

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Camp Jim B and the Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts have been present in Indian Hill for eighty years. This international movement was started in England in 1899 and came to the USA in 1910. In 1944 former Indian Hill Ranger Jim Blankenship asked Fred Meyer, also a Ranger, to be Scoutmaster for the seven boys in the original Troop 501. They met weekly at the Cincinnati Country Day School gymnasium, and Mr. Meyer, who worked the midnight shift at the Ranger station, carpooled the boys to the meetings and drove them home before reporting for duty.

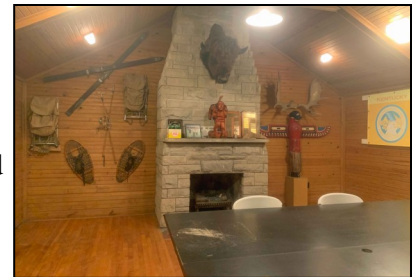
Fred Meyer led the boys in their activities and attainment of individual merit badges, using the Boy Scout Manual. Funds were raised through paper drives and an annual white elephant sale held at Stephan Field. Jim Blankenship helped procure items for the sale and repaired broken lawnmowers and bicycles so they could be resold.



Camp Jim B

The proceeds were used to finance the Scouts' favorite activity: camping. Every other month, packing 3 or 4 tents, they camped at sites such as the Kroger Hills Preserve (behind Willow Hills Drive) and Albers Woods (in back of the Little Red Schoolhouse). Once a year a longer trip took them to Kentucky, Michigan, or Canada. One former Scout recalled riding in the back of Jim Blankenship's open pick-up truck all the way to Niagara Falls, Canada, where the troop pitched their tents on the lawn of a tourist home.

Envisioning a permanent home in the Village for the fledgling troop, Jim Blankenship and Mr. & Mrs. Harold Payne funded the purchase of the 13 acres of land that became Camp Jim B (named in Jim's



Meeting Room

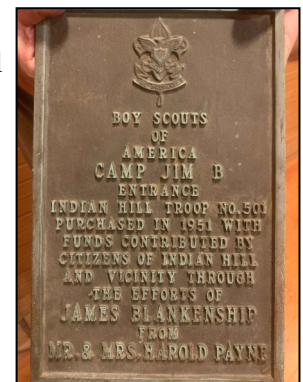
honor) for \$7,000 in 1951. A nonprofit corporation was formed, and by 1953 there was a Scouts Committee of Trustees. The original cabin at Camp Jim B was built by Scouts' fathers. A large meeting room was added in 1966, funded by the sale of bird seed. Notable features include hardwood floors and a massive stone fireplace. The building has storage areas, patrol rooms, and a conference room. Jim B's real estate was transferred to the Green Areas of Indian Hill in 1981. In the late 1950s there were 3 troops and one Explorer post. The three troops merged in 1986 to form Troop 502, and leadership and finances were consolidated. Also in the same year, the facility was renovated and expanded.



Campfire area

Gary Banfield became Scoutmaster in 1987 and served in that role for 37 years before retiring. Additional improvements to the site have been ongoing, and the troop is thriving.

Jim B is a unique camp, situated in an isolated grove of mature Sycamore and Beech trees, located at 7851 Shawnee Run Road. Here Scouts pursue the goals developed years ago: character development, citizenship training, personal fitness, and shared camaraderie. The motto "Be Prepared" still guides Village Boy Scouts. Boys and men have learned lessons of self-reliance, cooperation, and responsibility at this serene place in the woods.



**Jim B plaque honoring
Jim Blankenship &
the Paynes**

For more information regarding Scouting in Indian Hill, see pages 4-12 of the Indian Hill Directory