

# Scouting Stories

## By Jon Leachtenauer, Troop 51 1948-1953

### The Dance

Sometime in the fall of 1951 or 1952, our Explorer Post decided to host a dance with the local Girl Scout contingent at what I believe was the local VFW hall. Unfortunately, the afternoon of the dance, the remnants of a hurricane struck with rain and high winds. A lot of trees came down, including one across our driveway. After much back and forth phone calling, we decided to proceed with the dance. I chopped the tree out of the driveway so my father could drive me to the dance. One of the girls had a wind up Victrola and we had candles and flashlights, so the dance proceeded. The next day on my paper route, I counted over 50 downed trees in the block bounded by Genesee, Salt Springs, and Huntleigh. Interestingly enough, I was not able to find any historical record of the storm.

### Lifesaving

In the summer of probably 1951, I needed both the swimming and lifesaving merit badges to complete my Eagle Scout requirements. In those days, the Fayetteville recreation council sponsored swimming and lifesaving classes at Green Lake. A bus left every morning from the village hall. For some reason, I missed the first week of classes and arrived at my first day of lifesaving on the second week. The first lesson entailed walking into the water, disrobing, and inflating ones pants to provide buoyancy support. I obediently walked into the water and sank to the bottom-I did not know how to swim or tread water. Luckily, I was quickly pulled out and resuscitated. I spent the rest of the summer learning to swim in the morning and lifesaving in the afternoon. I was finally able to obtain both merit badges by the end of the summer.