

# Fayetteville Troop 51 To Give 103rd Eagle Award

Fayetteville Boy Scout Troop 51 is staking a claim to a record of having the largest number of Eagle Scouts of any troop in the nation. The 63-year-old troop will present three more Eagle awards at the annual banquet Monday at Fayetteville United Church to bring the total to 103.

The top scouting honor will go to Paul Carlisle, Robert Sherman and Dave Hummel.

Troop 51 has contacted 82 of the 99 other Eagles and many will attend the event. Merit awards for special achievement and advancement in rank will also be presented at the banquet.

TROOP 51 was the first organized in the county outside of Syracuse and is one of the oldest in continuous operation in the country. It began in 1912 as Fayetteville Troop 1 and became Troop 51 in 1920 when the Onondaga Council was formed.

Although scouting has changed through the years, Troop 51 has remained constant in its participation, interests and community service.

The early troop first faced the difficulty of finding a scoutmaster and because no layman was found, the Rev. H. Clay Poland, pastor of the Fayetteville Baptist Church filled the position. K.L. Rutherford, school principal, was also a leader.

The troop began camping under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Poland and early camp sites were on Lake Moraine near Hamilton, French Pond in the northern Adirondacks, and at one time the boys owned a camp on Seventh Lake in the Fulton Chain. Until recently the troop held a winter camping display during Boy Scout Week in the village.

From the first community



Fayetteville Troop 51 Boy Scouts shown here roughing it in the late 1950's at a winter camping display in the Fayetteville village square during Boy Scout Week. Cooking food and warming cold hands are, left to right kneeling, Kent Martin, Dick DeZeeuw and John Steljes; standing, Bart Gethman and Jeff Steljes.

service rendered by the troop to the most recent, Troop 51 can be labeled as a village troop. A paper clean-up of streets, parks and the school grounds was the first public service. The boys speared every scrap of paper and burned them in back of Miss Emma Beard's barn, which stood on the site of the present Masonic Temple on Genesee St.

The latest troop service has been washing windows in the Municipal Building.

HIKING HAS ALWAYS been emphasized and in recent years a boundary hike, outlining the village has been used to develop an awareness of what the village actually encompasses.

In February 1921 the first father and son banquet was held in the Masonic Lodge. The first Eagle Badge was awarded to Wilbur Porter in November 1923. The same year, Troop 51 was the first

troop to receive the Nelson P. Snow trophy for troop efficiency.

Troop 51 also helped start troops in the area and as far away as Morrisville and Hamilton. The first sponsor of the troop was the Grand Army of the Republic Post and the second was the American Legion. The present sponsor is the Fayetteville Lions Club.

AMONG THE NAMES noted in Troop 51 history is the late Judge Albert Gordon, who devoted much time to the troop and who was its mainstay for many years. Troop 51 sponsors a citizenship award in his memory. Also remembered is the late Howard Wells, who donated land near Green Lakes State Park, named Wells' Wilderness, a popular camping spot for 20 years.

Many traditions have remained in the troop for over 50 years, including the Memorial Day Service in

# Hearing Called On Largest Ag District

Formation of the county's largest agricultural district of more than 65,000 acres in Pompey, Fabius, Tully and LaFayette has been recommended by the County's Agricultural Advisory Committee and the County Planning Board.

The land represents about 10 percent of the county's total land area. If approved, the Pompey-Fabius district, and the six others already in existence, would account for about 15 percent of the county's land.

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 7:30 p.m. February 25 at the Fabius Intermediate School in Fabius.

If approved by the County Legislature following the hearing, the proposal will be sent to state environmental and agricultural departments for final approval.

The land involved includes not only numerous individual owners, but also four major public properties. They are Onondaga County's Pratts Falls Park, Highland Forest, and reforestation area at Fabius, and New York State's reforestation land.

THERE ALSO ARE three areas of major environmental significance within the district boundaries as now drawn: The Old Fly Swamp, Labrador Hollow and Carpenter's Pond in Fabius.

memory of departed members of the troop. The traditional meeting place of the troop has been in Fayetteville schools, currently in Wellwood Junior High School. The troop also met in Miss Beard's barn, which was converted into a gymnasium, and over the engine room in the Town Hall. MUCH OF THE continuity in Troop 51 is provided by numerous father-son combinations. Two generations of the Twitchell family have been in the troop and have won six Eagle awards.

This year's troop numbers 45 boys, and somewhere between 1,500 and 2,000 have been members in its 63 years. The scoutmaster serving the longest time is the present scoutmaster, John Messerly, who has been with the troop 20 years. Assistant scoutmasters are Sam Chase, Ticker Twitchell, and Glen Harding.

Land near Pompey and Fabius hamlets, plus two areas near the Pompey-Manlius town line, are excluded from the district.

The agricultural district concept is an attempt to encourage continuation of farming. Property within a district is exempt from special district tax assessments for water, sewer, lighting and drainage improvements, and local ordinances that restrict farming practices.

Property owners may also apply for special agricultural value assessments whereby land will be taxed on a state-approved formula to reflect its value for only farming, and thus discourage large scale residential and commercial development.

Each district is committed for an eight-year period, with review at the end of that period.

So far, six major areas in Onondaga County have received district designation. They are in the towns of Onondaga, Lysander, Tully, Camillus and Elbridge.

## Highway Garage Is Authorized

The DeWitt Town Board voted approval Monday of a purchase agreement for a five-acre site at Butternut Dr. and the railroad tracks for a highway garage.

The price is \$90,000.

Town officials emphasized that the money for the purchase is in the treasury. New taxes will not be needed.

BECAUSE MORE THAN \$50,000 is involved, voter approval is needed for the plan. A date will be set for the referendum.

The present highway barn on Burnet Ave. has been purchased by the state for the new Clark St. bridge. DeWitt is using the site on a one-year rent-free basis until the new barn is built.

The town's original offer of \$87,500 for the property was refused. The subsequent offer of \$90,000 was accepted.

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