

A COMPLETE HISTORY
OF
THE JAMES CAMPBELL TRABUE SCOUT TROOP NUMBER 31

Will Akers
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I wrote this history as an Eagle project, and many people helped greatly. I would like to thank them here:

Mrs. Phyllis Burns (who typed it)

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Mr. W.C. Northern

Mr. Ward Akers

Mr. William W. Stifler

Mrs. A.C. Gibson

Mr. Signey Koonce

Mr. Richard Weeks

Mr. W.B. Akers

Mr. Lawrence Trabue

Mr. John C. Tune

Mr. Joe E. Hutton

Mr. H.H. Osburn

Mr. George C. Campbell

Mr. W.O. Treanor

Mr. Earl Pond

Mr. Allan Sharp

Mr. Fred Bassler

and

Mr. James Campbell Trabue

1920 – 1957

JAMES CAMPBELL TRABUE – EARL POND

The James Campbell Trabue Scout Troop Number 31 was started 51 years ago, in 1920, by James Campbell Trabue, who served as Scoutmaster until his death. “So effective was his leadership that the troop and church combined in naming 31 the J.C. Trabue Troop in recognition of what the Scoutmaster had done.” This comment appeared in a Nashville newspaper in 1939.

Mr. William L. Northern, past Scoutmaster of Troop 26 and recipient of the Silver Beaver Award, describes him as follows:

Height – 5’ 9”

Weight – 185

Dark eyes and dark complexion, with coal black hair and handlebar moustache.

Mr. Northern also says that, “His smile could win any boy or man, and his frown could scare away a bank bandit.” Speaking about the troop being named after Mr. Trabue, Mr. Northern says:

“This is the appropriate thing to do, for this man possessed the many traits suitable for a great scout leader. He was physically strong, had a great knowledge of scouting, and could carry his plans to a successful conclusion. In the early days of Scouting, he had a fine group of boys, and with his ability, he developed the best scout troop in Nashville.

He could be compared in many ways with “Old Hickory”, President Andrew Jackson, for he was the “nicest man to be so tough”, and by the same token, he was the “toughest man to be so nice”. He had the reputation of being a man of service, always willing to help his friends any hour of the day or night.

It would be a fine tribute to this wonderful man for his name to endure in the Nashville Council for the years to come.”

Mr. Trabue was born in 1890, and he died in 1926 of pneumonia while nursing his sick brother. He had two brothers who were both in railroading. One was the Chief

Engineer for N.C. & St. L. Railroad, the second was a conductor on the same railroad.

Mr. J.C. Trabue was a West Nashville Postmaster.

Mr. Trabue chartered the troop in 1920, the first year of scouting in Nashville and the 10th year in the U.S., at the Church of the Advent on 17th Avenue South. The troop met in the church until 1935 or so, when SM Minor Atkinson built the scout cabin in back of the church. The cabin was known as the Minor Atkinson Hut. The troop met there at 7:15 every Friday night and before departing on its many campouts.

One of Troop 31's favorite campsites was at the Harpeth Narrows. This report of one of their trips there appeared in a Nashville paper about 1940.

“Saturday at 3 o'clock, we met at the cabin and were taken in cars to the side entrance of Percy Warner Park. Every scout except one walked with full equipment to the Boy Scout cabin. Scouts chose their cots and fixed them and collected wood for cooking and the camp fire. After supper, Osburn (Scoutmaster H.H. Osburn) took us on a hike. After we had eaten breakfast, cleaned up and packed, we went to Linton, but were not satisfied with the river and went out to Camp Boxwell, where we found one of the most interesting spots in Middle Tennessee (the Narrows). We went on the swinging bridge, then to the intake of the tunnel. We went on the top where we could see for many miles and where we took a number of pictures. Henry Nelson found a perfect arrowhead, and we took souvenirs from the old iron foundry. It was a great weekend.”

Note: The Camp Boxwell mentioned in this story is not the one most of us call camp. It was located on the Harpeth River, about a half mile from the famous Narrows.

A typical campout would go something like this:

“On Saturday, with full equipment, we went to the church and began to unload at the Kiwanis cabin at Percy Warner Park at 2:45. We were just about ready to start again when Scoutmaster H.H. Osburn collared the group and put us to work on the vegetables to scrape, wash, seed or dice. This job of cooking is not so hot when you want to play. We had a fine game of ball with the Panther patrol winning. For supper we had a good meal. We played on the picnic grounds until bedtime. We toasted some marshmallows and then hit the hay. We washed and cleaned up in the morning and went on a long hike where we played and took pictures. We came back to the cabin for the devotional service. Roll call found these present: Henry Nelson, Sidney Burnett, Charles Nelson,

Clark Akers, Randal Brown, Lewis Wade, Homer Brown, Glenden Fields, Bill Akers, Hilary Osborne, John Waldman, Martin Kane, Scoutmaster Osburn and Assistant Scoutmaster Campbell.”

Another of 31’s favorite campsites was the Treanor Farm, near Craggie Hope, Tennessee. The Troop went down to Mr. W.O. Treanor’s brother’s farm about seven times for “coon” hunts. (Mr. Treanor was an Assistant Scoutmaster for the Troop over a period of twenty years.) Each time but one, they got a raccoon. They cooked it and had it for dinner. After dinner the boys cleaned up, and they really cleaned up, Mr. Treanor reports, then everyone hit their sleepy bags for plenty more than 40 winks.

The boys the adults took into the woods had never been off the sidewalks, but they really enjoyed the trips. Each time about five boys were present when roll was called. Fourteen boys were the most that ever came on one of these campouts.

In 1939, Troop 31 re-registered for the 19th time. The application was signed by Rev. Prentice Pugh, rector of the church, and by the following troop committeemen: W.R. Sanders, Chairman; Allan R. Sharp and Homer Brown. H.H. Osburn was again named as Scoutmaster, with George Campbell, Assistant. That year at registering time, the following scouts were registered: William B. Akers, Bobbie Allen, Rowland Boyd, Homer B. Brown, Randal E. Brown, Duncan Fort, Richard Fort, Davis S. Huggins, Bob McKeand, Irvin McKeand, Henry S. Nelson, Hilary H. Osburn, Jr., William Sanders, J. Lewis Wade, Tom P. Waldman, and Jack Moran.

Troop 31:

“Mr. Brown (Mr. Homer B. Brown, Troop Committeeman, now deceased) had a camp in Cheatham County which he permitted the Troop to use on numerous weekend “camp outs”. Both Mr. Akers (Mr. J. Clark Akers, also a troop committeeman) and Mr. Brown helped with transportation to and from the camp and spent several nights with the Troop over a period of two years.

The “log cabin” meeting room, for the troop at the church was built largely by the scouts, including the stone fireplace and chimney. This was during the time Mr. Atkinson was Scoutmaster.

Some members of Troop 31 while I was Scoutmaster were:

William Sanders – now Bishop Coadjuter, Diocese of Tennessee.
Sidney Sanders – now of the Episcopal clergy and serving in Virginia.
James Swiggart – now Circuit Judge in Davidson County.
William Swiggart – an engineer for many years with Nashville Bridge Co.
Hilary Osburn, Jr. – now a postmaster in Florida.
William Akers – business executive and now an active Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 31.
Clark Akers, III – business executive.
When I became a Scoutmaster, “Clark” was not old enough to be admitted as a member of the Troop, the age of 12 years then being a requirement. We just let him be “Troop Mascot” for more than a year and when he became 12 years of age, he had learned so much he began advancing a rank month by month for a while.
Randal Brown – Homer B. Brown Co., Loose Leaf Systems & Devices Mfrs.
Homer Brown, Jr. – Homer B. Brown Co., Loose Leaf Systems & Devices Mfrs.
Kenneth Rutherford – now dentist (DDS).
Minor Atkinson, Jr. – moved to Memphis with family while a teenager.
David Huggins – an engineer with E.I. duPont deNemours & Co.
Hooper Huggins – Assistant Vice President, Third National Bank

There were other fine scouts in the troop of whom I have lost track.

It was a distinct honor to have been privileged to serve as Scoutmaster and as a member of the troop committee of Troop 31.”

Note: The dates I have for each of the early Scoutmasters are as accurate as I could get them. After forty or forty-five years, a man’s stint as Scoutmaster, at least the actual dates possibly becomes a little hazy.

In 1940 or so, a Nashville paper had each week a section on scouts. The scribe in each Troop wrote a short summary of their meeting or campout, and it was published in the paper. This is where I got the two stories on the campouts and one (below) on a troop meeting.

Troop 31 used to meet each Friday night at 7:15 and stayed until about 8:30.

“Bill Akers, Randy Brown and Henry Nelson conducted the opening exercises of Troop 31 held in the cabin behind the Church of the Advent, Friday night. Before the opening, we had a game of “spud” and Assistant Scout Executive James Gribble showed us several games and a good trick in which Homer Brown was the goat.

Gribble made a talk on Camp Boxwell, enumerating some of the many things to see and do there, and telling us of the interesting leaders who would be present. He complimented the Flying Eagle Patrol upon its exhibit for the Boys’ Hobby Fair. We put two scouts of the Flying Eagle Patrol through the paddling machine for disorder. The meeting was conducted by Scout leaders H.H. Osborne and George Campbell.”

George Campbell, Scoutmaster from 1939 to 1941, wrote me, and he said:

“My remembrances are all good, and the names I remember in order of importance are Bill Akers, Clark Akers, Bill Sanders, John Waldman and Bubba Kane. It really isn’t fair to name any because they were all good scouts. To me, Troop 31 was the best in the Nashville area, and I often regretted that there weren’t Council-wide contests so we could prove it.

One strong memory is when we put a new roof on the scout cabin. At one time, I had a rope around Clark with the other end around me, and we were on opposite sides of the roof ridge. This allowed Clark to back down toward the roof edge nailing as he went.

Another memory was a hike out to the Narrows of the Harpeth. We were hiking along the ridge after dark – and it was dark – without any lights. I had forbidden flashlights so the Scouts could learn how well a human can see in the dark once his eyes become accustomed to it. All of a sudden, the lead scout decided to turn on his light. Even as I was about to yell at him to turn it off, I stopped, for he was about two steps from going over the cliff above the river.

On this same hike, your Uncle (Clark Akers), reclined regally in the prow of a “borrowed” boat reading a comic while poor Waldman in the stern did all the work.

When I left to go to the Navy, they were so glad I was gone, a “get-out-of-here” dinner was given, and it was real nice.

And then there was a paper drive. Collecting the paper was an all-day job with parents and cars and scouts cleaning the whole neighborhood. The real problem came when suddenly I realized that the entire scout cabin floor was covered with loose paper of all sorts and knee deep. So, the next Saturday, we had to borrow a truck from a wonderful member of the church whose name escapes me. We finally got all the paper loaded and took off with everyone riding the load.”

At that time, there was no troop Court of Honors. Each month there was one held downtown for the whole city. They were in the dining room on the top floor of the old Chamber of Commerce Building. It was on Fourth Avenue between Deadrick and Union. Every scout who had earned a rank or a merit badge received it at the monthly Court of Honor. Also, once a year there was a city-wide night Court of Honor, which was held at the War Memorial Building. This account of one of those appeared in a Nashville paper, probably the Tennessean...

“Gathering for the annual Night Court of Honor in the War Memorial Auditorium last night, approximately 2,000 Boy Scouts and their families heard local Scout officials laud the world founder of the organization and praise the work of the Nashville Council.

Principal speakers of the evening were E.B. Stahlman, Jr., Executive Director of the Banner and a member of the Council, who eulogized the late Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Englishman and founder of the Boy Scouts; and C.C. Menzler, Director of the Tennessee Industrial School, and also a member of the Council, who outlined the work of scouting in a democracy.

Mayor Thomas L. Cummings presented Silver Service Medals signifying superior work in civic affairs to Eagle Scouts, Bill Akers, Tom Fisher, and Joe Gilliam. Following this ceremony, Eagle badges were awarded to D.G. Faulkner, Jud Randolph, and Lewis Farringer, by Chief of Police John Griffin and Fire Chief J.A. Scruggs. Walter Sorrells was awarded a silver bugle as winner of a contest in blowing “Reveille” and “Taps”.

In the absence of Council President L.G. Boxwell, Charles S. Mitchell, Chairman of the Court of Honor, presided over the meeting. The annual parade of scouts, including all those ranked from Tenderfoot through Eagle was staged.

Scout Executive W.J. Anderson and Assistant Scout Executive James Gribble were in charge of the ceremonies.”

During these years, Troop 31 grew with the Nashville Council, and this is a record of the council’s growth:

	1920	1930	1940	1948	1953	1958	1963	1968
Cubs			459	1,629	3,829	9,425	13,135	18,935
Scouts	278	1,638	3,041	3,660	6,713	9,703	11,497	15,610
Total Boys			3,500	5,421	10,902	20,109	26,699	37,296
Units	15	73	152	254	444	730	904	1,086
Leaders			916	1,650	3,489	5,297	6,674	9,257
Staff	1		2	6	10	14	21	33

The Troop itself wasn't doing too badly either. In 1939 they were 5% above the national average for Eagle Scouts. 7% of Troop 31's scouts were Eagles, and the national average is only 2% of all scouts will make Eagle.

Allan Sharp (1944-1952) and then Earl Pond (1952-1960) were 31's last two Scoutmasters at the Church of the Advent. Each of them kindly wrote me as follows:

“Troop 31 must have been started about 1912 or 1914 and continued in existence until sometime in the 1950's. The Troop was sponsored by the Church of the Advent (Episcopal). I was Scoutmaster for about 8 years during the 1940's. Mr. William Treanor served as Assistant Scoutmaster for some twenty years, I would guess.

Mr. Treanor owned some 1,500 acres of timber land near Kingston Springs, Tennessee. While I was Scoutmaster, we usually took the Troop camping on Mr. Treanor's property. Sometimes we would sleep in pup-tents and sometimes in an old log cabin.

We would go swimming below an old mill dam on the Treanor property near Craggie Hope, Tennessee.

Some of the boys who were in the Troop while I was a Scoutmaster were: Clark Akers, Bill Akers, Kenny Rutherford (now a dentist), Billy Treanor, son of Mr. Treanor, now in the insurance business, Keener Jackson, who was a brilliant student in high school (now deceased), John Waldman, my son, now in the electronics field, Billy Case, and many others.

Mr. Trabue was the first Scoutmaster, and I was a member of the Troop when I was a boy. We had some five or six Eagle Scouts while I was Scoutmaster, and I enjoyed the Troop and all of the boys. We had some wonderful times together.”

Allan Sharp

“As I recall, I was Scoutmaster of this Troop from 1952 to 1960. It was originally sponsored by the Church of the Advent (Episcopal), located at 17th Avenue South and Edgehill Avenue. I was a member of this Troop when I was a boy from 1923 to 1927 or 1928, and a Mr. Trabue was Scoutmaster of it at that time. Also, at the time I was Scoutmaster, it was the oldest troop in continuous service in this area.

Naturally, I am somewhat prejudiced, but we thought that we had the best troop of boys around, and we spent a great deal of time out of doors. Most of our weekend trips began on Friday evening and lasted until Sunday night.”

Earl Pond

1957 – 1971

W.W. STIFLER – JOE E. HUTTON

Troop 31, as it is today, was started in 1957 by Mr. William W. Stifler. The troop moved from the Church of the Advent to St. George's Church on Harding Road. Mr. Stifler became the Scoutmaster, and Jock Downey was the Assistant Scoutmaster the first year, then Jack Perry the next year. When the troop was started there were eleven boys. These boys were: Jack Odom, Tom Rich, and Lewis Lechleiter of the Mustangs; Tom Perry and John Stifler of the Dragons; Eddie Childers, Bart Howard, and Rodney Downey of the Zorros; and Ed Gardner, Bill Reuther, and Jay Wallace of the Beavers.

Mr. Stifler, Scoutmaster from 1957 – 1964 and again from 1966 – 1969 wrote:

“Troop 31’s renaissance at St. George’s Church in 1957 was a brand new experience for me as well as those first boys. Eleven boys and eleven fathers met at the Church one night with the Rector (Mr. Bob Shaw), the West District Scout Executive (Mr. Ward Akers), and some of the Scout officials. To my own surprise, I volunteered to be the Scoutmaster “temporarily”.

The Troop has always been fortunate in having a good number of active fathers sharing in all of the activities. This is one of the big reasons for the growth and success of the Troop. At that first meeting, all of the rest of the fathers signed up as Assistant Scoutmasters or members of the Troop Committee.

I have always felt that the great thing about scouting is the way it gives each boy an opportunity to do his best and to achieve excellence by the standards which apply uniquely to him. We have made it a point to talk about “excellence” – the importance of doing an excellent job in everything. For any boy who has learned the importance of excellence from scouting, it has been a valuable experience.

But every boy should think of scouting as fun, too. The best fun is always active fun – the fun of doing something yourself. (Watching somebody else is never the same.) Some of Troop 31’s best times have included coping with problems that certainly were not planned. For instance, there was the time when the Hiking Merit Badge candidates took a 20-mile hike in the Smokies. During the last two or three hours of that hike, coming down the Alun Cave Bluffs Trail, it rained so hard that we could scarcely see. By the time we reached our cars, everybody was not just cold and wet; we could not have been more thoroughly soaked if we had been swimming with our clothes on, but everybody was laughing.

When we got back to our campsite, everybody took off all his wet clothes and (if he did not have any dry ones) got into his sleeping bag while a couple of adult leaders took all of the wet clothes to Gatlinburg and ran them through the dryers in the laundromat. They brought them all back in one big heap and let everybody find his own clothes amid more laughter.

The Zaphaniah T. Moore Trophy has a special significance which I have always felt was very important. Because it is actually a Number 10 can and a rather beat-up one after it has been on a few outings, it symbolizes the concept that many of the things most worth working for are not fancy or expensive. I hope this Trophy will continue as a Troop 31 tradition indefinitely.”

This story appeared in Scouting magazine in March 1961. It was written by Mr. Stifler and published nationally:

“I am a Scoutmaster in a community where many boys “have everything”. So much is given them and done for them that it is difficult to keep things in perspective.

When Troop 31 started in 1957, I had recently moved here and had not yet heard that a Scout Troop at St. George’s Episcopal Church just would not work, that the parents were too busy to contribute their time, and that the boys became oversophisticated at an early age in this community.

I reluctantly volunteered to be Scoutmaster because nobody else would. We started with eleven boys and no have over sixty. Why did things work out so differently from the predictions?

One of the advantages from the start was having a nonsectarian or community troop. Right now, we have boys from seven different churches and synagogues. About 40% belong to the chartered institution.

One of our first problems was that many of the parents wanted “the best” for their sons and were well able to provide it as long as it took only money. Some of the parents are less wealthy than others, but we never had a boy who couldn’t afford a Scout uniform. This situation has its disadvantages.

With little material need to achieve, how is a boy going to have any incentive to achieve? This, of course, brings us right around to the question, “What is the objective of Scouting, anyway?” If it is training for citizenship, how do you make a boy want to be a contributing citizen?

The first few boys who registered in Troop 31 were noticeably bright – and for this reason if for no other – had to have plenty to do. So we set a high standard of performance for advancement in rank. To become a Tenderfoot in

Troop 31, a boy has to do what it says in the Boy Scout Handbook. He has to do more than this, though. For instance, he must tell, not only in his own words (as the book says) but in the exact words on page 85 in the new handbook just what it is to be trustworthy, loyal, and the other ten points of the Scout Law. He has to know the fine print by heart.

To some boys this might be an impossible feat of memory work. But when a reasonably bright boy sets out to be a scout, it is no more than a decent challenge. This fall, a new boy came to his second troop meeting and asked me if I would O.K. his Scout Law then and there. I wondered, out loud, whether he had fully understood that the new boys had to learn, exactly, the words in the book. He replied, “If you mean that I have to learn the Law, verbatim, I already have.”

At that point I guessed that any eleven-year-old boy whose conversational vocabulary included the word verbatim probably would recite the whole Scout Law – and he did.

I believe that most people greatly underestimate the capabilities of Scout-age boys. We are cheating them, in effect, if we give these boys awards based on less than 100% performance.

We have, in a way, more authority than their teachers or their parents, because is not compulsory. They can’t quit school or home, but they can quit the Troop any time they want to. If they get the idea that the “boss” will accept a good honest try as a substitute for satisfactory performance, they’ll get fired some day by a real boss who can’t afford to pay wages just because they’re nice guys and made a good honest try.

A challenge is much more likely to keep boys in Scouting than a sashful of embroidery that “came easy”.

To become First Class in Troop 31, a Scout has to go on an honest-to-goodness “overnight hike”. Unloading a station wagon and setting up a tent won’t do. Each boy must carry his food, bedding, tent (if he wants to use one), and anything else that he feels like bringing a distance of at least three miles. They all complain about it – and later brag about it. It would be a secret disappointment to every boy in the troop if we relaxed this standard.

The same thing goes for signaling. I’ve heard rumors of movements to do away with the signaling requirement. This would be a great mistake. It is one test that nobody can pass without putting forth a little mental sweat. Every boy in Troop 31 meets the requirement literally; he gets a twenty-word message through. As many as three failures has never yet discouraged one of these boys, though it has made a few “mad” at themselves.

In our year-round camping and hiking program, again, we have a problem that stems from our having no wolf at the door. Fond grandparents and other relatives would load the boys with more fancy equipment than a whole regiment could use. We inhibit this by doing without cooking equipment except for No. 10 cans, plus a few troop-owned ladles, forks, and serving spoons. These also make camping more of a challenge, more of a do-it-yourself project. (I quickly found that when we had beautiful aluminum dishes and pots, everything that was brought home generally got washed immediately but by someone else!)

A special incentive to do a good job on any kind of campout or hiking expedition is the Zephaniah T. Moore trophy. The troop veterans try to build this up in the imaginations of the neophytes as an ornate and expensive loving cup. The legendary Zephaniah T. Moore is supposed to have been a wealthy benefactor who willed this to Troop 31. The trophy is a tin can with two handles of the same material, soldered to it. It goes to the best patrol after each hike or campout. To win it, a patrol must demonstrate such features as effective organization and cooperation and Scout craft proficiency.

A plaque goes on the trophy each time it is won. The plaque is a half-inch strip of adhesive tape bearing the name of the winning patrol, the event, date, and patrol leader's name. By now there are about 20 plaques on the cup.

Another problem that a Scoutmaster faces when many of the boys come from two-cars-and-a-mad homes might be called the "casual attitude" toward money and property. If 50 cents is easy to come by, you're more likely than not to forget you owe somebody 50 cents.

If the maid picks up your clothes and puts them away, why not take the easy way and drop them on the floor? (In all fairness, let me say that in my jamboree troop last summer, there were boys without any special advantages who were also poor housekeepers.)

Anyway, we are strict about housekeeping. One weekend on our way to Shiloh Park a candy wrapper flew out of the car ahead of mine as we were passing through Centerville. We had to stop at a traffic light, and I pulled up beside the other car. "Did somebody lose a candy wrapper?" was all I asked. The boy said, "I'm sorry; I forgot," and went back to pick it up.

The social calendar makes it impossible to find a convenient time for everybody to do anything together. There are dancing classes, football games, music lessons, family weekends in Florida or "at the lake". There are parties, plays, and golf lessons. A few boys occasionally have to leave the troop early to attend the symphony. The senior patrol leader plays the French horn in the youth orchestra and sometimes has to miss part of a hike for a rehearsal.

At first, we tried to schedule around the conflicts. Now we ignore them except for three weeks at Christmas and around graduation time, when we just take a vacation from regular meetings. After all, a busy adult has to learn to make choices. A busy boy may as well learn, too.

No boy is criticized for missing a Scout event. We accept the fact that if he had something else to do he couldn't be in two places at once. But he must see that his responsibilities to the troop and his fellow Scouts are discharged by someone else. No excuses are accepted. In figuring attendance records, a boy is either present or absent.

In spite of their full calendars, seven boys earned perfect attendance pins last year.

One of our worst conflicts last year was our Halloween overnight camp. That evening, it turned out, had all sorts of parties going on, plus the Vanderbilt-Mississippi football game. Of course, we went on the campout anyway. A special feature was a moonlight hike to a haunted house (electronically haunted with all sorts of eerie sounds and the ghost of Zephaniah T. Moore). Most of the boys chose the campout instead of the social events and said they were glad they had.

We show our dads how to help the troop. Our next project for a warm spring Saturday is going to be a Showando for all the Troop 31 dads (and it will be dads only) with refreshments for everybody at the end of the adventure trail.

The most significant reason for the troop's success is the attitude of the parents. They have given just what the doubters said they wouldn't – their own time. Among them we now have four hard-working, enthusiastic Assistant Scoutmasters and an efficient Troop Committee.

Boys who “have everything” obviously still need Scouting. But to be accepted, it must be presented to them in the framework of their own background, just as it must be for all boys.”

On one of the first campouts an institution was born. It was Halloween, and the Troop was at Mr. Bailey's wilderness. So the boys were talking around the campfire when a voice moaned, “I am the ghost of Zephaniah T. Moore”. Mr. Stifler explained that Mr. Moore was a wealthy benefactor to the Troop in times past. “In my will, I gave a great symbolic trophy to Troop 31. The patrol that demonstrates the best knowledge of

scoutcraft, the best organization, and the best participation shall win the trophy, and its name will be inscribed on it forever.”

Many different patrols have won the Z.T.M., and they are as follows:

Zephaniah T. Moore Trophy Awards

March 14 – 15, 1958 Montgomery Bell Park Mustangs B. Howard Pl.	October 3 – 5, 1958 Middle Tennessee Camporee Beavers J. Wallace Pl.
April 16 – 20, 1958 District Camporee Zorroz B. Howard Pl.	November 8 – 9, 1958 Operation Exploration Dragons J. Stifler Pl.
May 24 – 25, 1958 New Boxwell Reservation Zorros B. Howard Pl.	December 6, 1958 Sealed Orders Hike Mustangs L. Lechleiter Pl.
June 7 – 8, 1958 Reedrest Farm Mustangs J. Odom Pl.	January 10, 1959 Operation Frozen Mudhole Dragons J. Stifler Pl.
February 21 – 22, 1959 Montgomery Bell Park Scotsmen B. King Pl.	January 28, 1961 Reluctant Mother’s Hike Dragons Robert St. Clair Pl.
April 17 – 19, 1959 New Camp Boxwell Beavers Ed Gardner Pl.	February 28, 1961 Shut the Door Mustangs Jack Odom Pl.
May 16 – 17, 1959 Dehydrated Adventure Hike Dragons John Stifler Pl.	April 29 – 30, 1961 Spring Camporee Falcon’s Doug Oliver Pl.
October 3, 1959 May & Compass Hike Falcons Ricky Evans Pl.	May 28 – 19, 1961 Pioneer’s Canoe Trip Mustangs Jack Odom Pl.
October 31 – November 1, 1969 Operation Spook Falcons Ricky Evans Pl.	October 7 – 8, 1961 Clean Up the Campsites Falcons Doug Oliver Pl.
December 12 – 13, 1959 Montgomery Bell Park Mustangs L. Lechleiter Pl.	November 4 – 5, 1961 Mr. Bailey’s Campfire Visit Falcons Doug Oliver Pl.
January 16, 1960 Wrong Turn Nature Hike Thunderbirds G. Hastings Pl.	December 9, 1961 Lost Boy Scout Hike Mustangs Jerry Carnes Pl.
February 27, 1960 Mud, Snow & Dried Beef Falcons Ricky Evans Pl.	January 27 – 18, 1962 Cold Weather Survival Thunderbirds Bill Adkinson Pl.
April 9 – 10, 1960 Operation Frost Bite Falcons Ricky Evans Pl.	March 3, 1962 Follow the Blood Trail Dragons Harry Bassler Pl.

May 13 – 15, 1960 Mr. B's W. Falcons Ricky Evans Pl.	May 12 – 13, 1962 Canoe Trip Beavers Robbie Quinn Pl.
October 22 – 23, 1960 Jubilee Camporee Falcons Doug Oliver Pl.	September 29 – 30, 1962 Mr. B's Revisited Vikings Bob Neaderthal Pl.
November 19, 1960 Mystery Hike Dragons Bob Buchanan Pl.	November 3 – 4, 1962 Mr. Fowler's Hava Lakatu Dragons Harry Bassler Pl.
December 10, 1960 Mr. Bailey's Rescue Vikings Howell Warner Pl.	December 1, 1962 Scavenger Hike Panthers Graham Ellis Pl.
March 1963 Ghost Hike by Moonlight Beavers Casey Reed Pl.	

Then after the March 1963 Campout, a new ZTM was started. It continued until November 1969, when it read:

April 5 – 7, 1963 Cheatham Wildlife Area Eagles Mike McCotten Pl.	November 16 – 17, 1963 Cost Troop Hike Mr. B's W. T Birds C. Copes Pl.
May 10 – 11, 1963 Zollicoffen Medal Trail Somerset, Kentucky Panthers Rons Perry Pl.	January 25 – 26, 1969 Cold Weather Survival Hike Mr. B's W. T Birds and Vikings C. Copes and Allen Kirkpatrick Pl.
September 28 – 29, 1963 "The Heavy Dew Hike" Mr. B's W. Eagles Brett Kirkpatrick Pl.	March 21 – 22, 1964 T.P.S. Scout Camp Hike Vikings A. Kirkpatrick Pl.
October 3 – 4, 1964 Skil-O-Ree Prep Mustangs S. Stumpf Pl.	May 13 – 14, 1967 Deep Springs ???? "Water, Water Everywhere" Panthers Frank Beard Pl.
October 17 – 18, 1964 West District Skil-O-Ree Eagles Brett Kirkpatrick Pl.	October 6 – 8, 1967 Davidson County Jamboree Beavers Tommy Cummings Pl.
January 30 – 31, 1965 Frozen Scout Hike Mr. B's W. Entire Troop	November 4 – 5, 1967 Haunted House Overnight Mr. B's W. Mustangs Ron Batson Pl.

February 27 – 28, 1965 February Heat Wave Hike Eagles B. Kirkpatrick Pl.	December 2 – 3, 1967 Haunted Hilton Hike Mr. B's W. Beavers Tommy Cummings Pl.
May 14, 1965 Old Timers Day Elk River Camporee Mustangs Jamie Stifler Pl.	January 20, 1968 Missing Persons Adventure Percy Warner Park Panthers Chil Gill Pl.
November 20 – 21, 1965 New Campsite Hike Mustangs Jamie Stifler Pl.	February 17 – 18, 1968 17° at the Blue Hole Dragons Dick Koonce Pl.
February 19 – 20, 1966 “VW Breakdown Hike” Gin Farm Jaguars C. Warfield Pl.	March 1968 Camporee Cheatham W.M.A. Mustangs/Panthers Combo Jim Robinson/Chip Gill
March 12 – 13, 1966 Board of Review Gin Farm Mustangs Jamie Stifler Pl.	May 25 – 26, 1968 Boxwell Bird Sanctuary Adventure Dragons Dick Koonce Pl.
September 24 – 25, 1966 Board of Review Hike Gin Farm Mustangs Jamie Stifler Pl.	September 21 – 22, 1968 Mr. Sneed's Revisited Mustangs Joe Flautt Pl.
October 1966 Fall Camporee Percy Warner Beavers T. Earthman Pl.	October 12 – 13, 1968 Cades Cove Caralade Mustangs Joe Flautt Pl.
November 19 – 20, 1966 Scout Craft Hike Gin Farm Dragons A. Robinson Pl.	November 16 – 17, 1968 Overnight Near the Bailey's Hilton Ruins Mustangs Joe Flautt Pl.
January 21, 1967 “Captive the Flag Hike” Sneeds Farm Eagles Randy Short Pl.	December 14 – 15, 1968 Cumberland Caverns Entire Troop – Jamie St. Fleur SPL
February 18 – 19, 1967 (Pack-In Overnight Practice) POP Hike Dragons Walter Diehl Pl.	February 7 – 8, 1969 Akers Farm Spelunking and Stuff Panthers Bert Mathews Pl.
April 15 – 16, 1967 1967 Spring Camporee Stones River Falcons Craig Sargent Pl.	March 8 – 9, 1969 Mr. B's W. A Winter Wonderland Panthers Bert Mathews Pl.
April 26 – 17, 1969 Rope Swing Camporee Beavers Bob Miller Pl.	November 2 – 3, 1969 Fall Camporee AEDC Dragons Billy Fray Pl.

November 22, 1969 Mr. B's W. Panthers Jody Hutton Pl.	
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They had to get a new trophy for the January 1970 campout. This is the most recent one, and to date it reads:

January 17 – 18, 1970 Blue Hole 93' Down Mustangs Joe Robinson Pl.	November 21 – 22, 1970 Mr. B's W. T Birds Phil Brooks Pl.
February 14 – 15, 1970 Cumberland Caverns Entire Troop Jim Robinson SPL	January 30 – 31, 1971 Blue Hole Mustangs Donald Phillips Pl.
March 21 – 22, 1970 Akers Farm Mustangs Joe Robinson Pl.	February 22 – 23, 1971 Tunes Farm T Birds Phil Brooks Pl.
April 4 – 5, 1970 Spring Camporee T Birds – Panthers Mike Van Sicklen – Wesley Diehl Pl's	April 24 – 25, 1971 Roos' Farm Mustangs Don Phillips Pl.
September 26 – 27, 1970 Akers Farm Mustangs Joe Robinson Pl.	October 23 – 24, 1971 Flash Flood at Sneed's Farm Panthers Billy Stoney Pl.
October 10 – 11, 1970 West District Camporee Entire Troop T. Cummings SPL	November 13 – 14, 1971 Hike into "Little Skinny" Akers' Farm Mustangs Donald Phillips Pl.

From 1959 to 1962, there was a ZTM Junior Trophy which was awarded to the second place patrol. It reads:

Operation Spook October 31 – November 1, 1959 Howell Warner, Sterling Head	West District Spring Camporee Edwin Warner Park April 29 – 30, 1961 Dragons Robert St. Clair Pl.
Montgomery Bell Overnight December 12 – 13, 1959 Jack Odom, Dick Rennie	Clean up the Campsite Mr. B's W. October 7 – 8, 1961 Dragons Harry Bassler Pl.

Wrong Turn Nature Hike Percy Warner Park January 16, 1960 Mustangs for Patrol Teamwork	Mr. Bailey's Campfire Visit November 4 – 5, 1961 Mr. B's W. Mustangs Jerry Carnes Pl.
Operation Frost Bite TPS Summer Camp September 10, 1960 Bill Reuther – Excellent QM	Lost Boy Scout Hike Percy Warner Park December 9, 1961 Falcons for 8 boys in the Rain
Fall Camporee 1960 Edwin Warner Park Dragons Bob Buchanan Pl.	Cold Weather Survived Mr. B's W. January 27 – 28, 1962 Dragons Henry Bassler Pl.
Mystery Hike Percy Warner Pike November 19, 1960 Mustangs Carnes, Skinner, Field	Follow the Blood Trail March 3, 1962 Beavers Robbie Quinn Pl.
Mr. Bailey's Rescue December 10, 1960	Overnight Canoe Hike Rolling River Farm May 12 – 13, 1962 Jr. Leaders Reuther, Lechleiter, Stifler
January 28, 1961 Reluctant Mother's Hike Falcons George Apffel Pl.	Scavenger Hike Mr. B's W. December 1, 1962 Mr. Perry & Mr. Bassler
Shut the Door! Montgomery Bell Park February 25 – 26, 1961 Beavers Hunt Oliver Pl.	

Another institution in Troop 31 is the “egg”. The egg is a piece of lead in the shape of a zero, and it is a sort of booby prize that is awarded to the scout who has demonstrated his skills in the field of bungling. A typical egg presentation ceremony probably would go something like this:

Senior Patrol Leader: “This is a very solemn ceremony.”

Troop: “Ha Ha”

SPL: “On the last campout a large boo-boo was committed. As you may or may not know, the egg is in the shape of a zero. This zero signifies what is in the scout's head who won it – nothing.”

Troop: “Ha Ha”

SPL: “Anyway, James Jones, on the campout was attempting to put up a dining fly and it fell onto the fire. A can of beans was heating on the fire, and the fly was burned and covered with beans.”

Troop: “Ha Ha”

SPL: “Jim, please come forward...Thank You. I present you with the egg.”

This ceremony takes place after each campout, and anyone can receive the egg. A Senior Patrol Leader has even received it! After a scout receives the egg, he must never set it down, until the end of the meeting. Also, he must preface each answer to each question that he is asked with, “I goofed.”

Along with Mr. Bailey’s wilderness, Troop 31 camps at other locations. There is the Blue Hole involving a notoriously strenuous hike of five miles. Sometimes in the winter, it gets down below zero degrees, and the water freezes in the water cans, the bacon freezes solid, and some people think they have terminal frostbite.

Another place is Old Camp Boxwell, at the Narrows. Sneed’s Farm is another place that Troop 31 frequents. The Akers’ Farm and Cumberland Caverns are prime attractions for the spelunkers in the Troop.

The Akers’ farm is an interesting coincidence. The farm’s former owner, Lawrence Treanor, had a brother, William Ormsby Treanor, who was an Assistant Scoutmaster for 31. He took the scouts down to his farm in the thirties, and now W.B. (Bill) Akers takes Troop 31 there in the seventies. (Mr. Treanor took Clark Akers, III, Bill’s brother, to the farm when he was a scout.)

A normal campout would begin at 8:00 Saturday morning sharp. The scouts would assemble at the church, receive tents, poles, tarps, cutting boards, grills, and water cans, and then shove off. They might be going to a Camporee or on a regular campout.

You might think that each of them had just won \$500.00 by the look on their faces.

Everyone is talking or laughing and planning their activities. A campout has games,

advancement, and above all, competition. A typical schedule would look like this:

8:00	Arrive at church
8:30	Leave for campsite
9:15	Arrive at campsite
9:30 – 10:30	Set up camp
10:30 – 12:00	Eat lunch and prepare for games
12:00 – 12:15	Assembly, roll call, announcements
12:15 – 2:00	Advancement, troop competition, games
2:00 – 4:00	Free period
4:00 – 7:00	Prepare for and eat dinner
7:00 – 9:00	Games
9:00 – 9:20	Campfire
9:30	Taps
6:00 – 8:00	Reveille, breakfast
8:00 – 8:30	Devotional
8:30 – 9:30	Break camp
9:30 – 10:00	Clean up
10:00 – 10:15	Inspection
10:30	Depart for home

The lunch on Saturday is a sack lunch. Dinner could be beanie-weenies, or it could go as far as beef stroganoff with chocolate cake for dessert. Breakfasts range from cereal to waffles with cane syrup. One thing is certain, though – boys in Troop 31 don't starve!

The games mentioned in this schedule could be a backyard Olympics with paper bag shot put and straw javelin, or it could be one of the old standbys "Hide-and-Seek" or "Steal the Bacon".

Competition between patrols is fast and furious. The whole troop could specialize in one area, such as signaling or knots. Or each patrol could do an area on their own. The Panthers could do cooking; the Beavers could do knots; the T Birds could do fire

building, etc. The members of each patrol would go to each “station”, manned by a couple of patrol members. At each station they would do the best they could and be awarded points accordingly. The patrol with the most points wins, and it goes up on the chart for troop competition. The patrol winning at the end of each year has accumulated around 2,000 points. The winning patrol gets a prize. One year, the Beavers were “awarded” a canoe trip down the Harpeth River.

Troop 31 meets each Monday night at 7:30 in Hampton Hall of St. George’s Church. Before the meeting, there might be a quick game of jump-the-shot or steal-the-bacon. During this time, the Service Patrol brings out the flags, hangs up the scout emblem, and wheels in the bulletin board. After the room is set up, the Senior Patrol Leader calls the troop together and then the meeting begins.

A few short announcements are given, folders for dues are issued, and then the patrols retire to Patrol corners. Only it is more like a mad rush than a retirement.

At Patrol corners, the Patrol Leader collects dues, and if a campout is approaching, they plan for it.

Assembly is blown and everyone reappears, again a mad rush. A few announcements are made and dues are collected. Next comes a speaker, an Order of the Arrow election, a movie, or a game. Then all of a sudden it is 9:00 and time to go home.

Every several months, the troop holds its own court-of-honor (unlike those of 40 years ago). The patrol dads give out the ranks up to First Class, then the merit badges, and next Star and Life. Usually, the Scoutmaster gives out the Eagle award. He will call the candidate forward and tell the parents and friends a bit about his scouting “life”. He tells the time he started in Scouts, when he got his ranks, and other important

achievements or troop offices. The Scoutmaster then gives a brief summary of the Scout's Eagle project. He then calls the Eagle's parents forward, and the Mother of the scout pins his Eagle pin on him, and he pins a symbol on his Mother than means she is the Mother of an Eagle Scout.

Since 1957, Troop 31 has had at least 44 Eagle Scouts. They are as follows:

Tom Perry	Loyd Smith	Walter Diehl
John Stifler	Tom Atkinson	Dick Crouch
Paul Stumpf	Brett Kirkpatrick	Robert Miller
Dan Eadie	Alan Kirkpatrick	Tommy Cummings
Lewis Lechleiter	Ed Stevens	Timmy Cummings
Howell Warner	Charlie Warfield	Darr Hall
Bob Neaderthal	Craig Sargent	Dick Koonce
Robbie Quinn	Jamie Stifler	Spence Sutton
Sammy Stumpf	Frank Heard	Chip Gill
Joe Hanson	Chris Berry	Joe Flautt
Ross Perry	Bob Scholars	Jody Hutton
Hunt Oliver	George Dunbar	Walker Mathews
Harry Bassler	Doug Oliver	Wesley Diehl
Freddy Guttman	Allen Wallace	Bill Powell
Bill Reuther	Ed Branding	Rod Cartier
Dud McMurray		

In the three years 1957 to 1960, Troop 31 has quadrupled in size. The growth record went like this:

1957 – 1957	September 12 boys	June 20 boys
1958 – 1959	September 19 boys	June 40 boys
1959 – 1960	September 35 boys	June 46 boys

Now in 1971, there are about 50 boys and 13 leaders.

In the scout year 1959 – 1960, Troop 31 had a membership of 46 boys. During that year, 40 of the 46 boys advanced, and they earned 58 ranks, and 104 merit badges (enough for 5 Eagle Scouts). The six Tenderfoots were joined by 14 more. Seventeen scouts earned Second Class, joining the eleven already in the rank. Fifteen of the 31 First

Class scouts were new. Six of the thirteen Stars were old. The four new Life Scouts swelled the ranks to nine. One Eagle made the grade in 1959 – 1960, but two were already there. These three boys earned one Bronze Palm and one Silver. These awards mean a total of twenty extra merit badges were earned.

The Troop maintained its 7% Eagles level (the same as in 1939, twenty-one years before).

The Nashville Council was growing, too. Its phenomenal growth is evidenced in this chart:

	1939	1940	1968
Second Class			1,760
First Class	173	191	1,076
Star	109	120	672
Life	69	83	464
Eagle	25	30	307
Merit Badges			12,907

The boys who earned these ranks through the years went on as men to earn many more ranks in business life.

Mr. Signey Koonce tells about his remembrances as Scoutmaster:

“I served as Assistant Scoutmaster and as Scoutmaster of Troop 31 from the fall of 1965 to the spring of 1968. I became Scoutmaster upon the retirement of Mr. Bill Stifler and acted in that capacity until a permanent one was found. This was through the spring of 1968. My recollections of the Troop are all good, for I feel it was an outstanding group of boys. The Troop also was most fortunate in the large number of fathers who participated in its various functions, making the overall running of the troop much smoother.

Troop 31 has always had a reputation for camping in all types of weather, and during my tenure this did not change. Once at Bailey’s wilderness, we camped during the winter. All awakened the next morning to find tents all covered with a blanket of snow, and the temperatures well below freezing. Because of the high wind, a number of tarps had collapsed and several boys awoke to find that their tent-pitching ability left something to be desired since the tent had collapsed around their heads. Nevertheless,

all fared well and enjoyed the rest of the day before breaking camp for home.

Another memorable but cold trip was to the Akers' far. Although this trip brought no snow, it was cold enough for the pond to freeze solid, and many of the boys skated on their shoes and on skates which they had brought.

That spring brought on the annual camporee, and this year it was held at Percy Warner Park. This particular year, all troops participated by having some type of patrol station for competitive activity. All troops divided into patrols, and the patrols then competed in various scout and athletic problems. Although Troop 31 did not win the prize for the best station, I feel it was one of the most popular. A rope was strung over a dry creek bed, and each patrol was required to hand walk across the gully. It was surprising how many fell in the "creek".

These are only a few of the memories I have of my association with the Troop as Assistant Scoutmaster and as Scoutmaster. Needless to say, they are all enjoyable and they become even more meaningful as I see these once unsure "Tenderfeet" grow and mature into capable young men assuming their responsibility in our community."

In January of 1969, John C. Tune (same initials as James Campbell Trabue, founder of the Troop) took over from Mr. Koonce and stayed with Troop 31 until September of 1970. His thoughts about the Troop are as follows:

"My thoughts are that the Boy Scout program is undoubtedly the single most important organization in America for the building of men of character, integrity, and dignity. In my opinion, Troop 31 accomplished its task very adequately.

Probably my most fond memories as Scoutmaster are of the maturing process of the youngsters from Tenderfoot to Eagle. Specifically what I am talking about is the maturation process of the youngsters – that is, seeing the difference in judgment, ability, thoughtfulness, and discipline in a boy from Tenderfoot to Eagle.

My impression of our Troop is that we truly had one of, if not the, finest Troops in the West District. The esprit de corps, dedication, and gregariousness of the Troop lent evidence of this fact."

Mr. Joe E. Hutton, the Troop's present Scoutmaster, has been serving in this capacity since January of 1971. His thoughts on Troop 31 are as follows:

"I was a Scout as a boy but never advanced past Second Class. We had a poorly-organized Troop, and as I remember, we had a Scoutmaster with no assistants. Even though my two boys were in the Troop, I still knew very little about scouting before becoming an adult leader.

I joined Troop 31 as an ASM and Patrol Dad to the Panther Patrol in October of 1969, which duties I maintained throughout the balance of the 1969-70 school year.

In the fall of 1970, I took on additional duties, basically in the area of Senior Scout advancement.

I became Scoutmaster on January 1 of 1971 and plan to continue as Scoutmaster through the 1971-72 school year.

My impression of Troop 31 is that in advancement, organization, and quality of adult leadership, we are one of the top Troops in the district."

Each of the men I talked to voiced the same opinion, either verbally or written, that "Troop 31 is the best Troop in Nashville and it will, I am sure, continue to be".

Before I started on my project, I felt the same thing, but now I am sure that Troop 31 is the best Troop in Nashville, West District, the Council and maybe in the whole United States.