

Preface

Ed Strang died in 1995. He was Scoutmaster of Troop 3, Derby, Cubmaster of Pack 3, and Explorer Post/Venture Crew 33 leader. To many of the alumni he was a father figure and much loved. Many of us were concerned that his memory would be lost forever. We wanted to leave a statement defining who he was and what he accomplished. The Housatonic Council named their camp after Ed but that really doesn't define Ed. We proposed to the troop committee that we publish a book about Ed. Net profit from the book would be used to support Camp Strang. The project was approved and a group of alumni started the project. We decided that the only way we could define Ed was through the eyes of those he influenced and the activities he was involved in. The reader will have to paint a picture of Ed as perceived from that data.

Ed and his wife Caroline could not have children but they did have a family, a LARGE family. The family started with boys at seven years of age (Pack 3 Cub Scouts) continued as a Boy Scout (Troop 3) and on thru Venture Scouting. In many cases contact continued through life.

Ed and Caroline were a team. Ed was a catalyst. With his unique ability and convincing ways he was able to make his dreams a reality. They never owned a home or luxury car. These were not their goals in life. After reading this book his goals will be apparent.

As a young boy Ed collected poems and stories and placed them in scrapbooks. This continued when he became a Scout leader. Most of the pictures and Cub, Troop, and Venture Scout information found in this book were taken from those scrapbooks. To Ed, making over two hundred and thirty scrapbooks in his lifetime was

a labor of love. I used photos taken from those scrapbooks where possible. I apologize to those who do not have a picture in the book or for the quality of the picture being used and to those who contributed to the success of the troop but are not mentioned.

I thank all those who contributed stories, and also author P. Ng for his advice, members of Troop 3, especially Scouts Adam Sroka and Jim Butler for video interviews taken by iPhone, Pack 3, Venture Crew 33 and Randy Ritter. I also wish to thank Troop 3 alumni, the Valley Community Foundation and the Bassett Family for their financial support, and Mrs. Dorothy DeBisschop, vice president of the Oxford Historical Society, for her contribution of book layout.

This book is a compilation of personal experiences of people in their association with Ed and the historical highlights of Cub Pack 3, Troop 3, Venture Group 33, the Housatonic Council and Scout Camps and the Lower Naugatuck Valley and contains existing documentation as noted. Articles whose author was not noted were written by Robert Bednarcik. This book also celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Troop 3. I wish to thank the Ed Strang Memorial Fund Committee whose members include Richard Williams, Rod Kneen, Rod Erickson, George Quadretti, Ron East, Tim Walsh, and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Nuendorf for their hard work and support to make this effort a success.

Robert Bednarcik chairman of the Ed Strang Memorial Fund Committee.

ALUMNI SUPPORTERS

The following Troop 3 alumni and friends have contributed to funding this book; Bob Ahearn, Eugenia Bacon, Bob Bednarcik, Arlene Brady, Sam Cohen, Alice Costello, Neil Dorso, Joseph Ferry, James Florzak, Rudy and Patrica Gajdosik, Robin Hertel, Wm. And Joan Holden, Edward Jeakle, Rod Kneen, Roseland Koenig, Wm. Kruysman, James Kyed, Elizabeth Leigh, Dale Martin, Maureen Monaco, Ron Nappi, The Nolan Family Living Trust, Elizebeth Pagano, J. Patten, Mary Pepe, Josephine Pompa, Bill Pucci, Robert W. Rapp, Michael Ryan, Gary Scarpa, Frank and Bonnie Schaub, Simon Seaton, Homer Sommers, James Stapleton, Adrean Sturges, and Joesph Wardzala.

Memories of Scouting in the Valley

Bob Ahearn (telephone interview)

Bob began his Scouting career as a Cub in Pack 3. Paul Kassheimer was the Cubmaster. Ida Yudkin was his Den Mother. They met at the Derby Methodist Church and Pack 3 still does. He remembers the Gang Show, singing in the chorus and laughing at the Endmen's jokes. Bob particularly thought that the skit at the end of the show was very funny when Committeemen dressed as women kissed interlocutor Ed Strang. Bob graduated to Troop 3 and was a member of the Falcon Patrol when Gene Micci was Patrol Leader. Bob went camping Friday nights with his patrol in a small building at Grassy Hill Lodge which was next to his house. Bob's father was a Troop 3 Committee Man.



Bob Ahearn

Bob went on many trips and campouts, including a trip to Washington D.C. to visit Senator Dodd in the Senate chambers and a tour of the White House. His favorite trip was canoeing at Rangely Lakes in Maine. They found a trout on the shore of one of the lakes and cooked it. Delicious!

Bob played in the Derby Little League. Ed was coach of the Laurels. They played for fun. They didn't pay much attention to the score. If the score was close, Ed would have one of the smallest boys crouch down when batting which usually resulted in a walk. Ed played everybody on the team.

Bob's father died in 1960 when he was 15 years old. It was a difficult time for Bob to move forward. Ed gave Bob much needed attention and support. He encouraged Bob to plan ahead and call him if he needed help. Ed encouraged Bob to go to college and wrote a recommendation for him.

Bob said Ed never said a bad word about anybody. If you made a mistake he might let you know it but wouldn't hold it against you. He taught Bob to treat others as you would want to be treated.

Bob is Troop3 Eagle Scout number 118.



Julie and Doug Allred

Julie Allred

Editor's Note: Julie Allred is the youngest daughter of Peter and Molly Burdett. See the Molly Burdett Story.

I must say main memories of Ed are him, camera strung around his neck, striding through the streets of New York City or London, sightseeing with us. I think he was the quintessential American, ha ha. And Caroline,.. her lemon chiffon pie was to die for.

Funny, the things you remember. And funny how they link us together.

Memories of John Anglace, Frank and Bob Skowronski by John Anglace

How I Almost Had To Leave Troop 3:

Roman Catholics back in the forties professed a very possessive view that Scouting had to be done in a Roman Catholic environment with Roman Catholic leaders, etc. A Roman Catholic becoming a member of a Boy Scout Troop sponsored by the United Methodist Church with meetings being held at the Second Congregational Church was next to



Frank Skowronski

being a mortal sin in the eyes of the R.C. Church. Back then Catholics viewed Protestants as being something less than Christian.

Consequently, when it was learned that a Roman Catholic Altar Boy and member of St. Mary's Choir was a participating member of Troop 3 the Monsignor quietly called me aside for a discussion of why this was improper. After much dialog regarding why I should transfer to Troop 2, Derby (the St. Mary's Troop) I innocently told the Monsignor that the members of Troop 3 were my friends and good people who I enjoyed being with.

When I told him about Ed Strang, being the best Scout leader in the world (even if he was a Methodist), I thought he was going to send me to hell. Well, I told him I would stay the course which, of course, resulted in him having a conversation with my mother and then me having a conversation with her. My mother had guidance from Bill Haverly, our next door neighbor, himself a Methodist and an advisor at Troop 3. She also received some guidance from above and she made the final decision that I would stay in Troop 3 along with my two best friends from Talmadge Street, Frank and Bob Skowronski. I wouldn't doubt that my mom spoke with Mrs. Skowronski before making the final decision. God Bless both of them for making the right decision because the three of us learned more in Troop 3 than we ever could have learned from Troop 2.

Under the guidance of Ed Strang and his able assistant, Rod Kneen, we learned about people of color long before the Rev. Martin Luther King surfaced and Affirmative Action became law. We also learned tolerance for the religious beliefs of others because Ed provided us exposure to other cultures from which we developed a deep respect for the views of our fellow Scouts.



John Anglace

As years passed and we looked back on our Scouting experience under Ed, we began to see him as the "Pied Piper of Scouting." Every Scout competed for his attention and recognition. His rewards were simple words of praise but generous because he mentioned your name and had the value of enlisting more effort.

He had psychological skills beyond his formal training. He shared all he had and then some. He found ways to seek out more to give and those in need and worthy to receive it. We were always in the forefront of doing for others. He taught religious, ethnic, handicapped and color understanding and tolerance before it was recognized by the country. He organized Jews, Catholics, Protestants and other religious groups into one organization with common goals without anyone realizing that their religion was different. He followed the laws of Scouting and got maximum performance from every boy under his tutorage.

The Bob Skowronski / Ed Strang Story:

Perhaps the most prominent athlete to come from the Troop 3 ranks was Robert "Bob" Skowronski, co-captain of the Green Bay Packers Super Bowl I and II championship teams. Prior to the Super Bowl, Bob led the Packers to 5 world titles and 6 division crowns. Bob got his football start on the lawn of the Second Congregational Church before Troop 3 meetings where he played against the likes of Lou Sill, John Carr, Sherwood & David Lewis and others. He also participated in the Troop 3 touch football games held inside in the church rooms where more than one overhead light was broken.

He also was a member of the Post 33 basketball team. This was Ed's way of enlisting those with athletic desires. He gave us the opportunity to do what was of interest to us and, at the same time, used Scouting to teach us how to play by the rules.

Bob went on to the University of Indiana with his brother Frank and then went on to play under Coach Vince Lombardi with the Green Bay Packers and has two Super Bowl rings to show for it. Despite this success story, Bob attributes his character development to the early inspirational leadership of Ed Strang and credits Ed with teaching him early in life valuable lessons that were to serve him well throughout his career.

Sports and Scouting went hand in hand. Every major basketball victory resulted in a spaghetti and meatball dinner at the Anglace residence on Park Avenue, good for everyone except Ed who only ate chicken. Ed and Rod Kneen devoted countless hours to our

development and made good men out of young boys who have now realized that all Ed wanted in repayment was for them to do for others what he did for us. That is the value of the life lesson he taught!



Scouting Back In The Forties Under Ed Strang:

Ed and Bob Skowronski

Hiking was defined then as walking more than 8 miles one way. We “hiked” everywhere! There were family cars but we seldom got to ride in them. We walked to Camp Irving in Shelton for weekend camp outs. We walked from our homes to all Scout meetings and then walked back home. It was nothing to walk from Talmadge Street to New Haven Avenue on a Sunday evening to practice for the upcoming Minstrel show.

Ed was the Interlocutor and you knew you had arrived when you were picked to be an Endman. “Arrived” meant walking long distances, practicing your lines and singing your songs at Walter Beach’s house. How we got our school work done still is a mystery.

When we weren’t hiking to practice for the Minstrel, we were walking to Ed’s house for Patrol Leader meetings and the list went on. Today the parents drive the kids everywhere.

The Camp Irving Experience With Frank Skowronski:

The very first weekend campout we attended resulted in horseplay as usual except this time Frank Skowronski broke his arm. This was his very first Scouting function and Ed was terribly worried that Mrs. Skowronski would be upset. He had great trepidation when he called to tell her that her son was at the Griffin Hospital Emergency Room with a broken arm and didn’t know how Mrs. Skowronski would react. Well Mrs. Skowronski took it in stride and comforted Ed instead of Frank. I guess we will never know how this was handled when she got Frank home that night but for the rest of us, we were relieved that she so understood. Ed talked about this incident for many years thereafter and Frank got to attend many more campouts so it all worked out well.

Ed Strang Observations:

Ed was a practical joker. He never missed an opportunity to instigate a prank. He ad libed as a speaker, knew and told many stories publicly when you least expected to hear them. You never knew what he was about to say ... one moment he would be praising you and the next he would tell how you acted at your first dance with the Girl Scouts.

He never lost contact with his Scouts. He recruited your help every chance he got and you soon realized that "once a Troop 3 Scout, always a Troop 3 Scout."

His typewriting skills were legendary with capital letters always printed a half line higher than the lower case because he didn't fully depress the shift button. It made no difference whether he was using a Royal or Underwood typewriter. In those days duplicating machines were in vogue. He wrote post cards and ran them through the machine. He was an excellent communicator and one can only imagine what he would have accomplished if computers were around when he was the Scoutmaster.

Our perception is that his most significant accomplishment and the one he was most proud of was the purchase of Camp Strang for the Housatonic Council. His proudest moment was when they named the Camp after him.

He was a Scoutmaster that left an indelible mark on all who passed his way. He will be remembered as a Valley legend for ages.

Ed Strang ... Father to some; Second father to some but always there for everyone!

May God bless his soul and bring him to everlasting life and may we meet again in paradise!

Walter Archer Jr.

In 1941 I lost my mom at the age of 11. I was taking it hard like any other 11year-old would. That's when I heard about Scouting. I lived on the east side of town, which was the Orange/Derby line and

the meetings were at the Second Congregational Church on the west side. A neighbor friend and I would either walk or take the bus to the meetings. Ed was our leader and believed strongly in the values of Scouting. And a very memorable part of the meetings was the walk home. We would stop at the White Eagle bakery on Water Street. That time of day the bakers were busy at the ovens and that was perfect for us. For \$.24 you would get a dozen jelly donuts. (Six each for the walk home). To this day I don't think you can find a fresher doughnut than that.



Ed and Charles Rotteck

We would go on local hiking trips, swimming and boxing lessons and of course, go to Camp Irving in Shelton. At that time it cost \$18 for the week. If you couldn't afford it, Edward would make sure you had the experience anyway. I will never forget the time Ed called me because he needed a way to transport Scouts from camp for a day trip. I spent a day cleaning my dad's garbage truck to try to get rid of the odors. When I showed up at camp you would have thought I pulled up with a tour bus. Without hesitation, Ed told the boys to climb in the back and that was what they did.



Mr. & Mrs.
Archer

When I turned 20, I volunteered for the draft and stayed in the service for two years. In 1953 I married the love of my life, Antoinette Cerritelli and took over my dad's garbage business. That reconnected me with Ed. Ed you may say is a pioneer in the Valley for recycling. Ed would come in with his old Rambler wagon tipping the scales at 1000 pounds of paper to raise money for the Scouts. With fear of Ed killing his wagon, we started with a monthly paper drive on the Derby Green.

Then in the late 70s and 80s Ed found people to donate space in their parking lots where we would leave a container all the time. No matter how low the price of paper dropped we were more than happy to make sure Ed had the funds needed to keep things going. To this day, my family and I are great supporters of Scouting and its beliefs, thanks to my experience in Scouting. When you say Scouting you say Ed Strang.

Normand G. Audet

Ed Strang was a very humble, passionate, and loving man, who sacrificed everything to make sure that his beloved Scouts would continue to grow. He was a father and mentor to many of us through the years even if we already had fathers who cared.

My first contact with the man that we all loved, was when I became a Cub Scout in Pack 3 and we met in the old basketball gym located in the very top floor of St. Mary's School in Derby.

I then moved up to Troop 3 in the basement of the Methodist Church in Derby. Again, Ed Strang would become my troop leader. As I became a patrol leader, it was then that I really came to know the man that was truly my greatest inspiration in life. We would meet at his home on, I believe, Sunday nights and discuss everything about the troop and the other patrols.



Normand Audet

I remember when my Dad could not afford to send my brother and me to summer camp, Ed Strang found a way to make it possible.

I remember paper drives, Klondike Derbys, hikes, Goshen, trips to Niagara Falls and Fort Ticonderoga. I am sure none of us ever forgot the Minstrel Shows that we became such a part of: Mrs. Martone at the piano, Paul Block in the tree outside yelling for Mrs. Jones. .

Beautiful young teenagers embarrassing unsuspecting Cub Scouts with songs such as “Lipstick on your Collar”. Yes those were definitely the days. I will never forget the Man with the Russian hat during the winters and that loving heart for all of us no matter what walk of life we came from.

PROUD TO HAVE BEEN AN ALUMNI OF PACK 3, TROOP 3, AND POST 33!!!

BLESSED TO HAVE KNOWN AND SHARED IN THE LIFE OF SUCH A WONDERFUL MAN!!!

Arnold Baldwin

Bob Cann and I were the first two Eagle Scouts under Ed Strang. Ed took over Troop 3 when Rev. Budd died. Arnold is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 11. Bob is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 10.



George Kneen, Bob Cann,
and Alex Baldwin

David Barbosa

David and Francis Barbosa knew Ed Strang. Ed had a unique way of “roping” you into volunteering.

Bob Bednarcik

I met Bob Rapp Jr. in grammar school and we became best friends. I practically lived at his house. When Bob’s parents decided that Bob should join Troop 3 and suggested that I do the same I joined with him. At our first troop meeting my impression of Ed was that he was an old man (probably 35) and he was a bit pear shaped. Ed introduced us to the troop and we had fun.

Bob and I went thru the ranks together and became Eagle Scouts

together. Bob went to UCONN and lived on campus. I went to Fairfield University and commuted. I stayed active with the troop.

Ed's Troop 3 program had two unique components. The first component was the Point System (originally established by Rev. Budd). The second component was the individual savings program. The point system allowed you to earn points for just about everything you did but you had to EARN them. You earned points for going to meetings, wearing the Scout uniform, going camping, attending patrol meetings, advancing in rank, attending Scout events etc. The points you earned reflected how active you were in the program and were an additional incentive to work hard on your Scouting responsibilities.

The ten boys with the highest points would go on a summer Troop 3 trip along with other Scouts who earned certain awards. The individual savings plan allowed you to get financial credit for your participation in troop fund raising activities. The Scout would have a certain amount of money credited to his account for each Gang Show ticket, frozen pie, sub sandwich, box of candy etc. he sold. He could only apply this money to support his troop activities such as summer camp, overnight camping to various places, troop trips etc. I don't know if these components are part of the program of other troops. I do know that it takes dedicated volunteers working these components weekly to make it successful. Making it work was part of the genius of Ed. Ed took a special interest in each one of us and offered special challenges if he thought it would help in our development. Bob Rapp and I went to Schiff Scout Reservation in New Jersey for a week to participate in patrol leadership training.

I became an Endman in the Gang Show and sang a song. Many years later Ed sang that song and reminded me that it was the song I sang in the Gang Show. He remembered but I didn't. We were all "his boys". I had an opportunity to write articles for the troop newspaper, The Council Fire. In one article I wrote, I used a un-scoutly word which didn't belong in a Scout paper.

Ed read the article after the paper was distributed. His method to handle the situation was to ask a simple question. "Bob, does THAT WORD mean the same as it did when I was a boy"? Of

course I had to assure him that it didn't although I wasn't sure of the word he was talking about.

That was the end of the discussion and I was much more careful in the next article I wrote. Ed accepted us for who we were and when we made mistakes he didn't hold it against us. He looked at it as a learning experience which made us a better person. He didn't give up on us but instead challenged us with other tasks which he felt we could handle. Ed provided opportunities for Scouts to learn practice and teach skills. This developed greater self-confidence and self-worth.



Bob Bednarcik

He held us to the requirements of the Scout Oath and Law which gave us a strong moral base. He did a lot of this thru example. As an example, he would walk thru a camp site and if he saw paper on the ground he'd pick it up. To Ed every opportunity he gave you was planned to have a positive influence on your development. Ed was the "Johnny Appleseed" of social relationships. He would introduce people who were somehow associated with an activity he was involved in. These people would become friends for the rest of their lives and it would also involve their children. As an Explorer Scout I participated in a class in square dancing. Mrs. Strang was the only woman there supporting Ed and there was an instructor. It was chaos (at least for me). Mrs. Strang suffered from being bumped into and stepped on all evening. She never complained and Ed kept coaching us and encouraging us. I think he learned from that experience also because we never had square dance class again and we certainly never held a square dance.

Every year the troop invites alumni to the meeting held on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. They describe how their Scouting experiences have helped them in their adult life whether they are working full time or are college students. Many who are Eagle Scouts tell of the very positive attitude people have of you when they know that you earned your Eagle Rank. I met the Lewis brothers who are black. Sherwood was going to college. He is now a retired college professor. At that time I didn't realize that segregation existed in the South (or that there was such a thing) and you

could be in a different world in a few hours' drive. I also met the Moo brothers. They were the first Chinese people I met. Joe Moo went to college and later became trained as a fighter pilot. He and his instructor died in a crash in Florida. I was also exposed to many others who were going to college and were Eagles. These people were my encouragement to become Eagle and go to college. Here is Ed again, subtly talking to us.

Our troop was and is a melting pot. We met in a Congregational Church but most boys were Catholic. Ed, a devoted Methodist, held troop membership out to all races and religions and the Congregational Church proudly sponsored it. There was a period when the relations between the troop and our sponsor (the Second Congregational Church) became very fragile and finally terminated. During that time the church caretaker would inspect our meeting room and usually find something to "chew Ed out" about. It could be a light left on, a spot on the floor or the furnace temperature not turned down. Ed would apologize and assure him it wouldn't happen again. Some of us saw this happen time after time and were very upset and asked Ed why he put up with it. His answer was that this church was our sponsor and we would have to find another sponsor and meeting place. Eventually the church terminated sponsorship of the troop and we had to move out. When the caretaker died, Ed sent his wife a sympathy card and flowers. That's a lesson for all of us. The troop has since been reunited with the Second Congregational Church.

He had a great imagination and the ability to sell his ideas to other people or groups which made his ideas realities. One amazing example was the troop trip to the 1953 Jamboree at the Irvine Ranch in California, (now called Newport Center and Fashion Isle). The median income was \$4,233 per year (U.S. Dept. of Commerce) and I believe the trip cost around \$1100. The scouts earned money through organized fund raisers within the troop. They also sold nail clippers (donated by Wm. Bassett Co.) and tubes of nails, tacks, screws, etc. (donated by Shelton Tack Co.). This was another example of Ed providing an opportunity to earn money for a Scout event. I could not afford to participate in the Jamboree if the troop didn't have that program. It cost me about \$200 in out of pocket expenses. Our biggest benefactor was the Derby Shelton

Rotary Club who agreed to match the funds we raised. Ed was a very convincing member. This turned out to be a much bigger challenge than they anticipated and were running fund raisers monthly to keep up with us.

You might think that this was enough of a challenge for Ed. His imagination was at it again. He had Post 33 Explorer James Kyed contact Sheila Graham (she wrote a syndicated column about the Hollywood movie stars). Jim would send her a letter periodically describing our progress on preparing for the Jamboree. This was started about two years in advance of our trip. The result was a picnic at her home in Beverly Hills where we met Danny Thomas, Celeste Holmes, Debbie Remolds, and Mitzi Gaynor. Jim told me that if Sheila had known sooner we could have met Marilyn Monroe.

Ed and Caroline were a remarkable couple. Although they didn't have children of their own they had such a large family that they began writing their Christmas cards in July. When Ed's friends learned that he had terminal cancer it was devastating to many of them. You have this helpless feeling because you have no control over something you don't want to happen. I felt I had to do something and since he had trouble eating I suggested that I bring him a milkshake every time I saw him which was weekly. He agreed and thanked me. When he died they found a freezer full of milkshakes. That was Ed, thinking of others 'till the very end.

Bob is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 39.

Joe Bednarcik/Peter Burdett by Robert Bednarcik

In 1946 my oldest brother Joe received a letter from a boy who lived in Derby, England. He was a 16 year old Scout named Peter Burdett. He wanted Joe to be his pen pal. We lived in Shelton Ct. which is across the river from Derby, Connecticut. We had no idea who this



Joe Bednarcik

person was. My brother was 16 years old, I was eight, the Second World War had just ended and the Brits were faced with the tremendous challenge of rebuilding their country.

Troop 3 adopted Troop 72 of Derby, England in the early 1940's. Ed developed a friendship with its Scoutmaster, Alf Watson. Alf thought by keeping Peter busy he would be less apt to get into mischief. Ed suggested a few names which included my brother and John Carr.

My brother was a sophomore in high school when he was shot in the back of the neck and was paralyzed from the waist down. He could move his arms and thumbs so fortunately he could write. He decided to write back and that was the beginning of a remarkable adventure.

Peter's girlfriend Molly (who later became his wife) kept Joe and the rest of our family, as well as Ed and John, informed on the progress of their lives. When Peter and Molly were married Ed and Caroline sent flour and sugar for a wedding cake and material for wedding dresses to them because rationing still existed. When Joe died in 1956 my mother and I carried on the correspondence.

Peter was fascinated by mechanical things like watches and car engines. He thought nothing of removing the small engine from his car and rebuilding it on the kitchen table. He joined the Navy, became the Admiral's Chef and followed the fleet. Molly and their two daughters, Cheryl and Julie, followed him everywhere they could and so did we. Peter was stationed at Gibraltar and toured Spain and Morocco and so did we. Molly was a prolific writer.



Peter Burdett

When Peter retired from the Navy he bought a Bed and Breakfast business in England. In the course of running their business they met a business agent for an employment agency in the U.S. The agent said there were employment opportunities in the U.S. for people with their skills as chef and chauffeur. He had listings of these people and recommended

they visit the U.S. and apply for interviews. Pete and Molly took him up on his suggestion. They came to the East Coast, visited friends and checked out employment with a wealthy family in Fairfield and a position teaching at a culinary school on Long Island. Then they went to the West Coast and accepted a position as cook and chauffeur for the State Attorney General of California. There they met many of the rich and famous. They encouraged both of their married daughters to visit California and check out the opportunities in their area of interest which they ultimately did.

The oldest daughter established a business involving collectable dolls in Palm Springs, California called Dollsville. Her daughter Yvonne helps her in the business today and is married with two boys on the verge of becoming Eagle Scouts. The younger daughter Julie and her husband established a refrigeration business in Oregon. They have one son who recently became a lawyer. This relationship between a few people increased to become a network of very supportive friends with Ed and Caroline at the head.

All our lives were very much enriched as time went on. I don't think Ed could have imagined what he started. It seems a little strange that Ed and Pete never met Joe.

Bob Blankfield

Scouting was such a big part of my youth and I am pleased to know that Troop 3 is still going strong. I was active with Pack 3, Troop 3, and Post 33 for most of the 1960's. I remember being frustrated that my parents didn't let me join the Cub Scouts until fourth grade, at age nine, even though I would have been eligible the year before. I remember meeting Ed and Paul Kassheimer at my very first Pack meeting and being very excited to be there with all the other kids. If I recall, I was in Den 3 with Mrs. Stewart as our Den Mother.

Fond memories include the Pinewood Derby, the Minstrel Shows (I was a soloist!) the Blue and Gold Dinner, speaking at a Kiwanis meeting at Rapp's Restaurant (public speaking...I was scared to



Bob Blankfield

death!), Indian leg wrestling contests, going door to door in my neighborhood with my Tom Watt kit in a wagon and trying to make sales, and running around the basement of the Methodist Church during the Pack meetings.

Troop 3 was a great experience. I was in the Falcon Patrol and was a scribe and eventually became Patrol Leader. I also moved up steadily in rank and was fortunate enough to become an Eagle Scout. I still have my merit badges and medals.

Fond memories include attending the summer camp in Goshen, Connecticut. The first year I was so homesick, since it was my first time away from home without my family. I loved the boating and swimming at the waterfront; Friday overnights in the cabin at Grassy Hill, Patrol Leader's meeting on Sunday evenings at Ed's house (Mrs. Strang always put out cookies and snacks), basketball on Saturday's at the old Derby HS and our road trip to Quebec (this was before things got fancy with the European trips!), the Klondike Derby at Osborndale Park and marching in the Derby Memorial Day Parade. One year we didn't have a marching band near us, and Ed had the idea for us to carry transistor radios tuned to marching music so we could be in step.

As I look back, I have a great appreciation for the commitment and energy Ed, and all the adult leaders, had for supporting, encouraging, and teaching us kids to have fun and become responsible members of our community. I remember earning my cooking merit badge by preparing a beef stroganoff dinner over a campfire in Bob Bednarcik's back yard in Oxford in the snow! So many of the values I hold today can be traced back to those influences.

Professionally I went into a career in public health, getting my master's degree from Johns Hopkins University and focusing on mental health services. Many of the leadership and management skills I use I first learned in Scouting: (My first public speaking gig at Kiwanis, about delegation of responsibility and authority through a network of patrol leaders (managers), and service to others with integrity.

Although we may not have realized it at the time, Ed was a wonderful example for all of us. Somehow he was able to oversee a

vast system of Scouting activities and still make each kid feel like they had a personal connection with him. Scouting created so many opportunities for us to develop and realize our potential.

Bob is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 137.

Molly Burdett

I think it must have been around 1948 when I first met Ed Strang. My boyfriend was in Scouting and had been corresponding with a troop in the USA. We lived in Derby, England and he had been corresponding with a troop in Derby, Connecticut.

The troop had sent Peter's troop some packages, candy, badges and various other Scout things. Since I was a prolific letter writer, with pen pals in the armed forces and so forth, Peter roped me into helping him out. He had joined the Royal Navy by then.

I started writing to Joe Bednarcik, Bob's brother, who was bed ridden. I didn't know he had a brother - just a dog. I also wrote to Johnny Carr (now the Reverend John Carr) and quite enjoyed the exchange of letters. Ed wrote now and then, as did Mrs. Carr, so it was very rewarding for me.

Peter was lucky enough to go over to the States with the Navy and met all of the pen pals plus a few more. It was great to hear his stories of everyone. I never thought I would be meeting any of them.

Time went on and when Peter retired from the Navy we decided it was time to meet the Derby, CT crew. We flew over to a great welcome. We stayed with Bob Bednarcik and his dad Joe and managed to meet many members of Troop 3. We were spoiled to death and had a wonderful time. We promised ourselves we would try to end up



Julie and Peter Burdett, Bob Bednarcik, Molly Burdett

in the USA.

More time passed and with it, a lot of water under the bridge. We had the opportunity to move to the States, courtesy of Peter getting a position as chef to a millionaire type in the state of California. It was a temporary position, supposing for the three month horse racing season in Del Mar, CA. However, by then we were hooked on the States, so we started the process of gaining legal entry and acquiring green cards. Our family followed suit and we never looked back. It was a wonderful experience and we visited Connecticut many times.

We were there when the actor Brian Dennehy visited Ed and went to many Minstrel Shows. I have often wondered if they still have the “door” prize.

We cheered Ed on when he was presented some honors. We really loved that man. He was a real dynamo and his favorite expression was ‘let’s go’. You had to move when he said that. We visited many of his favorite spots and met and loved his wife Caroline.

When he became ill for the last time someone sent me Ed’s phone number, at the place where he spent his last days. He was amazed that I found him and we had a lovely conversation. We were very sad to hear of his passing. He was a king among men.

Rev. John Carr

I moved to Derby, Ct. when I was 10 years old. Besides my parents and my minister, Matty Gates, Ed Strang had the most important influence on me growing up. He welcomed and supported me as a Cub in Pack 3, a Scout in Troop 3, and an Explorer in Post 33. In Cubs, he encouraged me in competitive games with my peers as well as take seriously the advancement toward Webelos.

I also joined the Scout Minstrel cast. Ed encouraged my parents to let me go to Camp Irving on the Housatonic River. It was the first time I was away from home. He encouraged me as I advanced through the Scout ranks, and I am sure without his strong support

and prodding I would not have become an Eagle Scout. He also encouraged Christy Testone and myself to take another trip away from home as we went on an overnight train trip to Canada and spent a week with Canadian Scouts at Camp Tamaracouta.



John Carr

Ed took us on many interesting trips, two of which I remember—an overnight trip to New York City, which included the Ed Sullivan television show and a trip to Washington, DC, where we had our picture taken with Representative John Davis Lodge. He was disappointed with us when he asked us to pick one adventure or experience we wanted to have in Washington and we voted to go to a wrestling match. We not only let him down, but in retrospect let ourselves down as well.

Again with Ed's encouragement and support, I applied to and became a member of the Scout staff at Camp Workcoeman on West Hill Pond for four years. My last memory of my activity in local Scouts was being asked, along with Christy Testone, to be in charge of our large Cub pack in the Derby-Shelton Memorial Day Parade.

Many an interesting Sunday night was spent at the Strangs' home as I served for two years as an Endman in the Minstrel, which became the ongoing Gang Show. It was hard work but also fun as we prepared for that annual event.

On a personal and family note, Ed and Caroline were very close to us as a family and many years after the Memorial Day Parade, they would come to our house for a picnic. I still remember Caroline's wonderful homemade fudge.

I learned so much about myself and getting along with other people and preparing for my college years and beyond through the guidance and wonderful role modeling of Ed Strang. These few words do not really measure how much he did for me as I was growing into adulthood. He remains one of the most important mentors in my life.

When I went through the Scouting ranks towards Eagle, nothing was done to alter or make the requirements easier. I guess my biggest problems, my birth defects, with the absence of hands and the absence of a left foot, were all the requirements that required walking or hiking, because I would get blisters very easily. I passed merit badges such as camping, canoeing, and life-saving. The hardest part of canoeing was making my kneeling pad. When I did lifesaving, I had to do CPR on a doctor so they could see that I was doing it correctly.

My most difficult merit badge was bird study, trying to remember all the birds. I am sure that my time with Ed and the Troop and my times working at camp were a big help in all of this.

As to my post-scouting life, I went away to college to be a lawyer, but halfway through Ohio Wesleyan University changed my mind and prepared for seminary and a career in ministry. I went to Yale Divinity School and prepared to be a church pastor. Although many in my conference thought it would be difficult to be a pastor, I ended up being an associate pastor for two years in Westbury, Long Island, a pastor for five years in Hauppauge, Long Island, and three years as pastor at Faith Methodist in North Haven, CT. At Hauppauge and at North Haven, we had building funds and completed additional buildings. I did a summer of training at what was then Grace New Haven Hospital in chaplaincy and the following year went into full-time chaplaincy training called clinical pastoral education (CPE). In three years, I became a full-time supervisor, allowing me to train students, clergy, and lay people in hospital ministry. I trained students at the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven, Yale Psychiatric Institute, Grace and then Yale New Haven Hospital, and Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford. I was also active in leadership positions in the eastern region of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and the national organization. For two quadrenniums in the '90's I served for eight years on the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. During that time, I was also on the Endorsing Committee that determined who in our denomination could be endorsed as a chaplain.

I retired in 1997 after 30 years, but continued in church responsibilities and working with both religious and secular groups on ac-

cessibility and disability rights. Although I have recently been hindered with health issues, I continue to keep my contacts.

John Carr is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 25.

Martin Chromik Jr.

I had the pleasure of knowing and enjoying some quality time with Ed Strang. All those who knew him know what a wonderful person he was.

Some of my fondest memories with him were what I think of as my first “driving lessons”. On many road trips with Ed I rode shotgun, reading our maps and steering Ed’s red Rambler station wagon whenever he wanted to take a look at the maps himself.

Our Troop was very active and Ed was a huge part of it. He was involved in my trips to Europe, Canadian Expo 67, and numerous hiking and camping trips. Those times when he brought us into his home for Patrol Leader meetings and shared his wisdom reflected the warm human being he was.

The great Ed Strang was responsible for a lot of fun in many boys’ lives.

Charles Clarke

Ed Strang and I were members of the Derby United Methodist Church, which for many years sponsored the Scouting programs in Derby, Connecticut. We spent many hours together, working in Scouting and for the Church. I got to know Ed quite well, to say the least. For years the ‘Readers’ Digest’ magazine would feature monthly short stories about people that encompassed exploits, accomplishments and/or the character of various individuals. Needless to say, these articles were interesting and often humorous. This indeed was Edmund Strang, a man short in stature but tall in the eyes of those who knew him... ‘Mr. Scout’.

Ed and his devoted wife Caroline were childless but were recog-

nized as the father and mother of hundreds of Scouts both near, here locally in Derby, and far, in the British Isles, Western Europe and throughout the U.S.A. Dr. Robert Feeney, a former Scout leader himself, referred to Ed as a true father figure and a man for all seasons.

Ed was an extraordinary person, with so much energy and charisma that stayed with him into his later years. This was evident at the annual Gang Show held at our church each year. It was said to be the oldest ongoing show of its kind in the country. Ed was the ever-present Interlocutor with a bag of music from the 1920s to the 1960s and more.

Former President Ronald Reagan commended Ed with a letter for his dedication to the longest running Gang Show of its kind in the world.

Every year he ran an auction of sorts with numerous strange items up for sale and an occasional 'surprise' thrown in. It was a fundraiser with a familiar sense of entertainment and humor enjoyed by all.

During his nearly 75 years of involvement with Scouting, Ed's picture often found its way into the local newspapers and twice in the famed Yankee Magazine, along with accompanying articles. One issue featured Ed and one of his former Scouts, actor Brian Dennehy. Brian had sung the song 'I Am a Scout' on stage at one of our Gang Shows years before and was also present in Derby on Ed Strang Day.

I had known Ed since the 1940s and had witnessed the very busy life he led during those years. Besides being involved with Scouting, he also had his business life with the Derby Gas and Electric Co. office on Elizabeth Street in Derby. His devotion to his church was reflected by service as Secretary of the Church Trustees, Chairperson for the church on Scouting, a member of the Administrative Board, an usher and a member of the Pastor Relations Committee.

It has been said that behind the success of many great and ambitious men, there is generally a great, supportive woman. Caroline Strang was all that and more. This gentle and soft-spoken lady was well noticed among our church parishioners. She was ever-

present in the church kitchen during preparations for the annual Blue and Gold Banquet, Strawberry Festival, various dinners and Christmas Fair. Her famous chocolate fudge was always in demand for any of the various affairs. Not to be outdone by Ed, she served her church on numerous committees, such as Worship, Finance and Administrative Boards.

Ed not only contributed his sense of humor to his Scouting activities, but also in unlikely places such as the church and the Derby City Hall. Occasionally, in the church sanctuary during the offertory part of the service, a mysterious coin could be heard rolling down the wooden floor incline under the church pews. This would catch the attention of the congregation and, from my good vantage point in the choir in the front of the church sanctuary; I could see Ed with a smile on his face with his eyes looking at the ceiling. Another time he dared me to wear a multi-colored beanie cap with a propeller on top while singing in the choir. He thought it would get the congregation staring.

At one time Ed was presented with an oil painted portrait of himself in his Scout uniform. He decided to donate it to the City of Derby, to be placed on the wall of the Aldermanic Chamber. Later he was asked why he requested it to be placed in that particular spot. To this Ed replied, "So I can keep an eye on the city officials during their meetings."

During the years many former Scouts, friends and acquaintances have passed through Ed's Scouting 'Learning Center' at our church. Along with the aforementioned Brian Dennehy, others included former profootball player Bob Skowronski, past and present congress persons, former mayors, lawyers, doctors, religious clergy members, prominent business people, members of police and fire departments and numerous Eagle Scouts and leaders.

At a dinner celebration for the 75th anniversary of Cub Scout Pack 3 (1914 - 1989) in 1990, Ed received scouting's highest award, the Silver Beaver. Cub Pack 3 is one of the oldest Cub Packs in the United States. Two of the Pack's oldest supporters, Ed's friends Rod Kneen and Walter Petz were in attendance. Both had nearly the same number of years in Scouting as Ed did at the time. Walter made the comment that Ed was not only the oldest Cub Master in

the country, but also the best.

As a tribute to Ed, Housatonic Council presidents past and present at that time, Charles Stankye and John Rak, announced that the Scout reservation in Goshen, CT, would be undergoing a name change. It would be the Ed Strang Scout Reservation. The Derby Methodist Church sponsored a Couples Club. They had a dinner once a year at which they invited couples who had children in Troop 3, Pack 3 and Post 33 as well as other couples in the valley. After the dinner they held a silent auction. People would donate wrapped gifts which you had an opportunity to bid on by raising your hand at the auctioneer's price. People would be surprised when they opened up the prize they won the bid for. The prize could be a roll of toilet paper, a bottle of prune juice or even a brick painted gold. No one ever confessed to donating those gifts but we all knew who the culprit was.

Ed fought his battle with cancer with great tenacity, he just wouldn't give up. He would attend troop and Cub Scout meetings. At one Cub meeting every one left while Ed was still there. The lights were on in the floor above the meeting room. Ed went upstairs on his hands and knees to put them out. He was determined that cancer was not going to get the best of him that night.

I remember visiting Ed at the hospice facility in Branford, Ct., just a couple of days before he passed on. He asked if I could move his bed over to the window so he could look outside. His eyes moved from the sky above to the trees, to the green grass one last time. After a couple of minutes he softly said, "That's enough."

Jamie Cohen

The Cohen Family has a long and happy connection with Pack 3 and Troop 3. My father, David, joined the Troop in 1922; my mother, Jane, served as the Den Mother for my brother, our neighbors and me as we went through the Pack in the 1950's; and I was a Troop 3 Scout until 1961, when I became too involved in my Derby High School activities.

Although I returned to scouting as a Housatonic Council member

and strong supporter of Troop 3 as an adult, my greatest lessons and fondest memories of Scouting were formed during my youth.

There were many dedicated Troop volunteers who made it such a wonderful, valuable and lasting experience. Among the many that have never left my mind was Tom Kingston, who was our instructor for the First Aid merit badge. Because of the lessons I learned from him over 55 years ago, I became (and to this very day I remain) comfortable in being able to render assistance in medical situations that call for immediate attention. And for that (among many other things) I thank the Troop every day.

At the same time, however, there always was and, for me, always will be one man whose lifelong dedication to Boy Scouting and the young boys of the Valley was beyond measure.

I came into contact with Ed Strang in the early 1950's when I was a first year Cub, and he was holding auditions for the (then-called) Minstrel show. One of his requirements was that each of us new boys had to sing a brief solo while Art DeRosa or Phyllis Martone played the piano. I was mortified, stricken silent, and could not sing a note. He immediately figured out what was wrong and, as a result, gave me the job to speak and welcome the audience at the beginning of each show. And I kept that same job for my scouting career.

I expect that anyone reading this may have already seen other postings about the great things that Ed did for Scouting. I personally believe that the very creation of Cub Scouting in America by the young Boy Scouts Ed Strang, Fran Barron and Mush Pearson was among his most significant legacies.

However, the most enduring testament to Ed is that so many of us remember the lessons we learned from Ed and the incredible group of people he personally brought into the Troop to teach us. I was among the beneficiaries. Ed Strang did that for me, and for all of us.

When I graduated from Law School in 1971, and returned to practice in my father's firm on Main Street, my father told me that there were three Derby people to whom I could never say No. Since they were never asking for themselves (always for others), when-



Jamie Cohen

Derby boy. It was an enduring gift for which I am, and will be eternally grateful.

ever they called or came in to see me to ask for my help - whatever it was - my answer was to be Yes. While two of them were Ed Cotter and Harry Bassett, the first among them was Ed Strang. I am happy to say that, during all of their lives, I never refused any request made of me by any of them.

But my current, ongoing and pledge of everlasting assistance to Troop 3 is made because of the personal legacy that Ed Strang gave to me as young

Sam Cohen

I was on an overnight camping experience and Ed Strang had me going around looking for a sky hook. Later I learned that this mission was a directed mission of absurdity.

I have many warm and fond memories of Ed. Sam is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 129.

Mrs. Coppola

One popular troop fund raiser was collecting newspaper. Ed owned a red Rambler station wagon which was a familiar sight in Derby usually filled with paper. "The one thing that came to my mind was whenever I walked by his house, pushing a baby carriage, Ed's station wagon was always full of newspapers for the paper collection."

Alice Costello

I joined Cub Scouting as a Den Mother in the early part of 1956. We met at the Blessed Sacrament Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

In May of 1960, I received two tickets for the Troop 3 Boy Scout Gang Show from a friend who knew I liked shows. I saw my first show in Derby and met Ed Strang. He was a very likable person and we became good friends.

After seeing his show I decided to put one on at Blessed Sacrament Church. Ed Strang gave me a lot of jokes and ideas. He even came to see my shows. When our Pack had to leave Blessed Sacrament Church we continued meeting and performing shows at Stony Brook School in Stratford. I put on a number of shows which were a success, so I was told. I have been to 43 Troop 3 Gang Shows in Derby and hope to see a few more. I think the Scouts and leaders do a marvelous job. In fact, Ed Strang had me singing "Secondhand Rose" in one of his shows.

I will always remember Ed and Caroline Strang. I just remembered something funny. One time I brought my Cub Scouts to see the show in Derby. One of my boys had to go to the bathroom and he disappeared. We looked all over for him. When the curtain went up, there he was in make-up on the stage crying. He tried to tell the Den Mothers that he was a guest from another Cub pack and not a member of Pack 3, but they didn't believe him. It was in your newspaper.

I ended up being the first female Cub Master. I was awarded the Silver Fawn Award in recognition for my work with the Cub Scouts by the Pomperaug Council B.S.A. (Bridgeport). The Silver Fawn Award is equivalent to the Silver Beaver Award, which is awarded to male volunteers in honor of their dedicated service to the youth of the Council.

Daniel Cyrul, Sr.

I first met Ed Strang in September 1969. I was 11 years old and had just joined Troop 3. I didn't know at the time what a terrific person he was. I did know that we always had a lot of activities planned and had a course of action. I remember going to Canada as an exchange Scout. What a great learning experience that was.



Dan Cyrul

I remember going to Ed's house on Sunday nights for Patrol Leader meetings. We couldn't wait for the meeting to be over so that we could enjoy whatever treats Mrs. Strang made for us.

When I was 15, I became an Eagle Scout. Ed pushed all of us to do our best and to be good Scouts. As an adult, I stayed in contact with Ed and followed Scouting. When my son became a Cub Scout, Ed gave me a chance to get involved again, this time as a leader with the Pack 3. In 1995 Ed became ill and asked me to take

over as the Cubmaster of Pack 3. I was

extremely honored to think that he would put that trust in me. I have tried to keep the legacy of the Pack going. I haven't changed many of his core beliefs. I welcome all the kids into the Pack and encourage them to come back and help the pack when they are older. In fact, many of the older Scouts say that they're coming back to be the Cubmaster. I'm afraid that's not going to happen for a while.

Dan is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 150.



Donnie Davis

Donnie Davis

Background History by R. Bednarcik: I met Donnie on Facebook. I was looking for more information on Walt Petz. Donnie is the eldest grandson of Walt and Carolyn Petz and a former member of Troop 3. My comment to him is

as follows: Although Walt was a friend and had a great sense of humor, I didn't know much about his family. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to learn a little more about him. Did you ever hear of the WingDorf Pasorkus Society? Walt was the Grand Master, also called the Big Foot. At the Troop 3 Committeemen's yearly banquet we would hold a ceremony and award silly recognitions. It was so funny and Walt was a riot. Those were the days.

Donnie Davis replied as follows:

Absolutely heard of the Pasorkus. Saw some of the headgear worn as a little kid. I think one was a chicken. My gramp and gram were wonderful people and helped so many people in church, Scouts and beyond.

I did love Scouting, and made it to Life Scout and then I was too old to become an Eagle Scout. I loved the Minstrel Shows, the games, and LOVED camp. All the lessons I learned, I still use. Plus I got to hang out with my grandpa and uncle Rod. I wish time stood still. Back in those days life was easier, simpler and much sweeter and innocent.

I have three brothers, two of whom were in Scouting, Jeff and Scott. My sister Beth sang in the Minstrel Show. I heard she was the first female to sing at one. I remember you, Mr. Saccu, grandpa Decho. I remember Don Wheeler in the baby costume (BIG DIAPER) in the Minstrel. (now Gang Show) and many others whose names I just can't remember. Certainly I remember Ed Strang's patience and gentleness and his quick sense of humor. I can't tell you enough how truly blessed I was to be part of the best Scouting outfit of all times.



Walt Petz ,Grand
Wizard of the
Wingdorfapazorkis

Susan Petz Davis

There was another side to Ed Strang other than Boy Scouts that I had the pleasure of knowing while I was growing up. When I was a preschooler in the 40's, the Strangs were one of the few people in the Valley that owned a television set. My dad used to bring me to their house every evening to watch children's programs, i.e. Kukla, Fran and Ollie, Count Gumshoe, etc. I still do remember going there and how hospitable they were.

My parents loved telling this story: One year during the week before Christmas when I was very young, Ed came over to our house and hooked up a microphone to our radio. He went downstairs to the basement and, pretending to be Santa Claus, called my name and asked me if I had been a good girl that year. They said they would never forget the look of amazement on my face as I meekly answered his questions believing it was truly Santa!

Ed was widely known for his infamous postcards with his snapshots attached (many unflattering) of his "victims" that he was sending to them from all over the world during his many travels. One year when he was in Florida, a postcard arrived at my parents' house in Shelton with only the Florida postmark and no address.

Several years ago during one of the annual Minstrel Shows, my mother and Ellen Macchitto, friend and coworker at Derby Gas, dressed up in army fatigues. With bellies stuffed with pillows, helmets, combat boots and masks they entered the Methodist Church hall, and proceeded to go and sit on the stage without uttering a word, and after some time, got up and left! It really freaked Ed out because he had no idea who they were and what they were going to do! It is my belief that Ed never did find out who the two "soldiers" were.

Ed and Caroline Strang were dear friends and church members of my family's church for decades. We exchanged Christmas gifts every year and they spent every New Year's Eve at our home in Shelton with Rod and Ruth Kneen, Ann and Walt Boucher, Mike Petz, Ellen and Jack Marchitto, Betty and George Ostrom and countless droppers-in through the years. No matter how mild or severe the weather was, Ed drove himself and Caroline (and her

delicious desserts) in his old red station wagon over the bridge from Derby to Shelton, and never missed a year! Most of them are gone now, but there are many wonderful memories for those of us who remain. God rest their souls!

Henry (Jay) Decho

The most memorable event in my life when it comes to Ed Strang was my actually meeting the man face to face at my first Troop meeting way back in September 1964. It wasn't what I expected it to be. Not by a long shot.

Why I never got involved in Cub scouting is a question I've never been able to figure out because there were Cub Scout packs in Shelton. However, that all changed as I got older and started spending time in my grandparents' kid rich neighborhood, especially during summer vacations. Here is where I met guys like Gary Scarpa, Dave Martin, Jimmy Severson and many other guys my age who all live in the present day City Hall neighborhood. We all had fun.

Just before school was about to start Gary invited me to his house on a Tuesday night saying that all the guys I knew were going to be there. Naturally I agreed and my dad drove me to Maltby Street (because I lived on the other side of town). All of the guys were outside shooting baskets when I arrived. I still had no idea what this was all about but very soon found out. I didn't know I was about to be hijacked.

In Gary's house we all went crowding around the kitchen table, which was no easy deal for 12 boys. Next thing I knew Jim Severson raised his right hand in the Scout sign and the Thunderbird patrol began meeting. The first thing on the agenda was me being personally invited by my buddies to join Scouts. Not just Scouts, but the famous Troop 3, Derby. Of course I said yes. I was told that they all wanted



Jay Decho

me to come to the meeting the next night. When my dad picked me up and I told him what it was all about he strongly encouraged me to join and told me that as soon as we got home I had to call my uncle Lou Sill, an Eagle Scout of the troop from the 1940s.

As a young kid I was not totally unfamiliar with the details of Troop 3 and Ed Strang because my uncle Lou was always talking about how great the Troop was, what he'd done and all the places he'd gone while in scouts and what a positive impact Scouting had made on his life, but especially Ed Strang. According to my uncle, Ed was larger than life. Ed Strang was a Super Scout who could do things that a mere mortal couldn't do while in the woods camping, at summer camp, on Troop trips, at Troop meetings, playing basketball or baseball, etc. Ed Strang could do this! Ed Strang could do that! Ed Strang was the most amazing man alive! Ed Strang was the coolest old guy on the face and earth! Ed Strang! Ed Strang! Ed Strang!

So I ask you that, after hearing all of this stuff about this guy, what a 12-year-old kid was supposed to think? Ed Strang is like a Nordic God, 6'6" tall, muscular physique, blonde hair, clear blue eyes, a man unlike the average Joe, right?

Fast forward to the next night at the Congregational Church. Dad drops me off and through that old church basement door I go all alone. I pushed open the double doors into the hall and what do I see? There are about 100 kids and adults all in uniform, noisy, excited, sitting or standing in groups facing the small stage. I was awestruck to say the least until the T- birds came to the rescue and surrounded me. Within a minute or two, I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned around to face a short, old man, balding, pencil thin mustache, wearing glasses and a rather well-worn scout uniform. What follows next was a hearty Scout handshake followed by the words "Hi, Henry, Gary told me you'd be joining the Troop tonight. Welcome to Troop 3, I am Ed Strang".

Ed Strang! Ed Strang! Nordic God! My young impressionable mind was destroyed. This man didn't resemble Nordic God to me; he looked more like Lou Costello! But from that day until the day he died Ed "Lou Costello" was and still is the man. Thanks Ed!

Jay is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number #128.

Bob Deforest

At Camp Irving Ed asked me if I would be willing to sing a song at the “Campfire” on the evening that closed out my weeks stay. The song he picked out was “The Man on the Flying Trapeze”. I agreed.

That evening as I got up and began to sing, two councilors came up on each side of me each grabbing an arm and a leg and began swinging me back and forth as I continued to finish the song “Flying Thru the Air With the Greatest of Ease”. What a surprise! That was only one of many pranks that Ed had fun playing on us from time to time.

Vito DeMarco

As with probably thousands of other youths, Ed Strang had a profound influence on my life. There are many stories that I remember, but there is one that stands out in my memories of Troop 3 and Post 33.

I was selected to attend the Senior Patrol Leaders’ School at the Schiff Scouting Reservation in New Jersey. When I arrived there they broke all the Scouts out into different patrols of about 12 Scouts each. Meals were served on a picnic bench under an open tent. As we sat down to our first meal, three of the leaders running the school approached our eating area and announced that they had a postcard to read aloud. The postcard was addressed to me, Vito Demarco, with a subtitle that read “To my Grecian Adonis.” The postcard was full of romantic sentiments from, I supposed, a female. I received a postcard every day while I was there and word soon spread through the entire reservation about this Scout from Derby, Connecticut receiving these love postcards.

Ed was the one sending these postcards and, in his inimical style, knew exactly what he was doing. Due to Ed’s postcards I was picked as the Patrol Leader for our group



Vito DeMarco

and, because of my notoriety, I had to perform at a much higher level. Ed knew that by bringing all this attention to me, I would not be just another Scout at the reservation, but one that would bring credit to Troop 3.

Vito is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 58.

Derby-Shelton Rotary Club (telephone interviews)

Anthony DellaMonica: In the 1980's Anthony had a heart bypass operation. Ed sent him a get well card every day while he was recuperating. During that period Ed went to Europe with the Boy Scouts. Ed continued to send Anthony get well cards from England. To this day Anthony finds it remarkable.

Dave Grant: Every year Ed Strang would present an album to the retiring President of the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club depicting the activities he presided over. Dave Grant (then President) and Anthony DellaMonica visited Ed at the Branford Hospice Center the day before Ed died. Ed said to Dave, "don't worry Grant your book is all set".

Dave remembers making a gun safety presentation for Ed at a Troop 3 meeting.

Jack Walsh: Jack remembers that Ed was President of the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club during 1960-61. Jack authored the document that inducted Ed into the Derby Hall of Fame in 2007.

Dr. Gregg Egnaczyk: Gregg remembers Ed as a guy who loved to sing. He would pass out song sheets and get everybody singing in the group. Gregg still has the photo album of the activities he presided over while president of the club that Ed presented to him.

H. Tom Nickse: Tom was forced to relocate by his company during his tenure as President of the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club. Ed filled in for the rest of Tom's term and was the next President. Tom was on the Housatonic Council BSA Executive Board and a proponent for developing a camp. He remembers when Anthony

DellaMonica cut Ed's hair and discovered Ed had a brown spot on his scalp. It was cancer. Tom says Ed was a tremendous person whose favorite saying was "it's nice to smell the roses, but at your funeral you can't.

Leo Vine: Leo says Ed took pictures of everything. He was very active getting funds for the Housatonic Scout Reservation. He was a great storyteller and a kind man. Boys were attracted to him and Ed loved to be with them. Ed and Caroline couldn't have children of their own.

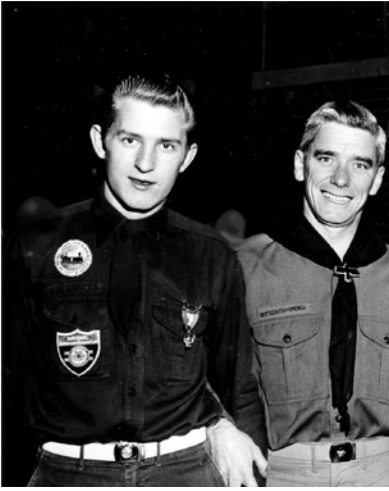
Rev. Charles Smith (former pastor of the Huntington Congregational Church): Rev. Smith says at Rotary Club meetings Ed would enliven the group by leading them in song. One that he remembers in particular is "Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think". Ed always had something exciting going on. He was a devout Methodist. Ed's wife Caroline was enthusiastic, dedicated and loyal. Both Ed and Caroline were very proud of the Cubs and Scouts. The Scouts were Ed's and Caroline's family.

Niel Dorso

Ed Strang was more than a coach of the Derby Little League Laurels. He was the pioneer of Derby Little League baseball. I was fortunate to be a ballplayer on the first Little League team organized and coached by Ed Strang. We played on makeshift fields in Derby, Ansonia and other neighborhood area towns. Under Ed's leadership, and with the help of other assistants of Troop 3 Scouting, the team learned the rules of sportsmanship and fair play. Troop 3 Little League baseball was the foundation for Derby Little League baseball thanks to Edmund D. Strang.

All of us in Scouting will always remember what Ed did for the boys of Pack 3 Cub Scouts, Troop 3 Boy Scouts and Explorer Post 33.

Joe Drbohlav



Joe Drbohlav, George
Tierney

I met Ed Strang for the first time when he came to my home to recruit me to the Scout movement in 1948. I came to the USA from Czechoslovakia with my parents just after World War II. We left on June 16, 1948 the same day the Communists took over the government. My parents gave up all their possessions to come to the USA. There was a write up in the local newspapers about us and Ed saw it and came to our home. Ed was stationed in Budapest where he started a Boy Scout troop while in the US Army. That is my understanding.

The biggest effect in my life was going to the Jamboree in California in 1953 which was a 30 day trip across the USA. The planning, preparation and fund raising for the trip were a lifetime experience in itself.

Ed was very unselfish with all the time he gave to Scouting and the development of young men. He was a very good male model for me.

Joe is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 50.

Ron East

I spent most of my teen years in Scouting. Every night of the week I was involved either in Scout meetings, camping, or in church youth group meetings. At Scout meetings of course Ed Strang was there, while camping out Ed would stop by to see that we were all right. On Sunday evening, in his living room, we would meet as Patrol Leaders or Crew Leaders. On camporee campouts Ed would always be there.

I distinctly remember when he started to feel the effects of sleeping on the ground, but he still slept out with us as long as he could. Ed not only encouraged us as we worked on merit badges, but he encouraged our fathers to serve on the Troop Committee and work as merit badge counselors. While other Troops were trying to find a specific merit badge counselor, at Ed's prodding, our Troop would have our own merit badge counselor who hold classes for us at meetings.

When we traveled to New York City for a weekend Ed was there with us. In Washington D.C., Ed was with us. In California, Ed was with us. In Canada, Ed was with us. And in England, Ed was with the group. No matter what Scouting event we were involved in Ed was right there with us.

There were a few things that mattered most to Ed...his God. his wife Caroline, his country and his boys. Ed and Caroline couldn't have children because of surgery she had while he was serving his country in Europe. But they had thousands of children that they cared about because they treated each one of us as theirs.

When age took its toll on Caroline and she spent her last days living in a nursing home, Ed was by her side every day whether she knew it or not.

In reflecting on the years I knew Ed in Scouting, in Rotary, and in a caring for Caroline in the nursing home, I believe Ed was the best minister I have ever known. He didn't go to seminary. He didn't stand in the pulpit and preach a sermon. Instead he lived the sermon.

He wanted nothing for himself. He never owned a home or a fancy car. And he never traveled for his pleasure alone. Every breath he took was used to help others. Ed never "talked the talk"; but he sure did "walk the walk" and in his quiet way he set an example for thousands of his boys to follow.

Ron is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 62.



Ron East and date

Robert James Feeney Remembers

Ed Strang and Camp Irving

Ed was always there for me. I disappointed him in my Scouting activities and never got close to the rank of Eagle. Ed charted for me a moral course for my conduct and that course guided me throughout my life and does to this day. My life was shaped by just three men-my Father, Ed Strang and a Professor of Chemistry at Yale University. Everything I did and became in life I owe to these men who directed my feet in the right paths.

In the mid-1930s my father was working 12 hour days as a machinist at the Birmingham Iron Foundry making shell cases for the coming war. He had little time for me, and my mother despaired that I had little or no direction to my boyhood. She went to see Ed Strang and asked whether Troop 3 would take a Catholic boy! She told me that Ed laughed and said that religion had nothing to do with Scouting! So was the state of religious tolerance in Derby at that time.

And thus began a relationship with Ed and Scouting in my most formative years. I was the leader of the Woodrush Patrol and one member was Chester Howard-I believe the first African American boy in the Troop.

Sunday nights were marked by a meeting with Ed at his home and Rod Kneen and warm milk and hot chocolate cookies provided by Ed's mother. How I looked forward to those meetings!

My parents were very poor and it was hard for them to find the \$10 for a week at Camp Irving for me every summer in the late 30's - but somehow they did! I still recall the unpaved dirt road leading to the Camp and my father's concern that he would lose an axle on that terrible road. There was a concern when Ed married Caroline that his interest in Scouting would wane-but of course it did not.

John Anglace tells the story of how the International Scout Exchange Program came into existence. When my Dad died in 1985 Ed was one of only two people who came to his wake. I said to Ed that night that I wanted to repay him and the Troop for what he did for me as a boy. And the rest is history.

My memories of Camp Irving are from the late 1930s. I probably spent three summers at the camp during that period - only one week each summer because the \$10 fee was all my parents could afford during the Great Depression years. I recall that the camp was very primitive. There were one or two established wooden structures including a mess hall and a cluster of tents on wooden platforms with cots for sleeping. There was a rope swing extending out over the Housatonic River for the swimmers and probably a raft. The river was pristine, fast flowing, but not particularly inviting. The highest point of the evening was the nightly bonfire with toasted marshmallows and ghost stories. Ed would arrive after work every night to lead the singing and my favorite song was "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt".

This was no small task for Ed. He worked a long day at Derby Gas Company to support his mother and camp was accessible only by a badly rutted dirt road. Automobiles of that day had a hard time getting to the camp site and Ed would have had a time of it to get there. But Ed was always full of spirit and had time for every boy and wanted a report on the day's activities. I would guess that the population of the camp was about 50 boys at any one time. There was much hiking, swimming and merit badge related activity during the day but the bonfire under the stars was the central daily event.

We had all made Indian backpacks with wooden racks and reeds under the direction of Donald Cann during the spring and took these on hikes led by Ed. At that time Ed wore shorts and long stockings for hiking and I am sure we did cookouts in the woods on the Shelton side of the river. I recall finding a real snakeskin on one hike that I fashioned into a belt under Ed's direction. Ed was ebullient, involved and caring and always teaching. I am sure other men helped with the camp activities, but I can only remember Ed and Rod Kneen. Rod was the exact opposite of Ed - he was quiet, thoughtful but always caring.



Dr. Robert Feeney

One final thought. During the year when we found ourselves in downtown Derby we

would go into the Derby Gas Company office to look for Ed. It had a large foyer (marble?) for customers and the staff were behind a railing involved with their office tasks. Ed would look up from his papers, wave and return to work. We would depart quickly knowing that he recognized and loved us.

James Florczak

My story goes like this. The 1969 trip to Europe at my age or for that matter any age was going to be a great adventure. Even today most people will not experience it. I was blessed to have been in Pack 3, Troop 3 and Post 33 with many dedicated leaders who found it in their hearts to try and keep me on the straight and narrow. Little did they know they would have a long hard road ahead of them. Some time prior to the European trip I did something that rose to a level where Ed decided I would not be going. I was devastated, not only for whatever I did, but I would be letting my grandmother down who had given me \$100 towards the trip. One hundred dollars is a lot of money today, never mind in 1969. There also would be hell to pay from my father which was no small matter. My conniving little mind finally came into good use. I said to myself I would have to think of something that would impress Ed into letting me go and fooling Ed was no small task. I'd decided whatever I did should be a short time before the trip so he didn't have time to reconsider if I messed up again before we left. I checked the weather report to see whether it was going to rain and found that there were going to be heavy downpours on Sunday.



James Florczak

It was great timing. I could say I was going to church. Keep in mind I never got around to telling my family that Ed decided I couldn't go to Europe with the group. I got dressed in a shirt and tie (thought that might help too) and a long raincoat. I also made a conscious decision not to wear a hat, this way I would be drenched and upon arrival I would look more forgivable. I walked all the way from Bradley School area on Sentinel Hill to Ed's house. He opened the

door and had no choice but to let me in, although he probably thought of not doing so. I began to ask him for another chance, he stood there for what seemed to be forever with this scarious scowl on his face. Evidently I was convincing enough and he said okay. Well, now we were traveling on a bus across Europe and don't you know I'm at it again. I was making noise at night which didn't give the bus driver very much sleep, drinking and generally raising hell. I can't remember all that went on but there were other Scouts on the trip who could come up with a few more good stories I'm sure.

Note: all Scouts should use this story as a guide of what not to do. Respect and listen to your leaders. Decades later I visited a Cub Scout meeting and Ed was there. We talked and I mentioned what a hell raiser I was. He said "you think you were bad you should see a few we have now". It seems most strived for Ed's approval and to my knowledge it was tough to get. One day I was called and told that Ed was in bad shape and if I wanted to see him, I should come quickly. I jumped in the car and drove from upstate New York and made it in time. For whatever reason I brought two Philmont Scout Ranch neckerchiefs with me. I put one on Ed and one on myself. I guess it was my way of sharing memories of better times. Someone wanted to take a picture of us and even in his frail condition he insisted that I be in the picture. I honestly believe this was his way of saying you're okay. Here is a guy is on his deathbed and he's thinking about me. This was Ed Strang.

Dan Foley

Ed Strang was a pillar of the community, who encouraged and directed our youth for years before I met him and for years after. I have many memories of Ed, but my fondest memory dates back to the early 1960s. Ed coached the Boy Scout basketball team and assisted Ed Handi Sr. with the explorer team. I was a member of the Boy Scout team and we played two or three games every Saturday during the basketball season. Ed provided an outlet for my friends and me by allowing us to participate in a team sport. He showed that giving oneself to others is one of the greatest gifts one can give to society. He offered his expertise, time and talent

to the youth of the valley and his impact is still felt today. His understanding and his compassion have helped to shape the person I am today and I am thankful to have known him.

Rudy Gajdosik

Ed Strang approached me and asked “Could you temporarily take over as Property Chairman until we find someone to take on the position”? Eight years later I was still waiting for the replacement. Ed had me with the “temporarily” and he knew the position would be in good hands for a while. Ed had a way about him you just couldn’t help but admire. Who could say “no” to a person whose only interest was the boys in the Valley? He asked no more of anyone than he would do himself. He gave totally of himself and was a cementing force in our Council.

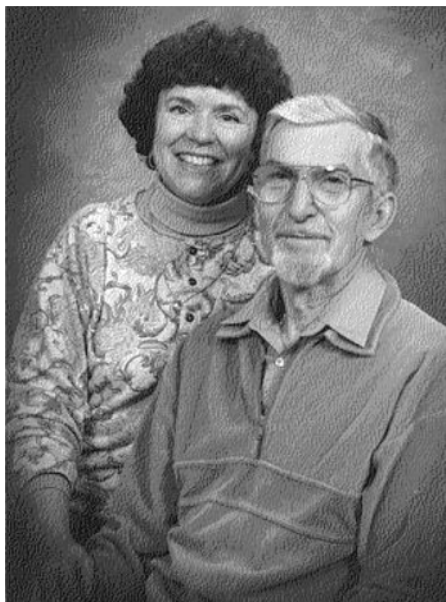
Editor’s note: Rudy is the beginning of three generations of the Gajdosik family which are involved in Scouting. He has been an active member of the Housatonic Council Camping and Properties Committee since 1976. For years he and wife Pat have spent vacations and weekends building and repairing camp property. He and Bill Martin undertook the challenge of building the camp’s multi-purpose Training Center which was dedicated in 1998. Among the honors and awards which recognize his (and wife Pat’s) dedicated service to the Council, camp and youth of the valley, the Edmond D. Scout Reservation Alumni Assoc. has established an award in his name.

Patricia (Stone) Gajdosik

One day in May of 1980, Ed Strang came knocking on our door. It was one thing to be caught at a Scout meeting and asked a favor, but here he was on our doorstep. I couldn’t think of anything coming up at Scouts important enough to need our help, but I knew we would be getting involved with something. Ed could talk anyone into doing what he had his mind set on you doing, and make it seem as though you had made the suggestion.

Ed needed us to open our home for two weeks to T. A. A. Ray from England. They had become friends during World War II, when Ed was stationed in England. All we had to do was give him a place to sleep and breakfast. Ed would take care of all the rest. During his stay, Ted had planned a short trip into Canada to visit a cousin and was supposed to be back in time to take a trip that Ed and the Troop had planned before going to join the Troop at camp. Needless to say, he missed his connection back to Shelton and we had no idea where he was until he found someone who could understand him and show him how to use the Canadian phone system to call the U.S.A.

The family officially adopted Ted Ray on June 13, 1980. "Pops" has since visited with us every summer or we visited with him for 21 years. T.A.A. Ray died August 12, 2001. Ed Strang started the ball rolling with Ted Ray and later the Exchange Scouts and Scouters from England, where the friendships have grown through the years and enriched our lives.



Pat and Rudy Gajdosik

Mark Garofalo, Former Mayor Derby Ct.

(telephone interview)

Mark remembered his days as a Scout in Troop 3. The biggest money maker for the troop was the sale of Tom Watt products. You carried a cardboard suitcase around the neighborhood and took orders for items inside the box. You could earn prizes and the money you earned was credited to your Scout account to apply to your Scout trips, camp etc. Every year he worked very hard to earn a trip to New York City. He absolutely loved the trip to the "Big City" with his Scout friends. They would stay overnight and take in



Mark Garofalo and Exchange Scouts

the sights and a few shows. One year he was sick and couldn't make it and was broken hearted. It was something he will always remember. Mark sang in the chorus at the Gang Show. He was an endman and sang solo. This was his first exposure to entertaining which he discovered he enjoyed and

had a talent for. As an adult he has accompanied the chorus playing the piano and continues to make guest performances singing and playing the accordion. He is an avid supporter of "Center Stage" (a community stage company) which is managed by former Troop 3 Scout Gary Scarpa and performed in many leading roles including Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof. As a Scout Mark marched with the troop on Memorial Day. As an adult he faithfully watched the parade. Memorial Day was not officially complete until Ed walked by. Ed led by example. Mark observed them and lives by them.

Ed Handi

They say that people remember exactly where they were when an event of significant importance occurs. As an example, many of my generation remember that Sunday evening in February of 1964 when the Beatles made their American debut on the stage of The Ed Sullivan Show. I know I remember. I was sitting on a chair in the living room of Ed Strang's home. You see, Ed volunteered seven days a week molding future leaders, and Sunday evenings were a time for Scout and Explorer leaders to come together. We were there to plan for and discuss upcoming events. But on this particular evening, Ed turned on the television, and we all watched as the Beatles came to America.

I knew Ed Strang for a very long time. In addition to his involvement with Scouting, he was also my Little League coach. I played

for the Laurels, and in those days sports and Scouting consumed my time. We didn't have electronic games, Apps, iPhones, iPods, iPads or even very good color television. So, we journeyed outside to play with friends and we participated in activities such as scouting and baseball. Ed was a role model for all who had the good fortune of knowing him, and he greatly impacted the lives of so many.

I have fond memories of my days as a member of the Pack, Troop and Post. The experiences significantly impacted my life and the career decisions I made. I recall being on stage for the first time as a Cub Scout and doing my rendition of Elvis's "Love Me Tender." Ed's advice: "Shake a little bit more, just like Elvis would do." I don't remember how the audience responded, but I did like being on stage and performing. I was an Endman for many years, and as I got older I contemplated stopping my participation. It was getting too difficult to get up and down the stage and to keep up with the younger guys. Ed would ask me to perform one more time. How do you say no to a man who has dedicated his entire life to the well-being of others?

Summers brought warm weather and trips to Toronto, Montreal, and Washington, D.C. I remember Tinker's farm and camping out with my friends. Ed provided the leadership that made these trips possible, and we all learned so much.

Ed always monitored your progress, and he hoped that every Scout would make achieving the rank of Eagle a primary goal. I remember the pride I had on the evening I received this recognition. I have always maintained that being an Eagle Scout played



Three Generations of the Handi Family in Scouting

a major role in my life. First, it provided me with the leadership skills I would use in my chosen profession. Also, my father-in-law was an Eagle Scout, and when it came time to ask for permission to marry his daughter Jan, my request was well-received.

I was a teacher and school administrator for thirty-eight years, and I was recognized as Connecticut's National Distinguished Principal in 2005. The skills I learned through Scouting carried over and played a major role in any success I found later in life. Thank you Ed and thank you to all those Scout leaders who provided guidance along the way. You made a difference, Ed.

Ed Handi is Troop 3 Eagle Scout 115.

Pat Healy

I met Ed through the Boy Scouts in 1960. I worked my way up to the rank of Star and actively was involved through 1969 as a junior in high school. I was an Endman in the Minstrel Show for two years. I made trips to Canada and England while Ed was our leader.

On Saturdays during the winter Ed would ask for teams to come and play Ed Handi's Explorer post team. The team seemed to have the longest winning streak in the history of basketball. Playing against him was the most difficult task you could imagine. The visitors could never beat Ed's scoring system. Many times I would ask the score and Ed would say "Red up 10". After scoring six straight baskets against the Post and asking Ed the score, the reply was always the same. Red would now be up 12.

After years of playing against the Post, I decided to play for them and, rest assured, we never seemed to be on the losing end of any game for which Ed kept score. Who would ever second guess Ed? Surely not me.

I recently retired from running the local soccer program for 28 years and many of the lessons on just having fun made the Clinton Youth Soccer program one I'm sure he would be proud of. As a

Scout in the troop I always had a great time and I looked up to the leadership that came from all those associated with Ed. I tried to model the Clinton Youth Soccer Program around my life's lessons from Ed and the children of Clinton are better for it.

Mr. Charles Hemstreet (personal interview)

Charles (Chuck) Hemstreet remembers getting a call from Ed to meet him at his house. Ed was very concerned that Chuck would not have enough time to complete his Eagle requirements. Eagle Rank is the highest Scout rank and must be completed before the Scout's eighteenth birthday. It is earned by approximately two percent of the enrolled Scouts. Some boys work diligently toward Eagle Rank until they are sixteen or seventeen and then lose interest. When they finally realize that Eagle Rank is their goal there is not enough time to complete the few requirements left because of time constraints and the complications which may arise due to their project require-



The Hemstreet Family, Charles Jr., Jay, Charles Sr, Kathy, Marycatherine and Alice (not in picture)

ments. Charles was close to this critical point in his rank advancement and time was running out. Ed encouraged Chuck and had him establish a schedule he could follow to reach his goal. Ed followed his progress and with other adult leaders supported his progress until he successfully completed the requirements before his 18th birthday. This was a success story but unfortunately not all stories end this way. Chuck worked very hard and dedicated his effort to make it happen. Chuck now has two sons who also attained Eagle Rank. Chuck is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 146.

Mrs. C. Hemstreet (telephone interview)

Mrs. Charles Hemstreet is a professional seamstress. She has volunteered her support to the troop for years by repairing rips in tents and sewing patches on uniforms and neckerchiefs. When Ed was in his early '80s, his wife was in the hospital and he needed to have his pants repaired. They were very much worn and fragile and too delicate to be dry cleaned. She rebuilt the pants with great difficulty. Ed thanked her and in appreciation gave her a box of candy. When her son saw the box of candy he suggested that she didn't eat it because the candy was left from a fund raiser held many months before and was stale. She didn't eat any and thought it was very humorous.



Bob Rapp

Joanne Rapp Holden

Joanne remembers that Ed Strang was well known for his practical jokes and good humor. Bob Rapp Sr. (dedicated Troop 3 committeeman and Scout parent) once decided to make Ed's day. The troop was on the way to Canada for the annual summer trip. First stop for the group was a camp over at Tinker's farm in Vermont. Bob Rapp Sr. arrived separately, unknown to the group. The next morning the group proceeded to hike up Mount Mansfield. As they neared the top, Bob Rapp Sr. jumped out from behind a tree and startled Ed. Bob was dressed in full Austrian hiking gear which included feathered cap, lederhosen (leather shorts with leather type of suspenders) hiking boots and hiking stick. After Ed gained his composure he took Bob's picture and they continued up the mountain.

R.J.Howard

Any time you had to follow Ed when you were going somewhere, you were wondering if he had his brakes on because he went so slowly.

Ed could always get you to do something whether you wanted to or not.

Ed was a master at getting other groups/organizations to provide a place for Scouts to stay on trips. On trips it was spam, spam, spam, or spam and eggs.

Christine Jalowiec

I met Ed Strang back in 1988 when my son Michael joined Pack 3 Cub Scouts. Ed made my son feel welcome, and he made the meetings fun and interesting for the boys which in turn had the boys wanting to come back every week. Winning that first trophy during Fire Prevention Week had my son and the others wanting to win more.

Ed was a very thoughtful man and when he saw your son in the newspaper for some event; he would drop the Cub Scout a little note typed on that famous typewriter of his. He gave the boys a good foundation in Scouting which would lead many of them on the road to Eagle Scout, my son being one of them.

The Troop 3 Matrons got their start at a birthday party for Ed. We wrapped napkins around our heads and with Mark Garofalo and his accordion leading us marched in and sang Happy Birthday. Ed was a good sport and seemed to enjoy us being silly.

I got to meet the actor Brian Dennehy because of Ed Strang. Brian Dennehy had come to Derby along with the town of Derby, to honor Ed for all his years of working in Scouting and the all the good he had done for the boys.

Sadly, my last time seeing Ed was at a hospice. A few of us mothers went to visit with him and even then he was still the gracious Ed Strang. He really was a remarkable person and I was lucky to have known him a little bit.

Edward Jeakle

Ed Strang, Troop 3, and Post 33 were the most important items in the forming of my character. Two trips to Jamborees, numerous road trips, the leadership that made it possible for me to attain Eagle rank, all my camping experiences are all wonderful memories. I learned to be self-reliant through camping, leadership from our Sunday night patrol leaders meetings and a work ethic in accomplishing the items that earn the points that made it possible for me to take many trips with the troop. All the while I was learning to conduct myself in a proper manner, the way the Scout Motto and Law expects of you. I was very lucky to have had many good years in Scouting.

It was Scouting that made all those things possible. The committeemen and other volunteers that made the whole program work so well were very important and I am indebted to them. But in the end it was Ed that provided the leadership that attracted them and made them feel that their time was worthwhile. It was Ed who made it work so well and his legacy was so strong that Troop 3 is still very successful. Ed was and is my hero. I am not ashamed to say that I love him like a father and will forever be indebted to him.



Ed Jeakle

Ed is our 52nd Eagle Scout.

Jeffrey Johns

I loved Scouting. In fact, I couldn't get enough of it. It's hard to say what motivated me. I think it was something inside. I know everyone talks about the work involved in becoming Eagle Scout, but I just remember loving the process and reached the rank of Eagle at the age of 15. I guess I was enjoying the journey so much that before I knew it I reached the ultimate goal and I was starting to prepare for my Eagle project. Since I loved activities, the merit badges, and the community service, it wasn't about the work. Eagle Scout was just the next step.

My biggest memories with Ed Strang come from working on the Minstrel. He would always pass out the lyric sheet to the songs he was using in that year's Minstrel. He typed the lyrics on his personal typewriter. Letters were missing, some upside down, and words flying in at all angles. Needless to say, it wasn't easy to read and he recycled those things every year. Sometimes I think that's why we didn't know all the words to the songs. The song sheets were barely legible. We always laughed about that.

While the group songs were always fun, Ed believed I could actually sing. At my first Minstrel Show, Ed had me performing a solo, "The Sound of Music." I had sung at church with a choir before, but this was my first time singing something outside of my church that wasn't in a hymnal. I would say this was the first step on my way to my career choice as a performer.

Ed was truly a vaudeville man and really knew how to make that show work and get huge laughs from even the most miserable joke. He WAS the Minstrel and knew how to make it a success year after year. While he said every year was his last, I think he was just an actor in disguise and loved every second of it. He was a man that showed you exactly what passion is all about and I'll always admire Ed Strang.

As a performer, it really didn't help me get cast in any shows, but the motivation and determination it takes to become Eagle Scout is something that's valuable in any career path.

There were many people who supported me in rank advancement. My cousin and fellow Eagle Scout Barry Howard certainly encouraged me to be an Eagle Scout so it was a good thing I made it because I would never have heard the end of it with him. My grandparents, Doris and Frank Johns would do constant check-ins on how my path to Eagle Scout was going. My parents were also behind me all the way. Becoming an Eagle Scout isn't just about the individual that achieves the rank of Eagle; it's really about everyone that has helped him on the journey.



Jeff Johns

Randy Ritter and the assistant scoutmasters were just a few people that gave of their time weekly to be an incredible support structure to all members of Troop 3. I've never seen a Scout Troop with so many active volunteers. It was impossible to leave a troop meeting without challenging yourself and getting encouragement from one of the old timers that were there because they never lost that passion for scouting.

Jeffery is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 183.

Rod Kneen

When I was a little tyke I used to see this chubby person in our church. Today I would say he looked like Costello of Abbott and Costello, but they weren't around then. As time went by he became my Sunday school teacher and in our class we heard many Bible stories and also heard tales of Boy Scouting.



World's Fair
Group

I joined Pack 3 Cub Scouts and there was this same guy heading the program, this time with the title of Cubmaster. Ed was a great leader and we had much fun, learning many things and had many great experiences. Next, I joined Troop 3 Boy Scouts and there he was Scoutmaster leading the troop in many programs, camping, trips to many places and great fellowship. I stayed with the program as a leader, a committeeman, and their all-around helper because Scouting was such a great program and being associated with Ed Strang was what made it the best.

I won't go into what Ed did for Scouting and the hundreds of boys he helped make into better citizens. Others will do that. I will say he was a great friend with a keen sense of humor, and was a practical joker. I would say not many people have or will ever walk in his footsteps.

Rod is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 37.

Living and Learning with Ed Strang.

Andy Kopasz, former Troop 3 Scoutmaster

Joined Cub Scout Pack 3 Derby and met Ed Strang. Worked thru the Cub Scout Ranks to become Webelos. I graduated into Troop 3 and became Tenderfoot Rank.



Andy Kopacz

Went on trips to places like New York City, the UN, military bases, Groton Naval Sub Base, Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Newport mansions and faraway places like England, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and France. If not for the leadership and commitment of Ed I would never have visited these places.

Learned community work and participation. Ed used a point system to encourage participation in the troop program and rank advancement. For simple actions like clearing snow from the fire hydrants to becoming “Mayor for a Day” we learned how to become productive citizens. Ed never gave up on anyone. We participated in parades and served the elderly and developed pride and responsibility.

The point system was also an important part of learning discipline because if we stepped out of line we would lose points. This was a great system and we all worked hard to earn and keep points. This was a way Ed taught us without us ever knowing we were learning. Ed knew just how to make things fun and educational incorporating games and learning activities at meetings and outings. Even when things were not going just the way one would expect Ed had a way to pull the positive out not only from the situation but also from the Scouts. He taught us to always look on the bright side and I remember how he treated everyone the same and everyone with respect and fairness. One time in particular when there were Scouts in need of supervision and the leaders were discouraged I witnessed Ed reaching out to both leaders and Scouts stating “these are the boys that need Scouting the most”.

Ed approached me to be a Scoutmaster of Troop 3 and at that time I was not sure I was up to the task. It was Ed's encouragement and assurance that I would be a good leader that helped me to succeed. We could always count on Ed's help whenever it was needed for whatever reason. The person I am today was greatly influenced by the lessons I learned not only as a Scout but also from the experiences of giving to others and serving my country. I hope I was able to pass along my knowledge to the troop I served as Scoutmaster. I have been fortunate to work beside such a special person and leader. Andy is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 143.

Shane Kraus

It was in the summer of 1964 or 1965, at the Housatonic Scout Reservation, and I had missed the bus taking us to Catholic Mass. Ed Strang told me that my mother wanted me to go to church and that he would take me.

Ed packed Bob Blankfeld and me into his Nash Rambler station wagon to take me to the religious service. He said that I would remember this story and told me with repeating that only in Scouting would a Protestant (Ed) and a Jew (Bob) take a Catholic (Shane) to church. Ed was right again.

He was a good man who lived a good life. I am in his debt. I think of him often and I remember him well.

Shane is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 136.

Letter from Shane Kraus to Caroline Strang on Mother's DAY

Dear Mrs. Strang,

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for having shared your husband with me. From 1960 to 1970 he guided me, cheered me, taught me and made me believe I was better than I thought

I could be. He took me on “Top Ten “summer trips and to Europe. He wrote me a note every day that I was sick in bed with rheumatic fever in 1963. He inspired me to earn the distinction of Eagle Scout in 1968 and he wrote my recommendation to medical school in 1974.

I know that many people have helped me along Scouting’s trail but Ed was the first among them.

Thank you for allowing me to take so much from your time with Ed from you. Your generosity has not gone unnoticed.

Happy Mother’s Day. Shane J. Krause, Glen Allen, VA

Jim Kyed

My Scouting experience came just at the right time. Rather quiet overall, I lost my father suddenly during my sophomore year in high school. Scouting activities in general and Ed Strang’s influence in particular filled gaps for me. Working together toward the Eagle rank with a variety of my peers under Ed’s generous direction was enriching, life changing and helped me to develop my potential.

My memories of a few experiences are as follows:

Hollywood or Bust

Attending the 1953 National Jamboree at the Irvine Ranch, just south of Los Angeles, was the trip of a lifetime. Traveling by train with special stops along the way (Salt Lake City, Utah and a rodeo in Tie Sidings, Wyoming on the way out west, and Glacier National Park, Montana on the return trip back east) made it extra special.

Ed arranged for Ed Jaekle and I to become special reporters for the Evening Sentinel, our local newspaper, and we sent articles back home to be published every few days. With our press passes we could enter special events and go backstage to an afternoon variety show outdoors, where we met Roy Rogers, Dale Evans,



James Kyed

and their horse Trigger. We also met actress Dorothy Lamour and comedian Jerry Colonna and several others.

For us to get direct exposure to Hollywood, Ed asked me to write to Sheilah Graham, a Hollywood columnist, to see if she could arrange for us to meet some celebrities. Did she ever! She invited us out to her home in Beverly Hills (on a bus chartered for the troop) for a party. Danny Thomas, Celeste Holm and Debbie Reynolds joined us and Charlie Stankye got a special souvenir from Debbie, a lipstick image of a kiss on his cheek! He vowed never to wash it off.

Then, as an encore of sorts, after the bus pulled away from there, it suddenly stopped. In it was a late arriving Mitzie Gaynor. So we emptied the bus again and partied right there on the street! One regret. Sheilah said that if we had contacted her earlier, she could have been able to invite a difficult person to schedule: Marilyn Monroe!

Conquering Mount Mansfield

In 1954, Ed took us on a camping trip to Vermont and Canada. Some of us were lucky enough to ride in Bob Rapp Senior's new Packard. What a boat! Bob applied his food expertise serving as the grill cook at our campsite. However, he didn't fare too well climbing up Mt. Mansfield. Ed Strang led the pack, of course, which included me, and I must say that I did quite well until we reached the summit where my acrophobia kicked in. Negotiating the rocks on my hands and knees helped.

On the way up, Ed's group stopped once in a while to rest and to allow a few stragglers, which included Bob, to catch up with us. Just when they did, Ed would exclaim in a hearty voice, "Well guys, it's time to move on!"

On The Radio

One time, Ed took us on a New York City adventure which included several firsts for me (not unusual by the way), seeing my first Broadway show “Stalag 17,” watching the Dodgers play at Ebbets field, and being chosen to be a contestant on a radio show called “Name That Tune” with host Bud Collyer. The gimmick was to listen to their playing the midsection of a popular song and asking us to name the title. My downfall was the song called “Mean to Me,” which was new to me! But I still won a kitchen dinette set, a Westinghouse roaster oven, great for my mother’s new kitchen, and a Berklock recliner.

Jim is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 47.

Mark A. Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton, Ct.

I had the good fortune to be a member of Cub Pack 3 during my formative years growing up in Derby. Ed Strang was my Cub Master.

There was no greater motivator! I looked forward to each meeting and every opportunity to be with him always enjoying every fun-filled minute of the time spent as a member of Pack 3.

In the early 60’s my family moved to Shelton and so did my life’s interests. I missed marching alongside Ed in the Memorial Day parades, but enthusiastically cheered as he, Pack 3 and Troop 3 passed by.

I interacted with Ed as a member of the Housatonic Council Executive Board for years sharing his contagious quest for perfection and his never ending energy to



Mayor Mark Lauretti

do the best he could for every and all Scouts. I shared his joy when the Housatonic Scout Camp finally became a Council reality. This was his greatest goal and one of his outstanding achievements and I was proud to be part of it.

As the Mayor of Shelton, I had the good fortune to also share in Ed's good works as a member of the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club which steadfastly supported his community involvement.

I saw him as the "Pied Piper" of Scouting with every boy he encountered following in his footsteps seeking his attention, admiration and acknowledgement. He made Scouting both fun and informative while experiencing one of life's many lessons.

May the good Lord grant him the eternal happiness he so deserves.

Leigh Family

We will always remember Ed Strang and meeting nights, Minstrels, Pinewood Derby Races, camping experiences, paper drives for our trips to New York City, Canada and Europe. So many good times and places.

Roberta Lengyel

Ed will always be one of the finest men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I first met him through my brothers Rick and Eric Schultz who were in Pack 3 and participated in many Minstrels. They both went on to Troop 3 and I was able to go to Camp Strang where I was the Camp Nurse years later.

My own son, Adam, belonged to Pack 3 and Troop 3 for many years. I was a Den Mother and Webelos leader with Ed, and I always remember how he would throw a Scout a candy bar when he was paying attention and singing. Ed and his wife were so warm and always welcomed you into their home. I still sing all the songs I learned at the Minstrels to my grandchildren. Ed will al-

ways live on through the Gang Show and the camp he helped create to be one of the best in Connecticut.

Thank you Ed for all you did.

Bob Lungarini



Bob Lungarini

After my first Gang Show as a Cub Scout, my mother was scolding me about how I was not sitting still and singing. I guess I was having fun on the stage. I figured I was in for a “talking to” all the way home. Ed must have overheard our conversation. He came over and told me I did such a good job and he invited me to come back the next evening and sing in the show. As it turned out I was busy the next day, but Ed saved me and I was no longer in trouble on the ride home.

Ray Margiano

When I was growing up, Ed Strang, Troop 3 and Post 33 were like my extended family. Both my mom and dad were working so Scouting became my escape. I probably got to see Ed more than the rest of the group because he always used to come into our garage for gas and to talk.

Ed was a great mentor and advisor, but more importantly, a great role model who really listened and made you feel important. Ed set the course for many young boys. They went on to achieve more than they ever would have without someone like Ed in their lives.

Some of my fondest memories growing up were about our camping trips, hiking, and yes evening focusing on getting Eagle Scout which sort of set the stage for the rest of my life. I am now 71 and am still working and growing.

Because of Ed I joined the military, spent four years in submarine duty, went on to College, and never slowed down. I earned a PhD in International Business and traveled to over 50 countries, all work related.

Getting together at reunions and Old Timer's Nights was always a great time to relive the past and catch up with Ed.

My story is not unique; Ed left his mark on many throughout the years and dedicated himself to helping other people and leading by example. The world is a better place because of Ed Strang.

Ray is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 78,

Mike Martin



Mike
Martin

Growing up I would see Ed Strang two or three times a week. I would see Ed every Sunday in church always sitting in the same seat with Caroline. I would see him every Monday night as a Cub and every Monday, Wednesday and Sunday as a Scout. Ed was part of my church and Scouting family. Ed helped shape me into the man I am today. As a youth I was oblivious to the impact that Ed was on my life. As a father now I wish Ed was here to impact my children's lives as he did mine.

Some of the memories that I have being with Ed; as a 7 year old riding in his station wagon, on a Canada trip camping in a muddy field sightseeing, the countless comic books and lifesaver packs handed out at Cub Scout meetings, meeting Ed at the newspaper bin and loading bundle after bundle into the bin, as a Scout being so proud of me when Ed would see my father and me working to improve camp, PLC meetings at Ed's house every Sunday, and being told I couldn't be an Endman because I wasn't funny enough. Unfortunately carrying Ed's casket was a very proud moment for me knowing that I was a part of his life not just him being a part of mine.

Mike Martin is Troop 3 Eagle number 182.

Bev Martin

Ed Strang was an integral part of my life. Since the age of six I attended the same church (the red church) as Ed. He and another Scouting icon, Walter Petz, were involved with our Sunday School. They both taught me the Christian way with their devoutness to God by their faithfulness. Then I married one of Ed's boy Scouts. He was the king of inclusiveness. I don't know how many times I thought that next time Ed asks me to volunteer for something, I was going to say no. And then Ed would ask me and made it sound like I was the only one who could help the boys. The next thing I knew, the answer yes was coming out of my mouth. After all, hadn't Ed and Caroline devoted their lives to Scouting? They gave it their all, their hearts, their home, their sweat, their lives to



Bev Martin and her Tigers

improving the lives of the young men in their care. The experiences they provided for my husband, my son and I cannot be matched by any other organization/people. Other than my parents, Ed Strang was the most influential person in the molding of who I was as a moral, caring member of our global society.

James Mayhew

My brother Walt mentioned this book about Ed Strang to me. I played for Ed on the Laurels Little League Baseball Team and my dad was the assistant coach. I also was in the Scout Minstrel back in the 1960s.

Ed was a very nice Christian man who used serving others as one of the main gifts he made in his life. I remember dressing up like a girl for one of the skits in the Minstrel. I guess an event like that you never forget. Ed was a real showman and a great organizer.

He certainly gave a lot of his time and energy back to others throughout Derby.

Walter Mayhew

I knew Ed as a youngster growing up in the church he attended, participating in Scouting and through Little League. I thought this book was a great idea.

The story we talk about often is him as a Little League coach. My dad coached with him and my brother played for them on the Laurels Little League team. I played on the Rovers. Ed's bunt sign was the most well-known throughout the league. He would fan himself with his scorebook. Everyone knew what was coming. One time I asked him about it.



1950 Laurels Little League

He told me “they may know what was coming, but when some things are done right it succeeds.”

That was more than 40 years ago and it still is a memory. He and his wife Caroline were truly remarkable.

Bill McDonnell (personal interview)

Bill McDonnell remembers a trip he took with Ed Strang in 1977 to a Cub Scout conference at the Schiff Scout Reservation in New Jersey. At the conference, participants shared stories and ideas concerning the Cub Scout program and included the concept of overnight campouts for Webelos Cub Scouts. Ed was Cubmaster of Pack 3 and had been doing that since 1973. On the way back, as they approached the George Washington Bridge, Ed realized he had to move over two lanes or miss his turn. Traffic was heavy. Ed told Bill to put his arm out and indicate that they needed to move over two lanes. Bill was in uniform which had an American flag patch on his sleeve. Ed felt that people who saw the uniform

and patch would think they were government officials on official business. Sure enough cars magically made space for Ed to sail smoothly through to the proper lane.

Ed and Bill were at camp one summer. Ed had brought a 9 volt flashlight which was huge and could be used as a weapon. They were sleeping at the Mohawk unit when they hear this racket. They went down to the mess hall where the sounds came from and saw raccoons running away from the garbage can. All that camping year they had been plagued by raccoons. Ed suggested that they place a huge rock on top of the garbage can and when this was done they left thinking they would have a good nights rest. Lo and behold there was another racket two hours later.

When they went down to see what was going on they noticed the bar above the garbage can, which was used to hold brooms, mops, etc. and a huge raccoon swinging from it. The raccoon kicked the rock off the garbage can. When this was done, they saw a number of baby raccoons running over to the garbage. Ed scratched his head and decided that the raccoons worked so hard that they deserved a treat and both Ed and Bill went back to their tents.

Ed told Bill about an experience he had during World War II. He was an Army Cryptographer assigned to the American mission in Budapest, Hungary. The area was recently liberated by the Russian Army and was under their control. Ed established a Boy Scout Troop named George Washington Troop 1. It was summer and Ed would transport boys to their summer camp. On one of his trips, he gave the boys a U.S. dollar and asked them to buy a few watermelons at a stand around the corner. To Ed's surprise that U.S. dollar bought every watermelon at the stand. The boys at camp had a watermelon feast that night.



1970 Scouts,
Bill McDonnell

One of those boys was Steve Geiger. Fifty years later Steve wrote Ed a letter. See it in the section listed Steve Geiger.

Bill is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 154.

Matt McDonnell

I remember being an Endman in the Gang Show. Endmen are required to sing a song, but I couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. Mrs. Martone, the piano player, was very patient. She would start to play a tune and quickly stop and pick another until she found one that agreed with my voice.

I went to camp during my second year in the troop. Ed placed me with a group of Scouts my age. I told Ed that I wanted to camp with a group of older boys. I got my wish.

After a few days, I realized that the older boys were a little tough on me, so I wanted to go back to the younger group. Ed told me I couldn't. I feel this was a good experience in character building because it made me realize I was responsible for my decisions.

Pat McDonnell (telephone interview)



Pat McDonnell

Pat remembers a Troop 3 trip to Canada. He rode with Ed Strang in his red station wagon. Ed, Bob Norris and Pat sat in front. The rest of the station wagon was full of camping gear. Bob sat next to Ed. As Ed was driving around a clover leaf, he needed to get out his wallet in order to pay a toll. Pat remembers that 3 inch thick mass of papers, notes, cards and money. Ed kept it so packed he needed a rubber band around it to keep it together. Try as Ed might, Ed just couldn't get the wallet out of his back pocket with one hand. His simple solution was to give the steering task to Bob Norris. Bob was traumatized but managed to control the car just long enough until Ed successfully pulled out his wallet. Ed went on as if nothing happened but it took some time for Bob to recover.

Pat remembers some of his Scouting buddies. They include Rev. Tiano, Bob Lungarini, Bob Norris, and Rod Erickson. He still stays in contact with them. He remembers some of the games played at the troop meetings which included steal the bacon, tug of war with a rubber tire where you add two more players every minute until the whole troop was out there in a mass of chaos.

They also played “time bomb” where this ticking ball was passed around until it stopped ticking. Whoever was holding it when it stopped ticking was out of the game or worse. Pat was an Endman in the Troop Gang Show and he sang a song and told jokes. He had a lot of fun and laughed a lot.

Pat is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 165.

Tom McQueeney

Ed was a great task master. When you told him you couldn’t do something, he convinced you that you could. He also had you do it.

Bill Menna

(He was interviewed at Shelton Lakes Health Center at 89 years of age.)

William Menna spent his life in public service. He was the mayor of Ansonia and a State Representative. He volunteered countless hours to a variety of organizations including the Birmingham Group, Housatonic Council Boy Scouts of America, United Way, UNICO, Ansonia Derby Rotary Club, Griffin Hospital, St. Michael’s Church, St. Mary’s Church and Holy Rosary Church and was recognized



Bill Menna, Mayor, gives the Keys to the City of Ansonia to Exchange Scouts

by Troop 3 Derby with the Three for Life Award.

Bill first met Ed Strang in the early 1930's when he joined Pack 3 where Ed was Cubmaster. He graduated from Cubbing to Scouting and joined Troop 3. He met Ed again as his Scoutmaster. Bill remembers participating in events at Camp Irving like Snipe Hunting (never found one), searching for the Phantom Bugler who played taps at midnight (never found him) and discovering that someone put cracker crumbs in your bed. Bill was very proficient at guard duty which was a disciplinary measure at camp.

Ed was on camp staff and kept the place buzzing. He remembers one particular winter camp out at Brimfield, MA, where he ice skated during the day and froze most of the night because the fire went out. Bill earned his way to the 1937 Boy Scout Jamboree in Washington D.C. by selling magazine subscriptions. Bill was a soloist in the Gang Show singing 'Hello My Baby', etc. I think we still sing that song. Bill played basketball with Ed as coach.

Ed was the greatest, and you just couldn't say no to him. Ed could sell refrigerators to Eskimos because he was so convincing. Bill says that his Scouting experiences made a man out of him. It also helped him survive 14 days in a life raft when serving in the Navy during WWII. Some of Bill's Scouting buddies were James Harlow who became a priest, Bob and Don Cann, Bob Deforest, Charlie Emerson (killed in the service during WWII) and George Fuller whose son was President Clinton's personal physician.

Frank Monaco



Frank Monaco

"Ed Strang was like a second father to me. I remember how he always clipped newspaper articles that praised his Scouts, and he was always taking pictures (in the days when you actually had to develop and print the photos days later to see if any came out). I particularly remember going to his home across the street from a Chevy Dealership every

Sunday Night for leadership meetings. He helped me get into West Point (and was so happy when I came back to speak at an Old Timer's Night as a plebe). I came back a few times during my 27 years in uniform, always thanking him for his encouragement and dedication to Scouting. He and his wife were "one of a kind".

Don Monopoli

There are not enough words to express my respect and gratitude for the man that literally shaped the course of my life. I was very athletic as a boy and I had the support of my father and family as I played in Little League Baseball and Bidley League Basketball. At 5 feet 4 inches, I had no chance of making a career out of either sport. But Ed discovered I could sing while he was beginning to organize the annual Boy Scout Minstrel. I was 9 years old at the time and he described me as "dynamite in a small package!". That year (1961) he assigned me to sing a solo of, "I Love My Baby," and the next year I sang, "Five Foot Two." I've never stopped singing since! I'm so grateful and TALL enough to make a living singing, still today. Ed Strang made me realize I had the gift to entertain people. I have a picture from 1961 that he sent me of himself, the Interlocutor, and me, singing my first solo on stage at the Spring Minstrel. I'm presently on the road and singing in Madisonville, KY. I think about Ed quite often and give him credit when I'm asked about how I started.



Don Monopoli

John Musante, A Family Perspective From the Musante Family Photo Album



These pictures are great memories. As you can see (photo 1), Scouting began when I was a youngster... about nine years old. My first great experience began during 'Fire Safety Week'. My winning poster landed me in the driver's seat of a fire engine at our

local fire house.

My parents encouraged us to get involved with Scouting (photo 2). It was a way to improve upon our childhood, which would lead to an active adolescence and a successful start to adulthood. They believed the true treasures are worth working for, as they create a love of life and a mutual respect for others.



Ed Strang's photo (photo 3) is among the pictures where memorable good times were discussed. This photo is from the Jamboree at Valley Forge in 1957. If not for Ed giving his life for what endures, this memory would have never been.

Mom and dad Musante (photo 4) were committed to what Ed Strang 'preached' in his subtle way. They spent part of their vacation at our Troop 3 site, believing that we are all family. Ed was an inspiration for me, believing in faith, family and friends forever.

John is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 96.



Ron Nappi

Ed was a great model for so many of us boys in the Cub, Scout and Explorer program. Somehow Ed knew exactly how to reach each of us with just the right words or encouragement or joke or challenge in a non-embarrassing style. He took the boys of Shelton plus the guys of Derby, each rivals, on the playing field and allowed us to have competitive “touch” football or “steal the bacon” to release pent-up energies and then help to make us into the same Troop / Explorer Post as a unit, close and supportive.

As a member of the minstrel show, singing with the group and/or as an Endman we told jokes “Mr. Interlocutor” prompted us to say in good humor. As a trained psychologist, I reflect on Ed and his style - reaching each of us in a positive way and naturally helping us to develop confidence and self-esteem. Ed was a man who made a major positive impact that I took with me into manhood, the United States Air Force and later as a husband and father. Thanks Ed.

Ron Nappi is Troop3 Eagle Scout number 173.

Mark Neuendorf

One afternoon at summer camp, after returning from the waterfront, Ed called me to the leader’s lean-to. I was in a rush to change into a Native American costume for dinner and was still in my bathing suit. I hurried up to see Ed, who proceeded to take a blue marker and draw an arrow down my stomach to my belly button. I asked why he drew that arrow on me and he replied that it pointed to the “Naval Base.”

Everyone knows that Ed had two cars. The older car was a station wagon used for hauling Scout gear and newspapers, and the newer, clean car was for his wife and special events. One morning Ed had a Rotary Club meeting in Shelton, and he invited me to attend. We were traveling from Goshen to Shelton driving via Litchfield to Route 8. Being a teenager and nearing the age to receive my license, I was watching the technique Ed used to navigate his bright orange AMC Matador down the two-lane road. His



Mark Neuendorf

method included keeping one tire on the double yellow line and taking very wide turns. I asked why he drove in the middle-of-the-road. He explained that his vision was slightly impaired and if anyone missed the safety orange coloring of his car they should not be on the road.

I often wonder how many Oreo cookies Ed served on Sunday evenings after the patrol leaders meeting at his house. I also wonder where his wife, Caroline was during those meetings. She did make rare appearances, but that was only during blizzards and ice storms.

Mark Neuendorf is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 171.

Bob Nolan

As you know, our connection with Ed resulted from Caroline's connection with our insurance office. Our families developed a fine business and personal association. I have any number of remembrances of Ed, all pleasant.

If I were to mention any, one that would come to mind was his penchant for support and cheerfulness if you were in the hospital. I had the experience (as I'm sure others had also) of getting daily "Funny Greeting Cards", the outrageously comical ones guaranteed for prompt, deep, enjoyable belly laughs...

This is the way he had of showing his compassion via humor. Thanks for the memories Ed...

You were special!

Gary Parker, The Eagle that Soars Above all Others

For me the nicest thing about Christmas was when Ed Strang and his wonderful wife Caroline would write to folks they didn't see during the year. This annual Strang family Christmas letter provided Cubs, Boy Scouts, Explorers and friends located around the world accounts of the year's travels, events, visits, honors and even doctor's visits told as only they could. The fact is, those letters provided the recipients a look into a mirror of our own lives for that is what Ed and Caroline were truly about....others. Sure, we learned about their vacations, their ailments and their happiness, but were also well informed about summer camp, the Minstrel Show (can't call it that anymore), the European, Canadian and Jamboree trips, and all the folks in England and Ireland with whom the Strangs befriended and loved to visit.

It was always a joy to read the beloved couple's messages, with increasing interest as the years passed and perhaps as our commitments took us in directions away from the Pack, the Troop or the Post. To reminisce about Ed Strang is to remember a man who had vision beyond what many could only hope to see. No, not his eyesight (anyone who has ever ridden in his car can attest his eyeglasses should have probably been at least a few powers stronger), it was his ability to see potential for excellence in individuals. He would then inspire, lead, jump start, push, coerce and/or embarrass to motivate them to develop that potential.

The best part is the "target of this attention" usually never realized what he was doing until it was too late. More simply, to be a Scout or a Leader in the "3" organizations with Ed meant you could literally see the world if only you would try. Ed lived Scouting and portrayed the Scout Oath and Law in all he did. He welcomed everyone to share with him the great Scouting experience throughout his life. The key word there is share; he was willing to walk with every Scout along his path through the Scouting experience and then he was always sure to step away from the spotlight when it was time to shine it on those achieving a new rank or award. He was a phenomenal man to have inspired so many to achieve so much within the Scouting program and continue to achieve in such a wide spectrum after they left Scouting. It can be said without reservation that Troop 3's second Eagle Scout never for one minute

forgot the values and characteristics that define an Eagle and more so cast them on all he encountered. For my mom and me, we will always remember the graciousness Ed would extend to us with the flowers he delivered each year to remember my dad.

On the other hand, who can ever forget the humorous cards usually stuffed with many an embarrassing picture taken at some recent or not so recent event that Ed would send to us, or worse, send it to someone else. In my case, one comes to mind involving Chuck Stankye and I. It was on one of the Canadian trips where we set up an overnight camp in a cow pasture in upstate New York. We were washing off the residue from the cow pie Olympics Strang had organized, and unfortunately some of the cow pies not fully “cured” as you can imagine. It was ugly, the weather was hot, and a shower was not in the cards until the next day when the trip itinerary had us scheduled to stay in a motel. Well Chuck and I decided we would take a bath in the stream running through the pasture. After all the Scout Law says a Scout is supposed to be clean, right? Ed was there armed with his camera and sure enough, the next thing we knew and to our surprise, the pictures appeared in our mailboxes at home. Of course our families were really impressed.

Ed was beside himself with laughter when we showed up at the next troop meeting. He had the photos posted with the rest he had taken during the trip, and I believe everyone in the Troop and the Post enjoyed our bath photos too. There are also countless memories of the Annual Minstrel Show, especially the Endman rehearsal sessions where Ed “crafted” our talents (or tried to), all the trips Ed organized, and all the Scouting events. Most memorable of all it is still with many of us today. Beyond Scouting, Ed taught us how to be good citizens, and to always, always be a leader, not a follower. As Caroline and Ed once wrote to end their yearly Christmas letter, “Have a Wonderful Year and May God Walk with you”.

Thank You Ed Strang.

Gary Parker is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 159.

Donald Pendagast (telephone interview)

Donald Pendagast, former president of the Housatonic Council and Scoutmaster was a coworker with Ed at the United Illuminating Company office in Derby. Don remembers that Ed had a large area of responsibility and when he retired he was replaced by three supervisors.

As a member of the Council executive board Don noticed that Ed put the interests of the Council above the interests of Pack 3, Troop 3 and Venture Group 33.

When Ed could no longer carry on his duties due to illness as Chairman of the Camping Committee he asked Don to fill out his term. As Don has experienced in the past, it is difficult to refuse Ed.

Mary Pepe



Tony with his Champions

It was either 1959 or 1960 when my parents enrolled my brother in the Cub Scouts of Pack 3 in Derby, Ct. For the next 48 years, Pack 3 became an integral part of my family and my life. This was because at the same time my brother became a Scout, my father became Scout

leader. Although my brother stayed in Scouting through high school, my father remained until his passing in 2008.

For those of us with that kind of history, Pack 3 and Ed Strang were one and the same. Ed was the heart and soul of Pack 3, Troop 3 and Post 33, as the Explorer group was known in those days. Through these Scouting groups, he created not only an incredible organization, but also a family in which multiple generations of men and women worked together to give boys a strong, well founded start in life. This is Ed's legacy and all of us who were a part of it carry it within ourselves.

My father considered Ed a dear friend, and so from the time I



Florence Robinson, Tony
Pepe, Alice Carroll

was 10 years old, Ed was a very real presence in my life. You knew what time of year it was by whatever Scouting initiative was the focus of the moment. Ed was at the center of each and every happening.

Who could forget visiting the Storms Engine Company during Fire Prevention Week or the Tom Watts Sales?

Then came the Pinewood Derby, and if you were lucky enough to be invited, the Explorers' Ball. The year finished with the Camporee, the Minstrel, the Memorial Day Parade and the yearend picnic, for which Ed would search high and low for the best price on hot dogs.

There were Monday night Cub Scout meetings, Wednesday night Troop meetings and Sunday night leader meetings at Ed's house, to name only a few of the many meetings Ed ran weekly.

Through all of these activities, one of the things I remember most specifically about Ed was that he loved to take pictures. He usually had a camera with him and was always 'snapping away.' The important part, however, was what he did with the pictures. When you least expected, you would get a postcard in the mail from Ed with a picture of yourself glued to the back with a note. He would send them on a holiday card, or instead on a picture postcard, from a trip he was on. Sometimes he would send you the card for no reason at all. I still have several of these cards.

Another memory of Ed, involved the trip to Europe that Post 33 Explorers took in the late 1960s. My brother was on that trip. Ed was very excited that he was taking the boys to a show starring Ginger Rogers in London, England. He was especially pleased because he had arranged for them to go backstage after the show to personally meet Ms. Rogers. What a treat for the boys! Ed was a bit taken aback though, when the



Tony Pepe with
Mayor Mark
Garofalo



Bill Pepe with Dad, Tony

boys, referring to her as 'some old lady,' were not quite as impressed as he was.

A few years ago I had the opportunity to talk with star of stage and screen Brian Dennehy when he was appearing at the Long Wharf Theater, on whose board I served,

in New Haven. All I had to do to was mention that I was from Derby and that my family had a long history with Pack 3. Hearing that, he proceeded to talk at length about Ed Strang, his influence, and the Scouting experience. Later on, my friends teased me about what Brian had been talking to me about in such an animated manner. After all, I was not accustomed to getting into conversations with famous actors. All I could tell them was, "He's a Derby boy and a Pack 3 Cub who knew and loved Ed Strang. We have a lot in common!"



Tony and his boys

Eddie Strang by Judy Petz

My earliest memories of Ed begin as a small child. Ed, and Caroline were a fixture in our family- every Christmas day, bringing presents for me and my 2 sisters and every New year's Eve (until his passing), and frequent stops at our home at any given time of the week. The business of Scouting in our home seemed normal.

He was a prankster who always had his camera with him and yet we were never prepared for him to catch one of us at a most inopportune time. The often embarrassing photos would end up on the back of a postcard that would arrive from wherever he traveled. One postcard from overseas which bore a most humorous shot of my parents, arrived in our mailbox - even though Ed actually forgot to address it!

As I grew older, we all would gradually be drawn into helping with various projects between Ed and my father, Walter, and in our later teens, Mom insisted that the Christmas gifts stop, but the tradition of stopping on Christmas day remained and New Year's Eve at the Petz's was an unbroken tradition.

My return to active duty in our church in my mid twenties would evolve Ed and myself into another relationship; my chairing our Church Board, and Ed a faithful member and trustee. We grew to have a great relationship in a new way and I soon understood how no one could say no to Ed when it came to accomplishing something for "his Scouts". We had an enormous amount of respect and love for him and he always returned his gratitude and love for his church through Scouting as well. The women of Derby United Methodist Church were his faithful crew to run the Blue and Gold banquets, with the church benefiting from ticket sales. Everyone was delighted to be involved, not to mention the decades of Gang shows that still are held annually in our church basement.

When I look back (and I attribute this to Ed's humble nature) I had never sensed how important a man he actually was both in the community, our country, and abroad. And at this time in my life, I now realize that I had a genuine American icon in my midst for all those years.

Though my parents, Walter and Carolyn, are now gone as well, there are still so many reminders throughout the house of Scouting and I cherish the memories of that incredible era. None of us will ever fully know the impact that Ed had on so many, many lives, and I can't help but believe he was truly a part of a master plan by God, whom Ed served so faithfully.

Joe Pompa

I have been in Washington, D.C. one time, and it was with Ed. California one time, and it was with Ed. I was not much of a Scout. I think I made first class. I cherished my rattlesnake award though and still have it. I think I won the points contest once also. Ed had me pegged, and told me I was in Scouts only for the sports, base-

ball in the Valley Church League and baseball Saturday afternoons at the old Derby High School. He provided a highlight of my Little League career when he walked me intentionally one night when facing his Laurels team.

Ed, the Scoutmaster, became Ed the legend. I think of those great men he surrounded himself with: Petz, Kingston, Schlitter, Rapp, Kassheimer, and of course Kneen. I think of all of you who have carried on, some for decades. You are all part of that Troop 3 legend, as are the thousands of Valley kids who have been benefited from your dedication. I sit here 64 years removed from my first Pack 3 meeting, proud to have been a small part of it and happy to support your efforts when asked. Thanks. Ed, you started it, and you inspired it! I hope you know how much good you did!

Bill Pucci

I started as a Cub Scout in the early 1950's. Ed was always a positive influence in the lives of the boys, whether it was as a Cub, a Scout or Explorer, (as they were called) back then. We had a kite flying contest each year and everyone who made their own homemade kite received a BSA T- shirt. He was my Little League coach (Laurels) for two years. Mr. Strang also coached the Boy Scout basketball team in the winter. I sang at five Gang Shows, three as a soloist. We use to needle Ed for the corny jokes that were part of the show.

I went to the 2011 show, things are still the same. Same songs and same corny jokes, but now Randy Ritter is the Interlocutor. Ed Strang is a true icon. As they say in my world of sports, "He was a Hall of Fame Person" 'a man I truly admire. Good luck to the Scouts.

P.S. I got as far as Star Scout until I began playing high school sports. I just couldn't manage school sports and Scouting.

Bill is now sports editor of the Valley Times and was a longtime sports scribe for the now defunct Evening Sentinel.

George Quadretti

The teenage trio made their way down the hallway of the Hotel Chesterfield in New York City. They were headed toward the hotel room where Scoutmaster Ed Strang and Assistant Scoutmaster Bill Schlitter were staying with the Troop 3 Scouts and Post 33 Explorers that Saturday night.

As part of the group of 20 scouts and explorers - 10 each from the troop and the post - 16 year old Roger Wheeler, 15 year old Vito DeMarco and I at age 14 were headed for Ed and Bill's room on a mission that was, in all likelihood, doomed for failure. The members of this group had qualified for a weekend excursion to the Big Apple that April Easter season of 1956.

It was Saturday night with that day's activities behind them. Scheduled for Sunday was a museum trip and a ride to the top of the Empire State Building, but these three, along with just about everybody else in the group, were bucking for a change in plans... if only they could persuade our fearless leaders to go for it. There was a gala Rock and Roll Show going on at the Brooklyn Paramount and there seemed to be no harm in asking if we could go there instead.

When spokesman Roger presented our alternative plan, Vito and I had little hope, if any at all that we could pull it off... "Most of us have done the museum and Empire State things before," said Roger, "and those that haven't would rather see the show anyway."

Ed scratched his head and Bill shook his own, but a faint smile could be seen on both their faces. "Maybe Bill," said Ed, "it's time we see what this new music is all about."



George
Quadretti

Unbelievably, mission accomplished! The show was fabulous featuring the Platters and Frankie Lymon, the Teenagers at the top of the bill, and also established favorites like the Flamingos and the Valentines and relative newcomers the Cleftones, the Royaltones and the Willows. The sound in the theater was turned up high. It was

my first R & R show and I collect the music to this day.

That following Sunday night, representing Shelton's Hawk patrol, I arrived at Ed's house with Assistant Patrol Leader Eric Kyed for the weekly patrol leaders' meeting. Ed answered the door with wads of cotton stuffed into each ear. He said to us, "I was afraid you guys would be bringing your music with you." I'll never forget it.

Ed Strang was not only a tremendous influence on me, but a real father figure. I had lost my own father at age 10, and am grateful to this day for the time I was able to spend with this terrific guy.

George is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 76.

Adam Rak

Growing up in Derby as a member of Pack 3, Troop 3, and Post 33, I had the good fortune to have known Ed Strang. Weekly Scouts meetings, the annual Gang Show, International Scout Exchange, summer camp, collecting newspapers, marching in the Memorial Day Parade, Sunday night Patrol Leader meetings at Ed's house, Camporees, the National Jamboree and Philmont. These Scouting memories remained vivid years later and many of these experiences happened with or because of Ed Strang. Whether small or large, they all played a positive role in shaping my youth, and who I am today.



Adam Rak

I can think of numerous stories that capture Ed, but here are a few that I hope give some insight into my memory of him. The annual Gang Show was always a highlight with Ed as the Interlocutor. He was masterful in the role, getting Cub and Boy Scouts to sing their

best, playing along with gags from the Stooges that had been recycled for years upon years, laughing at jokes from the Endmen, and submitting to numerous jabs and lipstick kisses from Walt Petz's annual "beauty pageant beauties" that capped off the show.

Every year at summer camp, Ed would set himself up in the lean-to at Mohawk with a giant flashlight ready to nail scouts looking to sneak out of the campsite to paint the bell or embark on some other mischievous activity. I confess to being caught once trying to do that and it was far worse than getting sent to the principal's office. Disappointing Ed was as bad as disappointing your parents.

I remember being at a ceremony when the Scout camp was renamed from Housatonic Scout Reservation to Strang Scout Reservation. Ed was thrilled at this well-deserved honor and in the moment of humor held up a sign that said "Private Camp- Keep Out." Ed was always ready with a joke or gag to keep you on your feet.

A highlight of my Scouting experience happened in 1987 when I had the opportunity to spend a month in Ireland as an Exchange Scout. The Troop 3 exchange visits occurred thanks to a relationship that Ed had forged through his numerous trips to Europe. It was an amazing experience for a 16 year old, to spend a good part of the summer overseas living with families, building friendships, making memories, and experiencing life in Ireland.

I spent some time racking my brain to think about some profound words of wisdom that Ed imparted to me during my time in scouting, but none came to mind. I then realized that it was not the words that had an influence on me, but rather the experiences that Ed created and the positive example that he set in the way he lived his life. He spent a life living the Scout Oath, embodying the Scout Law, and embracing the Scout Slogan.

I am grateful to my parents for bringing me to my first Cub Scout meeting at the Methodist Church in Derby on a Monday night in the fall of 1979. I met Ed Strang that night, and his lessons still influence me to this day.

Adam Rak is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 179.

Robert Rapp Jr.



Bob Rapp

I remember a trip to New York City when we stayed at the Sloan House YMCA. Ed said he was in the shower, all soaped up, when the water gave out. I remember when on the way home from the 1953 National Jamboree the train stopped in Seattle Washington and we marched to a fancy hotel for dinner. Everyone was so enamored by the real silverware that they pocketed it as souvenirs.

Ed had to go back down the aisles of the train with a basket to collect the "souvenirs" and send them back to the hotel.

I learned more useful life skills from Ed Strang and the Boy Scouts then I ever did in school. This past week I fixed a leaking faucet, a clogged faucet, and a broken ceiling lamp because of what I learned earning the plumbing and electricity merit badges.

Bob Rapp is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 38.

Randy Ritter, Ed Strang memories

Like many Scouts from the Pack, Troop and Post, Ed was probably the most influential male role model outside of my own father. Ed led by his own example, motivated and made you want to do your best and you never wanted to disappoint him. I was truly fortunate to have had Ed as a mentor while I was a Scout and through my serving as Scoutmaster. In my capacity as Scoutmaster, I was able to watch Ed in action; do it all for the Gang Show, run Cub Pack 3, coordinate Troop 3, Post 33 and international Scout exchanges, serve as Housatonic Council Camping Committee Chairman, serve on the Rotary Club and participate as a faithful member of the Derby Methodist Church....and this was when he was in his 80s!



Randy Ritter

I will always recall the first UK and Ireland trip I lead the troop on in 1990, with Ed guiding from behind. Ed arranged for us to meet with a Scout Troop in Dublin, Ireland at their meeting hall. Upon arrival the Dublin Scouts took our Troop 3 Scouts out to play soccer and the leaders took us chaperones across the way to visit a Gaelic Club for some Irish hospitality.

Ed said he would stay behind with the boys, so off we went. Several hours of refreshments later Ed came to retrieve us and when he saw how much we were enjoying our time with the Dublin and Limerick Scout lead-

ers it put a huge grin on his face, for he saw us experiencing the true worldwide brotherhood of Scouting.

Upon Ed's passing, a memorial service was held at the Derby Methodist Church where 7 decades of "his Scouts" spoke on how Ed lived each point of the Scout Law. In between these memories, "his boys" performed patriotic and religious songs. It was a fitting tribute to a man whose greatest legacy is "his boys" who became good citizens and community leaders.

At the end of the memorial service, I concluded with a poem Sir A. P. Herbert penned upon the passing of Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting. It applies equally to Edmund D. Strang:

"Few pioneers live long enough to see what they have done;

Most men are glad if they can leave the World a single son;

Did ever man before you died, see such a dream come true?

Did any leave so many living monuments as you?"

Randy Ritter is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 170.

James Robinson

Now that I am at retirement age, I can look back at my days of Scouting with Ed Strang. Ed had a way of bringing out the strongest points and natural skills in any individual, including adults. The skills that I learned as a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Explorer Scout, and leader have been used in all aspects of my life. Ed taught us how to work, lead, and overcome adversity.

In the Army, these skills and values put me above many of the other recruits. I was a better parent and caregiver because of the human values that Ed instilled in me.



James Robinson

During the Hungarian revolution, Ed befriended a refugee and brought him to the USA where he was introduced to Scouting. When one of our Scouts, Everett Huggins, was fatally injured in a car accident, Ed took us as a troop to pay our respects.

Some of the most memorable Sunday nights were spent talking about the future at patrol meetings with Ed at his home. And of course we enjoyed eating treats that Caroline made for us. If any of us had a question about Scouting, all we had to do was go to the Derby Gas and Electric Company and Ed would take time out of work to answer them.

Jack Ross, former Housatonic Council Executive

I, my wife Pat, and Ed once went to England to see our friend Ted Ray. Ed took us all over England. Ed knew more about England than Ted did who lived there. You probably know that Ed and the troop sponsored Ted Ray to come to the camp as Camp Commissioner for several years. And also, with the council, Ed and the troop sponsored two International Scouts each year.

We had Scouts from Egypt, Japan, and England as I remember. It was great for our Scouts. The troop and pack had many parties at



Oscar Johnson and Jack Ross

which he made sure Pat and I got many of his gifts. Ed was very savvy. It was great for our Scouts. As due to his help to the council, I could never say no to him. He was very wise. I grew to depend on his advice. Most of Ed's Cubs and Scouts grew up to have very good jobs in southern Connecticut and beyond.

When the National Scout Office tried to consolidate the Council, they selected me to go to Cape Cod. The National Scout Office wanted to merge Derby with neighboring councils. I was told to get out of the way by the Regional Office. The board was to vote on the merger. Ed told me not to worry as he would stop the merger as most of the board members were his former Scouts. The regional man later told me that he was almost tarred and feathered before the meeting was over. I hope this info helps you, as Ed was a dear friend.

Darryl Ryan

I have met a lot of men that were Eagle Scouts along my career path and you could almost pick them out. I started out in Cub Scouts with Cubmaster Mr. Haverly who retired and then I started Scouting in Pack 3. I have a lot of memories of my Scouting days, but there were so many interesting happenings I could not pick one that stands out above all the rest.

I will never forget how Ed would have the meetings at his house once a week and we actually got to see the Ed Sullivan show with the Beatles and Elvis Presley on the new thing called television. Then Ed would drive everyone home. I do remember all the trips we took, New York City, the Automat, Atlantic City, a burlesque show, and a trip to Canada where one of the boys got sick and Ed asked me to drive him home and then come back to catch up with the group. We did the National Jamboree in Santa Anna, (Editor's



Darryl Ryan

note, 1953 Jamboree at the Irvine Ranch, CA), which we worked for years in advance to raise the money for the trip.

And then there was the paper shed that was only a block away from where I lived. A few of us, on Saturdays, would meet Ed and bundle up paper that he sold to someone that used it for packing material. And there was the cabin at Rapp's (Editor's note, Rapp's Grassy Hill Park) where I completed my cooking merit badge. I think all of this has had an effect on my life because it is hard to forget a person like Ed Strang. Ed made it possible to attain the rank of Eagle Scout as he would have men like Larry Potter and Rod Kneen that would conduct classes for merit badges. I don't remember Ed personally encouraging me to become an Eagle Scout as he was always encouraging everyone to do better and to advance. It was a great time in my life. Ah, to be young again.

Darryl is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 54.

Gary Scarpa

In relation to the films of my mother's era, there are stories about how stars like Lana Turner and Betty Grable were 'discovered.' My mother often told me that as a young girl, she dreamed of being 'discovered' by some Hollywood talent scout while singing at talent shows at the Commodore Hull Movie Theater in Derby, CT, or even singing on her own front porch on Hillside Avenue in Shelton. Being 'discovered' wasn't in the cards for her... but it was for me!

I was 'discovered' by a talent scout at the Methodist Church, known to us as the 'Red Church,' across from the Derby Green' by a talent scout named Ed Strang. I was seven years old, not yet old enough to be a Cub Scout, but my older brother Edmund was.

Each week I would join the Cubs as they practiced their group songs for the annual Minstrel Show, now referred to as the Gang Show. It didn't take long before Ed noticed that not only was I singing out at the top of my lungs, but I was also singing the songs without looking at the lyric sheet that he had distributed to all the boys.

At the end of those rehearsals, Ed called my parents and I over to the piano where Mrs. Martone was sitting. He asked if he could try me out for a solo in the show, requesting that I sing alone while Mrs. Martone accompanied me. I was young and hesitant, so I believe Ed and my parents put a little gentle pressure on me to coax me along. I responded to their pressure by crying, so they backed off and out the door we went.

On the drive home, across the bridge that spanned the Housatonic River, which separated Shelton from Derby, my parents told me that it might be a nice thing to do, but it was up to me, and to let them know if I changed my mind.

A day later, after 'sleeping on it', I told them I would do it and the rest is history. It turned out that I was very musical and had the natural ability to 'sell a song'. In my first Minstrel, I sang a duet with the little sister of one of the Cubs. The song was 'Little Brown Jug' and I think my partner's name was Caroline Johnson.

The lyrics went... 'A penny a kiss, a penny a hug, we're gonna put our pennies in a big brown jug. A penny a kiss, a penny a hug, oh, how rich we're gonna be'. At the end of the song Caroline was directed by Ed to kiss me, which she enthusiastically did each night, despite my protests and much to the audience's delight. I still have snapshots of that Minstrel show and no one was more amused than Ed Strang himself when Caroline kissed me at the end of the number! That had to be in the year of 1959.

I went on to perform in the Minstrels for 10 years, becoming an Endman in eighth grade. I remember those years as an Endman and the weekly Sunday night meetings in Ed's living room where

we practiced our jokes. I also remember what a charming and natural performer Ed was as 'Mister Interlocutor.' For me, performing in the minstrels was the highlight of the year and those shows are among my fondest childhood memories.



Gary Scarpa and Date at
Explorer Scout Ball

I was in the right place at the right time to be 'discovered' by Ed

Strang and to fulfill my destiny to one day do the kind of work with young people for the entirety of my adult life, and to use my gifts to contribute to the community in which I grew up... the lower Naugatuck Valley.

In the 35 years that I have been directing young people in theater, never did I wish in a split second to be doing something else. I suppose Ed never spent a moment of his life wishing he were doing something else either. I know one thing for sure that I am grateful for Ed Strang. He changed the course of my life. Had he not 'discovered' me in the basement of that church in Derby, my life surely would have been different. I can't imagine that it would have been as rich and rewarding.

Frank Schaub

I moved to Derby, Connecticut when I was 10 years old. Besides my parents and my minister, Matty Oates, Ed Strang had the most important influence on me growing up. He welcomed and supported me as a Cub in Pack3, as a Scout in Troop 3, and as an Explorer in Post 33. In Cubs, he encouraged me in playing competitive games with my peers as well as taking seriously the advancement toward Webelos.

I also participated in the Scout Minstrel. Ed encouraged my parents to let me go to Camp Irving on the Housatonic River which was the first time I was going to be away from home. He encouraged me as I advanced through the Scout ranks and I am sure without the strong support and prodding I would not have become an Eagle Scout. He also encouraged Christy Testone and myself to take another trip away from home as we went on an overnight train trip to Canada and spent a week with Canadian Scouts at Camp Tamaracuta.

Ed took us on many interesting trips, two of which I remember. One was an overnight trip to New York City, which included the Ed Sullivan television show. Another trip was to Washington DC, where we had our pictures taken with Rep. John Davis Lodge. He was disappointed with us when he asked us to pick one adventure or

experience we wanted to have in Washington and we voted to go to a wrestling match. We not only let him down, but in retrospect let ourselves down, as well.

Again, with Ed's encouragement and support, I applied to and became a member of the Scout staff at Camp Workoeman on West Hill pond for four years.

My last memory of my activity in local Scouts was being asked with Christy Testone to be in charge of our large Cub Pack in the Derby Shelton Memorial Day parade. Many an interesting Sunday night was spent at the Strangs as I served for two years as an Endman in the Minstrel and which later became the ongoing Scout Gang Show. It was hard work, but also fun as we prepared for the annual event.

On a personal and family note, Ed and Caroline were very close to us as a family and many years after the Memorial Day parade they would come to our house for a picnic. I still remember Caroline's wonderful homemade fudge.

I learned so much about myself and getting along with other people and preparing for my college years and beyond through the guidance and wonderful role modeling of Ed Strang. Those few words do not really measure how much he did for me as I was growing into adulthood. He remains one of the most important mentors in my life.

Homer Somers



Homer Summers

My grandfather, Lucien L. Desaulniers of Ansonia, CT, sent me to Camp Irving 1930-1939. Chief Higgins was there in 1930. Ed Strang was the Activities Manager and worked with us Cub Scouts. Here I met my lifelong friend, Oscar Johnson of Ansonia.

In May, 1948 I went to work at the Evening Sentinel newspaper with my grandfather. Ed Strang called me and I took over the Oxford,

CT troop for two years, until I could train a new scoutmaster.

When Ed was going to Canada with a car load of scouts, he would camp out at our house in Vermont. During World War II Ed and I kept in touch with each other.

Jim Stapleton



James
Stapleton

I am sure many of us have marvelous stories of, and about, Ed Strang throughout our Scouting years. As a Cub in Den 8, a Scout in the Hawk Patrol and then as an Explorer Scout, I remember him as being fair, treating everyone equal, and never saying anything negative.

He truly lived the Scout Law. Fortunately, I had the pleasure of his friendship into, and throughout my adult years also. He wrote a terrific recommendation for the District Executive position with the Housatonic Council for me and I have a hunch he did the same style of recommending, when, as an Explorer, I was hired by the Council for the water front staff, which was my first real job, at the camp's second season of existence in 1962. I was 16 years old...

There is one (out of Scouting) experience that might have altered my life's direction Somewhat in my early adult years, making for a better existence in my lean survival years, though few people know about it. I was 19 years old and had just returned from Florida, when I spent my first winter after high school with another former Scout, Dave Phipps, working on Miami Beach. I had no car and was hitchhiking from my room at the YMCA to a construction site where I was a laborer on Marshall Lane in Derby, not far from Bob Rapp's cabin used by the Scouts, when Ed picked me up. I told him how Dave and I spent the winter working as beach boys at a resort in Miami Beach and that my car was junked because we could not afford repairs and I was saving for a 1957 Oldsmobile that was for sale for \$300. Ed said, "I'll lend you the money just pay me back out of your weekly paycheck whatever amount you can afford." I said I can send you \$20 a week, which he and I agreed to, knowing that first part of the Scout Law is a Scout is Trustworthy.

I would never renege on a promise to my old Scoutmaster. The next day I was hitchhiking to work again in east Derby and along comes Ed in his red Nash Rambler and gives me an envelope with the \$300. I signed a handwritten note that I'd received the money and we shook hands and he left me off at the jobsite.

The car enabled me to get yet another part-time job, pay back Ed earlier and was able to leave my room at the YMCA for a cottage on a farm in Shelton. I was also able to drive to York, Pennsylvania to visit my parents who had moved there the previous year. We had very happy reunions prior to my being drafted and sent to Vietnam in 1965.

Now, some might say "So what Jimmy, he loaned you 300 bucks, what's the big deal?" Well, the big deal is like I said earlier, he lived the Scout Oath and showed us by his example that it was more than a rote 12-word pledge recited prior to meetings. Yes Ed, a good man is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent also. Thanks again, Ed.

Jim is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 105.

Ed Sturges

My biggest thrill as a Scout was when my two brothers (Bob and Rick) and I all made Eagle Scout together in 1961. I think it was the first time (and maybe the only time) that three brothers were pinned at the same court of honor. I was a little less enthusiastic than my brothers about all the work that went into becoming an



Ed Sturges

Eagle and subsequently just met the minimum requirements of 21 merit badges. But that night, seeing the look of pride on my parent's faces and recalling the constant prodding from Ed himself to work harder to reach my goal, made me realize how lucky I was to have a mentor like Ed and the people he surrounded himself with to shape and mold boys into young men. Thus, instead of "graduating into oblivion," I remained connected with the BSA ultimately serving as Unit Commis-

sioner for “the 3’s” as we affectionately referred to Pack3, Troop 3, and Post 33.

My first experience at summer camp was a traumatic experience for me. As a 13-year-old, it was my first time away from home and my parents for an extended period of time. By the second day, I was panicky and wanted nothing more than to be home in my own surroundings. Ed took me “under his wing” and got me busy in crafts and other Scout activities so I didn’t have time to think about being away from home. By the time the weekend came and my parents visited, I was totally into the experience and stayed a second week! From then on, I was hooked and three years later I worked at our council’s camp as a unit counselor.

Ed Sturges is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 95.

Constantine Testone, former Scout Executive (telephone interview)

Christy Testone remembers Ed. “Christy” met Ed in the late 40’s early 50’s. Ed was a great guy. He gave you the feeling that he was interested in YOU even if you were in a troop meeting with 40 other Scouts. Christy felt he had a personal connection with Ed. The most important man in his life was his father; the second most important was Ed. As Christy matured, he felt he wanted to give back to the community because of the experiences he had as a youth and as a Troop 3 member. He went to college and majored in education to become a teacher. In his senior year, he decided to become a professional Scouter. Christy learned the meaning of a true leader by Ed’s example.

Christy and John Carr were two of the earliest Exchange Scouts the troop had. They went to Montréal, Canada by train. It was very exciting to be going to a foreign country on your first train ride. Their destination was the Woodlands Boy Scout Troop in Verdun, Ca. They stayed for a week with an English Canadian family and spent a lot of time at Camp Tamaracouta in the Verdunn



Christy Testone

Canada area. They remember that the lake was ICE cold in the middle of summer. While Ed was serving his country in the U.S.Army, the troop would send him letters.

Christy remembers the Sunday night patrol leader's meetings at Ed's house. There was always something special going on. It could be refreshments or a game, but it was fun and interesting. He always had a puzzle to challenge you with. After the war, Ed bought surplus gear from the government. Sleeping bags and rucksacks were popular. As part of the Scouting program, Ed would take the group places. Christy remembers going to a wrestling match. Of course there was always basketball on Saturday which a lot of boys really looked forward to. Christy was an Endman in the Gang Show and loved every minute of it. Christy feels that Ed was an outstanding example of devotion and dedication to the youth of the valley.

Christy is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 26.

Three Musketeers, information received by Mrs.Wolf, written by Rod Kneen

Ken Hall, Dave Koenig, and I were next door neighbors growing up in Derby, CT. We were playmates as young kids and did everything together. We went to Irving School and Derby High School



Kenneth Hall Rodman Kneen David Koenig

Three Musketeers

and early on joined Cub Pack 3 with Ed Strang as our Cubmaster. We went on to join Troop 3 as Boy Scouts after Cubs and under the tutelage of Ed, rose through the ranks. Dave and Rod attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Together we joined the Army Air Corps and stayed together

through basic training for several months. Afterward Ken was shipped to another air base for a while, but after that he was reunited with us for another few months. Eventually we were all sent on our way. Dave became a bombardier, Ken a navigator and Rod a control tower operator.

After serving during wartime, the trio reunited back in Derby. They all went to work at Farrel's in Ansonia, CT, retired, and remained friends.

Editor's Note: In many cases a patrol is made up of neighborhood boys who go to the same school and possibly same classes. In many cases families move or boys lose interest before they graduate high school. This is the remarkable exception to the rule where they stayed together and bonded through Scouting and remained together through their lifetime. This information was provided by Mrs. Wolfe, sister of Ken Hall.

Ed Strang Memories.....Reverend Chris Tiano

There are three defining moments for me to understand, appreciate and celebrate Ed Strang's role in my life. Two are very positive, one negative - from my perspective - all of them illustrative of the power and influence we have by simply doing right.

When I received my Eagle, I was so honored that Ed Strang presented my badge to me. I was honored because he was certainly the Scout leader that was with me throughout my Cubbing, Scouting and Exploring careers. His presence at my Eagle ceremony reminded me then - and now - of the importance of doing the next right thing in my life. Ed's example of leadership was always allowing others to flourish around him, providing us with the skills and authority to accomplish - well what he wanted us to accomplish! More importantly he taught me that leadership was about doing good - or more precisely doing the good. I have a picture of that ceremony in my home office, there I am surrounded by Ed Strang and my parents. It reminds me that I am a leader.

The second moment is humorous but significant. I was part of the 1990 Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and England trip with Ed Strang. Our Scoutmaster, Randy Ritter, was the leader of this trip. We

took a handful of teen aged Scouts across the pond. It was a lovely trip, except for the fateful day in Wales. Our bus stopped, I looked out at the small village, and I suggested to Randy we let the boys be on their own at this stop. What trouble can they get into in a literally one street village in Wales. Randy agreed to this - I suppose now a dubious suggestion - and off the boys went. Around an hour and one half later, the boys started to file onto the bus. I was sharing a seat with Ed waiting for them to return from their first time without chaperones. As they filed on the bus I noticed that some of them sported a fashionable addition - brand new earrings! Five of them decided to get their ears pierced. I wasn't pleased and neither was Ed. Randy, being the leader of the trip, dealt with the boys and collected their earrings. As the bus pulled onto the highway, Ed told me that it should not have happened. I responded as if I were a young Scout rather than a young priest by placing the responsibility on Randy as Scoutmaster. Ed said kindly and gently that as a priest it is always my responsibility. I have many pictures from that trip, and when I look at Ed and I together, it reminds me that I am always responsible.

The third moment happened well after the first but before the second. I was entering the seminary in the fall of 1984. Ed asked me and Jim Melita to serve as adult leaders at camp for the week. Halfway through the week Ed came up to make sure that the young men in our care were still alive. He came in the heat of the after-



1979 Eagle Scout Chris Tiano

noon and we sat in an empty tent with the sides rolled up that was under the shade of pine tree. We had a conversation that lasted about an hour where Ed gave me advice in the future as a priest. He told me to always be concerned for the youth and to respect them enough to always give them your best. He told me about priests he had known in his life and told me about the various ways that he had worked with kids and adults. I am still involved in

the camp that now bears Ed's name, and whenever I visit Mohawk I look at that tent and in my mind's eye I have a picture of Ed Strang imparting his years of Scouting to a young man about to begin his life's work. It reminds me that I must always do my best as a man, as a leader and as a priest.

For all intents and purposes Ed Strang lived a simple life, and he and his beloved Caroline shared apartments most of their lives together. Though he was a world traveler and counted among his close friends Scout leaders from across the world, he in many ways was a simple man from Derby. But, each day he lived his life in service of others and because of that touched the lives and hearts of countless people. Success and failure in life are hard to quantify. If we are honest what we considered successful in our youth gives way to something else as we age. True success means making the world a better place through a life of service, leadership, responsibility and respect. I do not know if I am a success, but I know someone who was and I am a better man having known him.

Chris is troop 3 Eagle Scout number 168.

Cameras, Encouragement and Love by William Urban

In the 1960's Ed Strang and the then many cameras hanging from his neck were a fixture at the Housatonic Scout Reservation (HSR), especially at camporees and summer camp. Starting in 1964 as a camper and joining the camp staff in 1968 (as both Nature and Conservation Director and staff, I enjoyed meeting, seeing and speaking with Ed about what Boy Scouting was like decades gone by. Ed had much to talk about and share especially at campfires. He led us in singing several songs like "The Three Jolly Fisherman". He strongly encouraged us to stay in Scouting and always to have fun.

As the years passed I came to work with Ed on various Scouting Projects, especially as a member of the Camping Committee which he chaired. Late in 1982, I got a telephone from a good friend



Bill Urban

who, like Ed, was active in Rotary International. He asked me if I would like to go to Asia as a member of a six man Group Study Exchange Team (one Rotarian leader and five non-Rotarians between twenty five and thirty five years) which would visit Thailand for six weeks in early 1983, all expenses paid. **YOU BET YOUR LIFE I WAS INTERESTED!**

After two interviews and since I had foreign travel and Scouting experience I was enthusiastically chosen to represent the Derby Shelton Rotary Club and District 798 as a Rotary Ambassador to the Ancient Kingdom of Siam. Paul Falcigno, a distinguished Rotarian friend of Ed , was chosen as Exchange Team Leader. As I went through preparation meetings for the trip I was excited but Ed was ecstatic! And he made absolutely sure via phone calls, letters and in person that I knew it. With best wishes and gifts from Pack 3, Troop 3, and Post 33, the council, his Rotary Club and others he showered me with praise and respect which I will never forget.

During the six weeks in Thailand we traveled throughout a country the size of Texas, visited many Rotary Clubs (and nearly everything else the nation had to offer). We gave many talks about the life in the U.S. including Scouting (which was very popular there). We shared our lives with the Thais, and they treated us as if we were royalty. After a brief stay in Hongkong and Tokyo, we went back to Connecticut. Ed had more congratulations for our very successful exchange and my part in it. All of the team members enjoyed showing slides and talking about this unique experience, as we had promised to do. In the audience for at least two of these presentations sat Ed Strang smiling. He was a unique man.

Tim Walsh

I am one of the luckiest people to have known Ed Strang. The question posed to me is did Ed touch my life. The simple answer is Ed formed my life for me. I first met Ed as my Cubmaster. He always kept it fun and very interesting which is why I went on to become a Scout. That is when I was fortunate to build a strong relationship with Ed.

My first year in Scouting Ed had asked me about summer camp. I went home excited and asked my mom if I could go. The answer was simple, but difficult for her to tell me we could not afford the expense. I come from a family of eight children and totally understood why. When I informed Ed, he said that in his feeling it was very important that I attend. He then asked me if I would be willing to work hard to get the opportunity to go. My only answer was yes, and that is when my true life experience with Ed began. He would pick me up after school three days a week and drive me in his wagon to collect newspapers. I would receive partial credit for the load towards my camp fund. When papers were slow, he would receive clothing hangers from JCPenney and I would bundle them in groups of five with twine. He then would sell them cheap to the local cleaners to help me with the expense. With this and working hard in the troop, I was able to go to two weeks of camp every year I was a Scout without any expense. He also helped me go to Canada, Washington DC, and a jamboree.

That was a small part of our time together. Other time was spent at all the meetings, both at the church and at his house. The reason I bring that up is that he taught me how to be a leader. He formed me to become a good Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Post President. All that guidance gave me the confidence to operate my own business for many years.

I owe Ed many thanks for giving me a little more. With that I am very grateful for having him in my life. He is thought of on a regular basis. Ed, thank you for being who you are.

Tim is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 169.



Tim Walsh

Joseph S.Wardzala

Mr. Edmund D Strang was a great Scoutmaster of BSA, and a good friend of mine. I remember when every week I take my son John S. Wardzala for Cub Scout meeting. The Cub Scout and all Scout of Derby love Scoutmaster Ed Strang.

He always have humor and one time he tell us when he was in American Army stationed in Budapest, Hungary in the final months of World War II in the Russian controlled section, Ed's jeep was stopped by Russian soldiers. Ed showed the Russian soldier a Texaco gas card with a big red star and shouted out the name of the Russian general commanding the area. The Russian soldiers stood at attention, saluted Ed, and let them go.

Ed wrote to the Texaco Gasoline Co. and they sent him a box of cards. Ed promptly distributed them to U.S. soldiers in the area.

With nice memory of good friend in Scouting, Joe Wardzala.

Editor's note. Mr.Wardzala is a Polish Catholic Holocaust survivor. He was imprisoned in a German Work camp as a teenager until freed by Allied forces.

Phil Warner, former Housatonic Council Executive

It's difficult to believe that Ed has been gone for 17 years. I have many fond memories and will mention just a few that are unique to Ed and me.

Was there ever a Scouter as dedicated, with quality output, who put in countless hours and years to nurture Pack 3, Troop 3, and Post 33, and the Housatonic Council? I doubt you could find anyone in the Council that could surpass Ed.

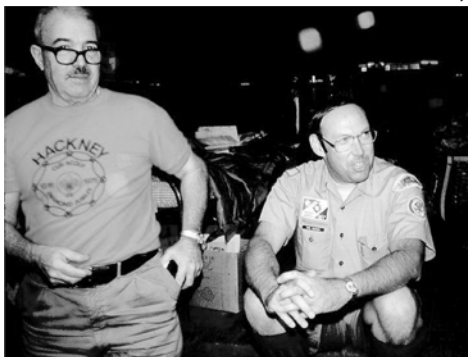
Just talk about the preparation for the yearly Minstrel Show. Ed and Caroline would journey to England every year in the fall, Ed for four weeks and Caroline for two. The first two weeks were spent in sightseeing and entertainment. Caroline would leave and then Ed would spend two more weeks visiting "gang shows" to get new ideas for the Minstrel. He would also visit troops to interview

Scouts who might be interested in coming to the United States as Troop 3 guests for the summer. Name another person who would take the time and effort. Imagine the world brotherhood that ensued from those visits.

Then every spring Ed would serve as Interlocutor of the Minstrel, introducing new songs and skits, and giving the youth membership the opportunity to shine and be comfortable in front of an audience.

As I recall sometime in the late 70s, Ed and I agreed that we would welcome back some of the English Scouts to serve on our camp staff. We planned to use the National Council's International Camp Staff Program. We invited two scouts. The National Council would handle the arrival and departure details. When the staff members were picked up in New York City we learned that the Scouts had spent the night in a seedy hotel in a seedy part of New York City. There were not enough beds or rooms to accommodate the International Scouts. One of our Exchange Scouts spent the night walking the streets of New York City. Ed and I were appalled and quickly contacted National to make sure that this lapse would not happen again. Rarely did I see Ed get riled in the years I knew him. This was an exception and he was right to be upset.

After I left Derby for western New York I had the opportunity to serve as President of the local Rotary Club. Of course, Ed had perfect attendance for decades at the Derby-Shelton Rotary club, which sponsors troop Post 33. That year, sometime in the early 80s, the Rotary International Convention was held in Toronto, Canada. Ed suggested that he and I take in the event. It was amazing the number of people worldwide that Ed knew and who wanted to converse with him. As typical of Ed, not a minute was wasted. We even took in a movie one afternoon, when there was no planned activity. I think Ed slept through the whole movie.



1977 Ed Strang and Scout
Exec Phil Warner

Again after I left Derby, I would periodically stop to see Ed and Caroline when I was in Derby. On one particular occasion, Ed was very reflective about his age and asked me for some advice. That was strange, as I was often the one asking for his advice. He was concerned about the Pack, Troop, and Post treasuries and what would become of the accounts when he would no longer be able to administer them. Along with the Minstrel Show, Tom Watt Products, and collecting newspapers, the units have a long time excellent fundraising program. My Scout treasury philosophy was that each unit should have enough funds to sustain itself for a year. The Scouts who raised the money should be able to enjoy the fruits of their labors while they were enrolled in the program. I finally asked him about the amount he was talking about. Luckily, I don't remember the totals of each of the three unit's treasuries. To my way of thinking I was extremely impressed considering that toward the end of each year, the council is looking for every nickel and dime we could find to balance a budget. I added that Pack 3, Troop 3 and Post 33 were always leading the way for the Council annual Sustaining Membership Enrollment to make up for budget shortfalls.

I miss Ed and Caroline but their legacy lives on with the current leadership, both at the unit level and with the Strang Scout Reservation.

Phil Warner, Council Executive 1975-1980

Roger Wheeler

1953 was an important year for the Scouts of the Housatonic Council. The National Jamboree was to be held in Irvine, California and there were to be two Troops, each 30 scouts strong, going from the council. Unfortunately, I was not among them. My mother was in a full body cast having been struck in the back by a falling tree. My dad was working two jobs in order to pay the medical bills and keep up the household bills for my brother and myself so there was no extra money to pay for my expenses.



Roger
Wheeler

About three weeks before departure one of the boys in the second Troop, the first was made up of exclusively Troop 3 Scouts, dropped out due to medical problems. Ed knew how badly I wanted to go, so he approached Frank Gates, a well known East Derby resident for a donation for me to go to the jamboree. Mr. Gates did donate the money and as they say the rest is history.

Ed was always there to help out any of the scouts and me for one am very thankful he was there to help me. .

Roger Wheeler is Troop 3 Eagle Scout number 53.

Richard Williams

Ed was always well aware of the safety of us Scouts. During the 1971 European trip, we all checked into a Paris hotel. The building probably dated to the 1800s with small rooms and snaking hallways. Well the first thing Ed did (as always, but this one stuck in my mind) was to figure out where the fire escapes were and then to make sure that each of us also knew. As we were spread all over the various floors of the hotel this was quite a task I'm sure. To this day when I travel, I continue to follow Ed's practice (sometimes when my co-workers don't even want to know).

And talk about "coolness" under pressure. One of my favorite photos of Ed is a shot of Ed on a ski lift in Switzerland. As part of the 1971 trip, we stayed at a wonderful hotel in Lucerne with dinner and a show provided at the restaurant. The next day we took the train (one of those 45° inclined trains) up into the Alps to a ski lodge. With no snow and being above the tree line the sky was crystal clear and the ground barren. Ravens flew around us. Ed ended up taking a ski lift ride (probably to take his own shots) and I was able to snap him looking as serene and peaceful as can be - all the while leading our group across Europe.

Here is more "coolness" when we returned to London at the end of the trip. We visited an amusement park which reminded me of Savin Rock or even Riverside in Agawam, MA. Being the youth that we were, we didn't realize that we teens were treading on the turf of the local lads, especially in interacting with their girls. Well when we headed back to our buses at the end of the evening, some of the local lads pelted us with a few sticks and stones. Ed

calmly ordered older youth and leaders to the rear of the group and quickly got the younger Scouts and then the rest of us onto our buses. No one was hurt and the incident was soon forgotten by most. We had a GREAT time for the rest of the trip.

One last “coolness” under pressure. We visited New York City one year just before Christmas (maybe as patrol leaders) and went to the United Nations building. Upon leaving the building, and since I probably didn’t listen well even back then, I exited the building and found myself nose- to- nose with a rather large New York City police horse ridden by an also rather large New York City police



Dick Williams

officer. It seems that I had ventured into the middle of a demonstration, including about 100 people and quite a few police officers. Ed’s hand on the back of my collar pulled me back and I and the rest of us witnessed Ed basically parting the crowd and police officers (the parting of the Red Sea comes to mind) as he led us directly through the demonstration. Everything was quite silent until we were across the street and moving downtown. Behind us the demonstration started up again.

Nancy Stone Yeager

The thing that sticks in my head about Ed Strang was when he started coming to Christmas dinner. We always looked forward to them coming because Caroline always brought the absolute best fudge. Ed would spend the visit, telling story after story, and keeping us all in stitches.

Paul Yocher

I first met Ed Strang as a Cub in Pack 3. World War II had started and Ed was called up to serve. Walt Beach and others stepped up to run the Pack.

Camp Irving and Troop 3, summers and winters were great as were merit badge work, collecting newspapers and going to wrestling matches with Ed. Gang shows and basketball were all great too.

Every once in a while we all had someone who made a difference in our lives and Ed was such a person. He even sent me some flashlight batteries, which we had a very hard time because of the extreme cold where I was. When we needed them, they were there.

I'll always remember Ed as one great guy.

Ed Strang, The Big Red Church, and Cub Pack 3 written by Tim Walsh



Cub Pack 3 Celebrates 75th Anniversary

On Monday night you go to Elizabeth St. Derby to the big red church on the green. You run to the double doors and grab hold with both hands and pull as hard as you can to open the heavy door. Once inside you run down the stairs to the next set of doors, but before you even push to go in you hear the sounds. The sounds you hear are the other young kids talking loudly and horse playing. You go in and join all your friends in the excitement of the day. Then you hear the call for opening ceremonies. Everything goes quiet, and then you begin with the Promise and then the Pledge. They are all memories for me now, but it is just happening for the new generation of Cubs.

It all began when Ed Strang himself was just a Boy Scout. Back then when all the Scouts came to the meetings at the Congregational Church, some would have to bring their younger brothers. At the time it was Reverend Alfred W. Budd that was the Scout Leader. He was having a difficult time with all the young boys and keeping order. He then approached Ed Strang and a couple of other Scouts to ask them to do something to occupy the boys. So they tried to keep the boys busy with games. Although it was working ok, Ed felt it would be better to meet with the younger boys in a different location. Ed, being a member of the Derby United



Mr., Mrs. Ray Oppel with sons
Ryan and Alex

Methodist Church (The Big Red Church), received permission to meet in the hall. The Derby United Methodist Church to this day is still the charter organization for the Pack. This all started in 1927 and in 1928 Ed was running the program under the British Cub

program. In 1930 the United States had begun its own official cubing program. By July of that year Pack 3 was official in the United States with 16 cubs and 6 leaders. Although Ed ran things, he was not of age to be an official Cubmaster. As soon as Ed turned 21, Reverend Alfred Budd gave Ed the title of Cubmaster Pack 3 Derby.



Marie Chebro, Ed Sturges Jr., Ed
Strang, Tony PePe, Mr. and Mrs. P.
Saccu, Ed Purcell standing in back



1930's Ed's Cub Pack

Ed was a man with foresight. When I say that, you have to look at everyone Ed recruited to be around him. He had volunteers with 20-30-40-50+ years of service. He could see into someone and know what they were good at. With that he would put them to their best

use for them and the Pack.

Ed's program was run as close as anyone can run it to the Cubing program. In the beginning Pack 3 was used as a pilot program for National. With 65+ years in Cubing Ed would do everything in his powers to keep all boys interested. You know it worked because the Pack always kept the Troop thriving with boys.

In 1982 Ed and Beverly Martin decided to find a program to keep the Cubs younger brothers active, just like Ed did in 1927. They began the Tiger Cub program in the Valley. Although it was already a National BSA program, it was so new that Bev had to feel her way through it. Today the Tiger Cubs are considered part of the Pack and treated as a Den. They started with 4 members and now have



Bill Martin making Burnt Offerings at Pack 3 Picnic



1927 Youth Group Meeting, forerunner
to Pack 3

an average of 6 to 8. It is a one year program that the boys have to earn the Tiger Cub badge and earn the Cub Scout Bobcat badge. The Tiger Cub program forces parent involvement which will hopefully carry on as the scout gets older.

In the early 1990's Ed saw something in another former Scout and Eagle. Dan Cyrul was bringing his son Dan Jr. to the meetings. Dan Sr. began helping out with the Webelos and Cubs. Ed took Dan Sr. under his wings (and I do think Ed had wings) and had him doing more with the Cubs. In 1995 Dan was appointed the new Cubmaster of Pack 3. Unfortunately later that same year Ed Strang passed away.

Dan had instilled in him all the teachings of his mentor. Today Dan has 34 cubs and 14 leaders. He starts his first meeting with the start of school and ends the year with the school season. Just as Ed ran his meetings, Dan does much the same. Opening ceremonies, leg wrestling, tug of war, musical chairs, and many other games. At the end of the meeting you can still get a 25 cent soda from the same machine. The year still consists of Fire Prevention Week, Fire House visit, Blue and Gold Dinner, Pine Wood Derby, and of course the spring Gang Show. You know the year is over when you are at the yearend picnic.

I asked Dan what his goal is to teach each boy. His answer was simple; he wants to teach simple skills such as knot tying, basic first aid, but



1932 Cub Pack 3

most of all values. I say to any one reading this to go to a Monday night meeting, imagine Dan a little shorter and heavier. You will think that Ed was still running the meetings.

We are very thankful that Reverend Alfred Budd had the foresight in choosing Ed Strang and thankful Ed had the foresight for choosing the recruits he did. Dan has built his successful program on the success of past programs and this will continue in future programs.



Cub Pack 3, 1947 Brian Dennehy, center



1986 Ed and Pack 3, Courtesy of Randy O'Rourke.
RORPHOTOS.COM

Pack 3 Charter Organization: The Derby United Methodist Church

By Judith L. Petz, Organization Representative, on behalf of the Derby United Methodist Church Board of Directors

Edmund Strang entered into Scouting which was actively functioning in our church building in 1922. In 1927, he was asked to form a "Cub Scout" group for younger boys; Pack 3, which began three years before Cubs were officially recognized.

The then named Derby Methodist-Episcopal Church readily sponsored this worthy undertaking by Ed, and



2003 Florence Robinson, Anne Stankye, Marie Chebro plan a Trip.



Pack 3 Commissioner Ed Sturges Sr., Ed Strang, Paul Kassheimer Cubmaster



1980's Cub Pack 3

while the Boy Scout Troop eventually became chartered with our neighbor on the green (the Second Congregational Church), we continued to sponsor the Cubs and still proudly do to this day.

Ed, also a devoted lifetime member of our church, offered to us, and to those decades before us, a unique privilege in becoming a part of this vital outreach in the community. We will always regard Scouting as part of our heritage and Scouting will always remain a welcome organization in our church home.

Scoutmaster Randy Ritter

Ed's ability to evaluate and persuade are dramatically demonstrated in his selection and support of Randy Ritter as Troop 3 Scoutmaster. Randy became a Troop 3 Scout and never left. He became Scoutmas-

ter in 1987. Ed was able to guide and support him until he died in 1995. Randy has carried on the traditions started with Rev. Budd and Ed and he has carried the Troop to new heights of service to the boys of the valley communities. His troop program starts in August with the new troop boy leaders (patrol leaders, assistant patrol leaders, senior patrol leader etc.) planning the troop program for the new Scout year. This is published as a troop calendar. Troop/Patrol campouts are planned for every month of the Scouting season. The troop two week stay at Camp Strang is planned and a savings plan for camp is established which is initiated during the next few troop meetings. Randy makes a special point to keep the Scouts involved in running troop meetings and activities as much as possible. When a boy makes a mistake it is taken in stride because it means a lesson learned by the Scout. Randy has inspired over 75 Scouts to become Eagles. He is admired for his competence at organization, his dedication to the boys of the troop and his ability to attract dedicated adults who support his exceptional troop program. We, the Troop 3 alumni, and the valley communities are very fortunate to have Randy continue the magic of Troop 3. Congratulations, Randy.

Randy's Team

A successful Scout program takes a team effort. Randy has assembled a talented and dedicated group. They include Ray Oppel who is Troop Treasurer. Ray manages the complicated financial responsibilities of this fast paced troop as well as at least five other charitable organizations pro-bono. He is present at most troop meetings and activities. He is a CPA and must absolutely love to work with numbers. He and Debbie have two sons, Ryan and Alex, who are Troop 3 Eagles. Mrs. Kish is our troop Advancement Chair. She is very active with our troop meetings and events including monthly campouts. She and her husband are devoted parents with two sons Ryan and Matthew who are Troop 3 Scouts. In addition to Scouting, Margie currently works full time and is pursuing a Master Degree in Business Administration at Sacred Heart University in the evenings. We have an excellent advancement record due to her dedication. Dick Williams, Troop Committee Chair, is very active in Troop and Council events. Assistant

Scoutmasters Bill McDonnell, Charles Hemstreet and Charles Stankye 3rd are just a few of the alumni who continue to support the Troop and Council along with other assistant Scoutmasters who are Troop 3 Scouts and never left. The troop rests on a foundation of over three generations of members whose undying support guides our success. We wish to thank the thousands of supporters who helped to make Troop 3 the dynamic troop it is.

Randy Ritter.... Richard Williams

Sometimes it takes a while to recognize the importance of the “little things” that guide us more than we know. Each Wednesday night a long time ago I’d walk from Shelton with fellow Hawk patrol members - with some Thunderbirds also for good measure - (or we’d get a ride if the weather was nasty) and we’d wait outside the “white church” for Ed to drive up in some version of a red Rambler station wagon at 6:45 or so. At that point we’d all see who could be first to carry Ed’s stuff into the meeting - his briefcase, papers, anything at all. And he was always organized. The briefcase would have typewritten sheets laying out the meeting agenda, mimeograph pages, maybe some new songs, and always scout-related books like Boy’s Life. I can’t help but notice the similarities to our current Wednesdays. Our Scoutmaster Randy drives up in some version of a Jeep and scouts are ready for the meeting. There’s not much to carry in anymore though. Randy has brought current technology to the Troop just as Ed did and now we have laptop computers for presentations and senior patrol leaders reading their meeting agendas and announcements on smart phones. Just as Ed taught us organization (whether we realized it or not) Randy has kept this tradition moving. The troop is now firmly implanted in the Internet Age and there is probably a Scout right now who will take us all to the next “quantum level” of technology!

Richard is Troop 3 Committee Chairman.

Troop Three History...

Research by Eagles #138 Dave Hughes and #128 Jay Decho.

Compiled by Eagle #170 Scoutmaster Randy Ritter with parts taken from the Anniversary Dinner Programs Celebrating the 75th, 85th and 95th Anniversaries and as noted.

1914-1919

The Beginning: Troop 3 Derby sprang into existence in July, 1914 as an offshoot of Troop 2 Derby. Reverend Alfred Budd, the next Minister of the Second Congregational Church was Troop 3's first Scoutmaster. Rev. Budd held weekly troop meetings in the basement of the Unitarian Church located at the corner of Seymour and Atwater Avenues. Assisting Rev. Budd at that time were Sgt. W.H. Lodge and Clifford Merkle. The first members of the troop were Harold Giguere, Werner Willman, Charles Gordy, E. Hodges Hull, Wilbur Chadeayne, Robert Champlain, Norman Shaw, George Mollerup, Robert Sandy, John Everetts, William Dunne, Ira Hoyt, Joseph Kellar and William Walsh. During WWI in the year of 1918, Troop 3 assisted with the enumeration of black walnut trees in the area for use as gunstocks and airplane propellers. In 1919, Troop 3 Scouts helped to search for a missing Sopwith Camel aircraft that was last reported flying over the area. Also in 1919, Troop 3 was recognized for raising an amazing \$100,000 in several Liberty Loan Drives. Charles Gordy was awarded a German helmet for selling the most Victory Bonds. The troop camped at the "Log Cabin" on the Housatonic River and participated in numerous events with other local Scout troops. Troop 3's tradition of excellence took hold thanks to Rev. Budd's concern for a quality program.



1915 Camp at Lake Quonnipaug



1920 Trip to NYC



1920's Ed and Scouts



1920's Pilgrimage to Roosevelt's Grave

1920-1929

In 1920 the Housatonic Council came into existence due to the efforts of leading men in the community including Rev. Budd and Irving Peck. Rev. Budd instituted individual and patrol contests and the top eight winners enjoyed "deluxe" trips to New York City. Troop camping at Camp Irving on the Housatonic River by Indian Well State Park cost \$7.00 per week. The majority of the camp staff was made up of Troop 3 boys including Rev. Budd as Camp Director. The Minstrel Show began as the troop performed small acts, musical numbers and skits. The troop newspaper "The Council Fire" appeared sporadically with Herb Rambo as the first editor. Camp Irving 1925: Glen Budd fell from a tree fracturing his arm but remained

in camp all season. The Camp Irving motorboat, “Old Weetamoe” blew up throwing Luddy Dewyck into Lake Housatonic. Ben Bacon served as first interlocutor of the Minstrel Show. Ed Strang joined the troop in 1922. In 1927 Manuel



1929 Troop Earned the Presidential Trophy

“Mush” Pearson became the troop’s first Eagle Scout (second Eagle in the council). Rev. Budd asked Strang, Barron and Pearson to organize a program for the younger brothers of the Scouts so Strang wrote to a friend in England for copies of their Wolf Cub

Program and Pack 3 was born. Ed received his Eagle Rank in 1928 at a Sterling Theater ceremony (Troop 3’s second Eagle).



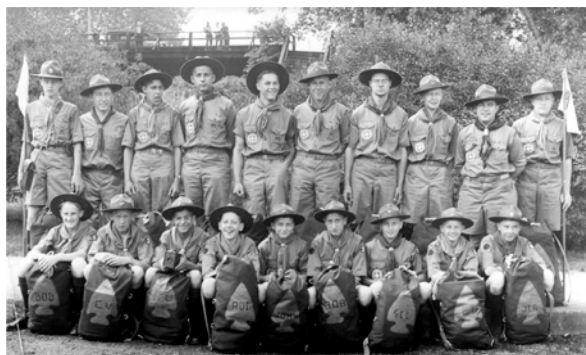
1930's Scout Fair

1930-1939

These were very active times for Troop 3. We worked on advancement, Scouting skills and good volunteer work in the community. The rewards were there also with trips to be taken and prizes awarded. We took many trips by car and camped along the way. One interesting trip was climbing



1935 Troop Picture



1937 Jamboree Troop Attendees



1937 National Scout Jamboree
Washington DC



1939 Destination, the World's Fair

Mount Mansfield and having snowball fights in July. We visited other troops in Danbury, Meriden etc. for home and away meetings. Of course we had joint meetings with Girl Scouts. The yearly New York trip was the fun trip of the year. We spent the weekend in New York City taking in all the sites including museums, buildings, shows, radio broadcasts etc. We would always walk from place to place with our guide Ed Strang leading the way. I didn't know if he wanted to save money or was worried about losing someone on the subway. That happened a couple of times. We always seemed to eat at the automat. Ed would give us a handful of nickels which were dropped into a slot to open a door for a sandwich or whatever. Some Scouts would buy nothing but desserts much to Ed's disappoint-



1939 World's Fair Planning Group

ment. Collecting newspapers citywide was a good money making project. We collected tons of paper which the American Brass Company bought for \$10 a ton. We even found some interesting magazines mixed in with the papers. The big moneymaker was the Sample Fair. Ed and others would send for samples of gum, candy, cough drops, asthma cigarettes (they were terrible) and many others. The samples were distributed to over 500 customers and they would leave with a bag full. One year 42,000 samples were given out along with 200 door prizes. It was big money (we made \$150 that year).

In 1937 we had a contingent go to Washington DC for the first National Scout Jamboree. The Jamboree was originally scheduled for 1935 but was cancelled by President Roosevelt due to a polio epidemic. It was a fabulous 10 days of sightseeing and making friends from all over the world. The troop



1939 Destination, the World's Fair

started a longstanding relationship with the Woodlands Troop in Verdun Canada. Troop 3 has been represented at every Jamboree since 1937. It has sent complete troops representing the council on numerous occasions. In 1939 we had a group of 20 Scouts camp out at the New York World's Fair. Our job was to run errands, act as guides and count people entering exhibits as well as enjoying all the exhibits ourselves. Of course there were Camporees, hikes, winter camping at Camp Irving and many other activities. Saturday was Scout Basketball League day at Derby High School on Minerva Street. The competition was intense and our team won our share. We even went on the road and played other Scout teams around the state. Yes, Scouting was great in the 30s especially in Troop 3. We had a great group of kids and leaders. There were many fond memories and alas a lot of them forgotten.

Written by Rod Kneen

1940-1949

Paper drives, war bonds and stamp sales helped the war effort. Scouts built pack-baskets from scratch. Rev. Budd died. Forty five thousand samples were given away at the Sample Fair. In 1941 the troop took a trip to Washington D.C. in July. The famous "Mr. X" column first appeared in the "Council Fire". Troop mem-



1940's Explorer Post 33

bership in March 1940 was fifty three Scouts. The Mayor for a Day program began; "Police Chief" Roger Pettingil was locked in a cell with no key to be found. Editor's note: With the cooperation of the town governments, members of Explorer Post 33, now Venture Group 33 would shadow government officials for a day. The Post would elect members for each position i.e. Mayor, Police Chief, Fire Chief Etc. At various times this program was supported by the towns of Derby, Shelton, Ansonia, and Seymour. Troop members served actively in the local Civil Defense program and also in the armed services. Hayrides were enjoyed on Jerry Bogan's coal truck. The troop used Bob Rapp's truck for paper drives. Strang served as a US Army cryptographer. The Germans saw how well he typed and surrendered unconditionally. A review of Troop celebrities revealed Ed Handi as being chosen the handsomest. The troop collected 120,000 pounds of paper / magazines and 3,000 pounds of rags during the war years. Ed Strang organized a Boy Scout Troop in Budapest, Hungary while stationed there. The troop amassed \$425 in its treasury. Tanya, the counter girl at the Woolworth's Department Store broke many hearts on a regular basis. The troop attended Camp Workcoeman in New Hartford, CT. The annual troop trip to Canada was enjoyed by the "top ten". During the twenty-fifth anniversary of the troop seven Scouts earned their Eagle badge. In 1948 John Carr earned Eagle Rank. The most difficult merit badge for him to earn was Public Speaking.

1950-1959

The troop cabin was built at Rapp's Grassy Hill Park in 1950. Servicemen's packages were sent to our guys like Larry Potter in Texas; Richard Bowden in San Diego, Richard Gorman in Germany. Strang, Kingston, and Testone led a group to the 3rd National Jamboree in California in 1953. The troop par-



1952 Post 33 Wings Over West Point



Shiela Graham/Movie Star Picnic
at Beverly Hills while at 1953
National Scout Jamboree

participated in the 4th National Jamboree 1957 at Valley Forge. Christy Testone served as editor of "Council Fire" and went on to be a professional Scouter. The Housatonic Council established Father- Son banquets.

The Housatonic Scout Reservation (186 acres) in Goshen, CT was purchased for \$52,000.00. In 1954, on the Canadian trip via Tinkers Farm, Stowe, VT., Steve

Maximenko shared his tent with a bovine. We had 12, 19 and 10 Eagle Scouts at the '54,'57,'59 Courts of Honor respectively. Bob Skowronski was starting tackle at Indiana University in 1954. Sgt. John Anglace US Army was stationed in Germany. Troop 3 invited girls to their annual Christmas Party for first time. Our Scouts participated in Operation Zero and froze. Many Troop 3 Scouts be-



1957 National Scout Jamboree Group

come charter members of
Paugasset Lodge 553, Order of the
Arrow.



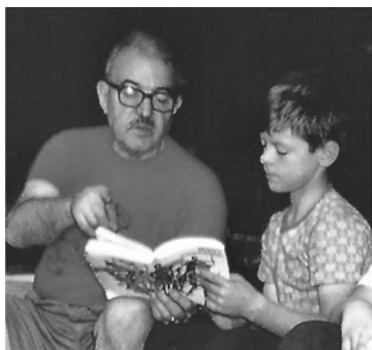
1955 Sunday Night Patrol
Leaders Meeting at Ed's House



1950's Route 8 Beautifica-
tion Project with Dr.
Rentsch



1959 Canadian Trip



1962 Ed Instructing
Scout at Housatonic
Scout Reservation

1960-1969

George Tierney, Sr. took over as Scoutmaster in 1960 from Ed Strang. The fifth National Jamboree was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado celebrating Scouting's 50th birthday and we were represented there. Fifteen Scouts attended Philmont Scout Ranch, July 1960 led by George Tierney. New camp-sites were cleared at H.S.R.



1960's Post 33 and City of
Shelton Mayor for a Day
Program, with Mayor Tisi

The 1963 Court of Honor awarded 22 Eagles, three to the Sturges brothers Ed, Rich, and Bob. The Housatonic Scout Reservation (H.S.R.) opened its' first season with many of our Scouts on Staff, a tradition that continued throughout the decade. We made our first European trip in 1969 and only lost one leader (Ralph Cairone) in Paris. We made Canadian trips annually with Charlie Rotteck

always in the lead car. Bob Bednarcik drove through the entire state of Maine without a muffler on a Sunday morning. The Court of Honor in 1969 awarded seven Eagles. The Troop and Post established a rifle team. Ed Strang formed a lasting attachment with a gas pump filler nozzle in Corning, N.Y. We had three Allagash Wilder-



1960 Expedition to
Philmont Scout Ranch

ness canoe trips. The 1966 Philmont Expedition was led by Bob Bednarcik and Jim Robinson. The troop visited Expo '67 in Montreal and the Canadian Exposition, Toronto.



1968 Philmont Scout Reservation Expedition



1961 Marching in Memorial Day Parade



1966 Troop Photo



The Troop's First European Trip 1969

Sam Cohen, Richard Rollinson, William Turecek, Jay Decho, Gerard St. Laurent, Robert Uluski and Paul Waleski were presented their Eagle Rank at the troop's 50th Anniversary Dinner and Court of Honor. The troop hit peak membership with 120 plus in 14 patrols from Shelton, Derby and Ansonia. The troop's favorite campsite at H.S.R. is Mohawk.



1971, The Troop's Second European Trip



1975 ,The Troop's Third European Trip

1970-1979

The Explorers explored the Allagash River on a canoe trip, 111 miles in 11 days in August, 1970 with Bob Bednarcik and Walt Wiacek. We had European trip number two in 1972 and number three in 1975 with over 40 going. The English Scout Exchange Program began with Simon Seaton, who returned and worked on H.S.R. camp staff. The Canadian Exchange Program continued with Joe Potter, Chip Sandberg, Tim Walsh, Barry Howard and Randy Ritter



1977 National Scout Jamboree Moraine National Park , PA.



Ed Decorates the Grave of
Former Troop 3 Scout Joe Moo



1976 Canadian Trip

as participants. The troop continued summer trips to Niagara Falls with camping at Tinkers Farm. George Tierney stepped down as Scoutmaster and Larry Potter, Jr. took over. Ron, Rich and Charles Stankye III joined their father by earning Eagle Rank. The tradition continued as Tim, son of Richard, became Eagle, Tyler and Charles IV, son of Charles III became Eagle, and Ronald's son is working on his Eagle rank project. Troop 3 Scouts worked at H.S.R. under the leadership of Camp Director Jay Decho (continuous Camp staff member since 1968), Program Director Eric Schultz, Field Sports Director Rod Ericson, Nature Director Bill Ives, Waterfront Directors Bill McDonnell and Ron Stankye. Jay Decho and Dave Hughes were dubbed "the odd couple" of H.S.R. Patrol names included; Navaho, Beaver, Eagle, Flaming Arrow and 76ers. We sent representatives to the 1973 and 1977 National Jamborees held at Farragut State Park, Idaho, Moraine State Park, Pennsylvania and Moraine State Park respectively. George Tierney died. Troop O.A. members took a 3 week bus trip to Fort Collins, Colorado for a National Conference. Eric Schultz, Ron Stankye, Kurt Heim and Rod Erickson are the Paugassett Lodge Officers. The troop helped Derby celebrate their Tercentennial celebration. The troop participated in the Council Camporee at Putnam Park which became known as the "Camporee of Rain". Endmen Handi and Decho stole the Minstrel show, as usual. Vito DeMarco, Bob Penny, Andy Kopasz, Don Wheeler and Pete Saccu were some of Petz's "beauties" who performed on stage as women. Several members of troop joined Post 33 in a daring canoe trip down the Naugatuck River. Larry Potter stepped down as Scoutmaster and Andy Kopasz took over.



1982 Canadian Trip

1980-1989

Project Soar conservation and cleanup projects were performed at Coon Hollow Rd. Bruce Sill took over as Scoutmaster. Mark Neuendorf, Tom Hemstreet and Randy Ritter received their Eagle Rank during the Committeemen's Dinner at the Pennyroyal Lodge.



1982 Canadian Trip



1986 Philmont Scout Ranch

Walt Petz "Head Foot" of the Wingdorf Pazorkas Society presented awards to worshipful subjects. The troop held dances with the Shelton Girl Scouts. We faithfully attended two weeks of summer



1989 National Scout Jamboree Fort A.P.Hill, VA



1989 Troop 75th Anniversary

camp at the Mohawk Campsite of the Housatonic Scout Reservation. Henry "Grandpa" Decho became the Camp Ranger. We toured West Point. The traditional troop Halloween party included the "coin in funnel toss" initiation which always ended up with a damp Scout. One of our major fund raisers was the Tom Watt sales program. Don King and Jon Link served as Chief of the Paugasset Lodge. The English and Irish Exchange Scout program continued. Bruce Sill and Jeff Keech represented Troop 3 in England. Bob Penney became Scoutmaster after Bruce Sill. Exchange Scouts Adam Rak and Chris Gilloren went to Ireland. John Rak took 6 Scouts to Philmont. We participated in Beaver Day (a camping weekend at H.S.R. concentrating on preparing camp for the Summer Camping Season) and winter weekends at H.S.R. Randy Ritter took over as Scoutmaster.

Under the leadership of Eagle Scouts Ritter, McDonnell and Howard, Troop 3 placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in activities and built a gateway which was awarded 1st place at the 1988 Camporee. The troop purchased army surplus campaign hats to wear for the Memorial Day Parade. A troop trailer was built by Bill McDonnell. The troop made a Memorial Day float to honor troop members killed in wars and won 1st prize. The boys enjoyed backpacking

weekends to Bear Mountains, St. John Ledges and Cathedral Pines. John Rak and Randy Ritter led 12 boys to Philmont during its 50th year. Adam Rak received his Eagle Rank at St. Michael's Church. The 10th anniversary of the Naugatuck River Canoe trip was celebrated by a repeat of the event. Scouting for Food drives continued to be one of our priority projects. Eagle Chris Tiano was ordained a Catholic Priest and later served as Council President. The troop built a Double Tower Gateway for the troop's 75th anniversary at the Fall Camporee. Carl Smith, Mike Rak, Jeff Johns and Mike Martin were part of the 1989 National Jamboree Honor Guard Troop for President Bush.



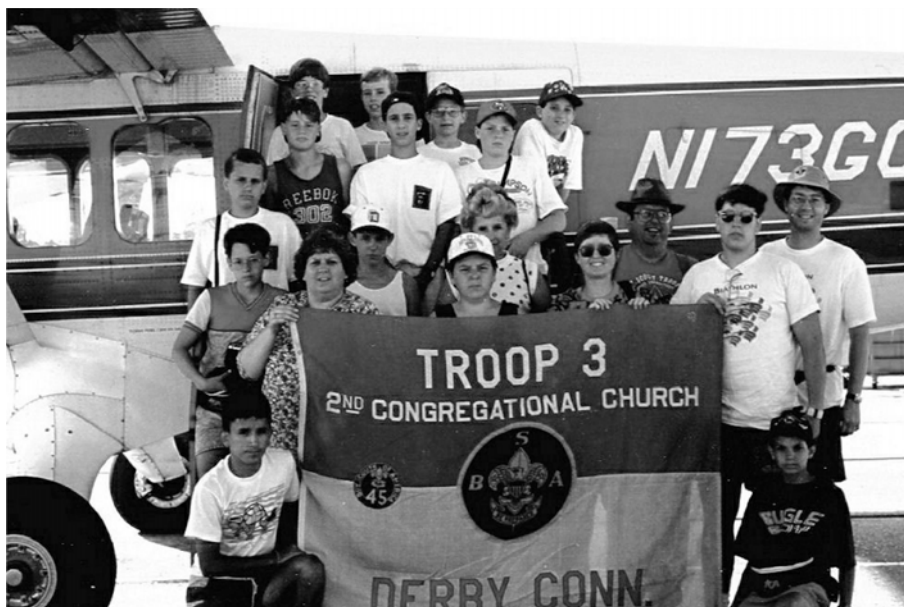
1993 Disneyland Adventure

1990-1995

In 1990 the Housatonic Scout Reservation was renamed the Edmond D. Strang Scout Reservation. It was a fitting tribute to one of the men responsible for its inception, and his many other contributions to Scouting. Every sum-



1994 Philmont Scout Ranch Adventure



1992 Western Adventure

mer the troop spent two weeks there and many Troop 3 Scouts spent their summer on camp staff. The England/Ireland Exchange Scout Program continued in the 90's. The troop hosted English Scouts in 1993 and 1995. Troop 3 sent two Scouts in 1995 and four Scouts in 1998 to England. In 1992 the troop traveled west to California and Nevada. They visited the Grand Canyon, several



1995 Naugatuck River Canoe Quest

national parks, Las Vegas, San Francisco and many other points of interest. The following summer, several Troop 3 Scouts participated in the National Jamboree at Fort AP Hill as part of the Housatonic Council contingent.

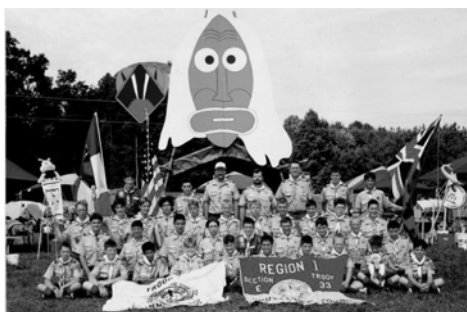
The troop celebrated its 80th anniversary in 1994. At the celebration banquet in May Ed and Caroline Strang's 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated and the first 3 For Life Award was presented to Ed Strang, Walter Archer Jr. and Robert Feeney. At the same banquet the troop presented the Eagle Rank to Mathew Molnar, its 194th Eagle Scout, and many Webelos Cubs from Pack 3 crossed over into Troop 3. Members of the troop trekked to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico where two Crews spent a week back-packing in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The trek was a great adventure. Before and after their travels in the wilderness, the troop visited other attractions in New Mexico and Colorado including Pikes Peak. On May 31, 1995 an era ended for the troop and Valley communities when Ed Strang passed away at the age of 85 after several months of illness. Scouts and citizens from all over the Valley and state came to say farewell to a good Scout and good man. Since then the Pack, Troop and Post have worked hard to ensure that his legacy continues through their efforts for the youth of the Valley.

1996-1999

With confidence Randy carried on the troop program facing new challenges with new ideas guided by Ed's philosophy. In 1996 the troop toured Europe, visiting England, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland. The tour was certainly a memorable one for all the Scouts and



1999 West to the
Grand Canyon



1997 National Scout Jamboree
at Fort A.P. Hill, VA.

chaperones. In England the troop met with our Peterborough counterparts (in the English Exchange Scout Program) at the Baden Powell House in London and shared a bit of Scouting culture. Like all the past European trips there was a broadening experience for each Scout. In 1997 John Coppola became the 200th Eagle Scout, reflecting the tradition and dedication that few other troops can claim. The troop was able to form its own contingent for the National Jamboree held at Fort A.P. Hill Va. They carried the same flag that Troop 3 had carried to the first National Jamboree held in 1937 at Washington D.C. This time the troop entered the information age by posting daily updates to its new webpage from on-site in Virginia, drawing heavy internet traffic from all the families back home. Two Irish and two English Exchange Scouts accompanied the troop. The jamboree itself was as big as anyone could imagine. It was a hot but exciting trip and included a stop in Washington D.C. 1998 was a year of planning. The troop prepared for a Super Trip West in the summer of 1999 to visit the Western National Parks. The troop utilized the internet to contact Troop 3 in San Francisco, also celebrating their 85 anniversary. The meeting of the two Troop 3's was featured in Scouting Magazine and included a tour of Chinatown and a hike across



Subs for Superbowl
Sunday Fundraiser



1996 Exploring the West

the Golden Gate Bridge. A great way to end the Millennium.

2000-2009

In 2000, the troop's Top10 Trip was to Niagara Falls and Cooperstown New York.

In 2001, Troop 3 Scouts in the Housatonic Council contingent trav-



2003 Yellowstone National Park



2007 Wales, Ireland Scotland, England (WISE) Trip



2008 FL. National Hi Adventure Seabase

eled to Virginia for the National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill. 2002 was a year for sand, surf, and sailing with a trip to the National Scout Florida Sea Base.

In 2003, the troop went on the West Trip, a two-week trek that started in Seattle Washington and ended in Denver Colorado. The troop hiked the Grand Tetons and Mount Rainier, and visited the



2005 Annual Scout Sunday Celebration



2000's Do a Good Turn

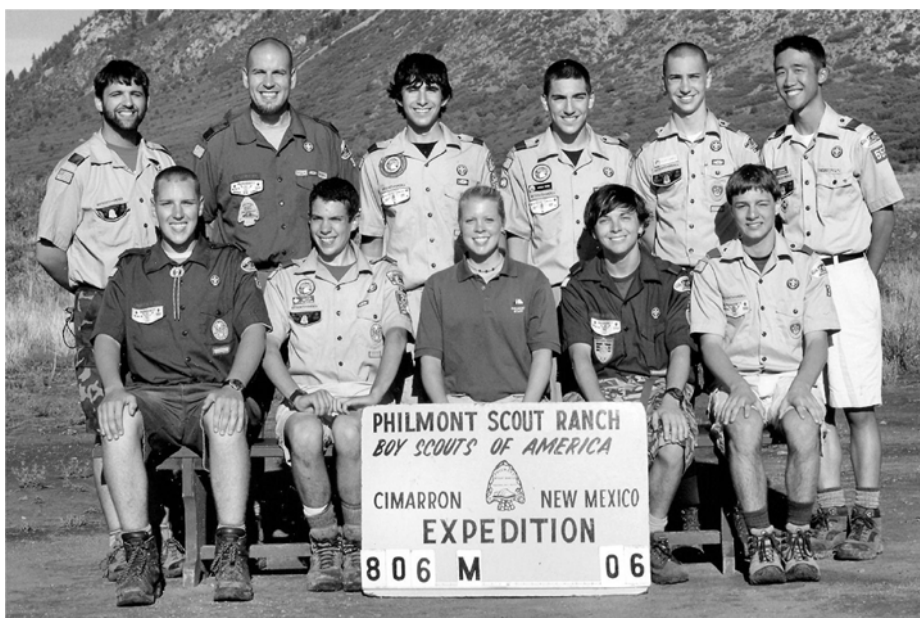


2000's NYC

Visit Holding Up Cube

wonders of Yellowstone National Park. 2004 saw the arrival of a bear in Camp Strang who ate cookies out of a

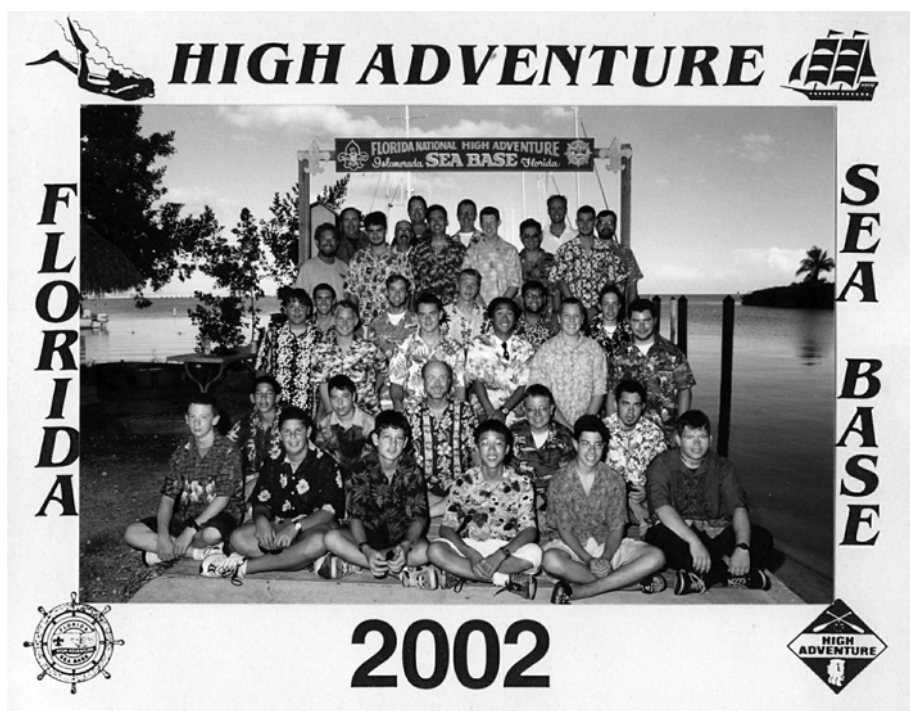
camper's trunk. There was also the Top 12 Trip to Ohio, visiting the Football Hall of Fame. 2005 was another Jamboree year, with the Housatonic Council contingent led by Troop 3 Scoutmaster Jim Frovarp. 2006 Venture Crew 33 members traveled to the Philmont Ranch in New Mexico to complete a 50 mile adventure hike. Yet another milestone in the troop was reached when Julian Campoli became Troop 3's 250th Eagle. The troop traveled across



2005 Annual Scout Sunday Celebration



2001 National Scout Jamboree, Fort A.P. Hill, VA.





2009 Grand Canyon Adventure



2009 Annual Holiday Service Men's Gift Package Project



2010 National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, VA.



2010 Operation Zero

the pond in 2007 on the W.I.S.E. trip which included Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England... The trip included a visit to the 2007 World Jamboree celebrating the Centennial of the Scouting Movement. Troop 3 lost a great member in 2008 when longtime patron and Eagle Scout Walt Petz died. That summer Troop 3 Scouts once again traveled abroad a schooner at the Florida Sea

Base. They battled the raging winds of hurricane IRMA. The troop headed out West yet again to visit the mountains and canyons of the West. The Exchange Scout Program continued with foreign Scouts coming to see America in 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007. Three Irish Scouts and two English Scouts will be hosted

by troop families again in 2009. The troop sent members to Ireland and England in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008.

2010-2013

In 2010 the Troop attended the annual Scout Sunday service on Feb. 14th at the Derby Second Congregational Church in Derby. Eight leaders and Scouts represented the troop at the 2010 National Jamboree held at Fort A.P. Hill Va. Scouts Jim Butler and Tyler Stankye were news reporters for the Valley Independent Sentinel. Neeraj Madivala became our 278th Eagle Scout.

Eleven Cubs, six Scouts and 2 Venture Crew members were recruited during Ed Strang Day.



2011 Pacific Coast Trip



First National Scout Jamboree
Held at Summit Bechtel

In 2011 the annual Troop 3 Swim, held at the Derby Veteran's Community Center was rescheduled. The building was closed due to a winter storm. The troop meeting would not ordinarily been canceled because of those circumstances. The annual Super Bowl Sub sale was held February 6th with one foot grinders selling for \$6.50. Free delivery was offered for anywhere in the Naugatuck Valley Sunday morning.

Twelve year old Scout Anthony Bartholomew was elected "Derby Mayor for a Day". He accompanied Mayor Staffieri all day and presided over the Board of Aldermen meeting that evening. He enjoyed the visit to the vault and seeing parchment records dating



2012 FL. National Hi Adventure Seabase

back to the 1700's. In April a Giant Tag Sale was held to help fund the troop trip, in July, which was a tour of the Pacific coast. On May 25th the troop marched to the grave of Ed and Caroline Strang at Oak Cliff Cemetery for the annual memorial service.

Pat Matuska became our 280th Eagle Scout. Our annual fundraiser for the Housatonic Council B.S.A., a macaroni and meatball dinner, raised \$4065. The Ghost rider Patrol came in first place at the Fall Council Camporee. The Old School Paranormal Group were guest speakers at a November troop meeting. After the presentation they took the troop next door to tour the haunted Sterling Opera House.

In 2012 winning patrols in the Housatonic Council Klondike Derby were Ghost riders, 1st, Doughboys 7th and Bananas in Pajamas 8th. Six Christmas packages for area servicemen and women were sent to them in time for Christmas. Troop membership totaled 53 Scouts. Channel 3 (WFSB) featured Scoutmaster Randy Ritter and Troop 3 for their collection of food throughout the Valley towns to replenish the empty shelves at the Spooner House. We responded to an emergency. We also participated in the Scouting for Food program in the Fall.

The annual Good Friday Community Service involved 5 projects, 50 people, 200 hours and four truckloads of trash. Troop 3 participated in the Housatonic Council Spring Camporee. All Troop 3 participating patrols were in the top 5 winning circles and earned a special pizza party provided by the troop. The theme of the annual



2013 National Scout Jamboree, We Are On The Way

Gang Show this year was "What a Wonderful World".

Three Scouts were selected to be exchange Scouts to Ireland and two Scouts were selected to be exchange Scouts to England. We hosted two Scouts from Ireland and two Scouts from England. We hosted twelve Scouts at Camp Strang from Troop 2 Hartford. We added seven new Eagle Scouts to the Troop Roster.

Seventeen Scouts and eight Scouters enjoyed a Pacific West Coast Trip which included meeting Troop 3 San Francisco who were also established in 1914 and was given a tour of San Francisco. In the Fall Camporee at Camp Strang 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place were won by Whirling Dervishes, Ghostriders and Johnny Rockets respectively. Eighteen Scouts and adults enjoyed a day visit to the U.S. Constitution and Museum in Boston.

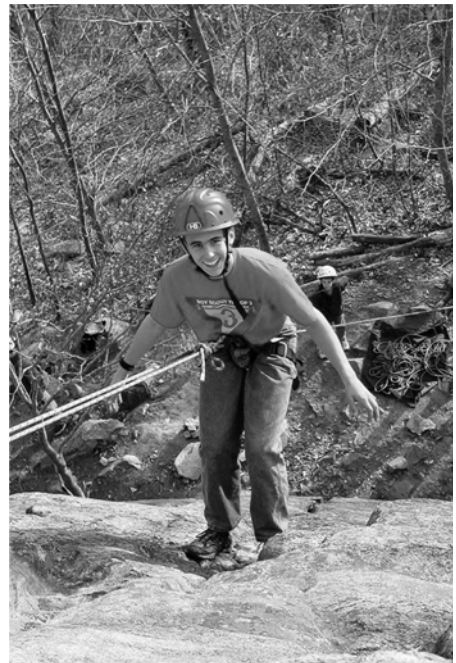
Jim Connery, former Troop 3 Scout and Council President was guest speaker at our annual Old Timer's Night in December. In 2013 we started the year off by cleaning snow from fire hydrants as our Scout Good Turn. There was a lot of snow storms that year and we became very skilled at doing this.



Annual Good Friday Project



2013 Campout at Camp Strang



2006 Rappelling Challenge



2008 Scouting for Food

Chorus rehearsal started February 27th for our 89th Gang Show. The theme was "That's Entertainment".

We added 10 Eagles Scouts to our roster for a grand total of 291 awarded. Crew advisor Tom Murray and Assistant Scoutmaster Jim Butler lead a contingent of Crew members

and Scouts to the National Jamboree held in West Virginia. We were the host to Troop 107 from Derby, England. We are looking forward to visiting them in 2015.

We are planning special events next year to celebrate our 100th anniversary. They will include planting a total of 100 assorted species of trees in various locations throughout the valley towns, have a family camping weekend at Camp Strang, dedicate a time capsule on the Derby Green during Ed Strang Day, perform special alumni minstrel/gang show and have a 100 year anniversary banquet. To keep informed of Troop 3 happenings visit us on Facebook at BSA Troop 3 Derby Ct.

Troop 3 Charter Organization... David Wilkinson

On behalf of the 2nd Congregational Church, I would like to congratulate Derby Troop 3 on their 100 year anniversary of providing Scouting to the lower Naugatuck valley. This was made possible by the voluntarism of adult men and woman, past and present, who wanted to teach young boys life skills, moral values, team participation along with adventure and fun. From its beginning, with Reverend Alfred Budd of the Derby 2nd Congregational Church starting Troop 3, the Church and its Ministers and its members have supported this great organization.

Wishing the Troop continuing success,

Sincerely, David Wilkinson

Current Church Chairman & Troop 3 Charter Organization Rep.



The Largest Eagle Court of Honor

In the late fifties and early 1960's the troop membership grew to over 100 Scouts. It was a challenge to provide the quality program which was our standard. Fortunately Ed had the foresight to establish a large, competent and dedicated staff. One result of their effort was a Court of Honor where 22 Scouts were presented their Eagle. This was held at the New Irving School in Derby in 1963 and a meal was served after the ceremony.



Chef Cafaro

Troop 3 Chefs

Throughout Troop 3 history Scout fathers have been involved in providing instructions in cooking to Scouts and cooking at Scout campouts. In the 1920's one father, who was a professional short order cook, volunteered to cook meals if a stove was available. There is no record of his cooking activity. Jim Frovarp, former

Troop 3 Scoutmaster 2002-2005, enjoyed Dutch oven cooking. He taught Scouts how to make one pot meals, roasts, cake and other deserts in the oven on the campfire. This became very popular and Dutch ovens were added to the patrol kitchen equipment boxes. Jim has three sons who are Troop 3 Eagles. Mr.Chris Cafaro, Troop 3 assistant Scoutmaster, loves to cook and is our latest campfire cooking resource. On campouts he has provided raw material, original recipes and instructions along with support in order to give Scouts a challenging and successful cooking experience. His recipes include breakfast burrito, chicken pot pie, cheeseburger soup, stuffed pork chop, Dutch oven lasagna and baked ham. He also cooks for the group while on campouts which includes menus like baked turkey (cooked in the ground), prime rib, steak and barbecue ribs. His son Ryan recently became Eagle and brother Matthew is not far behind. Campouts have become very popular with Chris on the staff.

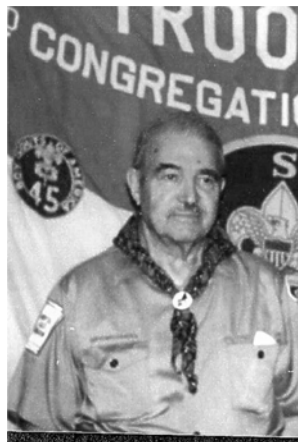
Troop 3 Scoutmasters, One Hundred Years of Service



1914-1917
Rev. Cooke



1917-1935
Rev. Alfred Budd



1935-1960
Ed Strang



1960-1975
George Tierney



1975-1977
Larry Potter



1977-1979
Andy kopasz



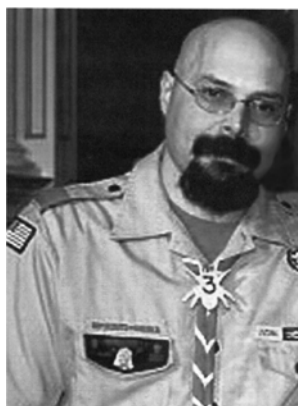
1979-1985
Bruce SILL



1985-1987
Bob Penney



2002-2005
James Frovarp



2005-2007
Jason Thompson



1987-2002, 2007-?
Randy Ritter

***See Letters of Congratulations
from Area Leaders, page 228***

Venture Group 33 (Post 33)

Venture Scout Group 33, formerly Post 33, was established by Ed Strang as a senior group to Troop 3. It was chartered in 1937 and is the oldest senior Scout group in Connecticut. Rod Kneen was the first advisor. Rod entered the Air Force during the Second World War. When the war ended Rod came home and again volunteered to become advisor to the group. The Venture Group supports the troop in training and leadership roles. The Venture Scouts share in troop activities such as European trips, jamborees, Philmont and Scout Sea Base adventures. The group participates in the Gang Show and provides endmen and stooges. They have had wilderness adventures including a ten day hike on the Appalachian Trail and canoeing the Allagash Waterway. Charter members are Arnold Waldin, Bob Cann, Robert DeForest, Louis Jaccabucci, William Combini, Ken Hall, David Koenig, Ed Danowski, Ernest Behler and Don Wooster. The group is sponsored by the Derby Shelton Rotary Club. The club also has provided financial assistance for many group activities including the Scout Exchange Program. With the support of the Derby Shelton Rotary Club the group has been going strong for 77years. Adult leaders include R. Kneen, Al Palumbo, Bob Norris, Mr., Mrs. Howard, Tom Murray, and Mike Flora.

Derby-Shelton Rotary Club ...Bill Miller, President

The Derby-Shelton Rotary Club is honored to be the sponsor of Venture Scout Group 33 (formerly Explorer Post 33) for over 75 years. The Rotary Club and Venture Scout Group 33 have had a special bond as Ed Strang was not only the founding member of the Venture Group but a long-time Rotarian serving in many leadership roles. Today Venture Scout Group 33 and Rotary continue having a special relationship. Many Rotarians have served as Housatonic Council Board Members. Scouting and Rotary share the common ideals of Service Above Self and foster strong community leaders. The Derby-Shelton Rotary Club congratulates Venture Scouting Group 33 on its' illustrious history and we look forward to continuing our support of such a dynamic group.

Minstrel/Gang Show by Ron East

In the 1920's Scoutmaster Rev. Budd established a troop play night with small acts, musical numbers and skits. It was very popular with the Scouts and parents. As time went by the play was modified and expanded to what became the "Gang Show". It is now a two hour show with a Cub Chorus on Friday and a Scout Chorus on Saturday. It has become one of the longest continuous shows in the country.

The 89th Annual Scout Gang Show was celebrated May 13, 2013. Some of the jokes are as old as the show itself, but, they still bring laughter both from the actors and audience. Under the leadership of Ed Strang, youth were encouraged to extend themselves (come out of their shell) and expose and develop their talent by singing and acting. It seems that Gary Scarpa



1960's Gary Scarpa

said it right when he said that Ed Strang discovered him the same way a Hollywood talent scout would. Because he was prodded, encouraged, and supported he discovered his talent and love for the theater. His productions with the "Youth Connection" and "Center Stage Theatre" are revered by valleyites. In the style of his mentor Gary has prodded, encouraged, and supported many youth that he has "discovered". Some of the youth that had been encouraged even went on to the big screen.

One such successful person that Ed started on stage with the rest of his Cub Scout peers was Brian Dennehy who took time out from his busy schedule to come to Derby to honor the man that "discovered" him. Not all of the Scouts that performed in the shows



1948, Brian Dennehy

went on to great acting or singing careers. Hundreds learned to get over stage fright and be able to talk on stage, in meetings or many other places where they would normally be hesitant. You see, Ed Stang instilled in each child self-worth and self-confidence. He made each one feel that he was important. This tradition that he started is being advanced by the ones he trained and so the "Show Must Go On".

The following is taken from the Evening Sentinel Friday Evening May 20, 1927 which describes a "play" which was the forerunner of the "Gang Show".

"A little information concerning the play itself- it will be given on June

2nd at the Second Congregational Church. Tickets will be 35 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. Two plays are on the program.

The first is "Not Wanted -A Wife". The characters are Tut Lewis, L. DeWyk and H.Lugg. Next will come the play "The Freedom of the Press". Besides the plays there will also be several piano and violin solos.

Stooges and Endmen

Besides the printed program there are actions by endmen and stooges. Usually there are eight boys called Endmen who are dressed like clowns. They are required to sing a song and are paired so they can play off jokes on each other. The joke would start like this "Hey Henry, did you hear what happened to Ed last night?"

There are usually four stooges. At various times one would walk on stage and would perform some sort of a skit. In one skit the stooge walks on stage calling for Mrs. Jones. He is carrying a



Troops Adult
Leadership Performs



Make-up artists,
Mrs. Caroline Strang
and Mrs. Florence Tierney

small potted plant and explains that Mrs. Jones won this plant and he must deliver it. He repeats this with a much larger plant each time he goes on stage. When the show is over he is perched on a large tree outside the entranceway yelling for Mrs. Jones.



2013 Endmen



Mrs. Jones



1950 Chorus



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

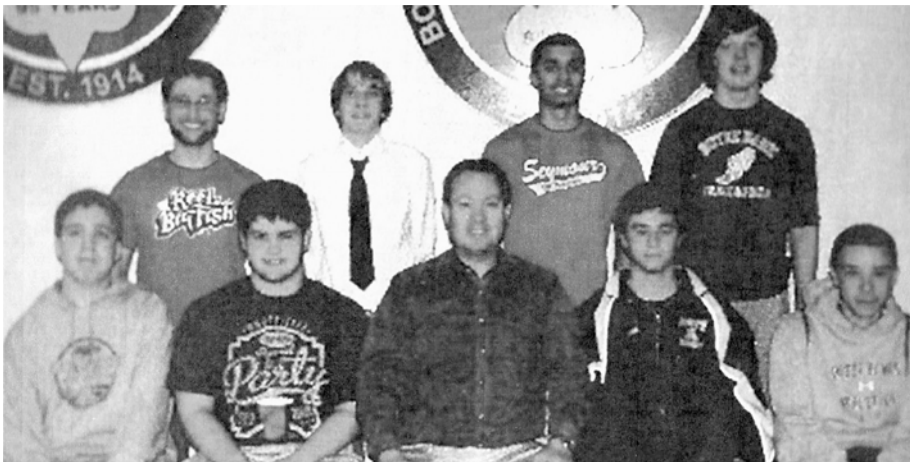
April 29, 1985

I am pleased to send warm greetings to everyone at the 61st annual minstrel show in Derby, Connecticut. My congratulations go to Mr. Edmund D. Strang for mounting the show, which has been called Connecticut's finest example of controlled chaos!

I understand that last year Ed Strang vowed he would never do it again. But he yielded to popular pressure, and that's why you're enjoying yourselves tonight. This show, his 61st, is again supposed to be his last. We'll just have to see.

To the Scouts, to their parents, to all who have made this longest-running minstrel show a reality and a delight, Nancy and I extend best wishes for an enjoyable evening and every happiness. God bless you all.

Ronald Reagan



2013 Endmen



Bob Hope Comments on
Gang Show Theme,
"Thanks for the Memories".



The Renowned
Musical Accompanist
Mrs. Martone



1937 Scout Chorus



1981 Endmen



1932 Cub Chorus

Ed's International Adventures

Andy Szenttornyai (Ed's first experience involving International Scouting programs)

Back in 1924 Ed joined a Pen Pal Club sponsored by Boy's Life magazine and found a pen pal named Andy Szenttornyai in Hungary. After a few years of correspondence interest lagged and the correspondence died out. In 1943, Ed (serving in the U.S. Army) was transferred to Hungary to do cryptography for the Allied Control commission. When he got to Budapest he remembered that years ago he had corresponded with a boy named Andy Szenttornyai but he could not remember where he lived. He wrote



Canadian Exchange Program visit, Verdun, Ca. Complements of his Worship, Pro-Mayor Jean-Paul Belisle, the City of Verdun and Woodlands Troop. Members in the "group photos" from left to right are as follows: Tom Chebro, Tom Knight, (P.L..Hawk), Ed Purcell, William Paul (Group Committee Chairman) Gord Thompson (P.L. Wolf), Ed Strang Mark Jared (A.P.L. Otter), Jean-Paul Belisle (Pro-Mayor of Verdun), Gerald Paul (Assistant Scoutmaster) and Ron Knight (P.L.Otter)



Larry Potter, Lorne Barnewall, Dan Cyril

home to Caroline to see if the address was listed in his address book, but it was not. Then suddenly one day he saw the name of a city called VAC in a newspaper and remembered that this was the city where Andy lived. He wrote to a place called Seminarium which was the address he had sent his letters to and asked if they had Andy's present address. The priest in charge of the school wrote back and said he remembered the correspondence well because actually Andy could not write in English so he wrote his letters in Hungarian. The priest translated them into English and sent them on. He gave Ed an address which was in Budapest. When Ed went to that address the building was completely bombed out. In checking with neighbors he found out that he was last seen when he had been picked up by the German Army for slave labor as the army was forced to retreat from the Russians at the Danube river. It looked like a lost cause but someone suggested he advertise in the local newspaper so a large ad was put in the Budapest newspaper. It ran for three months. Shortly after the third month a man knocked on the door of Ed's residence and when he opened

it there stood a man who said 'Hi, I am Andy'. He pulled pictures of Ed from his pocket that Ed had sent of himself in Scout uniform at Camp Irving and some pictures of Derby, Ct. so Ed knew that he had finally found Andy. When Ed visited Budapest after the war he notified Andy that his travel group would be staying at a hotel on the Buda side of the Danube River. The next day Andy, his wife Ari, and his daughter Andrea, visited the Strangs at the hotel. It took them close to three hours to get from their home to Ed's hotel and they had to change buses three times. Andy and his daughter Andrea spoke some English. When Andrea heard that the Strangs were coming, she took a course just to learn English. It was a delightful reunion and the Szenttornyaais met Ed's entire travel group from the lower Naugatuck Valley before they left for home that evening.

The Canadian Exchange Scout Program

At the first National Jamboree in 1937 Ed met the Woodlands Troop from Canada and by the end of the event they agreed to exchange Scouts the following year. They did this until World War II. After the war it continued into the 1980's. Besides the Scout exchange the top ten contest winners and other Troop 3 Scouts who earned the privilege would go for a weeklong trip to Canada. This would include a visit to the Woodlands Troop and a campout at their Camp Tamaracuda. That was the Magic of Ed. Among Troop 3 Exchange Scouts to Canada are John Carr, Christy Testone, Randy Ritter, Joe Potter, Chip Sandberg, Larry Potter, Dan Cyrul , Tom Chebro, Rod Erickson, Pat McDonnell, Frank Schaub and Tim Walsh. The first Canadian Exchange Scout was Ken Matthews.

Article in "The Squirrel" the Woodlands Troop newspaper Verdun, Canada, Nov.-Dec. 1967 Staff Leader Murray Thompson

A good friend of the Woodlands Troop, Ed Strang of Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts, was honored recently by the Hartford Archdiocese Roman Catholic Committee on Scouting in New Britain. Ed was awarded the Bronze Pelican, one of the highest awards made by the committee to Scout Leaders. It is believed that this is the first time the award was presented to a non-Catholic. Mr. Strang

is a member of the Derby, Ct. Methodist Church. Ed has been winning so many awards, we up here in the Woodlands Troop are proud of him. You will recall that Ed brought some Scouts and Explorers from Derby-Shelton to visit Expo 67 last August. Murray Thompson, Ricky Dales, David Greig, Phil Pentecost, and ASM Lorne Barnewall will remember the visit of the Derby Scouts and Explorers for years to come. Congratulations Ed...a job well done. All members of Troop 3 and Explorer Post 33 are always welcome to Verdun.

Troop 3 Derby Connecticut adopts a Scout Troop

In 1942 (during the Second World War) the town of Derby, Ct. adopted the town of Derby, England and sent the town materials, food and supplies (including an ambulance). Troop 3 decided to adopt an English Scout Troop from Derby England. They adopted Troop 72 whose Scoutmaster was Alf Watson. Ed and Alf became

friends. In 1944 Troop 72 Scout Peter Burdett was losing interest in Scouting. Mr. Watson and Ed arranged for Peter to have pen pals in the U.S. with the hope that this might keep Peter interested in Scouting. Peter selected John Carr and Joe Bednarcik with whom he enjoyed lasting friendships (see their stories). In 1942 the Peevit Patrol (Troop 72 Derby, England) wrote a letter to the Beaver Patrol (Troop 3 Derby, Ct.)



BUDAPEST, 1945.

1945, George Washington Troop, Budapest, Hungary

Note :During the early 1940's England was fighting for its survival. It was bombed by Nazi Germany daily, first by manned bombers and later by ballistic missiles.

Correspondence from Troop 72nd Derby England on October of 1942 to the Beaver Patrol of Troop 3, Derby.

To the Beaver Patrol; Greetings from the Peevit Patrol 72nd Derby Troop. Many thanks for the parcel of sweets which arrived here in time for the Troop Christmas Party, and also for the money order for ten dollars which was very welcome as sweets are rationed over here. Many of the patrol are dying to see some real American Scout gear, as no doubt you are to see some English Scout stuff so what about exchanging some of the items of Scout Uniform between the two troops. May I suggest badges, Scout belts, neckerchiefs, Patrol flags, shoulder knots etcetera. I enclose in this letter a Peewit Patrol shoulder knot and the description of our Patrol Bird (Is it possible for you to send a description of a Beaver, as very little is known about this animal in England). As you will notice, the shoulder knot has been worn, but I am sure that you will excuse that. We should like to hear what kind of Patrol Den you have got and how you run your Patrol meetings and something of your camping times, and the American countryside, trees, animals, birds, and plants etc. Please pardon all these questions we have asked you, but we are thirsty for anything American! In the



Troop George Washington, Budapest , Hungary,
Steve Geiger top row, second from left

near future we shall try and send you a photograph of the Pee-wits, which I am sure you will welcome. All the best in Scouting the Peewit Patrol, 200 Almond St., Derby ,England. Jack Fellows, Tony Fellows, Peter Burdett and Derek? (last name not legible).

Troop George Washington

Ed's first assigned European station with the Army was Caserta, Italy. British members of the Allied forces were also there. Ed developed contacts with British Scout leaders serving in the British Army which continued throughout his life. Ed was later transferred to Budapest. The Russian Army was on one side of the Danube River and Ed and the Allied Forces were on the other. While stationed there Ed established a Boy Scout Troop. The boys were so excited by the U.S. and freedom that they named it Troop George Washington. One of those Scouts, Steve Geiger, came to live in California and wrote him the following letter.

Steve Geiger

I hope this letter will reach you and find you in good health. My wife read in the local newspaper that Brian Dennehy, the actor, will go to Derby in September to participate in a banquet honoring you. I am so glad that she did not overlook this small news article, because it told me the town you lived in though not your address. The anniversary of the great World War 50 years ago may have reminded you of your stay in Budapest in 1945 and 1946 and of the George Washington Boy Scout Troop, which you founded. I was fortunate to have learned some English language in grade school (a rare subject in pre-war Hungary) and so became your interpreter. I was 15 at the time, having just survived the Holocaust and all other horrors of the Great War which swept thru my home.

My friends and I were overjoyed to have gained our freedom and opportunity to join the American led Scout troop. We were a ragged urban bunch of kids holding our meetings in an air raid shelter and not having the means to go camping and do other normal Scout activities. Still your enthusiasm and help made our lives brighter which is exactly what we all needed at the time. I want you to know that you have done a good deed in a time of need, so I join

the toasts raised in your honor, in Hungarian style: May You Live for 120 Years in Health and Happiness!

Briefly, about my life so far:

When graduating from High School in 1949, the communists took over the government with promises how great everything will be for us. As my family was classified as enemy (my father was a small shopkeeper), I was rejected twice from entering any University. I finally managed to enter in the 3rd year, with my boss's "underground" help and earned a degree in electrical engineering in 1956. Later the same year, the long suppressed hate for the Soviet occupation and their puppet dictatorship exploded in a revolution, which cost 20,000 lives when it was crushed.

As I was involved, myself, I had to flee to avoid arrest. My refuge became Sydney, Australia. Later due to professional reasons, I immigrated to the U.S, and I presently work in "Silicon Valley" on satellite communication transmissions. My wife and I have four grown children. Ed, the best of wishes again on the occasion of your banquet! Your grateful ex-scout and interpreter from Budapest.

Ed's Involvement in an event of International Significance

It was while in Budapest Ed met Cardinal Mindszenty through a priest originally from Bridgeport, Ct. who was studying in Hungary. Cardinal Mindszenty asked Ed to do him a favor and deliver (smuggle) a document to the Pope. To do this Ed and a soldier friend had to travel thru Russian controlled territory. They were



Simon Seaton and his Sons

honored to do this. Then they had to bring back a message from the Pope to the Cardinal. This message had international significance. Speak-

ing for the Catholic world the Pope made his original denunciation of Communism. Ed said "I hid for a week, I was never so scared in my life when I realized what I did."

The International Camp Staff Program

Ed's international adventures did not end with the end of the war. Ed utilized the International Camp Staff Program which would financially support much of the cost of travel for foreign Scouts and Scouters who would work on staff at camps in the U.S.A. for the camp season. With the cooperation of the Housatonic Council, Ed arranged to have English and Irish Scouts and Scouters work at Housatonic Scout Reservation. While they were here Ed would arrange for their housing and entertainment when not at camp. Simon Seaton and Ted Ray (see the Gajdosik Story) as well as many others utilized this program and became life-long friends of Ed and Troop 3. As finances became available from contributions by individuals and organizations like the Derby Shelton Rotary Club, the Troop 3 Exchange Program would function but it was not always a yearly event. Some years both Troop 3 Scouts and Irish/English Scouts would be exchanged, other times just one group would be exchanged.

Simon Seaton

I first came to know Ed when, as a Scout in my early teens, I replied to an advertisement he'd placed in the UK Scouting magazine asking for pen pals for members of Troop 3. Fortunately for me, when he received my letter, he'd already arranged pen pals for those in the Troop that wanted one, so he started corresponding with me himself. So began a friendship that lasted for many decades until his death. We communicated with each other every few weeks. Ed used a typewriter and because he typed quickly, his letters would be a mix of red and black type, haphazard upper and lower case characters, as well as irregular spacing. But they were easily understandable and always full of news and advice. After a couple of years of writing to one another, we managed to meet during one of Ed's regular trips to the UK. Our letters continued, but whenever he came over we always met up. He'd either come and stay a day or two at my family home in Portsmouth or else I would travel to London and meet him at Baden Powell House.

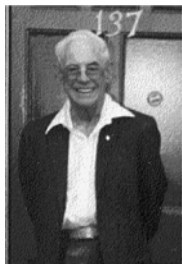
On my 18th birthday, he suggested that I should apply for the International Camp Staff Programme to work at one of the Boy Scout camps in the USA. What I wasn't aware of at the time was that he was using his extensive influence to support my selection and to ensure that I would be assigned to work at the Housatonic Council Scout Reservation, now renamed the Ed Strang Scout Reservation. So in 1978, I spent one of my most memorable and happiest summers ever being hosted by Troop 3 and working at the HSR. I made so many friends that summer and I am proud to say that the majority of these friendships have stood the test of time. Ed also ensured that my visit to the U.S. was memorable in many other ways. We visited New York City, quite an "eye opener" for a young lad who had grown up in the UK countryside; we toured Washington D.C. where he arranged a visit to the Capital, and, as I recall, we met a Senator and Congressman from Connecticut. Troop three also invited me to join them on their road trip to Canada. In the intervening years, until his death, Ed and I always met whenever he was in the UK or I was in the USA and we would keep in touch by letter. He was a massive influence on my life, always "on hand" to share in any success that I might have experienced, always willing to listen to any problem that I might have encountered, always able to provide a different perspective, and to provide advice. His was a life of "giving" and he was such a generous person in all aspects of life. But I wasn't the only one Ed influ-



Ian Guildford, Nick Spicer, Martin Hall, Ed Strang

enced, there were tens, if not hundreds of thousands of individuals whose lives have been enriched due to their having known him.

Lord Baden Powell once said” Try to leave this world a little better than you found it and, when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best.” Ed Strang certainly left this world a great deal better than he found it. Thanks to his inspirational words and actions there are tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of individuals who have made or are making the world a better place. He exemplified the Scouting vision and principles in everything that he said, and in everything that he did. It was a privilege to have known him.



Ted Ray

**Rev. Nicholas Spicer
SSC
Former English Ex-
change Scout**

I first met Ed and Caroline on one of their English tours in 1977. I had won a competition in Scouting and Ed provided Housatonic

Scout Camp badges as a prize!

Subsequently he arranged for me to come to the district as a guest of Troop 3. Ed always looked after me very well even though he didn't enjoy being in NYC with young English Scouts. On day one he took me to a burger bar and I shook a ketchup bottle and the lid came off. Ketchup went everywhere! All over Ed, the other lad, the stranger sitting next to me, the counter, display floor and ceiling! My excuse was jet lag and a different type of top & bottle! Nothing touched me! There was much shouting and we left very quickly! Needless to say this was never forgotten and every now and then a ketchup story or joke from the newspapers would appear in the post!

Ed was always taking photographs and was very observant. Over here, he'd say, and the next thing you knew a picture of you would

be taken with you standing in front of a “new at the zoo” poster or “No sex please we’re British!” show advert.

I had two subsequent visits to the US through Ed, one as camp Counselor and a second to Upper New York where Phil (Phil Warner, Former Scout Executive and friend) was. Ed was incredibly generous to me and so many other English Scouts.

Exchange Scout and Host Family Experiences

Since the inception of the Exchange Scout Program over 125 Scouts and Scouters have participated. This program has enriched lives and developed lifelong relationships for not only the Scouts but also the hosts and other adults associated with the program. The following stories are representative of the experiences of both Scouts and hosts.

John Anglace, the Ted Ray English Scouts

Ed Strang was friends with Scoutmaster Ted Ray of England and they had a small exchange program going on. When the English Scouts arrived in Connecticut, Ed would take them to New York City for a day. They would then spend two weeks with Troop 3 at camp. Ted also served on the Housatonic Council Camp staff for the summer camping season for a number of years as part of the International Camp Staff Programme.

Alex and Denise Kilpatrick and the Derby, England Exchange by Denise Kilpatrick

I first met Ed Strang in 1990 when he came over to visit my late husband Alex Kilpatrick and we had set up home together here in Allestree, Derby. Ed and I got on like a house on fire right from our first meeting and I thought he was a wonderful guy. I used to make him his favourite apple pies. Alex had come across Ed’s name around 1957 when Alex was clearing out the attic of St. Augustine’s Church here in Derby, England. He found a letter from Ed written to someone at the Church. Alex was a Venture Scout Leader and he decided to write a letter and addressed it to Ed Strang c/o the Scout Group, Derby, Connecticut and posted it in the hope that it would find its way to Ed. Sure enough a fortnight later Alex re-



Alex and Denise Kilpatrick



Ed and Denise Kilpatricki

ceived a reply and there a life-long friendship began and they corresponded regularly. Ed would come over to England about every two years and he firstly stayed with Alex and his first wife Brenda and latterly he would come and stay with Alex and myself. Ed loved to be taken to the Derby Gang Shows to try to glean jokes, ideas, and songs which he could use in his own Gang Shows with his Cub Pack. We also used to take him to our Scout Camp called Drum Hill where he would meet some of the team who worked there. He would stay with us about five days and then move on to other people in England with whom he had made friendships.



Congressional Intern Chris
Tiano, Rep. Ratchford,
Exchange Scouts Bush,
Perkins and Guildford

On one occasion when he came over, I remember Alex taking him, along with our two Springer Spaniels - Raq and Rouen, who Alex took beating (flushing wild game) at a farm called Alton Manor in Derbyshire. We went to introduce Ed to the two Game-keepers who looked after the pheasants on the farm, and arranged the shoots. We stood in

a field and they were telling Ed of some of their adventures when suddenly Ed stood on one leg and began to shake his free leg, at the same time passing wind very loudly. Ed kept a very straight face, but we were all cracking up with laughter and the moment passed without comment. On that visit Ed brought me three little teddy bears which were Christmas ornaments for the tree. I have treasured those bears ever since and each Christmas hang them on my Christmas tree with fond memories of a dear friend.

When Alex and I visited U.S.A., we stayed with Pat and Rudy Gajdosik, with whom we made a lifelong friendship. Ed took us to meet his Cub Pack of 60 and we were amazed at the size of the pack. One day Ed came and took us up to Goshen to the Scout Camp which they had renamed The Ed Strang Scout Reservation. He took us for breakfast on the way and I remember sitting at a bar with what looked like a crowd of cowboys, all in Stetsons and chatting away happily. We had a beautiful breakfast of bacon, eggs and fried bread, mushrooms, and tomatoes and Alex had blueberry pancakes - his favourite. It was the best breakfast I had ever tasted.

We continued our trip up to the Scout Camp and when we arrived I remember thinking it was the most beautiful place I had ever seen. (On the edge of West Side Pond, in the fall, the colours of the trees reflecting into the water, it was such a beautiful sight. We walked through the woods and Ed, knowing I was frightened of snakes, occasionally ran his foot gently up the back of my leg as he followed behind me and I would jump out of my skin. Suddenly he shouted, "Stop", and if I had taken another couple of steps I would have trodden on a grass snake which was rising up its head from the ground - I really was frightened that time. Ed showed Alex and I round the camp and he took us into the hall where there were lots of wooden flags which the boys had made, hanging from the ceiling. Alex looked up and saw the flags of the three boys who he had sponsored to go over from England.

Alex was so happy to see all of them at once. It was unbelievable really because out of all the flags there were in the hall, we stood under those three. Alex was very touched and when we returned to England, he made a point of contacting the boys to tell them and the next time Ed came to England he met the boys once again.

One of them was Ian Guilford who Ed had become quite close to and took under his wing because when Ian had gone to U.S.A. his parents had just split up. Another of the boys was called Farmer, but I cannot remember his Christian name. The other boy I cannot remember the name of - sorry. Ed also took Alex and I to meet his wife who Ed went to visit every day for several hours (Mrs. Strang was at the Bishop Wickie Health Center). He was a very devoted husband and although she often did not know him, he spent many waking hours keeping her company. He was a wonderful man. It was a beautiful home she was in and that was my first experience of going into a care home and I remember how caring all the staff were and how much entertainment they put on for their patients.

The last time Ed came to visit us he was not too well. When we took him to the railway station for his train, I remember Alex saying to me that he did not think Ed would be back again. When we got home and walked into the bedroom Ed had used, we found his hat on the bed - I remember thinking that Alex was right. Alex was devastated when Ed passed away and we returned to the States the following fall and visited the Scout Reservation. Alex and I planted a lot of daffodil bulbs at the entrance of the Ed Strang Scout Reservation and down the pathways; I hope they are still blooming today. Unfortunately Alex passed away in January 2009 after suffering a brain tumour or he would have been able to tell you a lot more stories about Ed.

Martin Hall and the Peterborough, English Exchanges

I met Ed Strang on any number of his visits to the Peterborough (England) Gang Show. Ed was a longtime friend of Doug Fare in Peterborough and I was excited to hear his stories of Scouting in the USA, as at the time I was Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts in Peterborough. In November 1992 Ed explained to me about the exchange program and asked if I might be interested in taking part in it. A few weeks later I received a letter inviting me to send two Scouts from Peterborough to Derby, Connecticut for the month of July 1993. This was the start of a long relationship that still goes on today. Over the past 20 years the relationship between Troop 3 and Peterborough Scouts has flourished with so

many “Trip for a Lifetime” stories all down to the man himself.

Stuart Clarke, English Exchange Scout (2001)

I would firstly like to congratulate Troop 3 Derby on its 100th Anniversary and hope it carries on for another hundred years. Even though it has been twelve years since I visited, there are still parts of the trip that I remember as if it were only yesterday. For the foggy parts of the trip, I have been helped by a diary that I kept at the time. I belonged to the 47th Peterborough Scout group. It was quite a surprise when I was told that I was going to be put on a shortlist for two scouts to go on an exchange trip to America. All the different Scout Troops in Peterborough were asked to put forward an applicant who was old enough to leave home for three weeks without getting too homesick; someone who had never done anything like it before and who would be a good representative for the Peterborough Scouting Association. To raise my spending money, I remember doing lots of odd jobs for friends and family, which included sweeping paths, washing cars, watering plants, trimming hedges even while getting good grades at school! The other Scout chosen to go with me on the exchange was Simon Topper from Helpston Scout group. I had never met him before as he was from a different troop, however being thrust into a different country with another person means you learn to rely on one another quite quickly. I had never flown before so I was really quite nervous on take-off. However having the window seat was brilliant as I was able to watch as we left the shores of the UK and then when entering America. We were met in Newark Airport by Linda Molnar who took us to meet up with the Tate family who we were staying with in Shelton. This resulted in my first minor mistake in America, going to get in the driver's side of the car. The Americans drive on the opposite side of the road than the English. Linda and Simon both found this funny. As soon as we walked out of the airport all I could think about was the temperature and humidity, especially as back in the UK we had been having a typical British summer: rain followed by a small amount of sunshine and then rain again. We met the Tate family and felt at home straight away. Playing video games and swimming in their pool with the family was a brilliant ice breaker. Doughnuts for breakfast in the morning made my day and it finally sank in that I was in America.

We also went strawberry picking on the first day which was much healthier and helped to assuage my breakfast doughnut eating guilt. There were so many activities planned for our visit; I'm not sure how we fitted them all in!

Three days after arrival, Simon Spencer (a member of our host family) and I were packing for camp at the Edmond D. Strang Scout Reservation. There I earned merit badges in metal work, rifle shooting, wood carving and wilderness survival. My favourite activity was rifle shooting. Training was given by Captain Jack of the Police Firearms Training Centre, whom we met after camp at the Connecticut Department of Correction. There he showed us the police rifle shooting range and his sidearm. In Britain only specially trained officers are allowed firearms, so when I first walked past an American officer with a sidearm I was quite nervous. The nervousness did lessen over time, but it still felt quite odd. There were also two scouts visiting from Limerick, Ireland: twins Richard and Stephen Hayes whom we met during the second week.

We got together for many of the activities, including a visit to a wiffle ball factory in Shelton. There was a tour on which we were shown how the bats and balls were made from coloured plastic granules, which were melted down and injection moulded into shaped moulds. At the end of the tour, we were each given a set as a gift and played a game that very night. We were all invited to visit the mayor of Shelton, Mark Lauretti, and Derby Mayor Marc Garofalo, at Shelton City Hall. Whilst there, we all received a certificate of recognition in honour of our visit to the United States of America, and were then treated to lunch! We also went to New York for a day arriving at Grand Central Station which had recently been refurbished (possibly the reason I now work as an electrician for a construction company which works on railway and underground



Nathan Setchfield, Mayor Staffiere, Connor O'Sullivan, Bobby Sherlock, Mike Ryan, Doris Ryan, Jason Dineen, Cian Long, with Randy Ritter behind Mike

stations in London) and walked to Battery Park where we saw the Statue of Liberty across the Harbour. This is where I bought my brother a pair of fake sunglasses from a street vendor. Then we went up to the roof of one of the World Trade Centre towers two months before the terrible terrorist attack that cost so many lives. The view was incredible and I felt privileged to have visited such a defining place.

Scouting appeals to a certain type of people. They are generally outgoing, friendly, trusting and happy to work hard and help people if they can. In this respect, the American leaders and Scouts I met were shining examples and could not have made Simon and me feel more at home and accepted. The worst thing about the entire trip was having to go home. I was looking forward to seeing my family and friends again, but feel I could have happily stayed for months.

Nathan Setchfield, English Exchange Scout (2009) using questionnaire format

What troop did you belong to ? where located?

I was part of Medehamstede Explorer Scout Unit, located in the Werrington, Peterborough.

Scoutmaster's name?

David Clements.

How were you chosen?

It was narrowed down by the leaders depending on the activities done at Explorers.

How did you earn money for the trip?

The money was donated from a wealthy American doctor who funded the trip.

Did you come with a buddy?

Yes, Connor O'Sullivan.

Comment on your flight,

The flight was good and we met a flight attendant who helped us get off the plane quickly and through to customs ahead of everyone.

What was your first impression when you landed at the airport?

It was massive and busy; full of hustle and bustle.

Who was your host family?

I had more than one host family whilst I was in America, consisting of the Thompsons, Neuendorfs and the Stankyes.

Was it difficult to get settled with them?

No, all families were brilliant and I will never forget them.

What things did you do? What was fun?

We managed to do loads of things but a few highlights were:

- * We spent a night at Las Vegas on the rides in the hotel and looking around.

- * Also took part in a traditional camp at Ed Strangs campsite, including, shotgun shooting, canoeing and crafts.

- * Finally meeting one of the volunteer fire services and going on a scavenger hunt in the vehicles.

What was boring?

There wasn't a boring moment really.

What did you think of American Scouts, food, customs and language?

They were all brilliant and created brilliant friends whom I will never forget and awesome memories. The food was also amazing and I had been to America a couple times before and knew what to expect. There wasn't really a language barrier between us but it was really interesting to compare accents and different words which had been changed and adapted throughout history.

How was our Scouting program different from yours?

There was not really a major difference between the programmes but one thing I noticed was it was way more popular in America with more people involved. Also it was nice to see the families so well involved and willing to provide help.

Your experiences at camp ?

This was definitely different to camping in the UK. The tents at the campsite were designed differently. Also sleeping under mosquito nets was a new thing as we had never needed to in the UK.

Was it easy to make friends?

Yes everyone was welcoming and brilliant.

Did your concept of the U.S. change because of the experiences of your visit?

Not really, I had been to America before and knew what it was like.

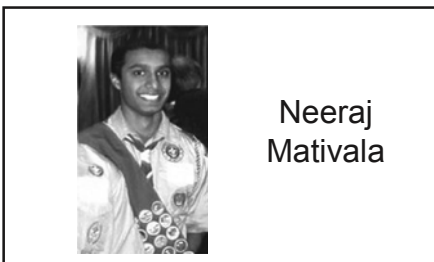
Any humorous events?

One of my favourite memories is the slip and slide into a swimming pool we used at the Tracz's house. It was made by the father of the family.

How did these experiences broaden your horizons and did they enrich your life?

Once I left America I realised how much scouting has done for me over the years. I knew I needed to keep going as far as I could. So last year I completed an Explorer belt award and have started my training to become a Scout Leader.

Neeraj Nadivala, Troop 3 Exchange Scout (2012)



Neeraj
Mativala

When Mike Neuendorf and I first got off the plane in England, we were astounded. Since it was the summer of the Olympic Games, people were rushing to get where they needed to go, and Mike and I were the only two khaki shirts in the terminal. Mar-

tin Hall, our host, picked us up and we put our bags in the trunk. I started to walk to the right side of the car and tried to open the door, and Martin said, "You drive?" and I laughed forgetting that the driver sits on the right in England. There weren't too many differences other than traffic and the accents, which Mike and I got used to very quickly. About a week in to the trip, we could both do some movie quality English accents that we were very proud of. Our first host family was the Halls, and they took us to see the royal grounds around Peterborough and also to London, where we got to see the sights like Big Ben and Buckingham Palace. We also got to see an Olympic basketball game between France and Russia and we were only four rows away from the court. After a week of staying with the Halls, we went to a camp run by their troop at Gilwell Park, about an hour and a half drive from Peterborough. There we met the entire troop, and we made friends with the older Explorer Scouts, Matt, Oliver, Matthew, and Dominic. Staying at camp for a week, we took trips to an historic dockyard, tried many out-of-your-comfort-zone activities, met troops from Spain and Ireland, and even saw the fireworks during the opening ceremony of the Olympics from a hill at the camp. We became very good friends with the Scouts and the leaders of the troop, and it was sad having to say goodbye after a week. But after camp, we came back to Peterborough and stayed with the Blount family. James Blount had come to America as an Exchange Scout a few years back, and it was like reuniting with an old friend. We later met the troop members of the Peterborough troop and also met Nathan Setchfield who was also an Exchange Scout that Mike and I had met before.

During our stay with the Blounts, we made many trips to the go cart tracks, pools, and went on a trip to see the Warwick Castles. After a week there, we moved to the Scout leader for the Peterborough troop, Fiona Davies. She was very nice and welcoming, and since she was from South Africa, she had many new recipes and dishes that we had never heard of before and were completely willing to try. We visited York and saw the history and sights with her and her husband Neil, which was a lot of fun. The last week that we were in England was spent at the Setchfield's house. They took us to London several times, to the markets, and to the little side places that we didn't get to see when we first

stopped in Peterborough. They threw us a going away party a few days before we left, and all of our friends came by to wish me and Mike safe travels back to America. It was the best experience I've ever had when visiting a new place, and it showed me how a common activity such as Scouting can really help you connect with people from all over the world. I was very grateful to go on this trip, and I would gladly do it every summer if I could.

Neeraj Nadivala is Troop 3's 278th Eagle Scout.

The Troop 3 Limerick Irish Exchange Program by John Anglace

This program is best described in two phases.

1. The Mike Ryan Irish Scout Exchange



Robert Feeney, Ed Strang,
John Anglace

2. The Bob Feeney sponsorship of the Irish Scout Exchange Program

I was working at Pfizer on 42nd Street in New York City. As part of my job I traveled to Europe and on one of my trips to our Howmedica Plant in Limerick, Ireland, I learned that one of our

supervisors, Michael Ryan, was the Scoutmaster of a local Scout troop. The next time Ed came to New York City I told him about this connection I had with Mike Ryan in Limerick. Ed was interested and asked if I could arrange to get him in touch with Michael. So I contacted the Howmedica Limerick Personnel Manager, Jim Leyden, explained how our English Scout Exchange Program worked and asked him to have Michael Ryan



Ed Strang and Mike Ryan

contact Ed Strang if he was interested in starting an Irish Scout Exchange Program. As you can see by Michael's letter in this book, he did contact Ed and the program got its start. Now Troop 3 had two foreign exchange programs to offer its Scouts. This was good, but it also drained our resources and the periods between visits lengthened. Then one lucky summer day Ed came to New York with the Irish Scouts in tow and stopped in to see me at Pfizer. I took them to lunch and loaded them up with Pfizer products, which I shipped to their parents in Ireland, compliments of Ed, the Scouts and their Pfizer host. It was on such a visit that Ed asked if I knew Bob Feeney. Ed told me that Bob was a VP at Pfizer and had been a Troop 3 Scout. I had never met Bob so I looked him up in the Pfizer phone directory and called his office. I told his secretary who I was and that I had an old friend of his in my office. Would Bob be available to see him? Bob confirmed the name Ed Strang, inquired as to my whereabouts, and said he would join us in a few minutes.



Making arrangements for the Limerick, Ireland Scout



Ed Strang receives presentation from Jim Leyden at Stryker Corporation.

(Picture courtesy Stryker Corp.)

As I learned later, Bob was a Troop 3 Scout and hadn't seen Ed in over 30 years. When he came into my office to meet us, he threw his arms around Ed and burst into tears of joy. He had been reunited with his mentor and it had come as such a complete surprise that he was emotionally overwhelmed. Bob was the Vice President of Pfizer Licensing and Development and extremely successful. Then and there he committed not to let such a large void to happen again. He inquired about the details of the Irish Scout Exchange Program and offered to sponsor the program in memory of his late father Francis Feeney. Thus began the Francis Feeney Irish Scout Exchange Program

with the Scouts of Troop 3, Derby, Connecticut and Limerick, Ireland as the beneficiaries. Now the program was blessed with the resources it would need to continue. True to his word, Bob Feeney continued his sponsorship and reconnected with Troop 3, returning to be our keynote speaker at several Troop 3 anniversary celebrations where his Scouting tales have mesmerized audiences. Ed was always proud of his former Scouts, but never so proud as he was when Bob Feeney stepped up to the plate and made this International Scouting Exchange Program a continuing entity.

My Initial Involvement in the Exchange Program by Mike Ryan (Limerick Scoutmaster)

My first involvement with Troop 3 Derby was when I was working for Howmedica in Limerick, Ireland. One day I was called to the Personnel Department to meet the manager. He told me he had a



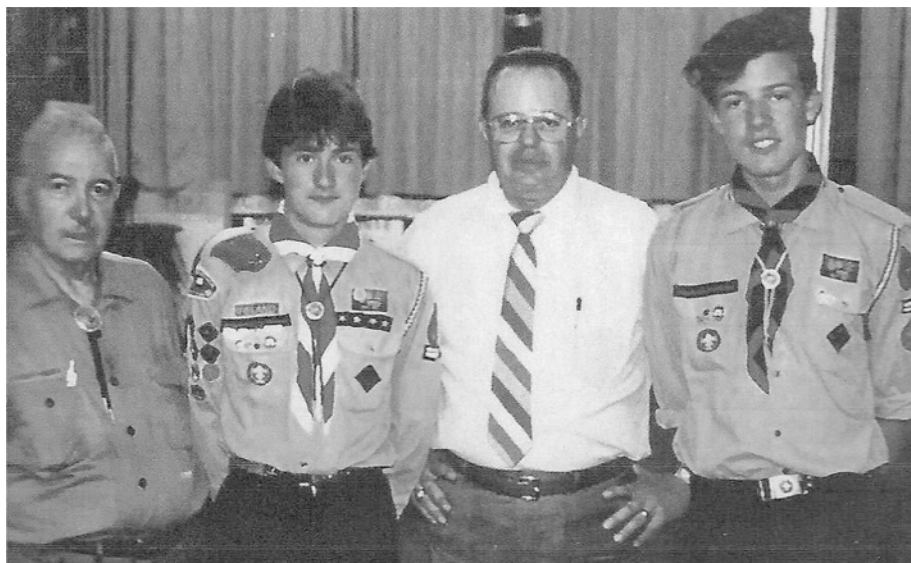
Mr. John Stobierski, William Mulhall, Ralph Slattery, "Tip" O'Neill, Ed Strang

friend John Anglace in Pfizer who had a friend Ed Strang, who was a Cub Scout leader. As I was the only Scout leader at Howmedica, he asked me if I would write to this Ed Strang. I sent a letter to Ed and got a reply with all the capitals raised up into the previous line! This was the start of a long friendship with Ed and Troop 3. We had many exchange visits and meetings with Troop 3 on their WISE (Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and England) trips. Ed came to Limerick and stayed with my family

and me and visited Howmedica. We are continuing to exchange in his honor and many Irish Scouts have had great trips to Derby, Ct and the Ed Strang Campsite.

TROOP 3, POST 33. HOST IRISH SCOUTS

Article in Howmedica publication used with permission of its successor the Stryker Corp. Kalamazoo, Michigan.



Ed Strang, Kevin O'Shaughnessy, John Anglace, Allan Ball

Earlier this year after a meeting between Jim Leyden, Joe Banks, John Anglace and Ed Strang an American holiday was arranged for two Limerick Scouts. By contacting Mike Ryan (Howmedica) who is a Scout leader, William Mulhall (son of Eamon Mulhall ,

Superfinish) and Ralph Slattery became the chosen two. Ralph is a patrol leader in the 25th Scout Troop of Limerick and William, a senior patrol leader. A patrol leader is responsible for the training of the members of his group. Both boys are expert canoeists and are interested in all types of water sports. The boys arrived in America on July 16th and stayed for four days with the Barbara Gilloren family and also the John Rak family, both of Derby, Ct. On July 20th



Chris Gilloren and Adam Rak
on a plant tour with Joe
Mulcahy and Michael Ryan.
(Courtesy Stryker Corp.)

Ralph and William went to camp with the third Derby Scout Troop. They spent two weeks at the Housatonic Scout Reservation (now Camp Strang) in Goshen and whilst there gained many waterfront merit badges. They earned swimming, lifesaving, small boat sail-

ing and white water canoeing awards, did a mile swim across a nearby lake and hiked the Appalachian Trail. After this exhausting timetable, Ed Strang took the boys on a trip to Washington, D.C. and the highlight of their visit was meeting Speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas 'Tip' O'Neill, in his office. The press secretary of the Representative of Massachusetts, John Stobierski, took William and Ralph on a tour of the Memorials in Washington at night where they saw the Lincoln Memorial, the Smithsonian Institute and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, among others. John Anglace arranged a meeting with Congressman John Rowland, who took Ralph and William on a V.I.P. tour of the White House. Following their stay in Washington they went to Hershey, Pennsylvania, where they saw a western show. Some time was also spent in New York, and visiting historic spots in Connecticut. William and Ralph were sponsored by Pfizer, the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club and others. Several fundraisers were also held at home, including a 'Boston Tea Party' and a five mile road race. Next year it is planned to return this year's hospitality and invite some of the American Scouts to Ireland.

SCOUT EXCHANGE Article in Howmedica publication used with permission of its successor the Stryker Corp., Kalamazoo, Michigan

This summer the second Scout exchange was held between members of the 25th Limerick Scout Troop and members of the Troop 3 Derby Connecticut, USA. Senior patrol leader Alan Ball from Janemont Park, Corbally, and Kevin O'Shaughnessy, patrol leader from Shannon Banks, both of Limerick's St. Oliver Plunkett Troop, were chosen to represent the Limerick Scouts and they flew out to America on July 23rd for a five week stay at Derby, two weeks of which were spent camping in the Housatonic Scout centre and three weeks touring Connecticut.

During this time they both enjoyed tours of West Point, and two amusement parks, but "our lads" found that life in New York was a bit more hectic than in Limerick. Two American Scouts, Adam Rak and Christopher Gilloren, flew into Shannon on July 27th and stayed in the homes of last year's exchange scouts, William Mulhall and Ralph Slattery. The two boys found the pace of life to be relaxed,

quite the opposite to life in the States. During their stay, Adam and Chris joined the members of Limerick Troop 25 on their summer camp in the Isle of Man and visited Kilkee, Killarney, Blarney, Dublin and many other local attractions.

One of the highlights of their visit was when they attended a hurling match. They were surprised at the dangerous nature of the game and the fact that, unlike American footballers, the players didn't wear any protective padding. Both groups enjoyed the exchange and found the difference between two cultures, traditions and people very interesting. The scout exchange is arranged annually by Jim Leyden and Mike Ryan of Howmedica Int. Inc. and local Scout leaders on the Irish side and Cub leader Ed Strang of Derby and John Anglace of Pfizer, New York at the American end. We are hopeful that the exchange programme will continue and give scouts of different nationalities an opportunity to visit each other's countries.

Michael Ryan enclosed the following letters from Ed and a poem Ed had published for Oscar Johnson.

Ed Strang wrote;

A very good friend of Scouting just passed away this week and I'd like to say a few words about him. His name was Oscar Johnson and more than anyone else in the Naugatuck Valley he made it possible for the Housatonic Council to have a camp in Goshen, Ct. "People will never know the obstacles he ran into during the planning stages of the Camp. He started off with no money, but once he was done he had built a camp that was the envy of many councils in the northeast. The camp has always received an A rating from the state and from the National Council of Boy Scouts.

"Oskey put his heart into the building of this Scout reservation and I think a part of him will always be there. There were so many in our valley that were youths then and worked with Oskey to make the camp what it is today. I don't think they will ever forget those days in 1958, 1959 and 1960 putting the camp together piece by piece. The following poem is so much like Oskey...

An Old Man Going Along A Lone Highway.
Came an evening Cold and Gray

To a chasm vast, deep and wide
The Scouter crossed in the twilight dim
The Sullen stream had no fear for him
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.
Mr. Scouter said a traveler near
Your journey will end and with the parting day,
You never again will walk this way.
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide
Why build this bridge at eventide
Good friend, in the path I have come, he said
There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair headed youth a pitfall be
He too must cross in the twilight dim
Good friend I am building this bridge for him.

Every Scout in the Housatonic Council joins me in saying "well done, Oscar Johnson, well done."

By Ed Strang, Chairman of Camping, Housatonic Council, B.S.A.

Ed's Christmas Letter

Hi Folks, this Christmas letter is just for my many friends abroad. I hope to be in England in November so I have to write this early as I will mail my cards from London. A very merry Christmas to you all and I hope each one of you will send a little note with your card so I will know just how you and your family are doing. C'mon now, don't let me down. You know when you're 81 that you're on the downside hill of life, but even on the down slide you can have a lot of fun.

Being over 80 has its good points though. People want to carry your luggage and help you out. I was helping direct cars in a local road race this year and had to stop cars coming in one direction. One car didn't slow down so I stepped right out in the road and he finally slowed. He opened his window to ask what it was all about

and said, "My God, Ed Strang, are you still around?"

When I was young smoking was tolerated; grass was mowed and pot was something you cooked in. How times have changed. Sometimes at this age, you feel like life is a car wash and you are going through it on a bicycle. I ran our Gang Show again and it was a success. This was our 67th year and I've been in every show. Wow! We made enough on it to run the pack, troop and post for the year. Our troop had 46 boys at summer camp.

That's the most in our council and all had a ball. The troop trip went to Cape Cod and Hurricane Bob came along when we were there, giving the kids an exciting time. We were able to help Cape Cod get back on its feet. I finally got a new car. It's a Chevy Cavalier. It gets good mileage and runs smoothly, but I've only gone about 3000 miles so far.

Caroline is still at the Wicke Therapy Center, 584 Long Hill Avenue in Shelton, Ct., 06484. She is doing as well as can be expected. Each year her memory gets a little bit less, but she is a cheerful patient and doesn't take any pills at all. She can walk a little bit better now with her walker. I enjoy coming back to England. I'm sorry I cannot stop in and say hello to all of you, but time will not allow it. It is nice to hear from all of you via mail and to learn of all the things you and your families are doing. I don't do much sightseeing any more, but while in London I do love to take in the shows. Can't afford to see them in New York any more. If anyone has a good joke pass it on to me and I'll use it in our 1992 Gang Show. If anyone has the sheet music for the song 'Happiness' sung by Ken Dodd I can use a copy of it to use in the show.

Here's a little poem to close with...
Life is like a journey taken on a train
with travelers at each window pane.
I may sit beside you the journey through
or I may sit elsewhere, never knowing you.
But if fate should make me sit by your side,
let's be pleasant to each other.
It's so short a ride.

Have a wonderful Christmas and let's hear from you. I have

Caroline read all the notes and letters. She really can't absorb the writing, but I think she realizes these are friends who are wishing us well. Caroline and Ed Strang, Christmas 1991

Editor's Note: During this time Caroline Strang was recuperating from a broken hip at the Wicke Therapy Center. She never recovered and became wheelchair bound. In time her memory failure progressed from being unable to recognize visitors to becoming unaware she had visitors. Ed visited her every day with the exception of his attendance at a Jamboree and the annual day long Regional Scout meeting in Massachusetts and finally Ed's stay at hospice.

Hi Mike,

Your letter arrived today. I have half an hour before going to our monthly council camping meeting, so here goes. Randy had about 20 of our boys up to camp this week. They slept out in the lean-tos and it was a poor weekend. Rained all day Saturday and the temperature went down to freezing that night. They still managed to have a fun time.

In the meantime I was in charge of getting bags out to every household in Derby with the Cubs. We get about 1500 bags out and it was pouring rain, so the kids got drenched and we had them back at the church for pizza and soda and chocolate when they returned. We had lots of help so the kids were not out over an hour, so that was good. This Saturday the kids go out to pick up the bags. Hopefully they will be filled with food for the needy.

Our trip reunion went over great. We had 150 out for it and it was also a court of honor, where we give out badges and advancements in rank. All went well and Randy was quite pleased. It looks like you're really going to be tied up with fund raising like we were for the trip last year. Every month Randy was running something and they were all successful. With all this fund raising, will it curtail your sending any boys over here this year? The committee voted to go ahead with the hosting and we'll pay half their way as usual. Let me know if you won't be able to do it this time.

Randy is planning a trip to Boston and Cape Cod for the top ten in the troop this year and this will be a little different than our usual

trips. Robert Morris and Al Palumbo are working with the older boys and right now they are interested in scuba diving, etc. Their problem is finding a pool to practice in. It's a drawback right now. Randy's company Aetna is laying off about 2000 employees and he is worried that he might be on the list to be let go. I think here in America we are slowly sinking into a depression and, along with the problem in Saudi Arabia, it makes things worse. Had a big fight in Scouting two weeks ago. Our Scout executive Jack Ross has been promoted and, as he was going, our regional officer came down and tried to get us to merge with New Haven to form a bigger council. He spoke for two hours on the benefits of merging and how hard it would be for us to pay our bills in the next few years.

He had me so burned, I was fuming. Finally, I got up and said that we, as a board, had to have faith in ourselves. I made a motion that we not merge and that we get to work to find a replacement. The vote was 15-3 to support my motion and was that guy from region mad.

Finally, here's a note of thanks from a recovering Ed Strang.

Please thank the boys for their thoughtful cards and letters. I got them while I was still at the hospital. They were darn good kids and everyone had nothing but praise for them. I guess when they returned they looked like American folks. I have been home now for three days and am feeling much better. Still a little shaky and am spending most of my time resting while doing a little walking. Today I'm feeling a little more tired than usual and not sure why. Guess it's just old age. We are having our first meeting Monday night.

It's sort of a joint meeting for the troop and the pack so they can help me get started with our programs. The Lord was sure on our side when I had my attack. It was only an hour after returning home from Washington and the Jamboree. I wasn't sick on the trip, just tired. The temperature was over 100 degrees while we were there. If I ever had the attack there or on the way back it would have been a real mess, as we had to get the boys home and I would have had to get to a hospital somewhere in the wilds

of New Jersey no doubt.

I'm glad the attack waited until we got home. The pain was so bad I thought I was having a heart attack, but it ended up being a gangrenous gall bladder and the doctor said I was lucky to come out of the operation as I did. Tell the boys Ted Ray had his four way bypass operation. He is doing well, so they tell me. I guess all is going well here with Scouting. Haven't bothered much with it since I got back. Our council troop made a great showing at the Jamboree and they were picked to meet with President Bush and be his honor escort. Some of the kids got to shake hands with him and they were thrilled.

Ed Purcell says to pass on his Hello's to the boys and Barbara Gilloren came over to make sure I am eating right and able to stand on my feet. So many people have done so many nice things. Today I got a bowl of my special soup and some homemade puddings. Yesterday Bob Bednarcik brought in a microwave and set it up so I could get out fast meals. That's it for now. Thanks for the photo of the family if I haven't already thanked you

The Experiences of an Exchange Scout mother and host family, Mrs. Spinetti

Our introduction to Troop 3 and the Exchange Program was like skydiving! It was sudden, exhilarating and full of possibilities. My son, Brian was just 11 years old and had crossed over into Troop 3 from a Cub pack in Shelton. He selected Troop 3 based on the friendliness of the boys and the leaders, but also because the troop meeting was so organized and full of interesting activities. Brian was happy in his new group and in a few short weeks was thriving in Scouting. As parents, John and I thought we should do our part to help the troop so that the experiences for the boys would continue to be fabulous, so we joined the troop committee. At our first committee meeting there was talk of the exchange program. It appeared the Irish Scout Master, Michael Ryan had finally convinced his wife, Doris to visit the USA along with their two youngest daughters, Hazel and Rachel. That was exciting to hear, but then came the disturbing part. They still did not have anyone offering to house them for their stay. We listened as they talked about dividing the family, sending each parent with one child

to one place for a few days, then pack up and go somewhere else for more etc. This was the tentative plan.

Being parents with two children we were dumbfounded. How could we bring this family over here and split them up? Especially when it took so much coaxing to get Doris to agree to come! John and I talked about it at home privately and called Scoutmaster Randy Ritter. He is the



Brian Spinetti
with
Simon Topper
peeking

young man carrying on the Troop 3 traditions that began with Ed Strang and one of the key adults in Brian's decision to come to Troop 3. We offered to welcome the Ryan family into our home. We explained that accommodations would be tight, but that we were sure we could all manage and that way they could enjoy Connecticut as a family. That was the beginning of some of our most cherished friendships and our full immersion into Troop 3.

Once they had a home base to function from, Doris was happy and I believe Michael was relieved. Randy and the other committee members went into action, and within a few weeks, the schedule for our visitors was complete. There were so many exciting things planned for them, a visit to Camp Strang, a day in New York, meetings with the Mayors of Derby and Shelton, waterparks, dinners, picnics, and boating to name a few. Everyone helped out in one way or another to plan a memorable trip making it very easy for us. The Ryan family arrived at our home and the chemistry between us was magical. Doris and I spent many evenings enjoying a cup of tea, laughing, and sharing stories. Michael and John bonded and our boys enjoyed having the girls here. Hazel and Rachel were a little older and of course beautiful, with lovely accents making it very easy for Brian and David to want to be with them. It also made it much easier for them to give up their beds for a few weeks! We enjoyed our own experiences with the family as well as hearing about their experiences with the other Scout families who came each day to spend time with them and show them

another piece of America. Our joys were in all the exciting things they were doing as well as the day to day comedy that naturally presented itself when two families live together. One of my favorite things was to hear Doris tell Michael he was “peppering” (stirring the pot). Learning their expressions and discovering the differences in our culture was always interesting and a pleasure. They were here during the fourth of July so they were able to experience a little community celebration too. As one token of remembrance, we got them ornaments with fireworks displayed upon them. We kept a set for ourselves as well, and every year when we hang them on the Christmas tree we vividly recall our friends from Ireland. Little did we know that this was only the beginning of our love and involvement with both Troop 3 and the Exchange Program. We thank Randy Ritter, Ed Strang, Dr. Feeney, Michael Ryan, and Martin Hall for their dedication to such a fabulous program. Without them, we would never have had this opportunity or the ones that my children enjoyed years later. Brian and David both were selected as Exchange Scouts to England in later years, and as a family, we visited the Ryans in their home in Ireland. All



Steve NG

the incredible adventures with lifelong memories and friendships are priceless!

We have gone on to host many Boy Scouts from both Ireland and England since that first experience. In 2005, we hosted Stephen Wheatley, Daniel Waller from England and Adrian Coffey

and Neil Ryan from Ireland and in later years we enjoyed other Scouts. Sometimes we offered our home and sometimes we were just part of a day's activity. Each time we learned something new, made new friends and had a wonderful time. Having the young boys without their parents is a bit different than hosting the Ryan family, but just as rewarding. We think of the Irish and English Scouts here and our thoughts go to our own boys and we wondered if they had the same impact on the families they visited while in Europe. I hope so! We are still in touch with the Ryan family. We visited them in 2000 for an incredible vacation and

shared family updates through correspondences. Both Hazel and Rachel have married and have children now and we see photos through Facebook. Doris and Michael stayed with us again on a multistate visit to the USA which was a wonderful treat. .

We hope to convince them all to visit again so that we can meet the new family members. Until then we stay connected through e-mail, Facebook, letters, and phone calls. We know that many of the Exchange Scouts stay in touch in a variety of ways with many of the families they came to know while visiting. It is wonderful to see the fine young men they have turned out to be. It is rewarding to know that they still keep a piece of their visit to the USA and want to stay connected. John and the boys have also met many Exchange Scouts at summer camp and on the summer Scout trips. So even if we could not host them in our home or take them out for the day, we were able to be part of the exchange experience that year. This aspect is vital to the program. It allows boys who might not have the space to host a Scout in their home the benefit of the cultural exchange. It also helps them realize that money and things are not what make life great. People are the important part. We think this Exchange Program promotes confidence and independence in these young men and opens their minds to the opportunities that exist when they apply themselves. We are thrilled that Ed Strang had the insight and determination to establish this program and that Troop 3 continues to honor the tradition! We look forward to our next group of Exchange Scouts and many new memories!

You can only imagine the excitement that filled our house when we discovered that Brian was selected as one of the Exchange Scouts for 2002. Brian along with one of his best friends in Scouting, Steven Ng, were two of the four chosen to represent Troop 3 that year. Brian and Steven decided to go to England. Brian and Steven were about 15 years old at the time of this experience. Although they both had traveled extensively with Troop 3 on their many summer adventures, this was the first solo trip they were taking. Steven's parents and I took the boys to the airport in New York for their departure and decided to wait until the plane took off before we headed home.

Suddenly, overhead I heard “Brian Spinetti please board the plane now.” I could not believe my ears! Fear rushed through my body. Where was Brian if he was not on the plane? Better yet, why was Steven not being paged as well? Mrs. Ng and I rushed to the gate to speak with the security staff. We explained that the boys were traveling together and that they would never separate. Troop 3, and of course all the parents, had impressed upon them to use the buddy system at all times. This was something ingrained in them throughout Scouting. The security guard understood our concern and contacted the flight attendant on their plane. She located Steven and found Brian sitting right next to him. They had on their earphones so they could not hear the page. My youngest son David began his England trip a few years later. David and another scout, James Blaskewicz, arrived in England as scheduled. They got their



luggage and waited. After 30 minutes and no one in sight to pick them up at the airport, David phoned home. It was about 2am. I was on the other end of the phone expecting “Hi Mom, we’re here safe.”

Instead I heard “Hi Mom, I thought Mr. Hall was meeting us at the airport. No one has come for us!” A few phone calls later

and all was well. It turned out there was some confusion with the dates because of the time change. It is funny now, but a little unsettling at 2 A.M. Once again the boys used their skills and ingenuity to solve their problem. Martin Hall could not have apologized more and we could easily see how it happened. Fortunately our family had already established a bond with him and knew that this was just a small glitch in the works and that all would be fine. And of course it was! Confidently I say that these experiences helped shape my boys into the fine young men they are and had I had more children I would not hesitate to have them participate in this Exchange Scout Program. It is the opportunity of a lifetime and the door to opening unlimited possibilities for the boys!

The Liddel Family Hosts

Richie and Steve Hayes (twin brothers) are from Limerick, Ireland. Both boys were very comfortable in our home and loved our swimming pool. They wanted to be in it all the time. It seemed to me that all of Troop 3's scouting family participated in the itinerary of the boys. When Richie and Steve first arrived; my family and I took them to the Indian Museum in Mystic, Connecticut. We had a great time getting to know one another. Mr. Bednarcik took them to Lake Compounce and I thought they would never come home! What a day that must have been.

Several Scouting families took them shopping, to the beach, to their homes, out on the Housatonic River, and there was never a dull moment with Richie and Steve Hayes. Fine young gentlemen they were, our Exchange Scouts in the summer of 2001. Two weeks before their departure back to Ireland, Mrs. Oppal, Mrs. Tate, and the company took the boys and several other Scouts to New York City, where among their travels they went up to the Windows of the World in the World Trade Center. Thank heavens they got home safely before that day that changed the U.S. forever. One of my vivid memories is seeing Steve Hayes up against the glass of the restaurant in the World Trade Center just two weeks before



Lower Row: Steven Hayes, James Liddel, Stuart Clarke, Spenser Tate, Bob Liddel, Upper Row: Rich Hayes, Simon Topper

that horrific day! It is etched in my memory and I still thank God that they were there when they were as innocent young man exploring one of the greatest cities in the world. We had such a grand time with our experience as a family and as a troop. We even held a Court of Honor at our home before the Irish and English Scouts went back to their homes. I think I will always greet them here as their home away from home. I could not have ever expected this Scouting experience to last me for a lifetime. It has so far and I know it will continue to be among my greatest cherished moments in my life and I know my family feels the same way. I could go on and on about Richie and Steve Hayes. Their sister Ann-Marie and sister's friend Annette even got a chance to visit and become friends with us too. To this day we still do communicate via Facebook and I know that they have both each grown into fine young men that we were proud to call our friends.

Troop 3 has a unique program thanks to Dr. Feeney and many other leaders who donate their time, talents, and treasures for the youth of our communities and of our world. We will always think of our friends "from across the pond" with love and friendship.



Wise Trip, World Jamboree, Chelmsford, England; Front Row: Chris Green, Evan Altamarano, Charles Stankye, Tyler Stankye, Paul Smedley, Bill McDonnell; Back Row: Charles Stankye 3rd, Mike Tracz, John Murray, Sue Stankye, John Murray Sr.

The Charles Stankye 3rd Family

Mrs. Susan Stankye remembers the Exchange Scouts she hosted over the years. 2005 her family hosted Irish Scouts Dan Waller and Stephan Wheatley and Adrian Coffey for a weekend. During that time the London Underground was bombed by terrorists and Mrs. Stankye helped Stephan contact his parents to verify that his family was safe. They loved the swimming pool. They went to the famous Pepe's Pizza in New Haven and were shocked to see clams on pizza. The comment was the pizza "looked like snots in a crash helmet". They had never eaten Italian Ice and loved it so much they planned to buy a distributorship and make millions in England. Sue's husband, Charles Stankye the 3rd was Captain of the Paugasset Fire Co. in Derby and arranged a demonstration of the ladder truck. Adrian climbed up the total length of 100 feet and all three Scouts had a chance to operate the controls. In 2007 her family hosted Irish Scouts Chris Green and Paul Smedley. They spent the 4th of July with the Bracchi Family on Cape Cod and then went on to visit the Stankye family. They fit in immediately with Sue and her family. They enjoyed Pepe's Pizza, the pool, Italian Ice, video games and were absolutely thrilled to shop at Wal-Mart. The Stankye Family was part of a Troop 3 sponsored trip to Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and England (W.I.S.E. trip) with a special visit to the World Jamboree held in Chelmsford England. Chris and Paul who attended the event planned to meet them there. They spent most of a day looking for them and missing out on the activities during that time. They were thrilled to finally find them and it was like a family reunion. Chris and his family visited the U.S. in 2008, stayed with the Stankye family and they toured Mystic Seaport together. Chris enjoyed his stay at Camp Strang so much that he came back during camp season the following year and served on staff. This has continued for four years. When at camp and in the area he uses the Stankye residence as his home base. Mrs. Stankye feels and treats the Exchange Scouts as family. She maintains contact with all of them via Facebook.

Our Most Ambitious Scout Exchange Event

The 107th Derby Scouts and Trent Explorers, Derby, U.K. decided to challenge themselves by visiting other Scout troops from “Derbys” throughout the world. They searched the internet and found Troop 3 Derby, Ct. Through the Troop 3 website Scoutmaster Randy Ritter was contacted. Randy discussed this with the troop committee and the decision was to accept the challenge. In addition to a normal full schedule that the troop had we were now required to provide housing, transportation, activities and funding to support this activity involving 20 members of the 107th. This is a level of logistical effort Troop 3 has never faced. The troop is truly blessed to have the support from troop parents and alumni and dedicated, talented leaders with a can-do attitude. Mayor Stafieri and the City of Derby were also supportive and welcomed the group with open arms. Below is an article written by Jo Cooke which describes Troop 107’s experiences on the trip which was featured in local Derby, U.K. newspapers.

From Derby to Derby-Scouts Awesome American Adventure

“Just awesome” was the verdict of 15 young people from 107th Derby (Aston, Weston, and Shardlow) Scouts and Trent Explorers of their recent American adventure!

Six Scouts and nine Explorers, aged 11-17, set off from Derby, UK



Exchange Scout Troop 107, Derby, England ,
visiting Troop 3 Derby, CT.

to Derby, Connecticut, USA after their leaders formed an alliance with a US troop, BSA Troop 3 Derby. It is hoped that this summer's visit will be the first of a rolling exchange programme between the two Derbys with the US group already planning a return visit to coincide with Peak 2015.

Before meeting up with their host families in "the other Derby", the group flew to New York for a couple of days sightseeing. Highlights included the "Top of the Rock" (Rockefeller Centre) and a wet and wild ride to the Statue of Liberty aboard "The Beast" speedboat. Not forgetting massive breakfasts of blueberry pancakes, bacon and syrup in a downtown diner!

The US Scouts received their guests with flags and a guard of honour at the railroad station before the two troops marched together through the Derby streets for a welcome meal prepared by parents. Their hospitality knew no bounds - the UK visitors enjoyed home cooking, trips to the beach, and the "mall" and a fantastic 4th of July pool party and barbecue. The US city of Derby cleared a car park for the Scouts to watch the Independence Day firework display and paid for a fantastic day at a local theme park. The UK leaders were able to present the mayor of Derby Connecticut with gifts from their local councils, mayor and the Lord Lieut. of Derbyshire.

Week two was spent at the US Scouts spectacular lakeside campsite - the Edmund D Strang Scout Reservation - in Goshen, Connecticut. From archery to ecology, crafts, snorkeling, shooting, fishing, field sports, watersports, and much more, Scouts from both troops were able to experience a host of activities and gain US merit badges .

Those looking to join the Polar Bear Club got up at 6:30 AM each day to swim in the lake whilst those choosing "Wilderness Survival" risked bears (and mosquitos!) to sleep out in the woods. Everyone also massively increased their repertoire of Scout songs thanks to daily singing in the dining hall and around the campfire!

To subsidize their fares and equipment, the Scouts, Explorers and their parents raised over 7000 English Pounds from a host of events including a coast to coast bike ride, plant delivery service, supermarket bag packaging, car parking at the County Show, stalls at

local events, sponsored activities at car boot sale, a car treasure hunt and a pamper evening. Scout leader Stuart Cooke explains “the American adventure has been great at bringing Scouts and community together. We have made friends for life among the US Scouts and their parents and enthusiasm for the trip has brought unprecedented levels of parental involvement and fundraising - which we hope will continue for the future good of the group”.

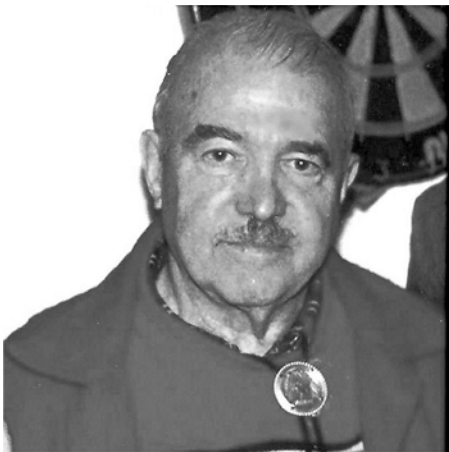
The Many Faces of Ed Strang



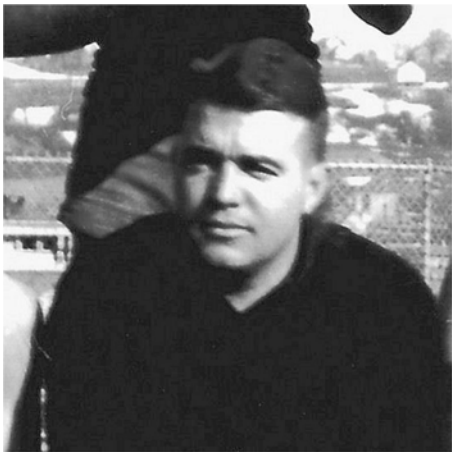
Ed at Two Years Old



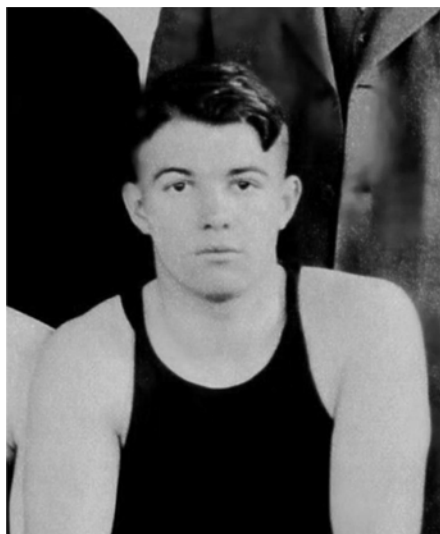
1929 Ed at Camp Irving



Hi



What Have We Here



1928 Derby High
Captain Basketball Team



So
Serious



Well, You Could
Say That



1939 was a
Good Year



Where Is My Baton?



Yes, Absolutely Dr. Strang



Where the
?!#2 is
that bus?



Ed on Derby High Football
Team Captain

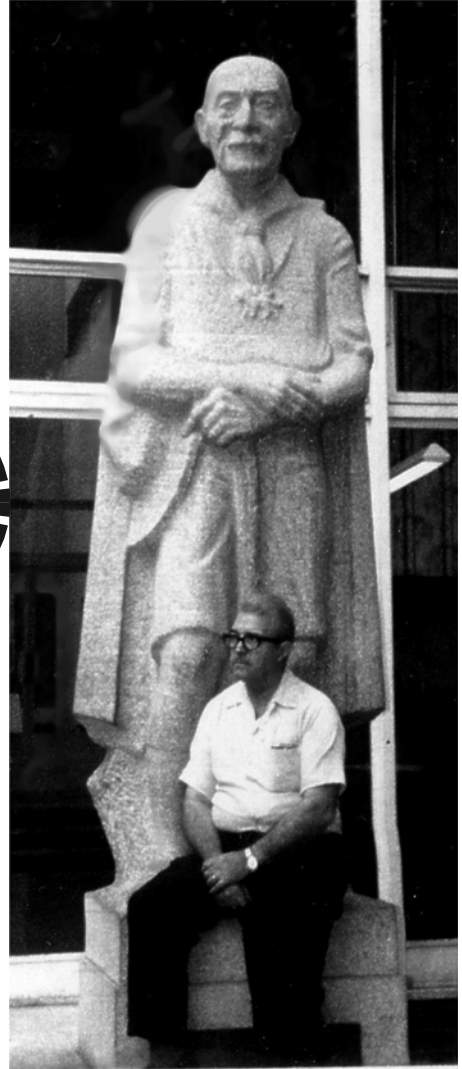
What A
Sense of
Humor



Great Gang
Show Joke



What Are You Doing?



Sir Baden-Powell
Looks over Ed

Ed and Caroline Strang



1945



Itchy Ed



Merry Christmas



1947



The Colonial Couple



Ed Gets Pinned



Look at the Camera, Ed.



Ahh, Now to relax.



Caroline admires her "sharp" looking husband.



God bless you both, Rest in Peace

Armond Tonucci

(Telephone interview with grandson Robert Tonucci)



Ed's Photographic Humor

GeT The HeLL -- WeLL!



Armond Tonucci met Ed when he was a janitor at the United Illuminating office (formerly Derby Gas and Electric Co.) in Derby. They became friends. When Armond was convalescing from an illness Ed sent him get well cards. Ed also sent him Christmas cards. Armond was so impressed he saved them. He talked to his grandson Bob Tonucci about Ed and the



Tricky Ed



"Caroline and Ed Strang"

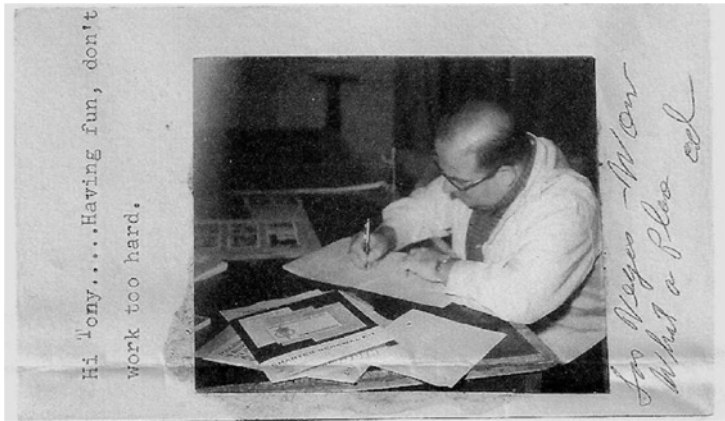
Season's Greetings



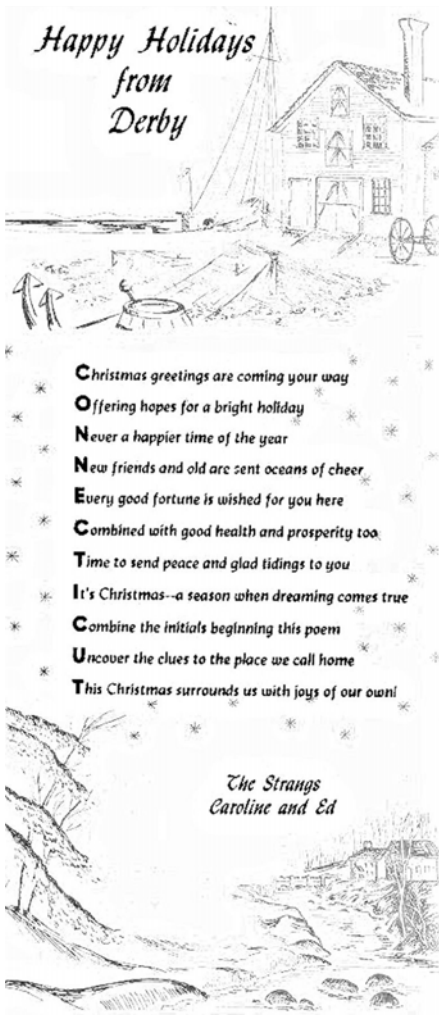
The Strangs



Christmas Greetings
on cover of Life Magazine

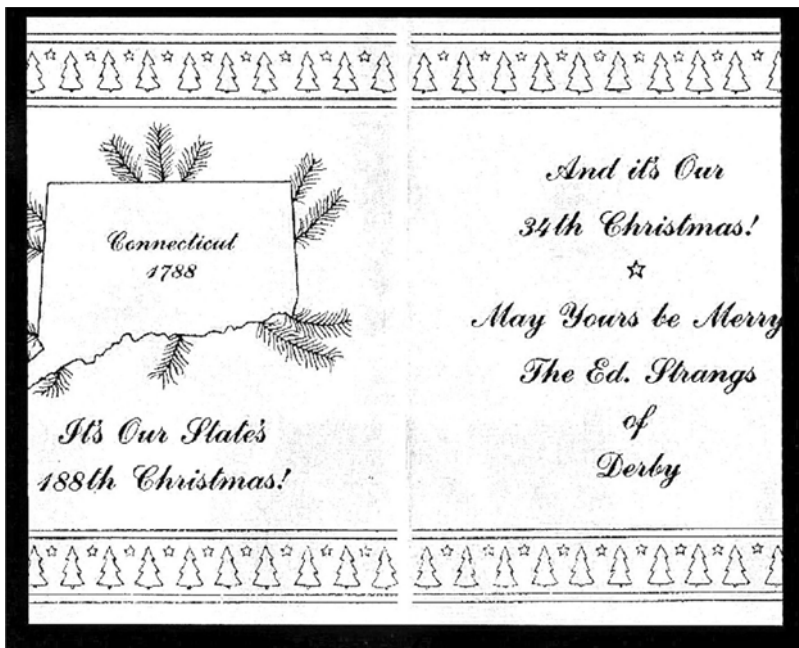


Ed's Unique Post Cards



cards. Armond died and when Bob read an article in the newspaper about the Troop 3 book project he sent them to me.

Editor's note. Ed's postal activities would sometimes get attention or cause a bit of embarrassment. Here are some examples. Ed sent a card to Ed Cotter who was well known in the community using just a picture and zip code. Mr. Cotter got the letter. If Ed observed a situation where he could take a picture of a person with an embarrassing background he would not hesitate to add it to his collection. He loved to use trick photography by taking multiple pictures in the same frame. This was done in the days of photo film development. Ed did exercise his imagination.



*Two Heads are better than one
In wishing you the Merriest Christmas ever
Caroline and Ed Strang*



Derby Hall of Fame Award Written By Jack Walsh.

DERBY HALL OF FAME EDMUND STRANG

201

Edmund D. Strang



**“Mr. Scout”
Longest Serving Cubmaster Pack 3 Derby**

For many people in the Valley - especially Derby - Ed Strang was Mr. Scout in the Valley symbolizing a lifetime of dedication to Valley youth and the Boy Scouts.

Pioneer Scouter and the oldest Cubmaster in the United States, Edmund D. Strang died May 31, 1995, at the Hospice in Branford after a brief illness. He was the husband of Caroline Booth Strang.

BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Strang, son of the late Edmund J. and Anna Strang, Ed was born in Derby, March 8, 1910 and was a lifelong resident. A gradu-

ate of Derby High School, he was captain of the football and basketball teams.

Ed joined Boy Scout Troop 3 in 1922 and became Troop 3's second Eagle Scout in 1927. In 1927 he was asked by Scoutmaster Rev. Alfred Budd to organize a program for the younger brothers of the scouts. Cub Pack 3 was formed three years before Cub Scouts became an official program in the United States. Ed served as Assistant Cubmaster and Cubmaster for 68 years and was the longest tenured Cubmaster and oldest Cubmaster in the US.

Having lost his father to the 1919 influenza outbreak, Ed was able to attend Scout Camp in 1922 at Camp Irving only due to a campership he received from a local businessman. Ed so thoroughly enjoyed summer camp that he stayed the whole summer, returning the following years as a member of the camp staff and eventually serving as the Camp Director of Camp Irving for many years.

While serving as Cubmaster, Ed also became Scoutmaster of Troop 3 and held that position from 1935 to 1960. Ed served as the troop coordinator and held the weekly Patrol Leaders meetings at his home for more than 50 years. During his tenure as Scoutmaster Ed led Troop 3 Scouts at the 1937, 1950, 1953 and 1957 National Scout Jamborees. In 1939 Ed helped organize Explorer Post 33 for the older scouts. He led groups of 40 Explorer Scouts on 3 week trips to Europe on four occasions in addition to numerous trips to Canada and New York City. Under his encouragement and example 194 Troop 3 and Post 33 Scouts achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

During World War II Ed was drafted into the US Army at age 33 and he served two years in Hungary as a Cryptographer in the allied Control Commission. During that time he helped form George Washington Boy Scout Troop 1 in Budapest. During this time he also delivered a letter from Pope Pius XII to Cardinal Mindszenty in which the Roman Catholic Church denounced communism.

Upon returning to Derby after the War Ed served on the Governor's Committee for handicapped youth and in 1949 he was instrumental in bringing Little League to the Valley, serving on the Derby

Little League's Board of Directors since its inception. He coached the Laurels for 12 years and 3 league championships.

A lifelong member of the Derby United Methodist Church, Ed served as Sunday School Superintendent in the 1930's and was a 30 year trustee. He was a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, He was Past President and secretary of the Derby Shelton Rotary Club and was a Paul Harris Fellow. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Derby Veteran's Community Center, Oak Cliff Cemetery and he was a past vice-president and 50 year member of the Housatonic Council BSA Executive Board. He was a 60 year member of the Housatonic Council Camping Committee, serving as its chairman since 1955. He was a co-founder of the Housatonic Scout Reservation which opened in 1961. The 186 acre camp located in Goshen was renamed the Edmund D. Strang Scout Reservation in 1990.

Ed organized an exchange scout program with the Woodlands Verdun, Canada Scout Troop for over 40 years and for the past 20 years he coordinated exchanges with Scouts from Derby and Peterborough, England and Limerick, Ireland. Having retired in 1975 after 42 years as Derby Office Manager of United Illuminating, he enjoyed travelling with his wife to England to visit his many Scouting friends.

For 70 years he served as Interlocutor of the Pack 3, Troop 3 and Explorer Post 33 annual Scout Minstrel Show. In addition to Interlocutor, he was the manager, director and the driving force behind the show for 50 years.

Ed has been honored by the National Boy Scouts of America many times having received the Silver Beaver Award, the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the Spurgeon Award for Exploring, the James E. West Fellowship and the Silver Antelope Award, which was presented to him by Governor John Rowland on behalf of the BSA's Northeast Region. Ed was awarded Regent for Life by the National Eagle Scout Association .

He was also honored by the community for his service to youth having received the first Valley Lawyers Association's Liberty Award, the first Chamber of Commerce Gold Seal Award, the Val-

ley United Way's Flynn Humanitarian Award, Derby-Shelton Boys & Girls Club Man of the Year, Derby Senior Center's Man of the Year and the Nutmeg Athletic Club Alumni award.

The Methodist Church awarded Ed the Cross and Flame Award and he was the first non-Catholic in Connecticut awarded the Bronze Pelican Award by the Archdiocese of Hartford. Strang Road was named in his honor and his portrait was hung in the Derby Aldermanic Chambers following the Ed Strang Day celebration. The city sponsored event featured movie actor Brian Dennehy, who returned to Derby to honor his former Cubmaster.

Upon the awarding of the Silver Beaver Award to Ed in 1939, the late Lucien Desaulniers, Housatonic Council President and former editor of the Evening Sentinel, said of Ed, "Ed is the type of leader who just doesn't happen very often, and there can be no doubt but that Ed Strang is a man devoted to a cause, fortunate for us that cause is the Boy Scouts of America."

Thanks to Jack Walsh for allowing us to copy his Derby Hall of Fame presentation.

Ed Strang Day

In 1994, Troop 3 and the City of Derby honored Ed with a day of his own to recognize his contribution to generations of boys in



What a Team

Scouting, Little League (where he was a co-founder and coach) and the Rotary Club. There were banners on the streets, police escorts, local and state leaders and hundreds of friends, many of whom Ed had not seen since they were Scouts. In the afternoon there was a social hour at Grassy Hill Lodge and in the evening a banquet at Rapp's Paradise Inn where Ed was recognized for his dedication and service to the youth of the com-



Meeting Ed at Grassy Hill Lodge

munity.

Paul Denise, Derby Tax Collector contacted perhaps the most famous Cub Scout that PACK 3 ever had, Brian Dennehy. Brian had become a successful stage, screen and television actor and he agreed to come back to Derby and spend a day honoring Ed Strang. Over 40 years ago Ed chose Brian to sing a solo in the annual Minstrel Show. The song was "Be a good Scout." Ed said that he could sing "pretty good." Brian feels that Ed helped mold his char-



Ed escorted to Ceremony on Derby Green

Ed Strang Day for Kids on the Derby Green

Elizabeth Street, Derby



**Saturday,
September 28, 2013
Noon to 3PM**

- **FREE Membership**
Registration to join:
Cub Scout Pack 3
Boy Scout Troop 3
& Venture Crew 33



FREE Participation to

- Traverse the **Rope Bridge**
- Tour a **Fire Truck**
- Make & sample **ice cream**
- Enjoy activities with the **Derby Historical Society**
- Run the **obstacle course**
- Hear musical performances
- Race Pinewood Derby Cars
- Do the **Scavenger Hunt**
- Attend **Giant Tag Sale** at Derby 2nd Cong. Church

***Experience bow
& arrow
instruction at the
archery range***



Cub Scout Pack 3 Cubmaster Dan Cyril, 203-735-5305
Meets Mondays 7PM Derby Methodist Church, 17 5th St
Sponsored by Derby Methodist Church
Ages: First through 5th grade, or 7 to 10 years old

Boy Scout Troop 3 Scoutmaster Randy Ritter, 203-733-5347
Meets Wednesdays, 7PM, Derby 2nd Congregational Church
Sponsored by Derby 2nd Congregational Church, 136 Elizabeth St
Ages: 11-18

Venture Crew 33 Advisors Tom Murray & Mike Flora
Meets Thursdays, 7PM Derby 2nd Congregational Church
Sponsored by Derby-Shelton Rotary Club
Ages: Young adults 14-20



For more information on joining Scouting visit www.troop3derby.org or www.housatonicbsa.org



Pieter Jimmo gets
Brian's Autograph

acter and its people like Ed who make a difference in the world. Buddy Amendola, another Dennehy vintage Cub Scout also attended. Buddy achieved a very successful career playing and then coaching college football and ended his career coaching Yale under Carmen Cozza. Together, this pair of former Cub



Ed and Brian Dennehy



Ed's Challenge



Walk the Rope Bridge



Brian, Ed, and John Rak

Scouts brought much community pride to bear on the exploits of Ed Strang.

Ed Strang Day continues every September as a remembrance of



Making Ice Cream, Basken- Robbins watch out



Frank Skowronski, Buddy
Amerndola and Brian
Dennehy

Ed and a demonstration of Scouting and Cubbing skills on the Derby Green. Would you like to race a Pinewood Derby car, walk a rope bridge, make ice cream the "Old Fashion Way" or register to a pack or troop? See you next September.

Ed Strang memorial service, From the Reverend John Carr:

I am honored to say a few words about my Scoutmaster, Ed Strang. Besides my own parents, Ed was the first mentor I ever had. His continual encouragement allowed me to improve my life in Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers, and finally to earn my Eagle Scout award. His gifts to me, our Scout family, and the town of Derby go beyond the imagination of what one person could give. We are proud recipients of that gift. Thank you Ed, as we honor your memory.

2011 Memorial Service - Ed Strang - J. Anglace Remarks

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Dear Lord, please hear our prayers as we gather to remember and pay respect to our departed Scout Leader, Edmund Strang. We gather in the presence of Scouts, many of whom were not born when Ed passed from our midst sixteen years ago. We pray that our words will describe for them how an ordinary man was able to positively influence the lives of so many young men who had the good fortune to be associated with him. We pray that you make us worthy to impart to present day Scouts the principles and values that Ed Strang taught us. AMEN

Robert Feeney, a man now in his late eighties and Troop 3 benefactor, who was a Boy Scout under the care and guidance of Scoutmaster Edmund D. Strang during his formative years was asked his thoughts as we met to pay Ed the tribute he so richly deserves. Dr. Feeney said, "IF I WERE PRESENT AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE AT HIS GRAVE, I WOULD ONLY SAY TWO WORDS - HE CARED."

Ed, you did care! You cared for all of us as if we were your sons. You adopted Scouts and initiated Scouting programs all over the world, from Hungary where you started a Troop during WWII to England and Ireland where you started Scout Exchange Programs.

You cared for each Scout like a son motivating, encouraging, providing examples, and developing his skills to a maximum. These skills continue to be used throughout their life. Your extraordinary success in guiding young boys into successful men was because you cared about each and every one of us. Long before it became law you taught us that all men are created equal and that color of skin, a person's religion, or handicap should not be the basis upon which they are accepted. You taught us respect for the rights and abilities of others and we grew up as men with honor ready and willing to take our place as needed.

Lord, we reiterate here tonight the principles and values followed by Edmund Strang and those of the Scouting movement that he spent a lifetime promulgating, in the hope that it will guide these young Scouts who have come here tonight carrying flags and flowers to honor a man they never knew. It is fitting that those who follow in his footsteps maintain the honor and dignity he brought to the Scouting experience.

May God bless Ed and Caroline Strang and grant them eternal happiness!

All-American Valley

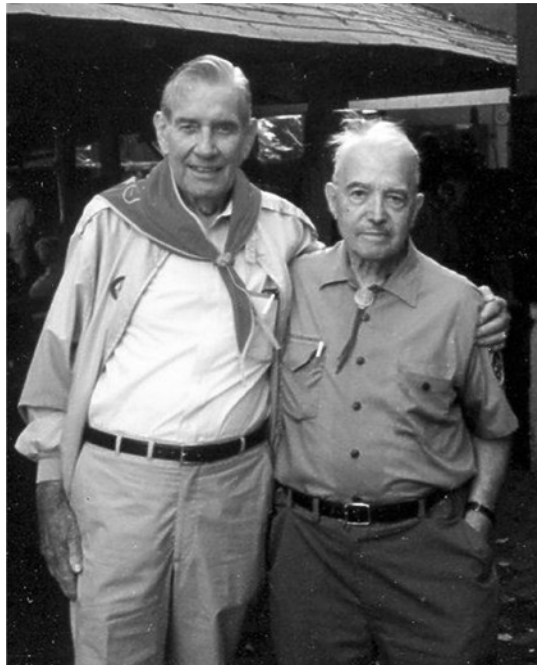
In 1642 a Dutch sailing ship traveled thru what is now Long Island Sound and up the Housatonic River to the confluence of the Naugatuck River with the Housatonic. It landed on the east side of the

river and established a trading post. The area is called Derby. The west side of the river is now the city of Shelton. In time Derby broke up into the additional towns of Ansonia, Oxford, and Seymour. This group of towns including Beacon Falls is known as the lower Naugatuck Valley. The valley is governed by the Valley Council of Governments and was selected as an All-American Valley in 2000.

The area developed together, became a manufacturing center and fortunes were made. People achieved the American Dream. A few decided to “pay back” to the valley communities for their financial success by establishing foundations to support activities that grow the community and make the valley a better place to live. Among these are the New Haven Foundation and the Katherine Matthies Foundation. Today we have additional organizations which share that philosophy including the Valley Community Foundation and the Bassett family.

The lower Naugatuck Valley is a community that works together to solve common problems. There is a valley spirit that is supportive of activities throughout the area. Ed knew how to tap into this spirit.

The Bassett Family has been especially supportive of valley Scouting programs and Camp Strang. Bill Bassett spoke at the dedication of the new Bassett Shower House at the camp. I asked him to send me a copy for inclu-



Harry Bassett and Ed Strang

sion in this book. The following is his reply:

Thank you for your kind letter concerning our family. You are right that my father and Harry were the epitome of the American Dream. They both worked very hard to build a business that provided jobs for the people in the Valley.

Here are my short remarks from the shower house dedication.

Thank you Mayor Lauretti. Thank you also to the selection committee, I am very honored to be here today to receive the Second One Hundred award. I accept this award on behalf of the entire Bassett family and especially my father, William E. Bassett and my uncle, Harry Bassett. I would like to introduce my wife Judy. We are sorry that the rest of our family couldn't be here today but they all had family commitments.

Scouting had a wonderful impact on both Bill and Harry. Their father tragically died in the 1919 influenza epidemic and left six children under the age of ten. Their mother, my grandmother was able to make do. It was difficult but they all pulled together and went on with their lives.

Harry was the first in the family to join Scouting. He was actually a Scout along with Ed Strang. Harry spoke many times that Scouting provided the best times of his childhood. Harry also had tremendous respect for Ed Strang and for Ed's gift to Scouting.

Scouting was very important to Harry and later to Bill and they never forgot the values that Scouting taught them. They continued to support Scouting as adults. A testament to their support was the first Bassett Shower House and the Bassett Lodge. I am very pleased that today we dedicate a new Bassett Shower House that continues the legacy of the Bassett family's support of Scouting. Thank you again on behalf of our entire family, both past and present.

The Housatonic Council and Camp (parts taken from the Housatonic Council 50 year Celebration Pamphlet)

A meeting to organize a council was held Nov. 17, 1917. Two Boy Scout Troops were already active, one being Troop 2 in Shelton sponsored by the Church of the Good Shepherd founded in 1913 and Troop 3 in Derby sponsored by the Methodist Church in 1914. The Housatonic Council was organized in 1920 and held its first annual meeting January 25, 1923.

The exact date of when Camp Irving was established is unknown but available records indicate there was some sort of camping activity in the 1920's in conjunction with the Recreation Association of Derby. The place was named in honor of Irving Peck, prominent in Shelton business through his connection with the Star Pin Company. It was located on land which is now the northern section of Indian Well State Park in Shelton. The camp consisted of ten acres of land on the shore of the Housatonic River which had a log cabin and four tent sites. The tent sites were named after four local Indian tribes in Connecticut; the Wepawaugs, Nukawaus, Pootatucks and Tunxis. Apparently the State of Connecticut acquired the land the camp was on in the early 1930's and the Council signed an annual lease with the State whereby they had the use of Camp Irving for \$60. Access was by dirt road next to railroad tracks in Shelton or by boat from a dock near the Recreational Association facilities on the Derby side of the river. Over the years thousands of boys enjoyed the experience of camping, learning skills, practicing leadership roles and having fun at the camp. The lease was not renewed in 1946, the camp buildings were razed and the state park expanded.

This left the council without a summer camp. Arrangements were made with Tunxis Council in Torrington to share their camp known as Camp Workcoeman. The arrangement ended in 1955 because of financial difficulties and arrangements were made with the Pomperaug Council of Bridgeport. The councils in the area were expanding their camps due to requirements in their own council and the Housatonic Council not only had to pay a standard boy-week cost but also a premium which was used to help pay for the camp expansion. The council established a site committee to find

a home for our council camp. Ed Strang was appointed chairman by Oscar Johnson, Council President. An agreement to purchase the Goshen site was signed in 1957. Housatonic Scout Reservation (later renamed Edmund D. Strang Scout Reservation) opened in 1960.

The story about establishing the council camp is detailed in “The Trials and Tribulations of Starting a Scout Camp” by Oscar Johnson and is available on the web at www.housatonicbsa.org . Select “Council History” from a list of options. The camp is fully accredited. During the years the names of awards and recognitions earned have changed but Camp Strang has managed to continue to be recognized as very well run with an excellent program.

The first Camping season was very difficult because of financial and time constraints but the camp did pass B.S.A. National and Ct. State inspections.

Bill Zinky is District Director and summer camp director. He has experience in both large and small councils. Here are a few of his comments about Camp Strang. He was pleasantly surprised when tasks defined at the first summer camp prep meeting were completed by the next meeting. That is not his normal experience. This was done by volunteers with less bureaucracy than a larger council. National camp policy requires three councilors with certification; Camp Strang has eight such councilors. Great backup. Camp staff includes a registered nurse 24 hours a day during summer camp. That is not a national or state requirement.

Ed’s experience at Camp Irving was invaluable when establishing Camp Strang. His trademark to do something extra when involved in a project seems to have been the rule followed while he was Chairman of the Council Camping Committee. He held that position until 1995.

Camp Irving Memoirs by Edmund D. Strang. – 1929

My first year at Camp Irving. As far back as I can remember I had always wanted to go camping. Somehow or other I never got the chance. Chief Ward was Scout Executive during the year of 1926.

One day he asked me if I would like to help him and some other Scouts to set up camp for the coming season. I jumped at the chance. We spent several weekends in May getting things ready and as soon as school was out I packed up my duds and headed for camp where I stayed for a week or more getting things in an A-1 condition. One day Chief asked me why I hadn't attended camp and I told him I couldn't afford to. Several days later he came to me and said as a reward for working so diligently I could spend two weeks at camp.

A friend," Fat Barron" was planning to go so we decided to go together. It was on June 28, a Wednesday, I remember it well. It is one of those days that time will never eclipse, when Fat Barron and I trudged up Housatonic Avenue to the boathouse laden down with everything a tenderfoot would take to camp. Candy was forbidden so of course we each had several bars to smuggle in.

At the boathouse we met several other fellows who were headed to camp. Some were old timers and they started to tell us some of the customs and traditions at Irving. We had rounded a bend in the river when one of the fellows shouted "there she is" and sure enough ahead of me about a half-mile in the distance lay Camp Irving, my home for the next two weeks. At last I was to find out what camp life really was. The first Counselor I met was Bob Edwards. Bob was new at Irving that year too. Bob Edwards, I still think, is the best Counselor Irving has ever had and will have for a long time to come. I don't think I'll ever forget Bob though without a doubt he'll never remember me except as the sinker who tried to swim and failed. I often wished that Bob could see me swim now but I am digressing.

The next man I met is still dear to my heart. He made his approach through my stomach I think – "Cookie" Eno. Cookie as a cook was great but Cookie Eno the man was greater. He would take us out on the bank just at twilight and we'd talk (a group of us) about anything and everything.

Dr. Alen Godfrey was another Counselor. Doc was great and had a mind of a genius and the heart of a real Scout. Otter and Don were also great favorites but I did not come in contact with those as much as I did Bob, Doc, Cookie and Scuff Comcowich.

Some of the fellows in my tent were Paul Ignace, Bart Hennessy, Howy May. I couldn't remember the patrol leader but I do know that he appointed me as his assistant.

I had never indulged in swimming so consequently I couldn't swim. This was my biggest difficulty and I certainly did have to work at it a long, long time. In my second week I was appointed Patrol Leader of the Beaver tent. In my tent at this time was Harry Lugg, Fred Downs, Eugene Gampel, Bernard Metalits, Bill Whitney and a small fellow named Hooker.

Hooker was sissified and the rest of the tent enjoyed teasing him. One day they melted some marshmallows and stuck them to the inside of Hookers nightshirt. I didn't find out about this until it was all over. That night I noticed Hooker squirmed and turned but he didn't say a word. When I found out what had happened and how he had taken his medicine I sort of liked him. They never teased him again.

The third week camp was divided into three tribes; the Wepawaugs, the Algonquins and the Squassapaugs, of which I had been elected Senior Leader. Fat Barron had been elected Senior Patrol Leader of the Wepawaugs and Frank Miller led the Algonquins. The fourth week the Algonquins took the lead but we won the fifth and sixth weeks by a scant margin.

The campfires I'll never forget. They were held out in the open in the southern corner of the campus. The ground was generally damp so we brought a blanket along. The mosquitoes bit hard and often but the campfires were so interesting that no one minded these trivial things. Bob would get up and tell us an inspirational story and I can remember every one.

One night, it was about 11 o'clock, I heard a scream above me. Someone was yelling "I'm drowning", I'm under the raft, Who should it be but HarryLugg – he had been having a nightmare, in some manner he had stuck his head in a flap of the tent and somehow or other he received the impression he was under the raft. Everybody got a big laugh out of it – everybody except Harry.

The next week Chief announced that all patrols that wished could go on an overnight hike. We decided to go up to Camp Pomperaug.

We were just above the dam and about exactly halfway to our destination when it really began to pour. We decided not to go any further so we stopped in and visited Camp Rippowam the Stamford Scout Camp.

We had a great time. The rain stopped in about an hour and they decided to have a campfire. They sang some of their songs and we sang some of our songs... We slept in one of their tents for the night. We left early in the morning and reached camp before inspection.

The most impressive ceremony of the whole season at Camp Irving was the memorial service for Billy Bennett. I had never known Billy very well. He was a great piano player and mighty popular at camp. We all marched down Company Street for retreat as usual after which Harry May stepped forward and blew taps. When he finished from the hills across the river came the silver notes of the echo blown by Charlie Terrell.

Tears glistened in all the fellow's eyes as Chief gave a brief eulogy. The Wepawaug Tribe built a Totem Pole and memoriam and that night at campfire we dedicated it. Each tribe had a totem pole. Ours was made by Tom Millea and is still standing.

Memories of Camp Irving



1927 Swimming at Camp Irving



1929 Camp Irving Canoe Trip



1920's Camp Irving
Crow's Nest



1923 Camp Irving



1920's Camp Irving Boat on Housatonic River



1920's Tepee Camping at Camp Irving



1940 Camp Patch



1919 Camp Irving Scouts,
Honor Tent



1920's Day Hike Overlooking
Housatonic River

Memories of Camp Strang



Henry Decho Jr and Ed



Camp Strang Overview



Waterfront



Sailing, Sailing



Big Fish



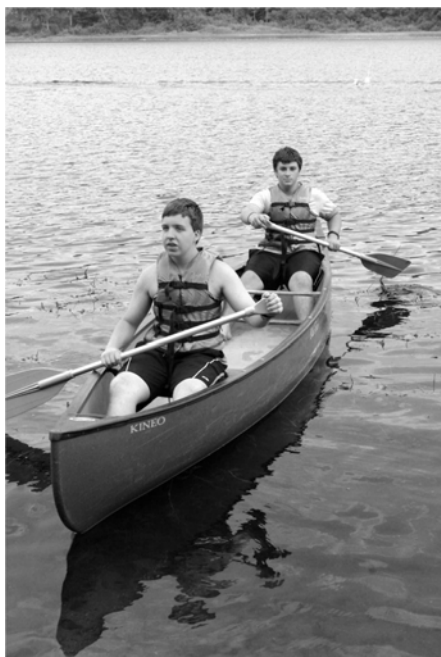
High Jump



Dining Hall



Waterfront



Canoeing



Flag Ceremony



Artist at work



1992 Camp Nurse,
Mike Martin, and Ed Strang



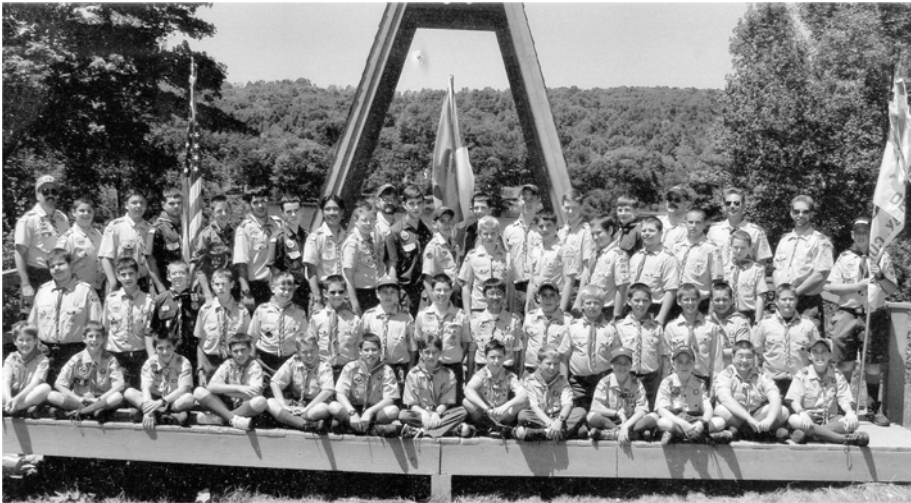
Shotgun



Rev. Tiano and John Spingetti taking a break.



Bassett Shower House



Troop 3, First Week



Watch me hit a Bullseye



Slip and Slide!



Archery



Housatonic Council Banquet honoring Ed Strang. Picture taken after announcement that the Council camp was renamed The Edmund D. Strang Scout Reservation

**Mayor Anita Dugatto, One Elizabeth Street,
City of Derby, Connecticut**

On behalf of myself and the citizens of the City of Derby, I extend my congratulations to Boy Scout Troop 3 on the celebration of its 100th anniversary. I am proud to say that the history of scouting in the Greater Naugatuck Valley began with Troop 3 in Derby.

The Troop 3 scouting program is well-known and rich in tradition, with over 300 boys attaining the esteemed rank of Eagle Scout. Through participation in a variety of national and international programs, our scouts have had the opportunity for personal enrichment. Their experiences have come back to our community through projects which have contributed to improving Derby as well as the valley.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the inspiration of Ed Strang and countless other community members. Through their dedication and hard work, Troop 3 has grown into an extraordinary scouting program, providing boys in the greater valley region with guidance and knowledge necessary to become successful and responsible members of society. Furthermore, we must not overlook the on-going support of their sponsor and founder, The Second Congregational Church of Derby.

This year's scouting project, the planting of 100 trees throughout the valley, is one that will benefit the region for the next one hundred years and beyond.

I am honored to celebrate Troop 3's 100th anniversary. You make Derby proud!

David S. Cassetti, Mayor

This message is being sent in loving memory of former Scoutmaster Ed Strang. His accomplishments live on in the hundreds of scouts and Eagle Scouts who have been and are members of Troop 3 B.S.A.

On behalf of the City of Ansonia, I wish to congratulate Troop 3 B.S.A. for all you have done to preserve the core values of scout-

ing and the teachings of Scoutmaster Strang and for your dedicated work towards the advancement of Scouts throughout the Valley. Troop 3's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. You have turned lives around and you have helped build better citizens in the Valley for 100 years. Thank you for your service.

Christopher J. Bielik, First Selectman

On behalf of the Town of Beacon Falls, I would like to express my congratulations to Troop 3 on the occasion of your 100th anniversary. The communities that make up the 'All American Valley' have a history of cooperation for the betterment of all, and Troop 3 has been a long time contributor to this spirit. Many young men from our town have been active members of the troop, and your welcoming of all interested prospective scouts from beyond the borders of Derby has enriched not just the individuals, but the group as a whole. May you continue to remain such a vibrant part of our region, and my best wishes to all past, present, and future scouts as you forge the path to your next centennial!

Oxford First Selectman George R. Temple

The Boy Scouts of America is all about service to the community. We thank Troop 3 for your hundred years of service and congratulate you for your accomplishments. I have had the honor of knowing Ed Strang and I know how proud he was to serve with and for such a dedicated group of scouts. We cannot imagine the number of the lives he enhanced by the example he set. May the next hundred years be as eventful to your Troop as the past 100 years.

Congratulations from Mark Lauretti Mayor of Shelton

The Boy Scouts of America help young people to build character and become responsible citizens. This is evident of Housatonic Council Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby as they have sponsored many events and activities throughout the years which have supported many people within the Valley communities. The troop continues to enrich the lives of many individuals on a daily basis. I commend

the troop for their leadership skills and community service. On behalf of the City of Shelton, I would like to congratulate the Housatonic Council Boy Scout Troop 3 Derby as they begin to celebrate their 100th year of service and commitment to the Naugatuck Valley Communities.

W. Kurt Miller, First Selectman, Town of Seymour

As First Selectman of the Town of Seymour, it is my honor to offer my congratulations to Boy Scouts of America Troop 3 on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

The Boy Scouts of America is a wonderful organization that has helped form millions of American boys into upstanding citizens that contribute to their communities. Seymour has long has a strong Scouting tradition and every year several young men complete arduous projects to attain the level of Eagle Scout and by doing so add invaluable contributions to our Town.

Troop 3 in particular has a very strong presence throughout the Valley and especially in Seymour. Although they are based in Derby, many of Seymour's Scouts have risen through the ranks of Troop 3 and attend events at Camp Strang long after they earn Eagle. Camps Strang is loved by all the Scouts that have had the good fortune to visit it. This is a fitting tribute to the prolific Scoutmaster, Ed Strang, after whom it is named. Serving for more than 25 years and working with Scouts for most of his life, Ed Strang was a model Scout and citizen to whose legacy the Town of Seymour owes a great debt of gratitude.

It is impossible to quantify the benefits bestowed upon the Town of Seymour by Troop 3 and Ed Strang but the value they contribute to the Town is easy to recognize. Congratulations on 100 years of service and here's to 100 more!