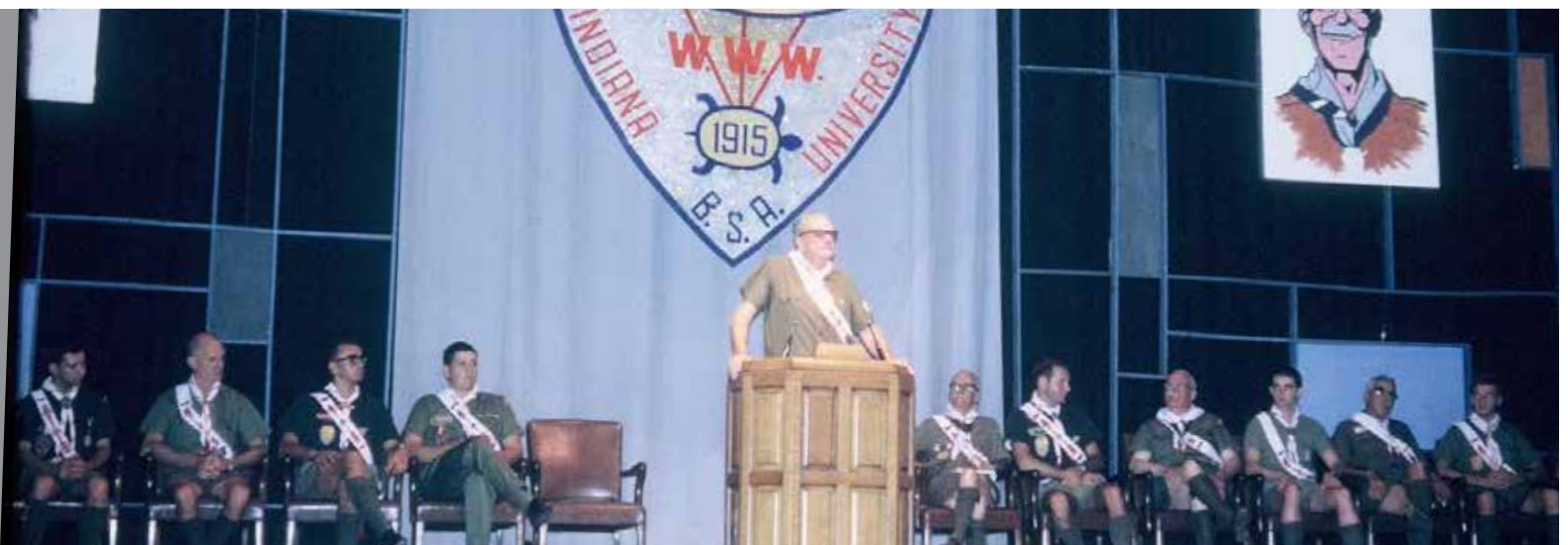


U.S. Forest Service agent Frank Wadsworth, circa 1940s. Courtesy of The Forest History Society, Durham, NC.

a retired Army captain was rigid but lived by strong principles and an organized approach to life that also left an impression. Another influential person in Frank's life, Kenneth Duncan, a high school biology teacher and father to friend Donald, in 1929 started taking the pair to explore the birdlife in the prairies and forest preserves along the Desplaines River. Donald and Frank both earned Eagle Scout by 1933, the same year they finished high

school and eventually became roommates at the University of Michigan in the Forestry and Conservation program. In college Frank and three friends purchased a canoe to be able to paddle on Lake Superior and camp in their spare time. One summer, before graduating, he studied the regeneration and succession of trees on sandbars in the Yukon River in Alaska.

CONTINUED **WADSWORTH**, PAGE 3



ON THE COVER: The 1965 NOAC leadership during a general session gathering. Attended by 4,237 members celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Order of the Arrow, under the youth leadership of National Conference Chief Michael S. Costello (Class of 1967) from Evansville, IN and Conference Vice Chief Earl C. Davis from Eureka, CA. Photograph taken by Rhese Hoylman, II with the Ta Tsu Hwa Lodge contingent from Tulsa, OK.



Helped bring the OA to Puerto Rico

WADSWORTH, CONT'D FROM PAGE 2

In 1937, Frank earned both an undergraduate degree in Forest Production and a master's degree in Forest Ecology that included a thesis about his research in Alaska.

This was still the waning days of the Great Depression with jobs scarce. He landed a position for a lumber company in Chicago all the while studying at night for the Civil Service exam, to secure a government job. In 1938, as a result of his fieldwork in Alaska, he obtained a temporary assignment as a field assistant to Gustav Adolph Pearson, the director of the US Forest Service's Southwestern Forest in Flagstaff, AZ. Three years later Frank married Mr. Pearson's daughter Margaret, and due to anti-nepotism rules in the government, Wadsworth had to accept the next available transfer. Within the year, the newlyweds headed to Puerto Rico, where Frank worked in the US Forest Service Tropical Forest Experiment Station. Using his fieldwork on the island for research, in 1950 he completed a PhD in Forest Management from the University of Michigan.

After a contingent from the Puerto Rico Council witnessed an Order of the Arrow ceremony

at the 1953 National Scout Jamboree, there became a strong desire to start a lodge. Information was requested from the national office about the organization and procedures. In the following year, with the requirements in hand, the council entrusted the founding of the new lodge to Luis Matias Ferrer. Having no knowledge of the organization, he sought the help of Frank, who at the time was the only known OA member in Puerto Rico. Wadsworth read through the books and located two Arrowmen who had been active in the OA in the States. Together they located a suitable place at camp for the ceremonies and inducted seven members in April 1954.

The original lodge name was Yukiyu, but later became Yokahu, both are basically the same, referring to a local mountain spirit. In the beginning, the lodge translated the ceremony scripts from English into Spanish and used American Indian attire. However, later they also embraced local culture by using the Taíno-inspired attire, the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean, to reflect the island's heritage. Two years later the lodge held the first Brotherhood ceremony in a pouring rain in the woodlot of the Agricultural

Experiment Station in Rio Piedras. In January 1961, Frank became the lodge's first Vigil Honor member, originally given the name Gol Grande interpreted as Great Goal, referring to Wadsworth's vision for Scouting in his adopted territory.

In 1961 Wadsworth took the lodge's first contingent of four members to the National OA Conference at Indiana University, where they personally met E. Urner Goodman. During the conference the small contingent watched a demonstration of the Ordeal ceremony, but expressed disappointment with the lackluster performance of parts being read. Not wanting to weaken their dedication and emotional involvement in their Ordeals, Wadsworth arranged for one of the youth who played Meteu to recite the legend. The youth performed with such incredible dramatic expression that he brought the house down. The Arrowmen in attendance, most of whom did not understand Spanish, rose and gave a long-standing ovation. Four years later at the 50th Anniversary conference, Wadsworth received the Order's Distinguished Service Award, to date the only recipient from Puerto Rico.

As a Scouter Dr. Frank

Wadsworth made significant contributions to conversation, nature, wilderness camping, and helped obtain over 7.7 million dollars towards camp improvements. He received the Silver Antelope from the former Region Two in 1968, and the Silver Beaver in 1970. Reflecting on his volunteer work, "I feel extra admiration to see accomplishments of Puerto Rican Scouts, such as the Eagle rank and later success in life. It was they who did it, not me."

Professionally Wadsworth worked with the US Forest Service in Puerto Rico from 1942 through his retirement in 1999, serving as a researcher, the director of a tropical forest experiment station, and supervisor of the Caribbean National Forest. Dating back to 1939 in graduate school, he published 120 articles in academic journals. Approaching 100 years of age, Frank's milestone career as both advocate for forest management and adventure for youth, capped with his presentation of the national Hornaday Gold Medal for adults in the fall of 2014. Created in 1975, less than 50 awards have been presented to Scouters who rendered significant leadership to conservation over a lifetime.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Brothers,

In the summer of 1915, Charlie Chaplain, already a huge star, was creating new ways to use the silent movies, the Raggedy Ann Doll was introduced, and Babe Ruth stepped up to the plate to hit his first major league homerun. The first stop sign in the nation made its debut in Detroit, Thomas Edison applied for a patent for his telephone transcription invention, and two young camp directors near Philadelphia had an innovation of their own on their minds. Urner Goodman and Carroll Edson were both 24 when they first discussed the idea for a camp honor society, and the rest, they say, "became history".

Today, innovation continues, not only with technology, science, medicine, and engineering, but within that germ of an idea Urner Goodman and Carroll Edson planted. At our 100th Anniversary NOAC, you will see that youth empowerment and innovation are alive and well in the Order of the

Arrow. Our youth leaders seized the challenge of managing a massive growth in our national conference with grace, aplomb, and gusto. They developed innovative techniques to recruit twice the normal attendance, novel ways to engage them on site, and creative methods to involve those who remain at home with what is going on at Michigan State.

Urner Goodman and Carroll Edson did not found a stagnant organization. Rather, by breathing into it the commitment to youth leadership and a culture of innovation and exploration, our Order remains vibrant and solid to this day. It is a joy to behold.

Thanks for being part of it,



Ray Capp



75 years of the Distinguished Service Award

By **MAC MCLEAN**

CLASS OF 1988

In 1940, on the 25th anniversary of the Order, at the close of its national meeting held at Camp Twin Echo, the OA presented its first Distinguished Service Awards. The national executive committee of the Order established the award for that important milestone in an effort to recognize those persons who most greatly impacted the national program. The current and previous national chiefs, Joseph H. Brinton and Joseph A. Brunton, Jr., along with George W. Chapman, the first Unami Lodge Chief, comprised a stellar and knowledgeable first selection committee. The committee selected 11 initial recipients – national leaders integral to the development and growth of the Order over the first 25 years.

After the initial honorees, the OA decided to select three new DSA recipients at each national meeting. Accordingly, they honored three persons in 1942 (although the 1942 national meeting was canceled due to World War II travel restrictions), six persons in 1946 (double the

number because no national meeting took place in 1944 either), three in 1948, and three in 1950.

In 1948 the OA became fully integrated into the Boy Scouts of America and began utilizing the concepts of involving youth as leaders, along with volunteer adult advisers, in many roles. In addition the national OA committee became a committee of volunteers. As a result of youth involvement at the national level, selections for the award began to include some younger recipients. Beginning with 1952 with its increased slate of ten DSA recipients, youthful DSA recipients were included. In fact, four of the ten DSA recipients in 1952 had not attained 30 years of age. From 1952 to 1969 the number selected remained less than 20 per National OA Conference and each group included some recipients recognized for youthful leadership to the Order.

From the beginning, the recognition included both a certificate and a medal hanging from a ribbon worn around the wearer's neck. The initial certificates included a citation of each recipient's service. By 1961,

the OA adopted a standardized certificate for each recipient. The medal has always consisted of a silver arrowhead with an arrow in the background. The ribbon, however, began as a forest green ribbon (symbolic of the "outdoor" aspect of the OA). In 1967, the design of the DSA ribbon changed to the current familiar design of white with embroidered red arrows. In addition, in 1990 the OA added a DSA lapel pin for non-uniform wear.

In the early days, a DSA recipient did not know he was a recipient until the calling of his name at the closing show of NOAC. Eventually, a process of notification in advance by letter (or, today, by way of the internet) better enabled a recipient to be prepared for the presentation of the award.

The number of DSA recipients steadily increased throughout the 1970s and 1980s as the Order undertook additional activities and obligations and provided more opportunities for youth to provide national service. From 1971 to 1979 the number of recipients increased from 21 to 29 and from 1981 to 1988 the number increased from 39 to 48. The ratio of recipients recognized for

youthful service also increased somewhat beginning in the 1970s.

For 1990 the OA established a relatively firm quota of recognitions to be awarded; as a result, from 36 to 38 new DSA recipients comprised the list at each NOAC from 1990 to 2002. Since 2004, however, no target number or quota of recipients has existed. In recent conference years which resulted in a three-year gap between national conferences, the number of recipients typically increased.

The criteria for selection as a DSA recipient remain high. The award continues to recognize service to the Order beyond the lodge level – service of a sectional, regional, or national basis. Over the 75 year existence of the Distinguished Service Award, the OA has presented less than 1,000 of these awards – at the end of the 2015 National OA Conference, the total number of recipients will be 965. Just as the Order of the Arrow has a special place in Scouting, the national OA Distinguished Service Award serves a unique and important role for the program by recognizing the key national leaders.

ARROWMEN SERVING SCOUTING AND THEIR COMMUNITY



Jeff Jonasen, Robert Sirhal, Ray Capp, and Glen Ault, MD



Adrienne and Scott Beckett

At the 2015 National BSA Annual Meeting, National OA Committeemen **JEFF JONASEN** (Class of 2006), **ROBERT SIRHAL** (Class of 2000), and **GLEN AULT, MD** (Class of 1988) received the Silver Buffalo Award.

SCOTT BECKETT (Class of 1996) received the Silver Antelope. Scott served as the 1994 national chief and played a key role developing the OA Trail Crew program, working on the staff the first two summers. A member of the national OA committee since 2003, he served four years as the vice chairman for Outdoor Programs, now vice chairman for Special Projects, and recently finished four years as the Tahosa Lodge adviser for the Denver Area Council. Scott and wife Adrienne just relocated

to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Professionally Scott works for Insigniam.

BRYANT WEBSTER (Class of 1994) from Black Mountain, North Carolina recently received the North Carolina Bar Association's 2015 William L. Thorp Pro Bono Award. Since



Bryant Webster

1997, Bryant has been volunteering with Pisgah Legal Services Mountain Area Volunteer

Lawyers Program and providing more than 1,300 hours of pro bono service in 605 cases. Bryant served as the 1990 conference vice chief for publications.



Congratulations to the 2015 recipients

Dear 2015 Distinguished Arrowmen,

It is with the utmost pleasure that we congratulate you for your accomplishment. At the 2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference and in this centennial year, you join those humbled few recognized for unmatched service to our Order.

This award is a recognition most fitting for individuals who exhibit your passion and perseverance, and who cheerfully endure great sacrifice for the benefit of our program. Your words and actions as a Distinguished Arrowman now carry much weight, as admiring Arrowmen follow your example. However, this is not something that should invoke fear. As a Distinguished Arrowman, you become more aware of what is already true — that your words and thoughts and deeds as a member of the Boy Scouts of America, more specifically the Order of the Arrow, provide a moral compass to those who benefit from your service.

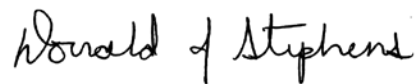
Arguably, this position comes with an even further elevated importance this year, as those who follow will look to you for guidance as we forge the Order of the second century. In light of this, remember those words which teach us that recognition is given “not only for what you have done, but for what you are expected to do in the future.” Together, each of us have the unique opportunity this year to shape the Order of the Arrow in a way that strengthens it, ensures its relevance, and affirms its integral role in Scouting. We cannot wait to see the ways in which you continue to serve as we forge the future of our Order.

With our sights down the trail,



Alexander C. Call
2015 National Chief

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Donald J. Stephens
2015 National Vice Chief

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Tyler J. Allen
Ricky Angeletti
Gregory Wade Bajan
William Josef Barton IV
Scott M. Best
Peter Scott Bird
Taylor Louis Bobrow
Ryan Michael Braddy
Derrick Paul Bransby
Matthew Edmondson Brown
Timothy Carlton Brown
Harry Bubeck
Eric W. Bush
Raymond T. Cheung
Brian Chrzanowski
Brian Andrew Corder
Nicholas G. Dannemiller
Kevin Dowling
David Dye

Dr. Alan Edward Eggleston
Barry J. Ekle
Noel Falcon
Sean Ferrier
Dr. Robert Michael Gates
Elliot Gault
Samuel Giacalone
Michael C. Goins
Michael Gray
Jordan L. Hughes
Ryan Jones
David Bill Joyner
Michael Kintscher
Paul C. Lackie
Al Lambert
Timothy I. Malaney
Preston Marquis
Daniel B. Maxfield
Sean McCabe

Isaac McDaniel
Tracy Mesler
Steve Edward Miller
R. Gregory Moore
Craig G. Ongley
John Martin Opthoff
Colin R. Pinnavaia
Kyle James Piper
Samuel Edward Pitts
John Peter Rehm, Jr.
Wesley D. Seaman
Aaron Shepherd
Michael Shostek
Russell Hoke Smart
Tyler Stepanek
Mark Stickel
Bradley David Torpey
Brett Alan Warner
Brian T. Wilder



Nurtured a new crop of returning staff

BENNER, CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

recruiting eager young Arrowmen, and implementing successful shows proved invaluable. As a result, the National OA Executive Secretary Martin Mockford (Class of 1963) played an integral role selecting Mark as the associate conference director overseeing the General Sessions from 1963 through 1975. As a returning young adviser, Mark had the privilege of becoming a mentor for a new crop of staff that developed continuity into the next decade.

Mark also reflected about this era, "Unlike today, there were very few young men between the ages of 21 and 45 who could be part of the national OA leadership when I worked on the 1961 national conference planning committee. About the only exception was Carl, and one of his early visions was to mentor young staff members, like me, and keep them engaged in enlarging the scope and value of the national OA program." The national OA committee honored Mark with the Distinguished Service Award

in 1963. One of the first youthful recipients Carl Marchetti made the presentation, to Mark at age 21. Before this conference, the Order had recognized only fifteen youthful DSA recipients (under 30).

In the summer of 1964, Mark met a very impressive young man who just graduated from high school and completed his term as Kiondaga Lodge Chief. The young Arrowmen became Area 7-G chief, and in December elected national chief. Mark found great pleasure working with Michael Costello (Class of 1967), so he tailored scripts to his charismatic personality. Later both Benner and Costello joined the national committee and worked together on several subsequent conferences. Planning the 1969 National OA Conference, Mark mentored Randy Cline (Class of 1973), who later took OA Shows to even higher levels (read about Randy Cline in the Spring 2009 issue).

After graduating from Indiana State University in 1964 with a Bachelors degree in Speech and



Mark Benner standing behind Randy Cline after presenting the DSA, 1973 NOAC.

Communications, the following year he completed a Masters Degree in Communications. Then accepted his first career position as an instructor at the University of Maine. In 1968, he started a doctoral program at Michigan State University, but it became a turning point to seek a new career direction in the private sector. By 1969, Mark moved to the Detroit area and joined Migisi Opawgan Lodge, eventually working for the Michigan Bell Telephone Company in the marketing department as an executive speechwriter. "Most of marketing is about selling, telling and showing," Mark pointed out. A great deal of his professional career focused on conveying a story.

In 1985, Mark lent his talents at the national jamboree as the arena shows writer and director for the 75th Anniversary of Scouting, which featured the Beach Boys. He also collaborated with the development of the shows at the 1989 National Jamboree that highlighted Steven Spielberg. Mark has the

talent of putting all of the pieces together to create an experience that is not only memorable but also lasting. As new technology developed, he created new ways of incorporating that technology into the next show.

Currently Mark serves on a district committee in the President Ford Field Service Council (of the Michigan Crossroads Council), and as a member of Nataepu Shoppe Lodge. A product of the Scouting program, professionally Mark is the Principal of Mark O. Benner, LLC which helps executives and business owners achieve greater success through communications that inspire people to action.

There are many notable things that can be said about Mark, but the one thing that all can agree is that modern NOAC Shows evolved through his vision, dedication to detail, and continued improvement. When asked what he anticipated gearing up for the 2015 NOAC, Mark stated, "I'm most looking forward to meeting the next generation of young Order of the Arrow leaders."

The privilege to preserve

By NIKOLAUS K. NEWMAN
GEO ORAL HISTORY LEAD ADVISER

This summer, at the 2015 Centennial National Order of the Arrow Conference, the Living History team on the NOAC Goodman Edson Observatory (GEO) will be conducting interviews throughout the week in continuation of a project that remains on-going even outside the confines of this event. A centennial anniversary is a special point in any organization's history, and we find in this moment an opportunity to reflect not only on our past, but our continued legacy. Individual reflection about life experiences help document public memory and what we ultimately capture is much like a combination of separate images crafted into a larger picture.

The national conference will afford the special opportunity to connect with longtime members of our Order. Therefore the

Living History Team will focus on interviews with members inducted before 1950, Vigil Honor recipients before 1950, past national officers, national OA committeemen, the national OA directors, 1948 National OA Conference attendees, and Distinguished Service Award recipients prior to 1965.

We want the interviews to be used and accessible, so our target time will only be 20 to 30 minutes. Eventually each interviewee will also get a typed transcript that will be processed onsite by a professional typist and added to the National OA Archive.

If you fit the criteria above or know someone we should make a point to interview, please email nikolaus.k.newman@gmail.com, our youth chairman Sam McMurray, or Living History staff members Robert Mason, Marty Tschetter, or Cecilee Wilson located at the GEO.

History on display

NOAC GEO, CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

preserved because it remained in a workshop rather than returned with the bonnet it once housed.

It is exciting that an object of such historical gravity related to

the early national chiefs can be shared. The portfolio will be on public display for the first time at the 2015 NOAC GEO – The Goodman Edson Observatory – Open from August 3 - 6.

