

BOY SCOUT TROOP 186 TIMELINE

2 September 2010 Edition

1941

December 7th: The Japanese Imperial Navy launches a surprise attack on the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. American casualties total 2,403 dead and 1,178 wounded. Of the eight American battleships at Pearl Harbor, four are sunk and the rest are damaged. Three of the eight US cruisers present are damaged, and three of the 29 US destroyers present are sunk. Of the roughly 390 American aircraft present, 188 are destroyed and 155 are damaged. Japanese casualties total 64 dead and 1 captured. The Japanese Navy loses no surface ships, 4 submarines, and 29 of 441 aircraft engaged. No American aircraft carriers are present at Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack.

December 8th: The United States declares war on Japan.

December 11th: Nazi Germany declares war on the United States. According to historian Stephen E. Ambrose, Adolph Hitler makes a bet that the Hitler Youth can beat the Boy Scouts. The United States responds by declaring war on Germany on the same day.

December: The thirty-fourth printing of the "Revised Handbook for Boys, first edition", is published by the Boy Scouts of America. This is the version of the Boy Scout Handbook in effect when Troop 186 is founded. (In 1948, the BSA will publish what it will call the fifth edition Handbook for Boys, and will renumber, after the fact, the thirty-seven printings of the "Handbook for Boys" and the thirty-nine printings of the "Revised Handbook for Boys" into two editions each. Although the BSA isn't very specific about which printings are assigned to which edition, most collectors of Scouting memorabilia sort according to changes in cover design, assigning the first through the tenth printing of the "Handbook for Boys" to the first edition, the eleventh through the thirty-seventh printing of the "Handbook for Boys" to the second edition, the first through the thirty-second printing of the "Revised Handbook for Boys" to the third edition, and the thirty-third through the thirty-ninth printing of the "Revised Handbook for Boys" to the fourth edition. According to the new numbering system, this issue of the Handbook will be known as the second printing of the fourth edition.) Advancement requirements are, for the most part, unchanged since the introduction of the "Revised Handbook for Boys" in 1927. Scouts are required to tie nine knots, including the square knot and any eight of the following: sheet bend, bowline, fisherman's, sheepshank, slip, clove hitch, timber hitch, two half hitches, carrick bend, miller's, rope halters, pipe hitch, stevedore, barrel hitch, girth

hitch, binder twine bend, lariat loop, and hitching tie. A total of twenty-one merit badges are required for Eagle Scout, and the required list includes First Aid, Lifesaving, Personal Health, Public Health, Cooking, Camping, Civics, Bird Study, Pathfinding, Safety, Pioneering, Athletics or Physical Development, and Swimming. (This printing's table of planets doesn't include Pluto, even though it was discovered in 1930. By the time the fourth printing of the fourth edition is published in December of 1943, Pluto is added to the planet table, so it appears in the Boy Scout Handbook for the first time in either the third or fourth printings of the fourth edition. In 2006, the International Astronomical Union will vote to remove Pluto from the official list of planets, so this printing of the Boy Scout Handbook was right after all.)

1942

January: German U-boats sink 31 ships off the American and Canadian coasts in this month alone.

February: The Japanese drive British forces from Singapore.

March: The Japanese drive British forces from the Dutch East Indies.

April: The Japanese drive British forces from Burma.

May 6th: The Japanese drive American forces from the Philippines.

April 18th: Jimmy Doolittle leads 16 B-25's from the deck of the aircraft carrier "Hornet" to Tokyo and 3 other Honshu cities in a bold, one-way bombing mission, then on to landing fields in China. Although of little tactical value, the sight of American bombers over their capital shocks the Japanese, and gives a great boost to American morale.

May 4th through the 8th: the U.S Navy repulses a Japanese attempt to invade Port Moresby, New Guinea, at the Battle of the Coral Sea. Not only is this the first time the Japanese are turned back by Allied forces, it's the first engagement in history between two aircraft carrier forces; the first sea battle in which no shots are fired between surface ships.

June 3rd: Japanese forces invade the Aleutian Islands, in the territory of Alaska.

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June 4th: Four Japanese aircraft carrier groups attempt to capture the American airfield on the island of Midway. They are met by the entire American aircraft carrier force remaining in the Pacific: the “Yorktown”, the “Enterprise” and the “Hornet”. All four Japanese carriers are destroyed in the battle, against the loss of the “Yorktown” by the US Navy. Deprived of air cover, the Japanese battleship fleet retreats to Japan.

June 22nd: The “Pledge of Allegiance” is officially recognized by act of Congress. In its original version, it lacks the phrase “under God.”

August 7th: American forces land at Guadalcanal, signaling the beginning of the long, brutal, island-hopping attack on the Japanese perimeter. The landing at Guadalcanal is followed by victories over the Japanese at Milne Bay on the 26th of August, and at Port Moresby on the 17th through the 25th of September.

Fall: 12-year-old Lorraine E. “Sonny” Lauffer reads a Boy’s Life Magazine in his Doctor’s waiting room and tells his mom he wants to be a Boy Scout. His parents organize neighbors in Sheldon Park and seek advice from local Scout leaders.

October 23rd: Allied forces under the command of British General Bernard Montgomery launch the battle of El Alamein in an attempt to drive back Axis forces from Egypt, denying them access to the Suez Canal and Middle East oil fields.

October 30th: At the meeting of the Sheldon Park Community Council, Federal Housing Project, the decision is made to sponsor a new Boy Scout Troop.

November 8th: British and American troops invade French West Africa.

November 11th: On what was then known as “Armistice Day” (the 21st anniversary of the end of World War I), The General Chairman of the Sheldon Park Community Council, Lorraine S. Acre, signs the first charter application for Boy Scout Troop 186. This is the traditional founding date for the unit.

November 19th: Soviet troops pierce the German front line on both sides of Stalingrad, linking up four days later, thereby surrounding the invading German forces inside the besieged city.

November 24th: Troop 186 is chartered as part of the Algonquin District of the Allegheny Council with 9 Scouts and 5 adults. One of those Scouts (11.11%) will eventually become an Eagle Scout. The average age of the adult staff is 30.2 years.

Sponsor: Sheldon Park Community Council

Meeting Place: Sheldon Park Recreation Center (now the maintenance office) on Monday nights

Committee Chairman: Carl S. Brinker, age 32
Scoutmaster: Harold P. “Babe” Asay, age 29 (first Eagle Scout of Creighton Troop 189)
Community Strip: “Sheldon Park”
Troop Flag: “Troop 186/Sheldon Park/Natrona Heights Penna.”

From Council Eagle Scout records, it can be seen that a series of troops came into being in the Algonquin District in the 1920’s with troop numbers in the 180’s, beginning with Tarentum Troop 180 (producing their first Eagle Scout in 1928) and continuing through Creighton Troop 189 (producing their first Eagle Scout in 1931). No Troop 186 is recorded in that era, possibly because the number was skipped, but more likely because a troop with that number did exist, but failed to produce an Eagle Scout. It therefore seems clear that the new Sheldon Park troop was assigned a leftover number from a defunct troop.

December 2nd: The first self-sustained nuclear reaction is achieved in “Chicago Pile Number 1”, the world’s first nuclear reactor.

1943

February 2nd: Roughly 90,000 Germans and Rumanians surrender to the Soviets at Stalingrad.

February 16th: A covert assault by Allied commandos cripples the Norsk Hydro plant in Vemork, Norway, cutting off the supply of heavy water to the Nazi atomic bomb project.

Summer: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at Camp Umbstaetter, near Ambridge (now called “Walter Panek Park”). The troop continues to return to Umbstaetter throughout the war years for Summer Camp. Scouts whose parents have insufficient gasoline rations, including Sonny Lauffer, must walk the roughly 40 miles to camp.

Also throughout the war, Troop 186 participates in scrap drives, and serves as an Emergency Dispatch Unit, hand-carrying messages between Civil Defense offices during air-raid drills. Members of Troop 186 are therefore among the few youth in their neighborhood who can get a new bicycle during World War II, since bikes, too, are rationed, and are reserved for those engaged in civil defense activities. While running at full speed in the dark, Scouts learn the location of every fire hydrant in town, usually by bouncing off of them.

Troop 186 begins a long relationship with Braeburn Troop 207 of the Pucketos District. Braeburn Scouts swim across the Allegheny River to participate in joint Troop meetings, and the Troops spend weekend Camp-outs and Summer Camp weeks together.

July 10th: The Allies invade Sicily.

July 25th: Italian dictator Benito Mussolini resigns and is imprisoned.

December 8th: Martin J. “Mickey” Dugan, age 34, becomes **Scoutmaster**.

By the end of 1943, 15 Scouts have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 1 (6.67%) will eventually become an Eagle Scout. To date, a total of 6 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1944

The Troop recharterers with 10 Scouts and 6 adults.

The first edition of the Boy Scout Fieldbook is published. Co-authored by James E. West and William “Green Bar Bill” Hillcourt, it provides more in-depth outdoor skills instruction than the Boy Scout Handbook, including information well beyond that required for rank advancement.

June 6th: The Allies invade Normandy. Church bells ring all over the United States. The Liberty Bell is sounded for the first time since July 8th, 1835.

June 23rd: A swarm of tornados crosses southwestern Pennsylvania, taking 45 lives in the state and 110 more in West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware.

Summer: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at Camp Umbstaetter, near Ambridge.

August 1st: Anne Frank makes the last entry in her diary. She is seized on August 4th and dies in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in March of 1945 at the age of 16, two months before the Allies liberate the camp. She is one of roughly 6 million Jews killed during the Nazi’s campaign of genocide.

August 25th: The Allies liberate Paris.

October 22nd through the 27th: The battle of Leyte Gulf costs the US Navy 7 warships, and the Japanese Navy roughly 30 warships, including 3 battleships and 4 aircraft carriers. The Japanese Navy is destroyed as an effective offensive weapon. Leyte Gulf is the largest naval engagement in history, and is the last time that battleships square off against battleships. Hereafter, naval superiority will depend upon aircraft carriers.

November 7th: Franklin D. Roosevelt is reelected to a fourth term as President of the United States. He is the first and only President to be elected to four terms, and is the first Boy Scout leader to serve as President.

By the end of 1944, 24 Scouts have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 3 (12.5%) will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 9 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1945

The Troop recharterers with 25 Scouts and 7 adults.

January 27th: Allied troops liberate the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz in Poland.

April 12th: President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies. Vice President Harry S. Truman becomes President.

April 30th: Adolph Hitler commits suicide.

May 7th: Germany surrenders unconditionally.

June 26th: The United Nations Charter is signed.

July 16th: The first atomic bomb is test-detonated near Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Summer: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at Camp Umbstaetter, near Ambridge.

August 6th: The B-29 “Enola Gay” drops the Uranium-fission bomb “Little Boy” on Hiroshima, Japan.

August 8th: The USSR declares war on Japan.

August 9th: The B-29 “Boxcar” drops the Plutonium-fission bomb “Fat Man” on Nagasaki, Japan. (The US Atomic Bomb project may have been the biggest secret on Earth. Now, the biggest secret is that the US is out of A-bombs, though a third bomb is available within days.) On the same day, the USSR launches a massive invasion of Japanese-held Manchuria.

September 2nd: Japan surrenders.

Troop 186 attends the 1945 Allegheny Council Jamboree.

By the end of 1945, 30 Scouts have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 3 (10%) will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 10 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1946

The Troop recharterers with 23 Scouts and 7 adults.

February 15th: ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer), weighing over 30 tons and employing

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19,000 vacuum tubes, is dedicated at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

March 5th: Winston Churchill coins the term “Iron Curtain”.

Summer: Troop 186 camps at Umbstaetter for the last time, and camps at the Hubbard Reservation for the first time. Hubbard Reservation is an abandoned golf course on the southern border of North Park. (It has since returned to its original use as the “Wildwood Golf Club”.) Hubbard has no standing staff of counselors, and troops in attendance must supply their own from within their ranks. The Summer Camp association of Troops 186 and 207 expands to include troops from throughout the Pucketos and Algonquin Districts, possibly in order to provide a sufficient group of counselors. Troop 186 Star Scout Russ Marshall serves on Camp Umbstaetter staff for the summer. (The Troop History collection includes a 1946 “Camp Savings Club” card, once belonging to Russ Marshall, which suggests making a minimum contribution of 20 cents per week until reaching a total savings of \$10. It’s not clear whether or not the exact amount owed for a week of summer camp was \$10. The card does, however, include the question, “Why not start two books, so you can attend for two weeks?”)

July 6th: Future President George Walker Bush is born. He is the first future President (taking office in 2001) to be born after the founding of Troop 186.

August 19th: Future President William Jefferson Clinton is born. He is the first person born after the founding of Troop 186 to become President (taking office in 1993).

Troop 186 attends the 1946 Allegheny Council Jamboree.

October 1st: The first Nuremberg war-crimes trial concludes with 19 convictions and 3 acquittals. Herman Goering commits suicide on October 15th, 11 more defendants are hanged on October 16th, and 7 others are sentenced to prison terms.

By the end of 1946, 49 Scouts have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 4 (8.16%) will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 17 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1947

The Troop recharter with 21 Scouts and 10 adults.

February 10th: Lorraine E. “Sonny” Lauffer becomes the first **Eagle Scout** in the history of Troop 186.

March 14th: World War II veteran Raymond W. Acre, age 31, becomes **Scoutmaster**.

April 11th: Jackie Robinson signs with the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first Black player in Major League Baseball.

May 12th: Walter Baker becomes Assistant Scoutmaster.

May 20th: William D. Harris and Russell E. Marshall, Jr., become the second and third **Eagle Scouts** in the history of Troop 186.

July 27th through August 2nd: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Hubbard Reservation. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Russ Marshall serves on Camp Umbstaetter staff for the summer.

July 31st: Lorraine E. “Sonny” Lauffer becomes the first recipient of an **Eagle Palm (Bronze)** in the history of Troop 186.

August 15th: Following years of non-violent protests led by Mohandas K. Gandhi, Great Britain grants independence to India.

September 9th: Assistant Scoutmaster Edward T. Smith becomes the fourth **Eagle Scout** in the history of Troop 186. Mr. Smith sets a Troop record that will likely never be broken as the oldest troop member to become an Eagle Scout. He is 30 years and 284 days old on the day of his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Until 1952, adult leaders are permitted to earn merit badges and rank advancements along with their Scouts. Although Mr. Smith isn’t the only adult leader of Troop 186 to work on Boy Scout advancement (Assistant Scoutmaster Albert Juris is pictured in a newspaper article in February of 1946 receiving his First Class badge), he is the only one to become an Eagle Scout by doing so.

September 18th: The US Air Force is established as an independent branch of the military.

Troop 186 attends the 1947 Allegheny Council Jamboree at Hubbard Reservation.

October 14th: Chuck Yeager, piloting the Bell X-1, becomes the first man to travel faster than the speed of sound.

November 12th: Donald Stewart becomes the fifth **Eagle Scout** in the history of Troop 186.

November 30th: Walter L. Baker, Sr., age 45, becomes **Scoutmaster**.

By the end of 1947, 49 Scouts have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 4 (8.16%) have become Eagle Scouts. To

date, a total of 20 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1948

The Troop recharterers with 22 Scouts and 7 adults.

January 30th: Mohandas K. Gandhi is assassinated.

April 3rd: President Truman signs the Marshall Plan.

May 14th: The state of Israel is established.

June: The fifth edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is published. There are few changes to the advancement requirements with regard to merit badges, except for the removal of Swimming from the Eagle-required merit badge list. Lifesaving remains on the required list, which includes Swimming as a prerequisite. The resulting list of required merit badges for Eagle Scout includes First Aid, Lifesaving, Personal Health, Public Health, Cooking, Camping, Civics, Bird Study, Pathfinding, Safety, Pioneering, and either Athletics or Physical Development. For the first time, Scouts are required to learn six specific knots: square, sheet bend, clove hitch, two half hitches, bowline, and taught line hitch. The Scout Slogan, “Do a Good Turn Daily”, the taught line hitch, and the “Conservation Pledge” (precursor of the “Outdoor Code”) appear in the Handbook for the first time.

June 21st: In protest over the planned establishment of a West German state, the USSR blockades free West Berlin. The Berlin Airlift begins on June 26th in an unprecedented attempt to supply all of the city’s needs by air. The task is made all the more difficult and dangerous because the fleets of cargo planes must fly through East German airspace controlled by the USSR.

Summer: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Hubbard Reservation. Scoutmaster Walter Baker serves as Camp Director for the week of camp.

Summer: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Sonny Lauffer attends Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

September 24th through the 26th: Troop 186 attends the 1948 Allegheny Council Jamboree at Hubbard Reservation, serving as a Campsite Layout Specialty Troop.

November 3rd: Harry S. Truman is elected President of the United States. He has served as President since the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 12th, 1945.

November 26th: Braeburn Troop 207 produces eight Eagle Scouts, and three more on the 19th of January

1949, to leap-frog ahead of Troop 186 in total Eagle Scout production.

November 30th: Sonny Lauffer (the first Eagle Scout of Troop 186) and Raine Brinker become the first former youth members of Troop 186 to register as adult leaders with the troop.

By the end of 1948, 59 Scouts have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 4 (6.78%) have become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 20 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1949

The Troop recharterers with 12 Scouts and 8 adults.

January 20th: President Harry S. Truman is inaugurated. It is the first inauguration to be televised, and is consequently viewed by more people than all previous inaugurations combined.

April: The second printing of the fifth edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is published. The minimum age at which a boy may join a Boy Scout Troop is reduced from 12 to 11. After a year’s absence, Swimming Merit Badge returns as an Eagle-required merit badge. Personal Health, Athletics, Physical Development, Civics, Bird Study, Pathfinding, and Pioneering are removed from the required list, and Nature, Personal Fitness, and Firemanship are added. The resulting list of required merit badges for Eagle Scout includes Camping, Cooking, Swimming, Lifesaving, Nature, Personal Fitness, Public Health, Safety, Firemanship, and First Aid. The straight list of Eagle-required merit badges is supplemented by a categorization of merit badges into 15 subject groups, which include Animal Husbandry, Aquatics, Arts, Building, Campcraft, Citizenship, Communication, Conservation, Crafts and Collections, Nature, Outdoor Sports, Personal Development, Plant Cultivation, Public Service, and Transportation. In addition to earning the basic required merit badges, the Scout must earn specific quantities of merit badges from specific subject groups for each of the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle.

April 4th: The United States, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway and Portugal establish NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

May 12th: The USSR lifts the Berlin blockade, but the Berlin Airlift continues into September. The Airlift is considered by many historians to be the first battle of the “Cold War”, and is a clear victory for the United States and her allies.

Summer: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Hubbard Reservation. Scoutmaster Walter Baker serves as Camp Director for the week of camp.

September 9th through the 11th: Troop 186 attends the 1949 Allegheny Council Jamboree at Hubbard Reservation.

September 23rd: President Truman announces that the USSR has tested its first atomic bomb.

October 1st: The Peoples Republic of China is established, as non-Communist Nationalists retreat to the island of Taiwan.

November 30th: Explorer Post 186 is established (see March 18th, 1952).

By the end of 1949, 65 Scouts have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 4 (6.15%) have become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 22 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1950

The Troop recharter with 10 Scouts, 5 Explorers, and 6 adults.

February 9th: Senator Joseph R. McCarthy accuses the US State Department of harboring 205 Communists in its ranks.

February 15th: Sino-Soviet pact is signed between the USSR and the Peoples Republic of China.

The First Annual Allegheny Council Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner is held.

June 25th: Communist North Korea invades South Korea.

The Allegheny Council acquires a 25-year lease from the U.S. Forest Service on a parcel of land along the Tionesta Reservoir for the construction of a new Boy Scout Camp. Camp Tionesta opens for campers in 1950 or 1951.

June 27th through July 6th: The Second BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, attended by 47,163 campers.

July 13th: Ute Indians are awarded \$31,700,000 for lands confiscated in Colorado and Utah from 1891 through 1938.

July: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Hubbard Reservation. Scoutmaster Walter Baker serves as Camp Director for the week of camp.

September 15th: United Nation forces under the command of General Douglas McArthur invade Inchon, behind North Korean lines.

September 15th through the 17th: Troop 186 attends the 1950 Allegheny Council Jamboree at Hubbard Reservation.

October 7th: The Peoples Republic of China invades Tibet.

November 24th through the 26th: The “Great Appalachian Wind Storm” drops a record storm total of 27.4 inches of snow in the Pittsburgh area.

November 26th: The Peoples Republic of China joins the Korean conflict on the side of North Korea.

November 30th: The Birdville Elementary School Parent-Teachers’ Association assumes sponsorship of the troop, and PTA President Lewis A. Rehner, age 42, becomes **Committee Chairman**. The community strips are probably changed at this time from “Sheldon Park” to “Birdville”, but the Troop flag and meeting place remain the same. The only adult to make the transition from the 1950 Sheldon Park charter to the 1951 Birdville PTA charter is Scoutmaster Walter Baker. Seven Scouts and two Explorers make the transition.

By the end of 1950, 72 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 4 (5.56%) have become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 23 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1951

The Troop recharter with 15 Scouts, 6 Explorers, and 8 adults. 80% of the Scouts, none of the Explorers, and 87.5% of the adults on the 1951 charter are new to the unit. Of the nine boys who remain from the 1950 Sheldon Park charter, none will become Eagle Scouts. Of the twelve boys to appear for the first time on the 1951 Birdville PTA charter, three (25%) will become Eagle Scouts.

April: The winter weather season of 1950-1951 comes to a close as the snowiest on record in the Pittsburgh area to date, with a total snowfall of 82.0 inches.

June 14th: UNIVAC (Universal Automatic Computer), the first computer designed for commercial use, is unveiled in Philadelphia. The US Census Bureau is the first customer.

July: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Hubbard Reservation as part of a contingent made up of troops from Algonquin, Pucketos, and Guyasuta Districts. It is a combination of geographical areas that will, in 48

years, become the Japeechen District. About 250 boys are in attendance from the three districts. Scoutmaster Walter Baker serves as Camp Director for the week of camp.

July 30th: Cub Scout Pack 186 is established. The new pack charters with 10 adults and 29 youth, of whom 3 (10.34%) will eventually become Eagle Scouts. Lewis A. Rehner is the first Institutional Representative, Wilbur B. Salsgiver is the first Pack Committee Chairman, and Jay Yenco is the first Cubmaster.

Fall: Scoutmaster Walter Baker and Algonquin District Executive Robert K. Collins preside over a Scoutmaster Training Weekend at Benson Cabin, Hubbard Reservation.

By the end of 1951, 104 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 9 (8.65%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 32 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1952

The Troop recharter with 18 Scouts, 8 Explorers, and 9 adults.

The deadline for completing the requirements for the Eagle Scout award is set at a boy's 18th birthday for Boy Scouts and 21st birthday for Explorers. Previously, there was no maximum age, and adult leaders could earn merit badges and rank advancements along with their boys. (Edward T. Smith was the first and only adult leader in the history of Troop 186 to become an Eagle Scout by doing so. See September 9th, 1947. Strangely, despite this official rules change, adult Boy Scout leaders in other troops continue to earn the Eagle Scout award for several more years, including Lawrence B. Silliaman, Jr., the Scoutmaster of Natrona Heights Troop 184, on March 8th, 1955, and Jack R. Maurer, the Scoutmaster of Natrona Heights Troop 395, on August 13th, 1958. Maybe the rules changed after 1952.)

February 6th: Great Britain's King George VI dies. Elizabeth II becomes Queen.

March 18th: At a meeting of the Birdville Elementary School PTA, the first charter for Explorer Post 186 (for the first time separate from the Troop charter) is presented to PTA president Howard Schrecker. Prior to the separate charter, Explorers were listed under a special heading on the Troop charter. A diminishing number of Explorer Scouts continue to be listed on the Troop charter for a few more years, with the last Explorer appearing on the Troop charter in 1956.

Troop 186 participates in what the newspaper calls the "annual" Algonquin District Swim Meet at the

Allegheny Valley YMCA in Tarentum. (There's no record of it ever happening again.) In the 11 to 13-year-old category, future Troop 186 Eagle Scout Dick Borrison takes second place in the side stroke race, future Troop 186 Eagle Scout Bud Hamilton takes second place in back stroke, Dale Lucas takes second place in breast stroke, and the team of Dale Lucas, Tom Harbison, Bill Daley, and future Troop 186 Eagle Scout Bob Stitt takes second place in the relay. In the 14 to 17-year-old category, future Troop 186 Eagle Scout Doug Brumbaugh takes second place in the breast stroke race, and first place in free style, side stroke, and back stroke.

June 20th through the 22nd: Troop 186 participates in the Algonquin District Camporee at Crooked Creek Lake. Scoutmaster Walter Baker, along with Ivan Kammerdeiner and Kenneth DeWitt, chairman, serves on the program sub-committee.

July 20th through the 26th: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Hubbard Reservation as part of a contingent made up of troops from Algonquin, Pucketos, and Guyasuta Districts.

September: Braeburn Troop 207 produces seven Eagle Scouts for a total of 20 in their history, and becomes the most successful Eagle-Scout-producing troop in the history of either the Pucketos or Algonquin Districts.

November 1st: The first Hydrogen-fusion bomb "Mike" is detonated by the US, destroying Elugelab Atoll in the South Pacific.

November 4th: Dwight David Eisenhower is elected President of the United States.

By the end of 1952, 118 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 11 (9.32%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 36 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1953

The Troop recharter with 22 Scouts and 8 adults.

January 20th: President Dwight David Eisenhower is inaugurated.

March 5th: Joseph Stalin dies.

April 2nd: Nature magazine publishes an article by Francis H. Crick and James D. Watson entitled "Molecular Structure of Nucleic Acids", which describes for the first time the structure of DNA.

The new Troop flag reads "Troop 186/Natrona Heights Pa".

May: Local Boy and Girl Scout Troops join in the Allegheny Valley Junior Chamber of Commerce “Clean Up, Paint Up, Fix Up” campaign. Troop 186 collects 15,000 pounds of scrap paper, 5000 pounds of scrap metal, and cleans a vacant lot, winning a \$25 top prize among the Boy Scout troops, and then raising another \$120 by selling the gathered scrap to P. J. Greco and Sons in Tarentum.

June 1st: British mountaineer Edmund Hillary and Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay become the first men to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

June 19th: Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are executed for passing nuclear secrets to the USSR.

June 19th through the 21st: Troop 186 attends the 1953 Allegheny Council Jamboree at Hubbard Reservation.

July: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp as part of a contingent from the Pucketos and Algonquin Districts at Hubbard Reservation. Scoutmaster Walter Baker serves as Camp Director for the week of camp.

July 17th through the 23rd: The Third BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Irvine Ranch, California, attended by 45,401 campers.

July 27th: A truce is signed ending the Korean War.

August: Troop 186 attends a second week of Summer Camp at Camp Tionesta. This is the first known appearance of Troop 186 at Camp Tionesta. The week includes an overnigher, by canoe, along the Tionesta Reservoir, which is the troop’s first known Summer Camp Outpost.

August 12th: The USSR detonates its first Hydrogen-fusion bomb.

By the end of 1953, 149 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 17 (11.41%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 40 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1954

The Troop recharter with 28 Scouts, 6 Explorers, and 9 adults.

Both the Boy Scout community strips (red letters on a khaki green background) and Explorer Scout community strips (brown letters on a dark green background), change to white letters on a red background.

January 21st: The world’s first nuclear submarine, the “Nautilus”, is launched by the US.

February 11th: The First Annual Troop 186 Family Dinner is held at the Citizens’ Hose Fire Hall on Freeport Road in commemoration of Scout Anniversary Week.

Spring: Troop 186 begins a relationship with Natrona Heights Troop 184, Grace United Methodist Church, by attending their “Kick-off” Meeting for the Boy Scouts of America’s Conservation Good Turn.

May 17th: The US Supreme Court decision in “Brown versus Board of Education” overturns the doctrine of “separate but equal”, and outlaws racial segregation in public schools.

June 9th: Joseph Welch attacks Senator Joseph R. McCarthy during a televised hearing, effectively ending his influence.

June 14th: The phrase “under God” is added to the “Pledge of Allegiance” by act of Congress.

Summer: The troop attends one week of Summer Camp at Hubbard Reservation and one week at Lake View troop site, Camp Tionesta. This is the last known appearance of Troop 186 at Hubbard Reservation.

September 27th: Scoutmaster Walter Baker earns the “**Arrowhead Honor**” in recognition of successful leadership, and his completion of the seven projects in Troop Operation: organization and leadership, program planning, troop meetings, troop administration, hiking, camping, and helping the individual boy to grow.

November 11th: By proclamation of President Eisenhower, “Armistice Day” is renamed “Veterans Day”, in order to honor all American veterans, in addition to those of World War I.

November 18th: Richard Borrison, Bob Stitt, and Ron Stobert become the first 186 **Eagle Scouts** since 1947.

December 2nd: The US Senate votes 67-22 to censure Senator Joseph R. McCarthy for “conduct that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute, to obstruct the constitutional processes of the Senate, and to impair its dignity...”

By the end of 1954, 167 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 18 (10.78%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 43 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1955

The Troop recharter with 25 Scouts and 9 adults.

February: The Second Annual Troop 186 Family Dinner is renamed the First Annual Eagle Recognition Dinner.

It is once again held at the Citizens' Hose Fire Hall. The event is a general family dinner and Court-of-Honor for both the Troop and Pack, and incorporates an Eagle Scout Court-of-Honor into the busy schedule inherited from the first Family Dinner of 1954. The three **Honor Eagles** (Richard Borrison, Robert K. Stitt III, and Ronald C. Stobert) bring the Troop total to 8 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Joseph Schlosser, Allegheny Council Camping Director.

Winter: Cub Pack, Scout Troop, and Explorer Post 186 participate in the first Algonquin District Scout-O-Rama at the Tarentum American Legion Post 85, which displays to the general public informational booths illustrating what Scouting has to offer the youth of the community and the community at large. Explorer Post 186 joins with Explorer Scouts from Springdale Post 153, Natrona Heights Post 184, and Harwick Post 182 to serve as guides, and to man the refreshment stand.

April 12th: The US government approves the use of Dr. Jonas Salk's Polio vaccine.

May 14th: The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania establish the Warsaw Pact.

Summer: The troop attends Summer Camp at Camp Tionesta.

December 1st: Rosa Parks, a Black woman, refuses to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus to a white man. Her arrest leads to a boycott of the Montgomery transit system led by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By the end of 1955, 185 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 19 (10.27%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 45 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1956

The Troop recharterers with 25 Scouts and 6 adults.

February: The Second Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at the Citizens' Hose Fire Hall for the last time. The three **Honor Eagles** (Gary Drum, Donald Mailki, and Harry A. Hamilton 2nd) bring the Troop total to 11 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Harry A. Hamilton, Donald Mailki, Gary Drum, Ronald C. Stobert, and Robert K. Stitt III.

June 29th: President Eisenhower signs the Federal Aid Highway Act, which will fund the Interstate Highway System.

Summer: The troop attends two weeks of Summer Camp at Camp Tionesta with 29 Scouts.

Six years after the change in sponsorship, the Troop meeting place is moved from the Sheldon Park Recreation Center to the Birdville Elementary School auditorium. At roughly this time, but no later than early 1959, a new troop flag enters service, which reads, "Troop 186/Birdville Pa." The old "Natrona Heights" flag is still seen on outings into the middle 1970's.

November 4th: The USSR invades Hungary after Hungary declares neutrality and withdraws from the Warsaw Pact.

November 6th: Dwight D. Eisenhower is reelected to a second term as President of the United States.

November 30th: Walter Baker retires after 9 years service as Scoutmaster. World War II veteran Joseph A. Michalek, age 42, becomes **Scoutmaster**.

By the end of 1956, 210 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 21 (10%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 48 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1957

The Troop recharterers with 28 Scouts and 11 adults.

February: The Third Annual Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School for the first time. The two **Honor Eagles** (Lewis F. Rehner and Edward L. Smith) bring the Troop total to 13 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Walter L. Baker, Jr., troop alumnus.

The Pucketos and Algonquin Districts merge to form the William D. Boyce District. The new district is named for the Chicago-based publisher and travel writer who is credited with spearheading the organization of the Boy Scouts of America after learning about the program on a trip to England. He was born in the New Kensington area.

July 12th through the 18th: The Fourth BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, attended by 52,580 campers.

Summer: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Semiconon.

October 4th: The USSR launches "Sputnik I", the world's first artificial satellite.

November 3rd: The USSR launches "Sputnik II", which carries "Laika" the dog into space.

10 TROOP 186 TIMELINE

Committee Chairman Lewis A. Rehner becomes the William D. Boyce District's first recipient of the **Silver Beaver Award**.

December 18th: The first civilian nuclear power station goes on line in Shippingport, PA.

The post-war "Baby Boom" peaks in 1957 with 4.3 million births in the United States. They will be of Boy Scouting age in 1968.

By the end of 1957, 229 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 21 (9.17%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 51 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1958

The Troop recharterers with 26 Scouts and 13 adults.

January 31st: The US Army launches "Explorer I", America's first artificial satellite. The satellite discovers the Van Allen Radiation Belts.

Summer: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Semiconon.

July: Alan Drum, Wally Pountious, and Bud Hamilton attend Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Bud Hamilton proclaims that someday, he's going to return to the area to live there, which he does.

July 29th: NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is established to consolidate space-flight research in a civilian organization.

August 3rd: The "Nautilus" (the world's first nuclear submarine) reaches the North Pole on its journey across the Arctic Ocean under the ice.

Kermit Smith, age 47, becomes **Scoutmaster**.

September 12th: Engineers at Texas Instruments invent the microchip.

October 4th: The first scheduled transatlantic jet airliner service is inaugurated.

October 9th: Pope Pius XII dies.

October 28th: Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli becomes Pope John XXIII.

November 30th: Edward L. Smith, Troop 186 Eagle Scout and son of Kermit Smith, becomes **Scoutmaster**. At the age of 21 years and 3 months, he is the youngest Scoutmaster in the history of the troop. Mr. Smith is a mathematics major at the University of Pittsburgh, and

car pools to Pitt with Korean War veteran and chemistry major Robert H. Barrage (HM2 US Navy), who will, one day, also serve as Scoutmaster of Troop 186.

By the end of 1958, 245 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 21 (8.57%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 52 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1959

The Troop recharterers with 25 Scouts and 13 adults.

January 3rd: Alaska becomes the 49th state.

February 12th: The Fifth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The three **Honor Eagles** (Patrick F. Connelly, Jr., David Danner, and Alan Drum) bring the Troop total to 17 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is the Reverend A.W. Tiffen, of the First Congregational Church of Tarentum.

February 14th: NASA launches "Vanguard II", which sends back to Earth the first weather information acquired by satellite.

April 8th: NASA names the first seven US astronauts.

July 4th: The 26th design of the US flag is introduced with 49 stars.

Summer: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Semiconon.

August 17th: William Feitknecht, Wallace Pountious, and Kenneth Smith become **Eagle Scouts**, and Troop 186 ties Braeburn Troop 207 for the most Eagle Scouts produced by any troop in the Algonquin, Pucketos, and William D. Boyce Districts with a total of 20.

August 21st: Hawaii becomes the 50th state.

September 12th: The USSR launches "Lunik II". On September 14th, it becomes the first spacecraft to "land" on the Moon, impacting at an approximate speed of 7500 mph.

October 4th: The USSR launches "Lunik III", which takes the first photographs of the far side of the Moon.

November: The sixth edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is published. Advancement requirements are essentially unchanged from the second printing of the fifth edition, with the same Eagle-required merit badge list and the same Merit Badge Groups. There are changes in which Merit Badge Groups are drawn from in what quantities for which rank advancement, but the overall

advancement system is altered very little from the previous edition. The sixth edition is the first Boy Scout Handbook that doesn't include a listing of requirements for all of the merit badges. (A separate "Boy Scout Requirements" booklet containing all advancement, merit badge, and special award requirements is published for the first time in 1960.)

By the end of 1959, 264 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 21 (7.95%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 54 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1960

The Troop recharterers with 20 Scouts and 10 adults.

February 3rd: Troop 184, Grace United Methodist Church, Natrona Heights, produces their 20th Eagle Scout and enters a three-way tie with Troops 207 and 186 for the most Eagle Scouts produced by a troop in the William D. Boyce District.

February 8th: The Boy Scouts of America celebrates its fiftieth anniversary.

February 17th: In addition to the Honor Eagles, the Sixth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner honors Eagle Scout Bud Hamilton for the achievement of the **Silver Award**. The Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The three **Honor Eagles** (William Feitknecht, Wallace Pountious, and Kenneth Smith) bring the Troop total to 20 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Robert Moorhead, reporter for the Valley Daily News.

April 30th: CIA pilot Francis Gary Powers' U-2 spy plane is shot down over the USSR.

May: American physicist Theodore Maiman produces the first operational laser pulse.

July 4th: The 27th design of the US flag is introduced with 50 stars.

July 22nd through the 28th: The Fifth BSA National Scout Jamboree, held in the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, is held at Colorado Springs, Colorado, attended by 56,377 campers.

Summer: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Semiconon.

August 12th: US launches "Echo I", the first communications satellite.

September 24th: The nuclear aircraft carrier USS Enterprise is launched.

October 13th: The Pittsburgh Pirates defeat the New York Yankees in the 1960 World Series in seven games, despite being out-hit 91-60 and out-scored 55-27.

November 1st: John Fitzgerald Kennedy is elected President of the United States.

November 30th: Joe Michalek, age 46, becomes **Scoutmaster** again. Member of Committee Walter L. Baker, Sr. retires after 14 years of service as a Member of Committee, Assistant Scoutmaster, and Scoutmaster. During his tenure as an adult leader with the troop, 19 boys became Eagle Scouts, including 6 during his tenure as Scoutmaster.

By the end of 1960, 285 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 23 (8.07%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 54 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1961

The Troop recharterers with 18 Scouts and 10 adults.

January 20th: President John Fitzgerald Kennedy is inaugurated. He is the first former Boy Scout to become President.

January 25th: James H. Glock and Donald G. Sleighter become **Eagle Scouts**, and Troop 186 becomes the most successful Eagle-Scout-producing troop in the history of the Pucketos, Algonquin, and William D. Boyce Districts, breaking the three-way tie with Troops 207 and 184. Neither Braeburn Troop 207 nor Natrona Heights Troop 184 ever produces another Eagle Scout.

February: The Seventh Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The two **Honor Eagles** (James H. Glock and Donald G. Sleighter) bring the Troop total to 22 Eagle Scouts.

April 12th: Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space aboard "Vostok I".

March 1st: President Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps.

May 5th: Former Boy Scout Alan B. Shepard, Jr. (First Class Scout) becomes the first American in space, aboard "Freedom 7".

July 21st: Former Boy Scout Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom (Star Scout) becomes the second American in space, aboard "Liberty Bell 7".

12 TROOP 186 TIMELINE

August 4th: Future President Barack Obama is born. He is the third person born after the founding of Troop 186 to become President (taking office in 2009).

August 13th: Construction begins on the “Berlin Wall” in an attempt to stop defections to West Berlin from the surrounding Soviet-controlled East Germany.

By the end of 1961, 299 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 26 (8.70%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 57 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1962

The Troop recharterers with 20 Scouts and 10 adults.

Springdale native Rachel Carson publishes “Silent Spring”, a scathing criticism of environmental pollution, launching the modern environmental movement, and convincing many nations, including the US, to ban the manufacture and use of DDT.

February: What would have been the Eighth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner reverts to the Ninth Annual Family Dinner, since there are no Eagle Scouts to honor this year.

February 20th: John H. Glenn, Jr. becomes the first American to orbit the Earth, aboard “Friendship 7”.

May 24th: Former Boy Scout M. Scott Carpenter (Second Class Scout) becomes the second American to orbit the Earth, aboard “Aurora 7”.

Summer: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Semiconon.

October 3rd: Former Boy Scout Walter M. Schirra, Jr. (First Class Scout) becomes the third American to orbit the Earth, aboard “Sigma 7”.

October 14th: U-2 photographs reveal the presence of Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles in Cuba. After a tense showdown, the Soviet Union begins to ship missiles back to the USSR on October 28th.

By the end of 1962, 305 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 27 (8.85%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 58 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1963

The Troop recharterers with 25 Scouts and 14 adults.

February: The Eighth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The lone **Honor Eagle** (Joseph E. Vojtecky, Jr.) brings the Troop total to 23 Eagle Scouts.

April 5th: The US and USSR agree to install a telephone hot line between the White House and the Kremlin.

May 15th through the 16th: Former Boy Scout L. Gordon Cooper, Jr. (Life Scout) becomes the last American to fly in space alone, aboard “Faith 7”. His is the last mission of the Mercury Program. Five of the six Mercury astronauts were once Boy Scouts, including one Second Class Scout, two First Class Scouts, one Star Scout, and one Life Scout.

June 3rd: Pope John XXIII dies.

June 21st: Giovanni Battista Montini becomes Pope Paul VI.

June 25th: The US, Great Britain, and USSR sign the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, agreeing to end atomic bomb testing in the atmosphere, in space, and in the ocean, but not underground. France and the Peoples Republic of China decline to sign.

June 26th: President Kennedy addresses 150,000 Germans in West Berlin, denouncing the USSR, and declaring “Ich bin ein Berliner”, which can either be translated “I am a citizen of Berlin”, or, “I am a puff pastry”.

Summer: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Semiconon.

August 28th: Martin Luther King, Jr. addresses 200,000 civil rights protesters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, delivering his “I have a dream” speech.

November 22nd: President John F. Kennedy is assassinated. Lyndon B. Johnson becomes President.

November 30th: World War II veteran Kramer E. “Skip” Wolfe, Jr., (seaman 2nd class, US Navy) age 36, becomes **Scoutmaster**. During his tenure, many adult leaders begin to push for the removal of “Birdville” from the Troop flag and community strip because of harassment the Scouts are beginning to endure at district events over the odd name of their town, but the boys aren’t interested in a change.

Weekly Troop meetings shift from Mondays to Tuesdays.

By the end of 1963, 330 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 33 (10%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 67 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1964

The Troop recharterers with 30 Scouts and 12 adults.

February: As part of Scout Anniversary Week observations, Troop 186 donates 52 books to the Community Library of Allegheny Valley in Tarentum.

February: The Ninth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The lone **Honor Eagle** (James A. Augustine) brings the Troop total to 24 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Otto Knaurerhauser, former W.D. Boyce District Chairman.

March 27th: A magnitude 9.2 earthquake, the most powerful in U.S. history, strikes the new state of Alaska. The quake is centered in Prince William Sound off the coast of South Central Alaska, and results in 131 deaths. It will become known as the “Good Friday”, or “Great Alaska” earthquake.

Troop 186 attends the Allegheny Council “Heritage” Camporee.

July 2nd: President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

July 17th through the 23rd: The Sixth BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, attended by 50,960 campers.

Summer: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Semiconon. Later in the summer, Explorer Post 186 attends an additional week at Camp Tionesta without adult leaders. In the absence of adults to stick up for them, the Post is the victim of pranks at the hands of the camp’s youth staff, including the introduction of foreign matter (dirt and insects, for example) to the “heater stacks” in which centrally prepared food is delivered to the troop sites. In retaliation, Post members return the heater stacks with a cargo of live snakes, not realizing that the youth staffers responsible for sabotaging their food have nothing to do with cleaning out heater stacks. That’s the responsibility of the poor old ladies who work in the kitchen. Intense scolding ensues, and the Post is asked not to return to Camp Tionesta.

August 2nd: US officials report an unprovoked attack by North Vietnamese forces on the USS Maddox in the Gulf of Tonkin. Two days later, the USS Maddox and USS Turner Joy report more unprovoked fire. In response, Congress passes the “Gulf of Tonkin Resolution” giving President Johnson broad powers to wage an undeclared war in Viet Nam. It’s later discovered that the first attack wasn’t unprovoked, and the second attack probably never happened at all.

October 20th: Former President Herbert C. Hoover dies at the age of 90.

November 3rd: Lyndon B. Johnson is elected President of the United States. He has served as President since the death of John F. Kennedy on November 22nd, 1963.

By the end of 1964, 353 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 39 (11.05%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 69 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1965

The Troop recharterers with 39 Scouts and 13 adults. It is the fourth consecutive year that the youth roster at chartering time has increased, setting a new troop record for sustained growth that isn’t broken until 2000.

January 20th: President Lyndon B. Johnson is inaugurated.

February: The Tenth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is separated from the Cub Pack Blue and Gold Banquet, and is set aside for the recognition of Eagle Scout awards only. It is held at Birdville Elementary School, and honors a Troop-record six **Honor Eagles** (Leonard Keith Plocki, Michael E. DeCorte, Dennis Lynn Mickleson, Mark A. Wolfe, Mark Hazlett, and William R. McCoy), bringing the Troop total to 30 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is James Holland, Northern Area Field Director, Allegheny Council.

February 21st: Civil rights activist Malcolm X is assassinated.

March 23rd: NASA’s “Gemini III” mission orbits the Earth. Both members of the two-man crew are former Boy Scouts: Virgil I. “Gus” Grissom (Star Scout), and John W. Young (Second Class Scout).

April 6th: NASA launches “Early Bird”, the world’s first commercial satellite.

Summer: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Semiconon. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Bill McCoy serves on Camp Semiconon Staff for the summer.

July 3rd through the 7th: NASA’s “Gemini IV” mission orbits the Earth. Both members of the two-man crew are former Boy Scouts: James A. McDivitt (Tenderfoot Scout), and Edward H. White II (Second Class Scout). Ed White becomes the first American to perform a “space walk”, which lasts 22 minutes.

July 30th: President Johnson signs Medicare into law.

August 21st through the 29th: NASA's "Gemini V" mission orbits the Earth. Of the two-man crew, one is a former Boy Scout (Life Scout Gordon L. Cooper, Jr.), and one is a former Cub Scout (Charles Conrad, Jr.).

September: The seventh edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is published. Public Health and Firemanship are removed from the Eagle-required merit badge list, while Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, and Soil and Water Conservation are added. The resulting list of required merit badges for Eagle Scout includes Camping, Cooking, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Nature, Soil and Water Conservation, Personal Fitness, First Aid, Swimming, Lifesaving, and Safety. The entire Merit Badge Group system that was pioneered in the fifth edition and continued in the sixth edition is entirely abolished. Scouts are simply to earn the merit badges on the required list, and choose their electives from the full selection of remaining merit badges, as had been the case from 1911 to 1949. The Eagle Scout Service Project is added to the requirements for Eagle Scout, and holding Troop office becomes a requirement for Star, Life and Eagle. The seventh edition is the first Boy Scout Handbook to include non-white faces in its illustrations. (An African-American Scout and an Asian-American Scout are pictured on the back cover. All the boys on the front cover are white. The BSA continues to permit local councils to operate racially segregated districts and units until 1971, 17 years after the Supreme Court outlawed segregation in public schools. See January 1st, 1969.)

December 4th through the 18th: NASA's "Gemini VII" mission orbits the Earth. Of the two-man crew, one is a former Boy Scout: Eagle Scout James A. Lovell, Jr. Jim Lovell is the first Eagle Scout to fly in space.

December 15th through the 16th: NASA's "Gemini VI-A" mission orbits the Earth. Both members of the two-man crew are former Boy Scouts: Walter M. Schirra, Jr. (First Class Scout), and Thomas P. Stafford (Star Scout).

By the end of 1965, 360 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 40 (11.11%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 73 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1966

The Troop recharterers with 28 Scouts and 14 adults.

February 3rd: The Soviet "Luna 9" makes the first soft landing on the Moon.

February: The Eleventh Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary

School. The lone **Honor Eagle** (Robert A. Wiskemann) brings the Troop total to 31 Eagle Scouts.

March 16th: NASA's "Gemini VIII" mission orbits the Earth. Both members of the two-man crew are former Boy Scouts: Neil A. Armstrong (Eagle Scout), and David R. Scott (Life Scout). During a docking exercise with another space vehicle (an unmanned Agena stage), a malfunction causes uncontrollable spinning of the craft. The crew undocks and performs the first emergency landing of a manned U.S. space mission.

May 11th: US troops shell Cambodia for the first time during the Viet Nam war.

June 3rd through the 6th: NASA's "Gemini IX-A" mission orbits the Earth. Both members of the two-man crew are former Boy Scouts: Thomas P. Stafford (Star Scout), and Eugene A. Cernan (Second Class Scout).

June 13th: The US Supreme Court decision in "Miranda versus Arizona" rules that suspects must be informed of their Fifth Amendment rights to silence and legal representation.

Summer: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Semiconon.

July 18th through the 21st: NASA's "Gemini X" mission orbits the Earth. Of the two-man crew, one is a former Boy Scout: John W. Young (Second Class Scout).

September 12th through the 15th: NASA's "Gemini XI" mission orbits the Earth. Of the two-man crew, one is a former Boy Scout (Star Scout Richard F. Gordon, Jr.), and one is a former Cub Scout (Charles Conrad, Jr.).

November 11th through the 15th: NASA's "Gemini XII" mission orbits the Earth. Both members of the two-man crew are former Boy Scouts: James A. Lovell, Jr. (Eagle Scout), and Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr. (Tenderfoot Scout). It is the last mission of the Gemini Project, of which every crew included at least one former Boy Scout. Fourteen of the sixteen Gemini astronauts were once Scouts, including one Cub Scout, two Tenderfoot Scouts, three Second Class Scouts, one First Class Scout, three Star Scouts, two Life Scouts, and two Eagle Scouts.

By the end of 1966, 373 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 46 (12.33%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 73 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1967

The Troop recharterers with 41 Scouts and 12 adults.

January 3rd: Jeffrey W. Lloyd and Mark A. Lloyd became the troop's only pair of brothers to pass their **Eagle Scout** Boards of Review on the same day.

January 27th: Apollo 1 burns on the launch pad during a pre-launch test, killing all 3 astronauts, all of whom are former Boy Scouts, including Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom (Star Scout), Roger B. Chaffee (Eagle Scout), and Edward H. White II (Second Class Scout).

February 12th: The Twelfth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The three **Honor Eagles** (William G. Augustine, Jeffrey W. Lloyd, and Mark A. Lloyd) bring the Troop total to 34 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Alvin Mason, Chairman of the Harrison Township Commissioners.

The Allegheny and Nemaquin Trails Councils merge to form the Allegheny Trails Council. Our Order of the Arrow Lodge changes from "Kuwewanik" to "Kuyasutha".

April: The second edition of the Boy Scout Fieldbook is published. The new Fieldbook appears seven years after the last printing of the first edition.

April 24: The Soviet spacecraft "Soyuz I" suffers a parachute failure. The one cosmonaut on board is killed in the impact with the Earth, and is the first known death during a space flight.

August: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Semiconon.

Summer: Mark Blowers and Jeff Lloyd attend Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico.

October 2nd: Thurgood Marshall becomes the first Black Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court.

November 11th: On the 25th anniversary of Troop 186, Natrona American Legion Post 48 presents the 1967 **Citizen of the Year Award** to Troop 186 Committee Chairman Lewis A. Rehner.

November 20th: The population of the United States surpasses 200,000,000.

December 1st: Conservation of Natural Resources Merit Badge replaces Soil and Water Conservation on the Eagle-required merit badge list. Scouts may earn either Soil and Water Conservation or Conservation of Natural Resources until January 1st, 1969. The resulting list of required merit badges for Eagle Scout includes Camping, Cooking, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Nature, Soil and Water Conservation or Conservation of Natural Resources, Personal Fitness, First Aid, Swimming, Lifesaving, and Safety.

December 3rd: Dr. Christiaan Barnard performs the first successful human heart transplant.

By the end of 1967, 390 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 53 (13.59%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 77 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1968

The Troop recharter with 41 Scouts and 18 adults.

January 30th: The North Vietnamese launch the "Tet Offensive".

March 23rd: The Thirteenth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The four **Honor Eagles** (Michael A. Augustine, William Berenson, Gregory A. Mason, and Robert L. Dudiak) bring the Troop total to 38 Eagle Scouts. This is the first Troop 186 Eagle Banquet to be held in March. The Keynote Speaker is George H. Cahill, Allegheny Trails Council Scout Executive.

March 26th: Clair H. Lloyd, age 47, becomes **Scoutmaster** (according to Council charter records, although he is identified as the Scoutmaster in the news article reporting on the March 23rd Eagle Banquet, which appeared in the March 25th paper). During his tenure, "Birdville"-based harassment intensifies, even leading to fights at district Scouting events. The older "Natrona Heights" troop flag is known to have been used at some outings. The Scouts are given the chance to vote on a change from "Birdville" to "Natrona Heights". The boys elect to stick with "Birdville", come what may.

April 4th: Civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated.

May 13th: Peace talks begin in Paris between the US and North Vietnamese.

June 5th: Senator Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated.

July 1st: The US signs the United Nations Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

July 4th: "Flag Plaza", the new headquarters of the Allegheny Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America in Pittsburgh, is officially dedicated.

Summer: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Tionesta.

August 20th: The USSR invades Czechoslovakia.

16 TROOP 186 TIMELINE

October 11th through the 12th: NASA's "Apollo 7" mission orbits the Earth. It's NASA's first manned space mission since the loss of Apollo 1 on January 27th, 1967. Two members of the three-man crew are former Boy Scouts: Commander Walter M. Schirra, Jr. (First Class Scout), and Command Module Pilot Don F. Eisele (Eagle Scout).

October 18th: Eight-year-old Robert G. Barrage, future Eagle Scout and Scoutmaster, joins Cub Pack 186.

November 5th: Richard M. Nixon is elected President of the United States.

December 21st through the 27th: NASA's "Apollo 8" mission completes the first manned orbit of the Moon. Two members of the three-man crew are former Boy Scouts: Command Module Pilot James A. Lovell, Jr. (Eagle Scout), and Lunar Module Pilot William A. Anders (Life Scout).

By the end of 1968, 416 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 59 (14.18%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 83 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1969

The Troop recharter with 55 Scouts and 18 adults.

The supply of "Birdville" community strips runs out at the local supplier (Joseph Horne's Co. Department Store), as the Boy Scouts of America begins to phase out community strips. New members of the Cub Pack begin to wear "Natrona Heights" strips instead. The troop holds a stockpile of "Birdville" strips, and new inductees from the Cub Pack are presented "Birdville" strips on arrival. The Boy Scout Troop never adopts the "Natrona Heights" strips.

January 1st: Conservation of Natural Resources Merit Badge replaces Soil and Water Conservation on the Eagle-required list. (Any Scout who earned Soil and Water Conservation prior to January 1st, 1969, can still count it as an Eagle-required badge, and is not required to earn Conservation of Natural Resources.) The resulting list of required merit badges for Eagle Scout includes Camping, Cooking, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Nature, Conservation of Natural Resources, Personal Fitness, First Aid, Swimming, Lifesaving, and Safety.

January 1st: Kevin Johnson joins Troop 186. He is the unit's first African-American member. (See September 1965.)

January: The Shawnee Patrol of Troop 186 wins the "Best Sled" award at the William D. Boyce District Klondike Derby.

January 20th: President Richard M. Nixon is inaugurated.

February 10th: Paul D. Crow becomes the last **Eagle Scout** of Explorer Post 186. He is the 20th Explorer so honored. (All 20 are included in the Troop 186 Eagle Scout total.) The Post, founded in 1949, is dissolved in 1969 or 1970.

March 3rd through the 13th: NASA's "Apollo 9" mission orbits the Moon. The entire three-man crew is composed of former Boy Scouts: Commander James A. McDivitt (Tenderfoot Scout), Command Module Pilot David R. Scott (Life Scout), and Lunar Module Pilot Russell L. Schweickart (First Class Scout).

March 15th: The Fourteenth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The five **Honor Eagles** (Peter P. Petracco, Keith Wetzel, G. Scott Blowers, Mark A. Blowers, and Paul D. Crow) bring the Troop total to 43 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is David Buerklin, director of relationships, Allegheny Trails Council.

March 28th: Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower dies at the age of 88.

"Patrol boxes" are constructed for each of the unit's patrols for use as field kitchens. Most of the boxes are constructed of 3/8" plywood and feature one side that opens on a piano hinge to provide a work surface. One box is constructed of 5/8" plywood, with extra internal bracing, and two opening sides providing opposing work surfaces. All boxes are fitted with steel carry handles, lock hasps, and threaded pipe legs that can be unscrewed and stored inside. The boxes are all painted dark green with patrol names stenciled in white. Until this time, cooking was generally troop-wide, and was performed by adults. Afterward, cooking becomes predominately patrol-wide, and by Scouts.

May 18 through the 26th: NASA's "Apollo 10" mission orbits the Moon. The entire three-man crew is composed of former Boy Scouts: Commander Thomas P. Stafford (Star Scout), Command Module Pilot John W. Young (Second Class Scout), and Lunar Module Pilot Eugene A. Cernan (Second Class Scout).

Spring: Troop 186 attends the Allegheny Trails Council "Boy Power – Man Power" Jamboree-Camporee at South Park.

Troop Bus Number One is purchased from the Highlands School District. Although by Summer Camp it still features its old school-bus yellow paint job, it soon

receives a red, white and blue color scheme, emblazoned with “Birdville Troop 186” in large script over the windows.

Troop 186 spends two nights camping in the Ohio State Park area and one day rafting the Youghiogheny River. It’s the Troop’s first whitewater-rafting trip on record. The Troop visits the Fort Necessity Battlefield on the way home.

June 29th through July 12th: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Tionesta, Seneca troop site, with 43 Scouts and 6 adults. The following week, 13 Scouts and 3 adults participate in the Allegheny Trails Council’s 150-mile Boot and Paddle canoeing and hiking trip from Camp Tionesta to Camp Guyasuta in Aspinwal. The Valley Daily News runs a front-page article covering the Boot and Paddle trip in the July 11th paper, with an article on page two previewing the Apollo 11 mission, which would deliver Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong to the Moon on July 20th.

July 16th through the 22nd: The Seventh BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Farragut State Park, Idaho, attended by 34,251 campers.

July 16th through the 24th: NASA’s “Apollo 11” mission travels to the surface of the Moon and back. Two members of the three-man crew are former Boy Scouts: Commander Neil A. Armstrong (Eagle Scout), and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr. (Tenderfoot Scout). On July 20th, Neil Armstrong departs the Lunar Lander “Eagle” to become the first human to walk on the surface of the Moon.

August 9th: Charles Manson’s “family” begins a murder spree that takes 7 lives.

August 11th through the 15th: Disappointed by the long expanses of flat water on the lower Allegheny between Corps of Engineers dams, Troop 186 reinvents the Council’s Boot and Paddle Canoe trip and spends five days paddling 112 miles of the free-flowing middle Allegheny River, from Grunderville (near Warren) to East Brady.

August 16th through the 19th: 300,000 youth flock to Bethel, New York for the “Woodstock Music and Art Fair”.

August: Boy Scout Troop 186 and Girl Scout Troop 492 join forces for a coeducational camping weekend, the first of its kind in either the local Boy Scout or Girl Scout Councils. The group so enjoys singing together around the campfire that they soon decide to organize the “Highlands Coeducational Scout Choir” for the purpose of providing free entertainment programs for local Scouting groups. The choir is led by Troop 186 Eagle

Scout Mark Lloyd, and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wetzel and Mrs. Clarence Krasowski serve as adult sponsors.

October 19th: Dr. Robert H. “Doc” Barrage, president of the Birdville Elementary School PTA, becomes Cub Pack Institutional Representative.

November: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Sonny Lauffer receives the **Silver Beaver Award**. After leaving Troop 186, Mr. Lauffer served as a member of committee of Troop 141, Puckety United Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, from July 13th 1960 through 1961, became Committee Chairman in 1962, then served as Scoutmaster from the 27th of June 1962 through 1966. He served for one year as Assistant Scoutmaster in 1967, then left Troop 141 to help establish Troop 868, American Legion Post 868, Lower Burrell, where he also served as Scoutmaster.

November 14th through the 24th: NASA’s “Apollo 12” mission travels to the surface of the Moon and back. The entire three-man crew is composed of former Scouts: Commander Charles Conrad Jr. (Cub Scout), Command Module Pilot Richard F. Gordon, Jr. (Star Scout), and Lunar Module Pilot Alan L. Bean (First Class Scout).

December: The Highlands Coeducational Scout Choir, made up of members of Boy Scout Troop 186 and Girl Scout Troop 492 under the direction of Troop 186 Eagle Scout Mark Lloyd, entertains attendees of the troop’s Family Christmas Dinner with a program of seasonal songs.

December: What will eventually be known as the “Internet” is born when ARPANET (a project of ARPA, the Advanced Research Projects Agency) goes online, connecting the universities of UCLA, Stanford, UC Santa Barbara, and the University of Utah. It’s intended for research, education, and government organizations, and as an emergency communications network in the event that a military attack destroys conventional communications systems.

By the end of 1969, 423 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 62 (14.66%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 85 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1970

The Troop recharterers with 48 Scouts and 19 adults.

March 14th: The Fifteenth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The four **Honor Eagles** (Ralph O. Hazelett, Mark Mason, Eric Rezac, and Terrence Gaworski) bring the Troop total to 47 Eagle Scouts. The Highlands Coeducational Scout Choir, made up of members of Boy

Scout Troop 186 and Girl Scout Troop 492 under the direction of Troop 186 Eagle Scout Mark Lloyd, entertains attendees with a show entitled "Broadway's Best." The Keynote Speaker is Robert Stewart, W.D. Boyce District Advancement Chairman.

The Eagle Patrol of Troop 186 takes first place at the William D. Boyce District First Aid Meet.

April 11th through the 17th: NASA's "Apollo 13" mission travels to the Moon and back, aborting the planned Moon landing after one of its two oxygen tanks explodes, causing the most serious space flight accident ever to be survived. The entire three-man crew is composed of former Boy Scouts: Commander James A. Lovell, Jr. (Eagle Scout), Command Module Pilot John L. Swigert, Jr. (Second Class Scout), and Lunar Module Pilot Fred W. Haise, Jr. (Star Scout).

April 22nd: The US celebrates the first "Earth Day".

May 4th: The National Guard opens fire on students protesting the Viet Nam War at Kent State University in Ohio, killing four. Troop 186 alumnus John Filo photographs a 14-year-old runaway crying over the body of one of the fallen protesters. The photograph wins a **Pulitzer Prize**, and becomes an icon of the Viet Nam era. Several troop alumni also serve in the armed services in Viet Nam, including Eagle Scout Bud Hamilton, who is welcomed home from his service in the jungle by being spat on in the airport terminal.

June 22nd: The US voting age is reduced to 18 years old by an act of Congress. Later, the change is cemented by the 26th Amendment to the Constitution on June 30th, 1971.

July: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Camp Tionesta with 43 Scouts and 7 adults.

Fall: Doc Barrage becomes Webelos Den Leader.

November 12th: World War II Merchant Marine veteran Jack O. Wetzel, age 46, becomes **Scoutmaster** (according to Council charter records, although a newspaper article covering Summer Camp, July 1970, reports he had been "recently appointed Scoutmaster" at that time).

December 31st: Member of Committee Kramer E Wolfe, Jr. retires after 8 years of service as a Member of Committee, Assistant Scoutmaster, and Scoutmaster. During his tenure as an adult leader with the troop, 26 boys became Eagle Scouts, including 15 during his tenure as Scoutmaster.

By the end of 1970, 429 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 64 (14.92%) have or will eventually

become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 88 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1971

The Troop recharter with 47 Scouts and 19 adults. It is the fifth consecutive year that the unit has chartered with 40 or more boys, setting a new troop record for sustained roster size.

January 1st: Doc Barrage becomes Institutional Representative of the Boy Scout Troop.

January 31st through February 9th: NASA's "Apollo 14" mission travels to the surface of the Moon and back. Two members of the three-man crew are former Boy Scouts: Commander Alan B. Shepard, Jr. (First Class Scout), and Lunar Module Pilot Edgar D. Mitchell (Life Scout).

March 20th: The Sixteenth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The presentation of six **Eagle Awards** (John M. Figler, Scott Simpson, David Deitz, Jamieson Gaworski, George Mack, and Barry Wetzel) ties the Troop record set at the 1965 Eagle Banquet, bringing the Troop total to 53 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Nick Starsinic, Highlands School District superintendent.

June: Troop 186 begins meeting on Tuesday nights throughout the summer months at newly-opened Harrison Hills County Park for pick-up softball. Since meetings moved to Birdville Elementary School in 1956, there had been no regular weekly meetings while school was out of session.

Summer: Troop 186 camps in Ohiopyle State Park, swims the Natural Waterslides of Meadow Run, and rafts the Youghiogheny River.

July 26th through August 7th: NASA's "Apollo 15" mission travels to the surface of the Moon and back. Two members of the three-man crew are former Boy Scouts: Commander David R. Scott (Life Scout), and Command Module Pilot Alfred M. Worden (First Class Scout). Lunar Module Pilot James B. Irwin becomes the only human being to walk on the surface of the Moon who was never a youth member of the Boy Scouts of America.

August 1st through the 7th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Shannopin troop site, Camp Tionesta.

October 17th: The Pittsburgh Pirates defeat the Baltimore Orioles in the 1971 World Series in seven games.

November 13th: The NASA spacecraft “Mariner 9” enters orbit around Mars, and becomes the first spacecraft to orbit another planet. It then begins to map the entire Martian surface.

December 31st: Member of Committee Clair H. Lloyd retires after 8 years of service as a Member of Committee, Assistant Scoutmaster, and Scoutmaster. During his tenure as an adult leader with the troop, 29 boys became Eagle Scouts, including 9 during his tenure as Scoutmaster.

By the end of 1971, 454 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 70 (15.42%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 90 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1972

The Troop recharterers with 39 Scouts and 19 adults.

January 1st: Doc Barrage becomes an Assistant Scoutmaster.

January 28th through the 30th: The Frog Patrol of Troop 186 takes third place at the William D. Boyce District Klondike Derby and Winter Camporee, held at Silver Lake Park. Troop 186 wins the “Best Campsite” honor. The temperature drops to 5 below zero Fahrenheit during the night.

February 21st through the 28th: President Richard M. Nixon becomes the first US President to visit the Peoples Republic of China.

March 18th: The Seventeenth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Birdville Elementary School. The five **Honor Eagles** (Leonard W. Kaminski, Robert J. Figler, Michael J. Bacha, Douglas P. Crawford, and David R. Plocki) bring the Troop total to 58 Eagle Scouts. This is the last Troop 186 Eagle Banquet to be held at Birdville Elementary School. The Keynote Speaker is Lewis A. Rehner, Troop 186 Committee Chairman.

March: The Apache II Patrol of Troop 186 takes first place at the William D. Boyce District First Aid Meet. The troop is the first unit in the history of the event to win the first place trophy twice (see 1970).

March 28th: Korean War veteran Clifford D. Pater, age 42, becomes **Scoutmaster**.

May 22nd: President Nixon arrives in the USSR. On May 26th, the US and USSR sign SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty)

April 16th through the 27th: NASA’s “Apollo 16” mission travels to the surface of the Moon and back. The entire three-man crew is composed of former Boy Scouts: Commander John W. Young (Second Class Scout), Command Module Pilot Thomas K. Mattingly II (Life Scout), and Lunar Module Pilot Charles M. Duke, Jr. (Eagle Scout).

June: The Eighth edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is published, instituting major changes to the advancement requirements, including the introduction of the “Skill Award” in place of individual Scout-skill requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. A total of eight Skill Awards are required for First Class Scout, of which one must be Citizenship, with the remaining seven chosen from the following: First Aid, Family Living, Community Living, Communications, Hiking, Camping, Cooking, Environment, Conservation, Physical Fitness, and Swimming. Boys under the age of 11 are permitted to join a Boy Scout Troop if they have completed the fifth grade. Merit badges are required for each rank advancement, and the total required for Eagle Scout increases from 21 to 24. Cooking, Camping, Conservation of Natural Resources, and Nature are dropped as Eagle-required merit badges, and Scouts have the option to choose other merit badges instead of Swimming (Sports or Personal Fitness) and Lifesaving (Emergency Preparedness), whereas, previously, all Eagle Scouts were required to earn both Swimming and Lifesaving. New additions to the Eagle-required merit badge list are Citizenship in the World, Communications, Environmental Science, and Personal Management. The resulting list of required merit badges for Eagle Scout includes First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Safety, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, and Personal Fitness or Swimming or Sports. For the first time, Boards of Review for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class are to be performed by the Troop Leaders’ Council (later renamed the Patrol Leaders’ Council), while Boards of Review for the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle are still the responsibility of the Troop Committee. The stipulation “give leadership to others” is added to the Eagle Scout Service Project. The deadline for completing the requirements for the Eagle Scout award is set at the candidate’s 18th birthday for both Boy Scouts and Explorers. Previously, Explorer Scouts could earn the award until their 21st birthday. (A grace period for Explorers over the age of 18 working on their Eagle Award is granted until January 1st, 1974.) A complete listing of merit badge requirements returns to the Handbook for the first time since the introduction of the sixth edition in 1959. Publication of the supplemental “Boy Scout Requirements” booklet is discontinued. The eighth edition adopts, for the first time, the straight left-handed handshake (preferred by Baden-Powell), rather than the traditional three-fingered left-handed handshake.

For the first time, an African-American Scout is pictured on the *front* cover of a Boy Scout Handbook (see September 1965 and July 1976.) The eighth edition is the first edition of the Boy Scout Handbook to provide no space for Scouts to sign off their advancement requirements. Each Scout must purchase a separate, easily-misplaced, 3-13/16" x 4-9/16", 28-page booklet entitled "Scout Progress Record Book".

The traditional community strip is replaced with a simple white-letter-on-red-background Council strip, though the "Birdville" strip is still seen on uniforms as late as 1985.

June 17th: Five men are arrested for breaking into Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate Hotel, Washington, DC. An attempted cover-up of the break-in is later traced directly to President Nixon.

June 22nd through the 25th: The remnants of Hurricane Agnes drop record rainfalls across Pennsylvania. Although large flood-control projects in the Ohio basin keep flood levels lower than the records set in 1936, the Susquehanna River reaches record levels, cresting at a volume of over a million cubic feet per second in Harrisburg.

June 25th through July 1st: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Seneca troop site, Camp Tionesta. The troop's planned participation in the Boot and Paddle trip is cancelled due to the lingering effects of Hurricane Agnes, which include unusually swift water in the Allegheny River, and a Tionesta Lake level so high that the entire Camp Tionesta waterfront area, required for participant training, is under tens of feet of water.

November 7th: Richard M. Nixon is reelected to a second term as President of the United States.

December 7th through the 19th: NASA's "Apollo 17" mission travels to the surface of the Moon and back. The entire three-man crew is composed of former Boy Scouts: Commander Eugene A. Cernan (Second Class Scout), Command Module Pilot Ronald E. Evans (Life Scout), and Lunar Module Pilot Harrison H. Schmitt (Tenderfoot Scout). Apollo 17 is the sixth and last Apollo mission to the surface of the Moon, and marks the end of humanity's first manned exploration of another world. It is the last mission of the Apollo Project, of which every crew included at least two former Scouts. Twenty-seven of the thirty-two Apollo astronauts were once Scouts, including one Cub Scout, three Tenderfoot Scouts, four Second Class Scouts, five First Class Scouts, four Star Scouts, five Life Scouts, and five Eagle Scouts. Of the twelve astronauts to walk on the surface of the Moon, eleven were former Scouts, including one Cub Scout, two Tenderfoot Scouts, two Second Class Scouts, two First Class Scouts, two Life Scouts, and two Eagle Scouts.

December 24th: Earthquakes strike Nicaragua, killing 10,000.

December 26th: Former President Harry S. Truman dies at the age of 88.

December 31st: Pittsburgh Pirate right-fielder Roberto Clemente is killed when his plane, loaded with food and medical supplies, crashes into the Caribbean Sea en route to Nicaragua.

By the end of 1972, 460 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 74 (16.09%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 92 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1973

The Troop recharter with 38 Scouts and 25 adults.

January 22nd: The US Supreme Court decision in "Roe versus Wade" rules that abortion is a private decision, and may not be prohibited during the first trimester of pregnancy.

January 22nd: Former President Lyndon B. Johnson dies at the age of 64.

January 27th: The US and North Viet Nam sign a cease-fire accord in Paris.

February 14th: The first installment of American prisoners of war return to the US from North Viet Nam.

February 27th through May 8th: American Indian protesters and US authorities face off at Wounded Knee, South Dakota.

*March 24th: The Eighteenth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner moves from Birdville Elementary School to the Highlands Senior High School. The four **Honor Eagles** (Raymond A. Kowalski, Richard A. Mack, Frederick D. Smith, and Jeffrey B. Sutton) bring the Troop total to 62 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is M.P. Acee, W.D. Boyce District Chairman.*

May 12th and 13th: The William D. Boyce District Spring Camporee at Northmoreland Park is cut short late Saturday afternoon when a tornado watch persuades district officials to cancel the remainder of the program and send all campers home. Our troop bus breaks down on the way home along the Route 56 bypass, but Troop 186 is soon rescued by the U.S. Army Reserve, and rides home in the back of army troop trucks.

May 14th: NASA launches Skylab.

May 17th: “Watergate” hearings begin before the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities.

May 25th through June 22nd: The first astronaut crew to man NASA’s Skylab space station completes 404 orbits of the Earth in 672 hours, 49 minutes, and 49 seconds, setting a new American space endurance record. Among the three-man crew is one former Cub Scout, Charles Conrad, Jr.

July 28th through September 25th: The second astronaut crew to man NASA’s Skylab space station completes 858 orbits of the Earth in 1,427 hours, 9 minutes, and 4 seconds, setting a new American space endurance record. The entire three-man crew is composed of former Boy Scouts: Alan L. Bean (First Class Scout), Jack R. Lousma (Tenderfoot Scout), and Owen K. Garriott (Star Scout).

July 29th through August 10th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp back at the Shannopin troop site, Camp Tionesta. One year postponed, a contingent from Troop 186 participates in the Boot and Paddle trip, a 150-mile canoeing and hiking trip from Camp Tionesta to Camp Guyasuta in Aspinwal.

August 3rd through the 9th: Paul Freehling represents Troop 186 as a member of the Allegheny Trails Council contingent Troop 527 attending the Eighth BSA National Scout Jamboree at Moraine State Park, near Butler. For the first and only time, the National Jamboree is held at two locations, with the western Jamboree in Farragut State Park, Idaho. Total attendance for the double Jamboree is 73,610 campers, with roughly 44,000 at Moraine State Park.

August: Troop 186 visits the National Boy Scout Jamboree at Moraine State Park.

August 15th: Khmer bombing ceases, ending US combat involvement in Southeast Asia.

October 8th: Dr. Robert H. “Doc” Barrage, age 42, becomes **Scoutmaster** (according to Council charter records, although the change of position most likely occurred at the beginning of the school year, about a month earlier).

October 10th: Vice President Spiro T. Agnew resigns, and pleads “no contest” to one count of income tax evasion.

November 16th through February 8th, 1974: The third and final astronaut crew to man NASA’s Skylab space station completes 1,214 orbits of the Earth in 2,017 hours, 16 minutes, and 30 seconds, setting a new American space endurance record. (See July 11th, 1979.) The entire three-man crew is composed of former Boy Scouts: Gerald P. Carr (Eagle Scout), William R. Pogue

(Second Class Scout), and Edward G. Gibson (First Class Scout).

November 25th: President Nixon requests that gas stations close on Sundays, and that Americans observe a 50 mph highway speed limit in order to conserve fuel, in response to an oil embargo mounted by OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries).

December 6th: Eagle Scout Gerald R. Ford is sworn in as Vice President.

By the end of 1973, 475 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 80 (16.84%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 98 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1974

The Troop recharter with 38 Scouts and 21 adults.

March 16th: The Nineteenth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Highlands Senior High School. The three **Honor Eagles** (Brian Alquist, Mark A. Olean, and Paul E. Freehling) bring the Troop total to 65 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Paul E. Freehling (Bronze) and Raymond A. Kowalski (Gold and Silver). The Keynote Speaker is Charles Lowman III, W.D. Boyce District Executive.

April 8th: Hank Aaron breaks Babe Ruth’s career home run record with his 715th.

July 4th and 5th: Troop 186 camps at Ohiopyle State Park with the intent of rafting the Youghiogheny River on July 5th, but high water caused by an overnight storm forces the cancellation of the raft trip.

July 28th through August 3rd: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Shannopin troop site, Camp Tionesta.

August 8th: Richard M. Nixon becomes the first US President to resign. Eagle Scout Gerald R. Ford is sworn in as President. He is the first Eagle Scout to serve as President.

August: Troop 186 travels to the Philadelphia area, camping at the Philadelphia Navy Base, and stopping at Independence Hall on the way home.

September: Troop bus number one, known to many as “Old Bessy”, is decommissioned. Troop bus number two, “The Blue Devil”, enters service with a blue, gold, and black color scheme.

September 16th: President Ford pardons Richard Nixon for crimes relating to the Watergate break-in, and grants immunity to all Viet Nam draft dodgers.

October 18th through the 20th: Troop 186 takes second place at the William D. Boyce District Fall Camporee at Freeport Park.

December 19th: Nelson A. Rockefeller is sworn in as Vice President. For the first time in history, the US has a non-elected President and Vice President.

By the end of 1974, 492 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 86 (17.48%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 101 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1975

The Troop recharterers with 37 Scouts and 21 adults.

January 12th: The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Minnesota Vikings 16 to 6 in Super Bowl IX.

March 22nd: The Twentieth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Highlands Senior High School. The five **Honor Eagles** (Robert G. Barrage, David E. Hubert, Jeffrey A. Bacha, William A. Moser, and Norman R. Walters) bring the Troop total to 70 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Paul E. Freehling (Gold and Silver) and Raymond A. Kowalski. The Keynote Speaker is Robert Thornbladh, representing the Allegheny Trails Council.

April 30th: Saigon falls to the Communists hours after the US embassy is evacuated.

May: Troop 186 wins the 1974 William D. Boyce **District Advancement Award** for highest per capita rank advancement.

Tionesta Camp Director Joe Maloney negotiates a two-year extension of the Allegheny Trails Council's lease from the U.S. Forest Service on Camp Tionesta.

July 4th through the 6th: Troop 186 participates in the 75th Anniversary celebration of Harrison Township by marching in a parade, and setting up and manning an exhibition camp site at Harrison Hills Park for public display.

July 15th through the 24th: Apollo and Soyuz space capsules rendezvous in Earth orbit (on July 17th) in the first joint US-USSR space mission. Two members of the three-man American crew are former Boy Scouts: Thomas P. Stafford (Star Scout), and Vance D. Brand (Life Scout). Although the mission seems to usher in a "new age" of cooperative space travel, that new age is still many years in the future. (See June 27th through July 7th, 1995.) The Apollo-Soyuz mission, in fact, marks the end of the "old age" of space travel, during which

both the United States and the Soviet Union used disposable spacecrafts – that were little more than guided missiles – to take humankind's first tentative steps into space. Americans will not return to space until the first flight of the Space Shuttle in 1981. Since the beginning of the US manned space program, every crew except one (Mercury 6, February 20th, 1962) has included at least one former Boy Scout or Cub Scout. Of the forty-four astronauts who participated in the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, and Apollo-Soyuz projects, thirty-five were once Scouts, including one Cub Scout, four Tenderfoot Scouts, six Second Class Scouts, six First Class Scouts, five Star Scouts, seven Life Scouts, and six Eagle Scouts.

July 19th: Troop 186 rafts the Youghiogheny River. The cost per Scout is \$20 plus \$2 to cover bus expenses.

July 27th through August 2nd: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at Shannopin troop site, Camp Tionesta with 44 Scouts and 6 adults. The cost per Scout is \$30 plus \$2 to cover bus expenses. Evan Erickson and Bob Barrage earn the Canoeing merit badge.

October: Troop 186 attends the Allegheny Trails Council "Jamboral" at South Park. In anticipation of the upcoming American Bicentennial, the slogan for the weekend event is "Be a bell-ringer".

October 22nd: A Soviet spacecraft lands on Venus and transmits the first photographs taken on the surface of another planet.

By the end of 1975, 503 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 90 (17.89%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 103 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1976

The Troop recharterers with 41 Scouts and 21 adults.

January 18th: The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Dallas Cowboys 21 to 7 in Super Bowl X.

April 3rd: The Twenty-first Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Highlands Senior High School, honoring Gary Zeolla, Mark Skradski, Evan K. Erickson, Richard A. Welsh, and Bruce Janacek. The theme of the Dinner is "76 in '76", referring to the troop's production of 76 **Eagle Scouts**. It is later learned that Herb Fleming is included in that count, even though he earned his Eagle award in another troop, so the actual total is 75. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Jeffrey A. Bacha, Robert G. Barrage (Bronze), Paul E. Freehling (Bronze II, Gold II, Silver II, and Bronze III), and Gary Zeolla. The Keynote Speaker is M.P. Acee, W.D. Boyce District Chairman.

April: Troop 186 Eagle Scouts still active in troop activities found the “Krod”, a patrol composed entirely of Eagle Scouts and, by extension, the brotherhood of all Troop 186 Eagle Scouts.

April 26th: A mine subsidence event begins at Birdville Elementary School, which results in the temporary closure of the entire building (on May 3rd), and the permanent condemnation of the western end. The remainder of the spring indoor meeting schedule is completed in the homes of troop leaders. When the indoor meeting schedule resumes in the fall, Troop meetings move from the auditorium in the west end to the cafeteria in the east end of the school building.

May 21st through the 23rd: The “X” Patrol of Troop 186 takes first place in the Scout Olympics Competition at the William D. Boyce District Spring Camporee.

June 13th: Troop 186 participates in the “Hike into History” at Point State Park in downtown Pittsburgh.

June 28th: The U.S. Air Force Academy becomes the first of the big three service academies to admit women cadets when it admits Joan Olsen. West Point and Annapolis follow suit later in the same year.

July 4th: The United States of America celebrates the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

July: The fourth printing of the eighth edition of the Boy Scout Handbook removes the one merit badge required of Tenderfoot candidates, adds four more required Skill Awards to the total requirements for First Class Scout, and adds one merit badge to the requirements for Life Scout. A total of eight Skill Awards are still required for First Class Scout, of which Citizenship, Hiking, First Aid, Camping and Cooking are required, with the remaining three chosen from the following: Family Living, Community Living, Communications, Environment, Conservation, Physical Fitness, and Swimming. Camping merit badge is restored to the Eagle-required list. The resulting list of required merit badges for Eagle Scout includes First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Safety, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, Personal Fitness or Swimming or Sports, and Camping. The total number of merit badges required for Eagle remains 24. In addition to changes in advancement requirements, the fourth printing includes a redesigned cover, which includes, for the first time, an African-American Scout and an Asian-American Scout on the *front* cover (see September 1965 and June 1972.)

July 20th: The NASA spacecraft “Viking 1” lands on Mars, and transmits the first photographs taken from the Martian surface.

August 8th through the 20th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Shannopin troop site, Camp Tionesta with 40 Scouts and 4 adults. Due to a rumor that 1976 would be the last year Camp Tionesta would be open, Troop 186 schedules Summer Camp for the last camping session of the summer, and 18 Scouts and 2 adults participate in the Boot and Paddle trip (a 150-mile canoeing and hiking trip from Camp Tionesta to Camp Guyasuta in Aspinwal), in case it’s the last chance to run that trip from Camp Tionesta.

The Birdville Elementary School Parent-Teachers’ Association disbands and reorganizes as the “Birdville Boosters”, which becomes the Troop’s third sponsor.

September 10th: Robert K. Delp becomes the actual 76th **Eagle Scout**. So there really are “76 in ‘76”.

September 24th through the 26th: Troop 186 travels to the Washington DC area for the Air Show at the Pautuxent River Naval Air Test Station, highlighted by a performance of the Blue Angels precision flying team. The Troop camps at Andrews Air Force Base.

October: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches.

October 22nd through the 24th: The “X” Patrol of Troop 186 takes first place in the Scouting Skills Competition at the William D. Boyce District Fall Camporee.

November 2nd: Former Scoutmaster Jimmy Carter is elected President of the United States.

November 23rd: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Richard A. Welsh leads the opening ceremony at the Allegheny Trails Council Eagle Recognition Dinner. The program misidentifies his troop as number 86, but gets the Birdville PTA right.

By the end of 1976, 513 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 94 (18.32%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 104 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1977

The Troop recharter with 36 Scouts and 23 adults.

January: The mean monthly temperature in Pittsburgh is 11.4 degrees, 14.7 degrees below normal, setting a record for the coldest January on record.

24 TROOP 186 TIMELINE

January 20th: President Jimmy Carter, a former Scoutmaster, is inaugurated.

March 12th: The Twenty-second Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner moves from the Highlands Senior High School to Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. The five **Honor Eagles** (Robert K. Delp, Jay D. Brannon, Michael J. McCandless, Thomas T. Krasowski, and Andrew T. Reidel) bring the Troop total to 80 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Evan K. Erickson (Bronze), Paul E. Freehling (Gold III and Silver III), and Gary Zeolla. Paul Freehling's third Silver Eagle Palm sets a new troop record that stands until 2006, when it is broken by Evan Erickson's son, Joel. The Keynote Speaker is Ronald E. Moranville, Allegheny Trails Council Scout Executive.

May 14th: Troop 186 participates in the Allegheny Trails Council "Scouting USA Show" at the Civic Arena in Pittsburgh. Among the 231 exhibit booths, Troop 186 provides one on the subject of "Pioneering" and one on the subject of "Geology".

June 20th: The Alaskan Oil Pipeline opens.

The U.S. Forest Service refuses to grant the Allegheny Trails Council a long-term lease on Camp Tionesta. The Council insists on a long-term lease in order to justify the large expected expenditure required to renovate the aging facility, but the Forest Service has designs on building their own public campground on the site. Camp Tionesta closes after the end of the 1977 season, and the Council begins to look for suitable land to purchase for the construction of a new Scout Camp. The Forest Service discovers that the Council has had to pay five different private landowners for rights-of-way for the camp access road, and has maintained the road out of the Boy Scout treasury. To avoid the purchase of private rights-of-way, the Forest Service would need to build a new access road from the Nebraska bridge, along the reservoir, connecting with the camp road at the Albino troop site. Federal budget cuts make such a road impossible, and the public campground never materializes.

July 17th through the 29th: Troop 186 attends Summer Camp at the Shannopin troop site during the last week of operation of Camp Tionesta. At the close of the week, a large portion of the troop walks out of camp for the last time, along the reservoir, to the town of Tionesta. There, the canoes are loaded and launched for the last Boot and Paddle trip to depart from Camp Tionesta. Boot and Paddle is a 150-mile canoeing and hiking trip from Camp Tionesta to Camp Guyasuta in Aspinwal.

July 19th and 20th: Roughly 12 inches of rainfall during the night of July 19th -20th in the Conemaugh River watershed, coupled with a break in the Laurel Run Dam, causes a second Johnstown Flood, taking at least 77

lives. (Roughly 2,200 lives were lost in the original Johnstown Flood in May of 1889.)

August: Scoutmaster Doc Barrage accompanies Council Scout Executive Ron Moranville and other members of the Allegheny Trails Council Camp Development Committee on a tour of the S Bar F Scout Ranch, St. Louis Area Council. Doc gets lost on the way to the airport, but Ron Moranville holds the plane until he arrives. The Committee decides to incorporate the patrol-cooking procedures and the "reservation concept" (a large land area with separate and relatively independent camping facilities) that are observed at the S Bar F Ranch into the design of the planned new Council Summer Camp.

August 3rd through the 9th: The Ninth BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Moraine State Park, Pennsylvania, attended by 28,601 campers.

August 6th: Troop 186 visits the BSA National Scout Jamboree at Moraine State Park.

August 12th: Troop 186 rafts the Youghiogheny River. The cost per Scout is \$22.

August 12th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Enterprise", which is intended only for atmospheric testing, makes its first free flight by detaching from its Boeing 747 host and gliding to a landing on the dry lake bed at Edwards Air Force Base. Both crew members are former Boy Scouts: Fred W. Haise, Jr. (Star Scout) and C. Gordon Fullerton (Eagle Scout).

September 13th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Enterprise" makes its second free flight by detaching from its Boeing 747 host and gliding to a landing on the dry lake bed at Edwards Air Force Base. Both crew members are former Boy Scouts: Joe H. Engle (First Class Scout) and Richard H. Truly (Eagle Scout).

September 23rd: The NASA Space Shuttle "Enterprise" makes its third free flight by detaching from its Boeing 747 host and gliding to a landing on the dry lake bed at Edwards Air Force Base. Both crew members are former Boy Scouts: Fred W. Haise, Jr. (Star Scout) and C. Gordon Fullerton (Eagle Scout).

October 12th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Enterprise" makes its fourth free flight by detaching from its Boeing 747 host and gliding to a landing on the dry lake bed at Edwards Air Force Base. Both crew members are former Boy Scouts: Joe H. Engle (First Class Scout) and Richard H. Truly (Eagle Scout).

October 21st: Ali Maow Maalin of Somalia contracts Smallpox. He is the last known naturally occurring case. The World Health Organization will pronounce the virus extinct in the wild in May of 1980.

October 26th: The NASA Space Shuttle “Enterprise” makes its fifth and final free flight by detaching from its Boeing 747 host and gliding to a landing on the main concrete runway at Edwards Air Force Base. Both crew members are former Boy Scouts: Fred W. Haise, Jr. (Star Scout) and C. Gordon Fullerton (Eagle Scout).

December: The Allegheny Trails Council Camp Development Committee visits a 2000-acre plot of land outside of Farmington, which has been recommended for the new Council Camp, and decides to pursue its acquisition.

By the end of 1977, 526 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 97 (18.44%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 107 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1978

The Troop recharter with 37 Scouts and 19 adults.

Troop 186’s first Eagle Scout, Sonny Lauffer, becomes ranger at Camp Guyasuta, Aspinwal.

January 8th through March 12th: Snow covers the ground in the Pittsburgh area for a record sixty-four consecutive days.

January 31st: January comes to an end as the snowiest month on record in the Pittsburgh area to date, with a total snowfall of 40.2 inches. The record stands until February of 2010.

March 11th: The X-1 Patrol of Troop 186 takes second place at the William D. Boyce District First Aid Meet.

March 11th: The Twenty-third Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. The presentation of six **Eagle Awards** (David A. Moser, Daniel J. Hubert, Thomas C. Barrage, Edward A. Kesicki, Kenneth Kostka, and Ronald P. McClain) ties the Troop record set in 1965 and previously tied in 1971, bringing the Troop total to 86 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Evan K. Erickson (Gold and Silver). The Keynote Speaker is M.P. Acee, W.D. Boyce District Chairman. The four-year total for the Eagle Banquets of 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978 is 21 Eagle Scouts, which is the largest four-year total in the Troop’s history. The ten-year total for the Eagle Banquets of 1969 through 1978 is 48 Eagle Scouts, which is the largest ten-year total in the Troop’s history. Harassment at District events over the name “Birdville” is unknown.

May: A “commercial” version of the second edition of the Boy Scout Fieldbook is published. Its subtitle reads “A practical guide for everyone to life in the outdoors.”

July 6th through the 19th: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Evan Erickson attends Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

August 6th through the 12th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Trafford troop site, Camp Twin Echo, East Valley Area Council, during the camp’s 50th Anniversary Celebration. Tom Barrage and Mark McCandless win the “Beast of the Week” award for the garter snake they turn in to the nature program area.

July 25th: “Test-tube Baby” Louise Brown is born in England. She is the first successful example of in-vitro fertilization.

August 6th: Pope Paul VI dies.

August 26th: Albino Luciani becomes Pope John Paul I.

September 1st: As of this date, all Eagle Progress Service Projects must have the written approval of the district advancement chairman on the “Service Project Worksheet” before the project is started.

September 28th: Pope John Paul I dies.

October 16th: Karol Wojtyla becomes Pope John Paul II. He is the first Pole to be called to the Papacy.

November 8th: Painter and illustrator Norman Rockwell dies.

November 18th: On a fact-finding mission to “Jonestown”, a cult commune in Guyana, Congressman Leo J. Ryan and 4 others are shot to death by cult members at the air field. Back in Jonestown, 911 die in an orgy of suicide and murder, including the cult’s founder, Jim Jones.

November 21st: At the Allegheny Trails Council Eagle Recognition Dinner, the announcement is made that land has been purchased and designs begun for a new Scout Reservation which will include a 270-acre lake, and two complete Boy Scout Summer Camps. The new super-camp may be ready for campers in the summer of 1980. It’s referred to as “Our New Camp”, but will become known as the Heritage Scout Reservation.

By the end of 1978, 531 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 100 (18.83%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 109 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1979

The Troop recharter with 31 Scouts and 21 adults.

January 16th: The Shaw of Iran flees the country. Fundamentalist Moslem cleric Ayatollah Khomeini returns from exile in France on February 1st.

January 21st: The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Dallas Cowboys 35 to 31 in Super Bowl XIII.

February: The ninth edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is published. The new edition removes merit badges from the Second Class requirements, and reduces the First Class requirements from 2 merit badges to only First Aid. The total merit badges required for Eagle Scout is reduced from 24 back to the traditional 21. The Skill Awards remain. The Eagle-required merit badge list is unchanged, and includes First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Safety, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, Personal Fitness or Swimming or Sports, and Camping. Continuing the procedure that was introduced with the publication of the eighth edition Boy Scout Handbook, Boards of Review for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class are to be performed by the Patrol Leaders' Council, while Boards of Review for the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle are the responsibility of the Troop Committee. The complete listing of merit badge requirements, which appeared in the first through the fifth editions, and then again in the eighth edition, is once again removed from the Handbook. Publication of the supplemental "Boy Scout Requirements" booklet is resumed.

February: The mean monthly temperature in Pittsburgh is 18 degrees, setting a record for the coldest February on record.

February 22nd: Scoutmaster Doc Barrage meets William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt, the author of the ninth edition Boy Scout Handbook, who autographs Doc's copy. (Mr. Hillcourt, who lived from 1900 to 1992, also authored the first edition Handbook for Patrol Leaders, 1929; the third edition Scoutmaster Handbook, 1937; the first edition Scout Field Book, 1944; the fourth edition Scoutmaster Handbook, 1947; the sixth edition Boy Scout Handbook, 1959; the fifth edition Scoutmaster Handbook, 1959; the seventh edition Boy Scout Handbook, 1965; and the third edition Handbook for Patrol Leaders, 1980.)

March 17th: The X Patrol of Troop 186 takes third place in the seniors division at the William D. Boyce District First Aid Meet.

March 17th: The Twenty-fourth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. The lone **Honor Eagle** (Kevin J. Matjasko) brings the Troop total to 87 Eagle Scouts.

March 28th: One of two reactors at the Three-Mile Island nuclear power plant, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, suffers a partial melt-down, resulting in the most serious civilian nuclear accident in US history. The emergency is brought under control, and there are no fatalities.

March 28th: Groundbreaking at Heritage Scout Reservation.

June 13th: The Sioux Nation is awarded \$105,000,000 for the confiscation of the Black Hills in 1877.

June 18th: The US and USSR sign SALT II (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty).

July 11th: Skylab falls to Earth in the Indian Ocean and Australia.

August 5th through the 11th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Trafford troop site, Camp Twin Echo, East Valley Area Council. The cost per Scout is \$39 plus \$3 to cover bus expenses.

October 17th: The Pittsburgh Pirates defeat the Baltimore Orioles in the 1979 World Series in seven games.

November 4th: After the Shaw of Iran travels to the US for medical treatment, Iranian students storm the American embassy in Tehran and take 66 hostages, demanding that the Shaw be returned to Iran.

December 2nd: Lewis A. Rehner dies in office after 29 years of service as Committee Chairman. During his tenure the Cub Scout Pack and Annual Eagle Banquet are established, and 82 boys become Eagle Scouts. World War II veteran and Troop 192 Eagle Scout Leonard R. Plocki, age 60, becomes **Committee Chairman**.

December 27th: The Afghan government falls in a coup d'etat assisted by a massive invasion of Soviet troops, starting a protracted war in Afghanistan.

By the end of 1979, 536 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 102 (19.03%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 111 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1980

The Troop recharter with 29 Scouts and 22 adults.

January 20th: The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Los Angeles Rams 31 to 19 in Super Bowl XIV.

March 8th: The Twenty-fifth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. The two **Honor Eagles** (Mark A. McCandless and Donald L. Hubert) bring the Troop total to 89 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** were presented to Kenneth G. Kostka. The Keynote Speaker is Frank Anderson, Associate Editor of the Valley News Dispatch.

March 22nd: Troop 186, along with hundreds of other Scouts and Scouters, travels to a remote, snow-covered mountaintop near Fort Necessity, where a 250-acre swath of forest has been clear-cut to make way for a new lake. Hiking across the bottom of the future Lake Courage, the troop helps to clear dead trees from what will be the Fort LeBoeuf troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Scout Reservation.

Spring: Troop 186 alumnus Keith Sullivan (1972-1973, and later an Eagle Scout of Troop 395) is named Highlands High School **Boy of the Year** by the Allegheny Valley Chapter of Optimists International.

May 16th through the 18th: Troop 186 attends the Allegheny Trails Council "Skill Rally" Camporee.

May 18th: Mount Saint Helens erupts in Washington state.

June 1st: CNN goes on the air as the first 24-hour news network.

June: Scoutmaster Doc Barrage is diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

June 14th: Dedication Day at Heritage Scout Reservation.

July 27th through August 2nd: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Fort LeBoeuf troopsite, Camp Freedom, during the first season of operation of Heritage Reservation. The cost per Scout is \$40 plus \$3 to cover bus expenses. Camp roads are rutted and muddy. Lake Courage is black with topsoil. The trees of Latham Cove (20 acres of timber left standing when the lake was filled) are still in full leaf, but in autumn colors. Neither the Ridge Parking lot, nor the access road to it, has been started. The North Bridge across the lake has not yet been built. All meals are picked up at the Commissary building and cooked, by patrol, in troop site. Breaking from the old practice at Camp Tionesta, new Ordeal Order of the Arrow candidates are not offered the opportunity to complete their Ordeal during their week of Summer Camp, but must return for a fall or spring Ceremonial Weekend. A pair of hawks had built their nest in the midst of what is now the Fort LeBoeuf site, and the young hawks fledge during the week that Troop 186 is in residence.

August 31st: Bending to pressure from the labor union "Solidarity", led by Lech Walesa, the Communist Polish government institutes the "Gdansk Accords", giving workers union and strike rights.

September 19th through the 21st: Troop 186 travels to the Washington DC area for the Air Show at the Pautuxent River Naval Air Test Station, highlighted by a performance of the Blue Angels precision flying team.

September 22nd: Iraq invades Iran.

November 4th: Ronald Reagan is elected President of the United States.

By the end of 1980, 542 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 103 (19.00%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 115 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1981

The Troop recharter with 31 Scouts and 20 adults.

January 1st: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Ronald C. Stobert, age 41, becomes **Committee Chairman**.

January 20th: President Ronald Reagan is inaugurated.

January 31st: The American hostages taken 444 days before return home from Iran.

The Boy Scout uniform is completely overhauled by fashion designer Oscar De La Renta. It's the first major redesign of the uniform since 1922.

February: The fourth printing of the ninth edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is published. Illustrations on 75 pages are redrawn to reflect the new uniform design.

March 28th: The Twenty-sixth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Brackenridge. The new "**Lewis A. Rehner Award**" for outstanding service to Scouting through Troop 186, is awarded for the first time. The first recipient is retired Committee Chairman Leonard Plocki. The five **Honor Eagles** (James T. Plocki, Sean D. Smarick, Steven A. Kesicki, Douglas A. Kowalski, and James R. Boyle, Jr.) bring the Troop total to 94 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is M.P. Acee, W.D. Boyce District Chairman.

April 12th: NASA launches the first orbital space shuttle "Columbia" (mission STS-1). The two-man crew includes one former Boy Scout, Commander John W. Young (Second Class Scout).

Spring: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Edward A. Kesicki is named Highlands High School **Boy of the Year** by the Allegheny Valley Chapter of Optimists International.

May 3rd: Len Plocki receives the **District Award of Merit**.

Troop bus number two, "The Blue Devil", is decommissioned. Troop bus number three, "Homer", enters service with a dark blue, light blue, and gold color scheme. The bus is named in honor of the Homer City School District, from which it is purchased.

July 26th through August 1st: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at Heritage Reservation, moving to the Brandywine troop site, Camp Freedom, to be closer to the ridge-end of the newly completed North Bridge. The cost per Scout is \$45 plus \$3 to cover bus expenses. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Jim Boyle serves on Camp Freedom Staff for the summer.

July 29th through August 4th: The Tenth BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia, attended by 29,765 campers.

September 25th: Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman on the US Supreme Court.

October 6th: Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is assassinated.

October: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches.

October 15^h: The "Wave", the brainchild of professional cheerleader Krazy George Henderson, is performed for the first time by the crowd at the Los Angeles Coliseum during an American League Championship game between the New York Yankees and the Oakland Athletics.

November 14th: Troop 186 attends the Allegheny Trails Council "Champions of Tomorrow" Scout Show.

November 17th: Troop 186 Eagle Scout James R. Boyle, Jr. leads the opening ceremony at the Allegheny Trails Council Eagle Recognition Dinner.

December 31st: Member of committee Joe Michalek retires after 30½ years of service as Member of Committee, Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, Institutional Representative, and author of the Troop song. During his service as an adult leader, 90 boys became Eagle Scouts, including 6 during his two tenures as Scoutmaster. He retires as the longest-tenured member in the history of the troop.

By the end of 1981, 552 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 106 (19.20%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 117 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1982

The Troop recharter with 21 Scouts and 17 adults.

March 13th: The Twenty-seventh Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. The two **Honor Eagles** (David W. Bacha and Shawn W. Kelly) bring the Troop total to 96 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to James R. Boyle, Jr. (Bronze), Douglas A. Kowalski (Bronze and Gold) and Sean D. Smarick (Bronze). Assistant Scoutmaster Edward "Smacks" Kesicki receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award**. The Keynote Speaker is R. Weaver, Director Field Services, Allegheny Trails Council.

Spring: As usual, all Scouts who place an early down payment on their Summer Camp fee (which increases from \$3 to \$5 this year) receive an official Heritage Early-Bird patch. The patch features a silk-screened photograph of Troop members Jason Stobert and Tim Barrage canoeing on Lake Courage, Heritage Reservation. The previous summer, they had rammed the photographer's rowboat.

April 2nd through the 3rd: The "Troop 186 Patrol Leader Training" weekend is held at Ron Stobert's log cabin above Dam Number 9 on the Allegheny River.

May 19th through the 21st: Troop 186 Eagle Scouts Mark Skradski, Tom Barrage, Evan Erickson, and Bob Barrage establish the "Dromomaniacs"; a very loose organization for the purpose of researching canoeing and rafting trips for Troop 186. The inaugural research trip stretches from Buckaloons Campground in the Allegheny National Forest to Committee Chairman Ron Stobert's log cabin at Dam Number 9. The trip covers 117.3 miles of the Allegheny River in 49 hours.

June 24th through the 27th: Acting Canoe-trip Scoutmaster Bob Barrage leads a group of 13 paddlers on a 71.5-mile, two-day canoe trip from Rockmere to Dam Number 9 on the Allegheny River. This is the first trip to result from Dromomaniac research, and the first Troop canoe trip since the Clair Lloyd era. The trip is for older Scouts only, and Saturday evening links up with the rest of the Troop, which is camped for the weekend at Ron Stobert's cabin.

July 25th through the 31st: Troop 186 spends another week of Summer Camp at the Brandywine troop site. The cost per Scout is \$50 plus \$4 to cover bus expenses. The encampment includes 20 Scouts and 10 adults. Ten

of the thirty campers in attendance are Eagle Scouts. The week includes a Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting trip on the Youghiogheny River, a Senior Scouts' spelunking expedition to Laurel Caverns, and a Senior Scouts' water-sliding trip to the Mill Run Campground. With the Ridge Parking Lot still not constructed, the long walk is becoming too much for Doc Barrage as his Multiple Sclerosis continues to worsen. An attempt is made to reserve the Concord troop site for 1983, because of that site's proximity to parking. But a communications foul-up at Council ends up placing Troop 186 in Old Allegheny for 1983, the farthest troop site from any parking area or access road. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Jim Boyle serves on Camp Freedom staff for the summer. He informs his troop's campers that members of staff have expressed doubts about the quality of the large number of Eagle Scouts produced by Troop 186, so ten of them volunteer to complete the erection of a monkey bridge along the trail to the waterfront. The staff had spent six weeks of camp failing to raise the bridge across an arm of Lake Courage, but the span is complete Monday afternoon, thanks to the Birdville Corps of Engineers.

August 17th: The first "compact discs", or "CD's", are manufactured in Hanover, Germany, by Holland's Royal Philips Electronics NV, which jointly developed the technology with Japan's Sony Corporation. The music recorded on the discs was "An Alpine Symphony" by Richard Strauss.

September: Alexander Holsinger, 13, of Normal, Illinois, becomes the one millionth **Eagle Scout** in the history of the Boy Scouts of America.

Fall: The Kiasutha Lodge of the Order of the Arrow presides over the final council fire at Camp Semiconon, the troop's Summer Camp venue from 1957 through 1967, closing the camp for good at the end of the 1981 camping season.

October 10th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches.

October 19th: The newly formed "Mothers' Auxiliary" of Birdville Troop 186, headed by Sandy Stobert and Ruth Hanzlik, performs its first service for the troop: a social hour following this evening's Court of Honor. Plans are announced for a Tupperware fundraiser party scheduled for November 15th. The group will later rename itself the "MOBS" (Mothers of Boy Scouts).

November 13th: Troop 186 attends the Allegheny Trails Council "Expo '82" Scout Show.

November 13th: The National Viet Nam War Memorial, designed by architecture student Maya Lin, is dedicated in Washington, DC.

December 2nd: Barney Clark becomes the first recipient of an artificial heart.

December 21st: The Troop Family Christmas Dinner and Court of Honor is expanded to a retirement party for Scoutmaster Doc Barrage. He is presented with several commemorative gifts, including a photograph of a Bald Eagle with the signatures on the matting of all but two of the boys who became Eagle Scouts during his tenure. A team of assistant scoutmasters collected the signatures during a very busy two-week period.

December 31st: Doc Barrage retires after 9½ years of service as Scoutmaster. Thirty-four boys have become Eagle Scouts during his tenure.

By the end of 1982, 560 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 111 (19.82%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 121 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1983

The Troop recharter with 32 Scouts and 25 adults.

January 1st: James E. "Skip" Hanzlik, age 46, becomes **Scoutmaster**.

January 22nd: Troop 186 wins the "Fastest Sled" award at the William D. Boyce District Freeze-O-Ree, held at Camp Guyasuta.

March 5th: The Twenty-eighth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. The lone **Honor Eagle** (Timothy J. Barrage) brings the Troop total to 97 Eagle Scouts. Retired Scoutmaster Robert H. "Doc" Barrage receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award**. The Keynote Speaker is George H. Cahill, Executive Director of the National Flag Foundation, and retired Allegheny Trails Council Scout Executive.

March 8th: President Reagan calls the USSR "the focus of evil in the modern world".

April 4th through the 9th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Challenger" (mission STS-6) makes its maiden flight. Challenger is the second space shuttle to enter service. The four-person crew includes one former Scout, Mission Specialist F. Story Musgrave (Cub Scout).

May 1st: Doc Barrage becomes the first Scoutmaster (retired) in Troop 186 history to receive the **Silver Beaver Award**.

June 18th through the 24th: Sally Ride becomes the first American woman in space on board the NASA Space

Shuttle “Challenger” (mission STS-7). The five-person crew also includes one former Boy Scout, Mission Specialist John M. Fabian (Life Scout).

July 24th through the 30th: Troop 186 spends our first week of Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation, where Council had assigned us by accident. The privacy, quiet, and wilderness effect of the site’s isolated location make it a hit with the Scouts. The week includes a Senior Scouts’ Whitewater Rafting trip on the Youghiogheny River.

August 5th through the 7th: Six paddlers participate in the Troop 186 Senior Scouts’ Canoe Trip, covering 71.5 miles on the Allegheny River, from Rockmere to Ron Stobert’s cabin at Dam Number 9.

August 25th through the 29th: Troop 186 camps in the crews quarters and dines in the Warrant Officers’ Mess aboard the World War II Aircraft Carrier USS Yorktown at the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Charleston Harbor SC.

Fall: Eagle Scouts and Assistant Scoutmasters Paul Freehling, Evan Erickson, and Bob Barrage become the first members of Troop 186 to participate in the “**Woodbadge**” advanced Scoutmaster training course. The outdoor portion of the course is held on three weekends in September and October at Camp Liberty, Heritage Reservation. The course number is NE-V-77.

October: US forces invade Grenada.

October 9th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$175.95 for world hunger relief.

October 13th: The first commercial cell-phone call is placed from Chicago to Berlin.

November 12th: Troop 186 participates in the Allegheny Trails Council Scout Show, “Expo ‘83”, held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh.

December 10th: Polish anti-communist labor leader Lech Walesa wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

December 31st: Member of Committee Jack O. Wetzell retires after 17 years of service as a Member of Committee, Assistant Scoutmaster, and Scoutmaster. During his tenure as an adult leader with the troop, 66 boys became Eagle Scouts, including 11 during his tenure as Scoutmaster.

By the end of 1983, 572 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 115 (20.10%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 126 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1984

The Troop recharterers with 36 Scouts and 20 adults.

The third edition of the Boy Scout Fieldbook is published.

January 7th and 8th: The “Troop Operation Workshop”, a pilot program developed by Evan Erickson, Paul Freehling, and Bob Barrage from a junior leader training course published in the 1981 edition of the Scoutmaster Handbook, is held at Hanzlik’s Farm, South Buffalo Township. The outing is open to all Scouts holding Patrol or Troop offices. The course is later developed into the “Nutbadge” Leadership Training program.

January 21st: Troop 186 wins the “Best Sled” award, “Fastest Sled” award, and takes first place overall at the William D. Boyce District Freeze-O-Ree, held at Camp Guyasuta.

February 4th: Jason Stobert becomes Troop 186’s first second-generation **Eagle Scout**. Jason is the son of Ronald C. Stobert.

February 5th: Troop 186 hosts the Second Annual William D. Boyce District Ecumenical Scout Sunday Service at Faith Lutheran Church in Natrona Heights. Participating clergy are Father Robert J. Meyer of Sacred Heart St. Peters Roman Catholic Church, Tarentum, and Mr. J. Duane Brannon, Liturgist, of Faith Lutheran Church.

February 6th: Richard A. Marhefka becomes Troop 186’s **100th Eagle Scout**.

February 25th: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Jason Stobert speaks on the subject “What Scouting Means to Me” at the annual William D. Boyce District’s “Leadership Breakfast” fundraiser.

March 10th: The Twenty-ninth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. In addition to recognizing three new **Honor Eagles** (Jason R. Stobert, David Dolak, and Richard A. Marhefka), the Dinner is expanded to a celebration of the Troop’s 100-Eagle milestone. An overnighter for “old” Eagle Scouts, including a camp breakfast, is held the evening and morning before the banquet at Freeport Community Park. All Troop Eagle Scouts that could be located by Banquet sub-committee chairman, Assistant Scoutmaster, and U.S. Postal Service employee Edward “Smacks” Kesicki are invited to attend the overnighter and Banquet. The Banquet is attended by 43 Eagle Scouts, many former adult leaders, and Allegheny Trails Council Scout Executive Ron Moranville, who delivers the keynote address.

Committee Chairman and Troop 186 Eagle Scout Ronald C. Stobert receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award**.

Spring: Troop 186 alumnus John B. Markewicz (1977-1979) is named Highlands High School **Boy of the Year** by the Allegheny Valley Chapter of Optimists International.

May 6th: Assistant Scoutmaster and William D. Boyce District Vice Chairman John Merli receives the **District Award of Merit**.

June 29th through July 1st: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts Canoe Trip covers 64.7 miles on the Allegheny River from Rockmere to East Brady. One Scout and three adults participate.

July 22nd through the 28th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation. The week includes a Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting trip on the "Canyon" of the Cheat River in West Virginia, on the 24th of July. This is the first excursion by Scouts from Troop 186 on the Cheat River, and the first trip to include "duckies" (inflatable, one-man canoes).

August 1st through the 5th: Troop 186 travels to eastern Maryland, staying at the Marine Science Consortium, to tour the Assateague Island National Seashore, the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, and the NASA Wallops Island Research Center. The cost per participant is \$25.00.

August 30th through September 10th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Discovery" (mission STS-41D) makes its maiden flight. Discovery is the third space shuttle to enter service. The six-person crew includes three former Boy Scouts: Pilot Michael L. Coats (First Class Scout), and Mission Specialists Steven A. Hawley (Tenderfoot Scout) and Richard M. Mullane (Second Class Scout).

The Birdville Boosters disband and reorganize as the "Birdville Parent-Teachers' Organization", which becomes the Troop's fourth sponsor.

After repeated mechanical problems, and because of the ever-inflating costs of insurance and maintenance, troop bus number three, "Homer", is decommissioned, and is not replaced.

October 21st: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$390.16 for world hunger relief. The Reverend R. Lee Mull, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church of Natrona Heights, and Assistant Scoutmaster and Birdville Troop 186 Eagle Scout Robert G. Barrage (William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Coordinator from 1983 through 1986), pitch in to donate the **William D. Boyce District**

CROP Walk Trophy, to be awarded to the Boy Scout troop or Cub Scout pack that raises the most money through their participation in the CROP Walk. Troop 186 wins the trophy in its inaugural year.

November 6th: Ronald Reagan is reelected for a second term as President of the United States.

November 10th: Troop 186 takes second place at the William D. Boyce District First Aid Meet, held at Springdale High School.

By the end of 1984, 579 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 116 (20.03%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 127 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1985

The Troop recharter with 35 Scouts and 19 adults.

Dr. Dennis Postupack, age 38, becomes **Committee Chairman**.

February 8th: The Boy Scouts of America celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary.

March 2nd: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Brian Rigatti speaks on the subject "What Scouting Means to Me" at the annual William D. Boyce District's "M.P. Acee Memorial Breakfast" fundraiser.

March 2nd: The Thirtieth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. The three **Honor Eagles** (Brian W. Rigatti, Dean R. Merli, and Patrick A. Kowalski) bring the Troop total to 103 Eagle Scouts. Committee Chairman Dr. Dennis Postupack receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award**. The Keynote Speaker is Eagle Scout Jon Burnett, Co-Host of "Evening Magazine", KDKA-TV.

March: Mikhail Gorbachev becomes premier of the USSR. The Russian words "perestroika" (restructure) and "glasnost" (openness) soon enter the English language.

May 17th through the 19th: Troop 186 participates in the Allegheny Trails Council "Skill-O-Rama" at South Park, as part of the council's year-long celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America.

May 31st and June 1st: The deadliest tornado outbreak in Pennsylvania history spawns 21 tornados (a single-outbreak record that stands until 1998), including seven F4's (winds from 206 to 260 miles per hour) and one F5 (winds greater than 260 miles per hour), and killing 63

Pennsylvanians. Including fatalities in Ohio, the total death toll reaches 75, making the outbreak the worst in the nation since 1974.

June 15th and 16th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip, instituted according to a request by Scouts and the Troop Committee for a less challenging outing, covers 28.8 miles on the Allegheny River from the Buckaloons Campground of the Allegheny National Forest to Tionesta. The trip takes place just two weeks after the devastating tornadoes of May 31st, and crosses the track of one of the F4 twisters just upstream from Tionesta. That tornado killed seven on German Hill, just to the east of Tionesta. Smoke from burning rubbish piles still floats across the splintered forest. The fresh devastation is astonishing. Twelve Scouts and four adults participate.

July 21st through the 27th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation. The week includes a Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting trip on the "Canyon" of the Cheat River in West Virginia on the 23rd of July. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Tim Barrage serves on Camp Freedom staff for the summer.

July 24th through the 30th: The Eleventh BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia, attended by 32,625 campers.

August 1st through the 5th: Troop 186 travels to Canada to tour the Niagara Falls and Toronto areas. The cost per participant is \$37.

August: Paul Freehling attends the National Volunteer Training Center at Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico, completing a training course in Council and District Activities.

September 1st: The wreck of the Titanic is discovered off the coast of Newfoundland.

October 3rd through the 7th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Atlantis" (mission STS-51J) makes its maiden flight. Atlantis is the fourth shuttle to enter service. STS-51J is the twenty-first shuttle mission to orbit, and the first to include no former Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts among the crew. In fact, it's the first "Scout-free" crew since Mercury 6 (February 20th, 1962), ending a 23-year streak of 49 manned US space missions with at least one former Scout on board (including Apollo 1).

October 13th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$432.00 for world hunger relief, winning the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy**. Birdville Troop 186 Eagle Scout Jay D. Brannon, walking for Faith

Lutheran Church of Natrona Heights, wins the award for the highest individual total with \$475.00.

November: Hurricane Juan pummels the Cheat River watershed resulting in flooding so severe that similar conditions would not be expected for a thousand years, killing over 40, leaving almost 2,600 homeless, and causing around \$500 million in damage. The Cheat River itself is permanently reshaped, and the difficulty of the rapids in the "Canyon" is increased to the point that summer trips in "duckies" require paddling skills beyond those reasonably expected of Boy Scouts. The trip of the 23rd of July 1985 is therefore the last summer ducky trip on the Cheat Canyon run by Troop 186.

By the end of 1985, 585 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 119 (20.34%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 129 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1986

The Troop recharter with 36 Scouts and 21 adults.

January 18th: The Bandit Patrol of Troop 186 takes third place at the joint Seneca, Guyasuta, and William D. Boyce District Klondike Derby, held at North Park.

January 28th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Challenger" (mission STS-51L) explodes during launch, killing all 7 crewmembers, including two former Boy Scouts: Mission Specialists Ellison S. Onizuka (Eagle Scout), and Ronald E. McNair (Star Scout). It is Challenger's tenth mission. The accident occurs one day after the 19th anniversary of the fatal fire on board Apollo 1. Subsequent investigation reveals that the failure of seals between sections of the solid rocket boosters allowed exhaust gasses to escape sideways, which in turn ignited the shuttle's external fuel tank. The investigation also reveals that engineers from the solid rocket booster contractor had warned that cold-weather launches could result in seal failure, but the warnings went unheeded.

March 15th: The Thirty-first Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. The presentation of six **Eagle Awards** (K. Michael Haugh, John C. Bence, Douglas Postupack, Craig A. Danko, Walter P. Hanzlik, and David A. Caldwell) ties the Troop record set in 1965 and previously tied in 1971 and 1978, and brings the Troop total to 109 Eagle Scouts. Assistant Scoutmaster John J. Merli receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award**. The Keynote Speaker is Ben Ussery, Allegheny Trails Council Scout Executive.

April 26th: Reactor number four at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Kiev, Ukraine, USSR, explodes, killing 31 immediately, and resulting in 40,000 cases of

cancer, in what is the largest and most widespread radionuclide release in history.

May: Assistant Scoutmaster and William D. Boyce District Chairman John Merli receives the **Silver Beaver Award**.

May 2nd through the 4th: The Bandit Patrol of Troop 186 takes third place at the William D. Boyce District Spring "Communications" Camporee at the Elk's Plantation in Lower Burrell.

May 15th through the 18th: Troop 186 travels to the Washington DC area, camping at the Pautuxent River Naval Air Test Station, tours the capitol and the King's Dominion amusement park, and attends the Department of Defense Open House and Air Show at Andrews Air Force Base. The show is highlighted by a performance of the Blue Angels precision flying team. The cost per participant is \$35.

May 31st: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 14.3 miles on Little Beaver Creek from Beaver Creek State Park in Ohio to the Ohio River. Seven Scouts and three adults participate.

June 21st and 22nd: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 28.8 miles on the Allegheny River from the Buckaloons Campground of the Allegheny National Forest to Tionesta. Troop 186 shares the campsite on Courson Island with Jack Maurer, Larry Burton, and the rest of Troop 395, Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church. Unusually high water opens every island channel to navigation, and the troop takes every opportunity to explore tiny, out of the way routes normally impassable during the summer months. Seven Scouts and three adults participate.

July 20th through the 26th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation. The week includes a Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting Trip on the lower Gauley River in West Virginia on the 22nd of July. This is the first excursion by Scouts from Troop 186 on the Gauley River. Seven Scouts and five adults participate. The week also includes a Troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the "Narrows" of the Cheat River in West Virginia on the 23rd of July. This is the first excursion by Scouts from Troop 186 on this section of the Cheat River. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Tim Barrage serves on Camp Freedom staff for the summer.

September: John Merli, age 41, becomes **Scoutmaster**.

October 12th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$175.50 for world hunger relief, winning the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy**. Birdville Troop

186 Eagle Scout Jay D. Brannon, walking for Faith Lutheran Church of Natrona Heights, wins the award for the highest individual total with \$575.00.

October 17th through the 19th: Troop 186 travels to Pymatuning Lake. At the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Museum, a mature American Bald Eagle is sighted through the spotting scopes on the entrance terrace. The Bald Eagle was once considered extinct in Pennsylvania, and this is the first known sighting on a Troop 186 outing.

By the end of 1986, 597 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 122 (20.44%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 133 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1987

The Troop recharter with 37 Scouts and 20 adults.

March 21st: The Thirty-second Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. The four **Honor Eagles** (Daniel B. Cimpinski, Jr., Kenneth W. Hanzlik, Kevin P. Haugh, and Eric C. Haugh) bring the Troop total to 113 Eagle Scouts. Retired Scoutmaster James E. "Skip" Hanzlik receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award**. The Keynote Speaker is John Barnes, Director Field Services, Allegheny Trails Council.

April 26th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 21.3 miles on the Clarion River from Clarington to Millcreek. Six Scouts and one adult participate.

May 2nd: Troop 186 attends the Allegheny Trails Council Scout Show.

May 31st: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting trip takes place on the "Arden" section of the Tygart River in West Virginia. This is the first excursion by Scouts from Troop 186 on the Tygart River. Six Scouts and three adults participate. The cost is \$51.45 per person.

June 11th through the 15th: Troop 186 travels to Wildwood, New Jersey.

July 18th and 19th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 28.8 miles on the Allegheny River from the Buckaloons Campground of the Allegheny National Forest to Tionesta. Five Scouts and three adults participate.

July 26th through August 1st: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Hidden Valley troop site, Camp Twin Echo, East Valley Area Council, instead of Heritage Reservation, in protest over a dispute concerning Junior

Leader Training at Heritage. Camp is attended by 29 Scouts and 2 adults. Bob Lisco serves as acting Scoutmaster for the week. A problem with the camp water supply results in a vomiting epidemic, which strikes roughly half of the unit. The week includes a Troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the "Narrows" of the Cheat River in West Virginia on the 28th of July. Eleven Scouts and two adults participate in the raft trip for an addition fee of \$20.79. Troop 186 Eagle Scouts Tim Barrage and Rob Delp serve on Camp Freedom and Camp Liberty staff, respectively, for the summer.

August 1st: Congress authorizes the construction of a fifth space shuttle to replace "Challenger". It will be known as "Endeavour".

October 11th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$240.07 for world hunger relief, winning the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy**. Birdville Troop 186 Eagle Scout Jay D. Brannon, walking for Faith Lutheran Church of Natrona Heights, wins the award for the highest individual total with \$540.00.

October 17th: The New York Stock Exchange drops in value 22.6%, nearly twice the loss suffered in the crash of 1929. Two years later, the market had rebounded to pre-crash levels.

December 8th: The US and USSR agree to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

December: After years of whining by Assistant Scoutmaster Robert G. Barrage that presenting the Lewis A. Rehner Award at Eagle Banquets draws attention away from the Honor Eagles, the presentation is moved to the Troop's Family Christmas Dinner. Since no good deed goes unpunished, Robert G. Barrage receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop's Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

By the end of 1987, 605 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 126 (20.83%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 137 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1988

The Troop recharter with 40 Scouts and 23 adults.

American women have served in the House of Representatives since 1917, have had the right to vote since 1920, have served in the Senate since 1922, have attended the military service academies since 1976, have served on the Supreme Court since 1981, and have flown in space since 1983. In 1988, for the first time in the

history of the Boy Scouts of America, women are permitted to serve as Scoutmasters.

January 1st: Retired Scoutmaster James E. Hanzlik, age 51, becomes **Committee Chairman**.

March 12th: The Thirty-third Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge. The lone **Honor Eagle** (Michael S. Marhefka) brings the Troop total to 114 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Eagle Scout Mark Behning of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

March 31st: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the "Canyon" of the Cheat River in West Virginia. Six youth and three adults participate. The cost is \$40.00 per person, or \$44.00 for those who rented neoprene booties in addition to the wetsuits.

April 14th: The USSR agrees to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, ending a 9-year war that has come to be known as the "Russian Viet Nam".

April 29th: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Dan Cimpinski, Jr. receives the William D. Boyce District **Outstanding Eagle Scout Service Project Award**. Paul Freehling, Troop 186 Eagle Scout and Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 395, Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church, receives the **District Award of Merit**.

May 27th through the 29th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 52.8 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River from Shawville to Keating. Two Scouts and two adults participate.

June: Troop 186 travels to Wildwood, New Jersey.

July 17th and 18th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip, covering 32.9 miles on the Allegheny River from Franklin to Emlenton, includes the hottest day ever recorded in Western Pennsylvania (July 17th), with the temperature reaching 103 degrees Fahrenheit at the Pittsburgh International Airport. Eight Scouts and four adults participate.

July 31st through August 6th: Troop 186 returns to Heritage Reservation for Summer Camp, but stays at the Fort Bennington troop site, Camp Freedom, since Old Allegheny is full for the entire camping season. Camp is attended by 20 Scouts and 5 adults. The week includes a Troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 3rd of August. Eleven Scouts and three adults participate. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Rob Delp serves on Camp Liberty staff for the summer.

August: The United Nations brokers a cease-fire in the 9-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

September 29th through October 3rd: The NASA Space Shuttle “Discovery” (mission STS-26) performs the first shuttle flight since the loss of “Challenger” in 1986. The five-person crew includes three former Boy Scouts: Pilot Richard O. Covey (Eagle Scout), and Mission Specialists John M. “Mike” Lounge (Star Scout) and George D. Nelson (First Class Scout).

October 9th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$140.94 for world hunger relief, winning the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy**. Birdville Troop 186 Eagle Scout Jay D. Brannon, walking for Faith Lutheran Church of Natrona Heights, wins the award for the highest individual total with \$815.00.

November 1st: George H. W. Bush is elected President of the United States.

December: Assistant Scoutmaster Daniel B. Cinpinski Sr. receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop’s Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

By the end of 1988, 614 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 126 (20.52%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 141 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1989

The Troop recharter with 41 Scouts and 26 adults. It is the fourth consecutive year that the youth roster at chartering time has increased, tying the troop record for sustained growth set in 1965. The record is finally broken in 2000.

Daniel B. Cinpinski, Sr., age 41, becomes **Committee Chairman**.

January 7th: Japanese Emperor Hirohito, the last surviving ruler of a World War II combatant nation, dies at the age of 87, after reigning for 62 years.

January 20th: President George H. W. Bush is inaugurated.

March 23rd: The Troop 186 Senior Scout’s Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the “Canyon” section of the Cheat River in West Virginia. Eight youth and two adults participate at a cost of \$44.40 per paddler.

March 24th: The supertanker “Exxon Valdez” runs aground on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound, Alaska, spilling 11 million gallons of crude oil in the largest oil spill in US history. Exxon pays a \$100 million fine and \$5 billion in punitive damages to Alaskan fishermen.

April 21st through the 23rd: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts’ Canoe Trip covers 52.8 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River from Shawville to Keating. Five Scouts and two adults participate.

May 5th: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Jeff Lisco receives the William D. Boyce District **Outstanding Eagle Scout Service Project Award**.

May 13th: The Thirty-fourth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brackenridge, for the last time. The five **Honor Eagles** (David Merli, Jeffrey S. Lisco, Keith Deverell, Brian Bungard, and Jon Love) bring the Troop total to 119 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is David Burkelin, Director of Development and Support Services, Allegheny Trails Council.

May 5th through the 7th: Troop 186 attends the Allegheny Trails Council “Jamboral”.

June 4th: Chinese armed forces open fire on protesters in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, ending a series of pro-democracy demonstrations that had begun in April. During the protests, a lone citizen blocking a column of tanks becomes a symbol of the power of the individual against an oppressive state, and the brutal suppression of the Tiananmen Square demonstrations serves as a rallying point for pro-democracy activists around the world, particularly in Eastern Europe.

June 7th: Classes conclude in Birdville Elementary School for the last time. The school is closed, and the property sold to the Citizens’ Hose Volunteer Fire Department. The Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church of Natrona Heights assumes sponsorship of both the Boy Scout Troop and the Cub Scout Pack. The church becomes the Troop’s fifth sponsor, and the Cub Pack’s fourth.

June 22nd through the 25th: Troop 186 travels to Wildwood, New Jersey. Assistant Scoutmaster Bob Barrage is absent. He won’t miss another troop overnight outing for eighteen years (see June 29th to July 1st 2007).

July 8th and 9th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 29.6 miles on the Allegheny River from the Buckaloons Campground of the Allegheny National Forest to Tionesta. Seventeen Scouts and three adults participate. 1989 is the only year on record in which a Troop canoe trip had more participants than the week of Summer Camp.

July 16th through the 22nd: After a two-year absence, Troop 186 returns to the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation, for Summer Camp, during the Reservation’s 10th season. Camp is attended

by 12 Scouts and 3 adults. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Bob Barrage begins a six-year service as acting Summer Camp Scoutmaster, with Troop 186 Eagle Scouts Walt Hanzlik and Craig Danko serving as Assistant Scoutmasters for the week. No dads attend Summer Camp. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Tim Barrage serves as Camp Freedom Waterfront Director for the summer, while Troop 186 Eagle Scout Rob Delp holds the same position at Camp Liberty; Lake Courage is unofficially renamed "Lake Birdville". The cost per Scout is \$85. The week includes a Troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 19th of July. Seven Scouts and three adults participate. For the first year since Heritage Reservation opened in 1980, new Ordeal Order of the Arrow Candidates are given the opportunity to complete their Ordeal during their week of Summer Camp, rather than returning for a fall or spring Ceremonial Weekend.

August 3rd through the 9th: The Twelfth BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia, attended by 32,717 campers.

August: Poland's new leader is anti-communist labor activist Lech Walesa.

August 23rd: Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians form a human chain across the three Baltic States to demonstrate for independence from the USSR.

September: The fall meeting schedule begins in Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday evenings. Due to scheduling conflicts with karate classes and Bingo, meetings are soon moved into the cafeteria.

October 15th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$131.25 for world hunger relief, winning the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy**.

October: Hungary abolishes the one-party system.

November 9th: Demolition begins on the Berlin Wall. The great symbol of Communism goes capitalist as pieces soon become available for sale in the US.

November 11th: On the 47th anniversary of Troop 186, Natrona American Legion Post 48 presents the 1989 **Citizen of the Year Award** to Troop 186 alumnus, and Pack 186 charter member, Thomas J. Wasilowski.

December: Anti-Communist playwright Vaclav Havel is elected President of Czechoslovakia. The Communist President of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, is executed by firing squad.

December 12th: Assistant Scoutmaster and Troop 186 Eagle Scout Daniel B. Cimpinski Jr. receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop's Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

December 25th: An orchestra and chorus is assembled in East Berlin composed of musicians from the USSR, France, Great Britain, the United States, and East and West Germany (the principal combatants of the European Theater of World War II), under the direction of the American Jewish conductor Leonard Bernstein. On the program is the Ninth Symphony of Beethoven, but Bernstein exchanges the German word "freiheit" for "freude", changing the choral "Ode to Joy" to the "Ode to Freedom". Roughly translated, the international chorus sings, "Freedom, bright divine spark, daughter of Heaven, drunk with fiery rapture we tread your sanctuary. Your magic reunites those parted by stern custom. All men become brothers in the shelter of your gentle wing..." Two years later to the day, the USSR dissolves.

By the end of 1989, 621 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 126 (20.29%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 146 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1990

The Troop recharter with 37 Scouts and 27 adults.

January: The tenth edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is published. Boys under the age of 11 are permitted to join a Boy Scout Troop before completing fifth grade, if they have earned the Arrow of Light Award. The remaining merit badge requirement for First Class Scout is removed, Skill Awards are abolished, and requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class return to small, individually signed-off Scout-skill requirements reminiscent of the seventh edition dating from 1965. The Eagle-required merit badge list is unchanged, and includes First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Safety, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, Personal Fitness or Swimming or Sports, and Camping. (Family Life Merit Badge will be added to the Eagle-required list effecting September 1st, 1994.) Advanced cooking, swimming, and life-saving skills are the only ingredient of the pre-eighth edition requirements that are still lacking, though basic swimming skills are included in the requirements for Second and First Class. For the first time since 1972, an Eagle Scout is required to learn to swim. For the first time since 1948, the timber hitch returns as a required knot, increasing the total number of knots required from six to seven. Breaking with the practice of youth-run Boards of Review for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and

First Class that began in 1972, all Boards of Review from Tenderfoot through Life Scout are once again the responsibility of the Troop Committee, while Boards of Review for Eagle Scout are to be performed by the local council. (In practice, local councils generally delegate Eagle Scout Boards of Review to district advancement committees.) The tenth edition is the last Boy Scout Handbook to identify Pluto as a planet. Although the International Astronomical Union doesn't officially remove Pluto from the list of planets until 2006, the eleventh edition of the Boy Scout Handbook, first published in 1998, doesn't discuss any of the planets.

February 11th: Nelson Mandela is released from prison in South Africa.

March 11th: Lithuania declares independence from the USSR.

April 7th: The Thirty-fifth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, Natrona Heights, for the first time. The four **Honor Eagles** (Gregory S. Capoccioni, Jason Beresik, Ryan R. Morrone, and Jason L. Mushrush) bring the Troop total to 123 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Father G. Malcolm McDonald, Most Blessed Sacrament Church

April 12th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the New River in West Virginia. Seven youths and two adults participate at a cost of \$70.95 per paddler. This is the first excursion by Scouts from Troop 186 on the New River.

Spring: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Jason Beresik is named Highlands High School **Boy of the Year** by the Allegheny Valley Chapter of Optimists International.

May 5th and 6th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe trip covers 38 miles on the Clarion River from Irwin Run to Millcreek. One Scout and two adults participate.

May 29th: Boris Yeltsin is elected chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

July 7th and 8th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 32.9 miles on the Allegheny River from Franklin to Emlenton. Ten Scouts and two adults participate. Extensive areas of forest are found to be bare, or almost bare, of leaves due to a severe infestation of Gypsy Moths.

July 22nd through the 28th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 15 Scouts and 2 adults. The cost per Scout is \$90. The week includes a trip to Maryland for a Troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the North Branch Potomac River, but the outfitter's bus breaks down on the way to the access, and the rafting trip

turns into a four-mile hike back to the parking lot. With the river trip canceled, the troop retreats to Ruse's Roost in Hopwood for lunch, then on to the Yogi Bear Campground in Mill Run for an afternoon of swimming and water sliding. Nine Scouts and two adults participate in the failed raft trip.

August 2nd: Iraq invades Kuwait.

August 17th through the 19th: Troop 186 travels to Canada to tour the Niagara Falls and Toronto areas.

September 9th: The rescheduled Troop 186 troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the Youghiogheny River. One Scout and one adult participate at a cost of \$35.00 per paddler.

September: Having outgrown the available facilities, Cub Pack 186 moves from Most Blessed Sacrament Church to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Natrona. St. Joseph's becomes the Pack's fifth sponsor. Although the Boy Scout Troop remains with Most Blessed Sacrament, meetings move to the game room in the basement of the "Christ the King Center", formerly known as the Most Blessed Sacrament Convent.

September 17th: Troop 186 begins meeting on Monday evenings for the first time since 1963. (Weekly meetings were held on Mondays from 1942 to 1963, and then on Tuesday evenings from 1963 to 1990.)

October 3rd: East and West Germany are reunited.

October 14th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$126.10 for world hunger relief. For the first time since its creation, the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy** goes to a unit other than Troop 186, and is won by Pack 396, who raises a total of 639.07.

November 10th: On the 48th anniversary of Troop 186, Natrona American Legion Post 48 presents the 1990 **Citizen of the Year Award** to Troop 186 Scoutmaster John J. Merli.

December 4th: Member of Committee Victor Capoccioni receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop's Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

December 31st: Member of Committee James E. Hanzlik retires after 8 years of service as a Member of Committee, Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman, and Scoutmaster. During his tenure as an adult leader with the troop, 27 boys became Eagle Scouts, including 13 during his tenure as Scoutmaster.

By the end of 1990, 625 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 128 (20.48%) have or will eventually

become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 147 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1991

The Troop recharterers with 27 Scouts and 21 adults.

January: Soviet troops attempt to crack down on the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

February 25th: The Warsaw Pact is dissolved.

February 27th: US-led international force declares victory over Iraq after liberating Kuwait.

March 28th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the "Canyon" of the Cheat River in West Virginia. Three Scouts and two adults participate at a cost of \$54.00 per paddler.

April 6th and 7th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 50.2 miles on Redbank Creek from Brookville to the confluence with the Allegheny River. Six Scouts and two adults participate.

April 9th: The Republic of Georgia votes to secede from the USSR.

Spring: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Jonathan A. Love is named Highlands High School **Boy of the Year** by the Allegheny Valley Chapter of Optimists International.

May 11th: The Thirty-sixth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church. The lone **Honor Eagle** (Brian Haugh) brings the Troop total to 124 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Robert Newcomb, Field Director, Allegheny Trails Council.

June: Although meeting nights during the school year have been changed to Mondays, and although the new meeting space in the Christ the King Center is available throughout the summer months, the Troop continues its traditional summer meeting schedule of Tuesday night softball games at Harrison Hills Park begun in 1971.

June: The Pittsburgh Penguins defeat the Minnesota North Stars in the 1991 Stanley Cup Finals in six games.

June 17th: South Africa's all-white House of Assembly votes to repeal Apartheid.

June 29th and 30th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 28.8 miles on the Allegheny River from the Buckaloons Campground of the Allegheny National Forest to Tionesta. Six Scouts and four adults participate. Acting canoe trip Scoutmaster Bob Barrage makes a decision he will later regret by electing to take

the "sweep" position, and recruiting Assistant Scoutmaster Dave Caldwell to take the lead position. Dave misses the intended campsite on Hemlock Island, disappearing around the next bend with his bowman, Scout Matt Beresik. Once the rest of the troop arrives at the campsite, Assistant Scoutmaster Bob Fotheringham takes charge of the remaining Scouts on the island while Bob Barrage and Assistant Scoutmaster Jason Beresik sprint downstream in an unloaded canoe in an attempt to catch Dave and Matt. By the time Jason and Bob reach the Fish Commission access at East Hickory, it's clear that the errant boat has too much of a head start, and Jason stays with the beached canoe as Bob hitches a ride from a bystander, finally catching up to Dave and Matt at the trip's intended end point in Tionesta. Dave and Matt's gear and canoe are loaded on Bob's Renault and transported just upstream from Hemlock Island, where they embark on a second attempt to find the campsite. Bob returns to East Hickory, collects Jason and the canoe, and returns to Dave and Matt's embarkation point, where the Renault is left behind until Sunday. Jason and Bob finally arrive for the night at Hemlock Island three hours after first stopping by. By then, all the tents are up, dinner is ready, and Dave is already "taking his medicine" from his fellow paddlers. The next morning, Dave is once again recruited as the leader, since he has the most recent experience of the river ahead.

July 21st through the 27th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 11 Scouts and 2 adults. As in 1989, adult Eagle Scouts make up the entire Scoutmaster staff, and no dads attend Camp. The cost per Scout is \$95. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 23rd of July, for an additional fee of \$24.00. Five Scouts and two adults participate in the raft trip.

September: The Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are granted independence by the USSR.

October 13th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$172.00 for world hunger relief, winning the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy**.

November 16th and 17th: The first annual Birdville Troop 186 Leadership Training Course, developed by Dave Caldwell and Bob Barrage from a pilot program run by Evan Erickson, Paul Freehling, and Bob Barrage in 1984, is held at Hanzlik's Farm, South Buffalo Township. The course is open to all Scouts holding Patrol or Troop offices.

December 18th: Member of Committee and Troop Secretary Richard Ring receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop's Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

December 25th: Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev resigns. The 74-year-old Union of Soviet Socialist Republics dissolves.

By the end of 1991, 625 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 128 (20.48%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 151 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1992

The Troop recharter with 28 Scouts and 22 adults.

There is no Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner in 1992, because there are no new Eagle Scouts.

March 28th: Troop 186 takes third place at the William D. Boyce District First Aid Meet.

April 10th through the 12th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 51.7 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River from Shawville to Keating. Three Scouts and three adults participate.

May 7th through the 16th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Endeavour" (mission STS-49) makes its maiden flight. Endeavour is the fifth and final space shuttle to enter service. The seven-person crew includes one former Cub Scout: Mission Specialist Pierre J. Thuot.

June: The Pittsburgh Penguins defeat the Chicago Blackhawks in the 1992 Stanley Cup Finals in four games.

June 12th through the 15th: Troop 186 camps in the crews quarters and dines in the Warrant Officers' Mess aboard the World War II Aircraft Carrier USS Yorktown at the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Charleston Harbor SC. The cost per participant is \$78.

July 26th through August 1st: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 14 Scouts and 2 adults. The Camp Freedom Dining Hall enters service, providing meals for Camp Freedom only. Residents at Camp Liberty continue to cook their own meals in troop site. Meals at the Dining Hall are served "family-style", with each table of 10 diners providing a waiter who prepares the tables, delivers the food, and cleans up after the meal. The cost per Scout is \$100. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 28th of July, for an additional fee of \$31.00. Ten Scouts and one adult participate.

August 15th and 16th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 32.9 miles on the Allegheny River from Franklin to Emlenton. On Saturday the 15th, in the

Foster Island group, a mature American Bald Eagle takes off from an island perch and passes the troop from behind, disappearing into the woods far downstream. This is the first known naked eye sighting of a Bald Eagle on a Troop 186 outing. Seven Scouts and five adults participate.

September 12th through the 20th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Endeavour" (mission STS-47) performs NASA's fiftieth space shuttle flight. The seven-person crew includes three former Scouts: Commander Robert L. Gibson (Star Scout), Pilot Curtis L. Brown, Jr. (Cub Scout), and Mission Specialist Mark C. Lee (Eagle Scout). To date, since the beginning of the space shuttle program, every crew except one (STS-51J, October 3rd through the 7th, 1985) has included at least one former Boy Scout or Cub Scout. Of the 155 astronauts who participated in the first fifty space shuttle missions, 71 were once Scouts, including thirteen Cub Scouts, two Explorer Scouts, two Tenderfoot Scouts, eight Second Class Scouts, nine First Class Scouts, six Star Scouts, twelve Life Scouts, and eighteen Eagle Scouts.

October 11th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$237.00 for world hunger relief, winning the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy**.

November 1st: The Pittsburgh Roman Catholic Diocese merges the sponsor of Troop 186, the Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Natrona Heights, with Our Lady of Perpetual Help in West Natrona, creating the Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish. The new parish becomes the Troop's sixth sponsor. At the same time, the Diocese merges the sponsor of the Cub Pack, St. Joseph's Church in Natrona, with St. Ladislaus and St. Matthias Churches, creating the St. Joseph's Parish. The new parish likewise becomes the Cub Pack's sixth sponsor.

November 3rd: William Jefferson Clinton is elected President of the United States.

November 9th: William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt dies at the age of 92. He was the author of the first edition Handbook for Patrol Leaders, 1929; the third edition Scoutmaster Handbook, 1937; the fourth edition Scoutmaster Handbook, 1947; the first edition Scout Field Book, 1948; the sixth edition Boy Scout Handbook, 1959; the fifth edition Scoutmaster Handbook, 1959; the seventh edition Boy Scout Handbook, 1965; and the third edition Handbook for Patrol Leaders, 1980. He also laid out the orienteering course at Heritage Reservation. (See February 22nd, 1979.)

By the end of 1992, 638 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 132 (20.69%) have or will eventually

become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 152 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1993

The Troop recharterers with 23 Scouts and 19 adults.

January 20th: President William Jefferson Clinton is inaugurated.

The Allegheny Trails and East Valley Area Councils merge to form the Greater Pittsburgh Council. Our Order of the Arrow Lodge changes from “Kuyasutha” to “Enda Lechuahanne”, Lenni Lenape for “at the forks of the river”.

March 11th: Janet Reno becomes the first woman to serve as US Attorney General.

March 13th and 14th: A blizzard named “The Storm of the Century” by the media drops a 24-hour record 23.6 inches of snow in the Pittsburgh area, an all-time 24-hour state record of 40 inches at Seven Springs, and an estimated total of 50 billion tons of snow throughout the eastern United States.

April 12th: The Troop 186 Senior Scout’s Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the “Canyon” of the Cheat River in West Virginia. One Scout and one adult participate.

May: Paul Freehling, Troop 186 Eagle Scout and Scoutmaster of Troop 395, Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church, receives the **Silver Beaver Award**.

May 7th through the 9th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts’ Canoe Trip covers 53.4 miles on Pine Creek from Ansonia to Torbert. The trip covers the entire length of the Pine Creek Gorge, the so-called “Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania”. Four Scouts and four adults participate.

May 22nd: The Thirty-seventh Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The lone **Honor Eagle** (Daniel J. Derikart) brings the Troop total to 125 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Nick Starsinic, retired Highlands School District superintendent.

May 25th: Troop 186 travels to Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh to attend the first game ever played between the Florida Marlins and the Pittsburgh Pirates.

June 8th: Troop 186 travels to Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh to attend the first home game ever played between the Colorado Rockies and the Pittsburgh Pirates.

July 10th and 11th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 28.8 miles on the Allegheny River from the Buckaloons Campground of the Allegheny National Forest to Tionesta. Seven Scouts and three adults participate.

July 25th through the 31st: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 8 Scouts and 2 adults. It is the smallest attendance on record. The cost per Scout is \$105. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 27th of July, for an additional fee of \$31.00. Twelve Scouts and two adults participate.

August 4th through the 10th: The Thirteenth BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia, attended by 34,449 campers.

September: Due to scheduling conflicts with the Most Blessed Sacrament School, Troop meetings move from the Christ the King Center in Natrona Heights to the upstairs room of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall in West Natrona. Shortly thereafter, the noise generated by Boy Scouts moving across the creaky floor becomes disruptive to the Polish-Language class held in the basement, so the two organizations switch places, and the Troop begins meeting in the basement of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall. This is the sixth meeting room the Troop has occupied since the spring of 1989.

September 13th: Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yassir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shake hands at a meeting on the White House lawn.

October 10th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$663.50 for world hunger relief, winning the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy**. Birdville Troop 186 Eagle Scout and Assistant Scoutmaster Robert G. Barrage wins the award for the highest individual total with \$259.00.

December 8th: Assistant Scoutmaster Tim Bergstrom receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop’s Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

By the end of 1993, 638 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 132 (20.69%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 152 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1994

The Troop recharterers with 24 Scouts and 16 adults.

January 18th through the 20th: The temperature in Pittsburgh remains below zero for a record fifty-two consecutive hours, from 6:00 AM on the 18th through 10:00 AM on the 20th. January 19th is the coldest day ever recorded in Pittsburgh, with a high temperature of -3, and a low of -22.

January 22nd and 23rd: Troop 186 shovels out about 18 inches of snow to pitch tents, and then takes second place at the William D. Boyce District Klondike Derby and Winter Camporee, held at Camp Baker.

March 19th: The Thirty-eighth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner moves from Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site, Natrona Heights, to the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall in West Natrona. The lone **Honor Eagle** (Steven R. Ring) brings the Troop total to 126 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Louis J. Baldassare, Highlands School District superintendent.

April: Nelson Mandela is elected the first Black President of South Africa.

April 22nd: Former President Richard M. Nixon dies at the age of 81.

April 24th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the "Canyon" of the Cheat River in West Virginia. Six Scouts and three adults participate.

May 7th and 8th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 50.2 miles on Redbank Creek from Brookville to the confluence with the Allegheny River. Three Scouts, including one guest from Troop 682, and three adults participate.

June 11th and 12th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 28.5 miles on the Juniata River from the Point Access at the mouth of the Raystown Branch Juniata River to Mattawana. Six Scouts and six adults participate.

July 15th through the 19th: Troop 186 travels to Canada to tour the Niagara Falls and Toronto areas. The cost per participant is \$186.

July 24th through the 30th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 19 Scouts and 2 adults. The cost per Scout is \$110. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 26th of July, for an additional fee of \$32.00. Thirteen Scouts and two adults participate.

August 31st: The Irish Republican Army voluntarily disarms.

September 1st: Family Life Merit Badge is added to the Eagle-required list. The resulting list of required merit badges for Eagle Scout includes First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Safety, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, Personal Fitness or Swimming or Sports, Camping, and Family Life.

September: As a result of the Pittsburgh Roman Catholic Diocese closing of the St. Joseph's building, Cub Pack 186 moves from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Natrona to St. Barnabus Episcopal Church in Brackenridge. St. Barnabus Church becomes the Cub Pack's seventh sponsor.

October 9th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$842.00 for world hunger relief, winning the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy**. Birdville Troop 186 Eagle Scout and Assistant Scoutmaster Robert G. Barrage wins the award for the highest individual total with \$582.00.

October 21st through the 23rd: At the William D. Boyce District Fall "Cook-O-Ree", one of Troop 186's participating patrols wins third place in the overall dinner competition ("Birdville Baked Catfish"), and the other wins first place in the desert division (apple pie).

December 7th: Senior Patrol Leader and future Troop 186 Eagle Scout Matthew J. Bergstrom receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop's Annual Family Christmas Dinner. He is the first youth recipient of the award.

By the end of 1994, 655 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 137 (20.92%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 153 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1995

The Troop recharter with 23 Scouts and 15 adults.

February 12th: Troop 186 hosts the Annual William D. Boyce District Ecumenical Scout Sunday Service at the Most Blessed Sacrament Worship Site in Natrona Heights.

March 18th: The Thirty-ninth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner moves from the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall in West Natrona back to Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site, Natrona Heights. The lone **Honor Eagle** (Matthew D. Beresik) brings the Troop total to 127 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Robert Susini,

Highlands High School Principal. At the close of the Banquet, John Merli retires after 8½ years of service as Scoutmaster. Robert G. Barrage, age 35, Troop 186 Eagle Scout and son of Doc Barrage, becomes **Scoutmaster**.

April 19th: The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City is bombed, killing 168.

April 23rd: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the New River in West Virginia. Four Scouts and two adults participate. A Canadian tourist breaks Assistant Scoutmaster Dave Caldwell's nose with his foot in "Surprise" Rapids, but Dave finishes the trip nonetheless.

May 2nd: Troop 186 Scouts Matt Bergstrom and Ken Bissell tape a show for WPTT-TV 22's "Scouting Today" series, demonstrating the aluminum-foil cooking recipe called "Birdville Baked Catfish".

May 5th through the 7th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 55.8 miles on the Clarion River from Ridgway to Millcreek. Two Scouts and two adults participate.

May 6th: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Matt Beresik receives the William D. Boyce District **Outstanding Eagle Service Project Award**. Scoutmaster Bob Barrage is scheduled to receive the **District Award of Merit**, but despite the District's best efforts to lure him to the event, he spends the weekend on the Clarion River (see above). The award is sprung on him at the September District Roundtable Meeting.

May 31st: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Wallace Pountious receives the **Silver Beaver Award** from the Greater Western Reserve Council, Boy Scouts of America, in Ohio. After leaving Birdville, Mr. Pountious served as Scoutmaster for Troop 163 and Advisor for Post 163 in Champion, Ohio; as a member of committee for Pack 16 and volunteer for Troop 5 in Warren, Ohio; as Order of the Arrow Advisor, District Commissioner, Boys Life Promotion Chairman, Roundtable Commissioner, Council POW WOW Chairman, and Assistant District Commissioner. He is a previous recipient of the **District Award of Merit, Scouter of the Year, Arrowhead Award, Assistant District Commissioner Key, and Commissioner Key**.

June 10th and 11th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 36.7 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River from Keating to Queens Run. Eight Scouts and four adults participate including one mom (Claudia Petit) and one District Executive (Rob Zak).

June 27th through July 7th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Atlantis" (mission STS-71) performs the first shuttle docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. When

linked, Atlantis and Mir form the largest spacecraft ever in orbit to date, with a total mass of almost one-half million pounds (about 225 tons). Atlantis drops off Mir 19 crew cosmonauts Anatoly Solovyev, and Nikolai Budarin, and picks up Mir 18 crew cosmonauts Vladimir Dezhurov and Gannady Strekalov, and astronaut Norman E. Thagard. The ten-person crew (including the Mir upload and download) includes one former Boy Scout: Commander Robert L. Gibson (Star Scout).

July 23rd through the 29th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 28 Scouts and 6 adults. The "Summer Camp Log" is instituted, into which Scouts and adult campers record their camp stories, reflections, and, occasionally, confessions. The cost per Scout is \$115. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 25th of July, for an additional fee of \$27.00 for rafters and \$30.00 for duckiers. Eleven Scouts and two adults participate. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Greg Capoccioni serves on Camp Guyasuta staff for the summer.

August: The mean monthly temperature in Pittsburgh is 77.7 degrees, setting a record for the hottest August on record.

October 8th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, raising \$272.50 for world hunger relief, winning the **William D. Boyce District CROP Walk Trophy**.

November 4th: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated.

November 10th through the 12th: The Troop 186 Leadership Training Course is renamed "Nutbadge" in parody of the Woodbadge Scoutmaster training course. Instead of two replicas of wooden Zulu Chieftain beads on a leather necklace, participants receive a pair of stainless steel wing nuts.

November 12th through the 20th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Atlantis" (mission STS-74) performs the second shuttle docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. No crew exchange takes place. The five-person crew includes three former Scouts: Commander Kenneth D. Cameron (Star Scout), and Mission Specialists William S. McArthur, Jr. (Life Scout) and Chris A. Hadfield (Cub Scout).

November 27th: The Troop 186 History Project begins. Starting with the address list researched by Edward "Smacks" Kesicki in 1984, a search begins for all Troop 186 Eagle Scouts. Each Scout in the Troop is assigned from one to three "buddies" to whom he is to send a Christmas card and, later, a postcard from Summer Camp.

December 12th: Senior Patrol Leader and future Troop 186 Eagle Scout James M. Turner V receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop's Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

By the end of 1995, 665 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 141 (21.20%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 158 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1996

The Troop recharter with 30 Scouts and 21 adults.

March 22nd through the 31st: The NASA Space Shuttle "Atlantis" (mission STS-76) performs the third shuttle docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. Astronaut Shannon W. Lucid transfers to Mir, becoming the first American woman to serve on a space station, and is the first in a series of NASA astronauts onboard Mir who will maintain a continuous U.S. presence in space for the next two years. The six-person crew includes two former Boy Scouts: Pilot Richard A. Searfoss (Eagle Scout), and Mission Specialist Michael R. Clifford (First Class Scout).

March 23rd: Cub Pack 186 takes first and third places in the Webelos division of the William D. Boyce District First Aid Meet.

April 11th: Troop 186 First Class Scout Mike McInnes speaks on the subject "What Scouting Means to Me" at the annual William D. Boyce District's "M.P. Acee Memorial Luncheon" fundraiser.

April 13th: The Fortieth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The three **Honor Eagles** (Matthew J. Bergstrom, Darren B. Merli, and Michael J. Ring) bring the Troop total to 130 Eagle Scouts.

April 20th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Whitewater One-Day Canoe Trip covers 8.6 miles on Buffalo Creek, from Boggsville to Laneville. Three Scouts and two adults participate.

Spring: Troop 186 alumnus Edward J. Naughton (1989-1993) is named St. Joseph's High School **Boy of the Year** by the Allegheny Valley Chapter of Optimists International. Ed is the grandson of Troop 186 Eagle Scout Edward T. Smith (see September 9th, 1947).

May 4th: Troop 186 wins the 1995 William D. Boyce **District Advancement Award** for highest per capita rank advancement.

May 10th through the 12th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 53.4 miles on Pine Creek from Ansonia to Torbert. The trip covers the entire length of the Pine Creek Gorge, the so-called "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania". Four Scouts and six adults participate.

July 19th: A strong storm front crosses western Pennsylvania, dropping 4 to 6 inches of rain, spawning a dozen tornados, and causing severe flooding along Mahoning and Redbank Creeks. On Redbank Creek, the Heathville bridge is swept away, the Brookville bridge is damaged beyond repair, and the St. Charles rapids is permanently rearranged by the raging flood waters.

July 21st through the 27th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 33 Scouts and 6 adults. The cost per Scout is \$120. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 23rd of July, for an additional fee of \$28.00 for rafters and \$33.00 for duckiers. Sixteen Scouts and two adults participate. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Greg Capoccioni serves on camp staff at a different "Camp Freedom" (in the Black Forest region of Germany) for the summer.

August: NASA announces the possibility that microscopic structures seen in a rock discovered in Antarctica could be fossilized microbial life about 3.6 billion years old. The rock landed in Antarctica about 13,000 years ago, after being thrown from the surface of Mars about 16 million years ago by the impact of a meteor. The rock is therefore the first direct evidence that life may exist elsewhere in the universe.

September 16th through the 26th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Atlantis" (mission STS-79) performs the fourth shuttle docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. Atlantis drops off NASA astronaut John E. Blaha, and picks up NASA astronaut Shannon W. Lucid. The seven-person crew (including the Mir upload and download) includes one former Scout: Commander William F. Readdy (Cub Scout).

October 13th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches.

November 2nd: The Greater Pittsburgh Council "University of Cub Scouting" expands to cover Boy Scouting topics and is renamed the "University of Scouting". Scoutmaster Bob Barrage becomes the first "Professor of Canoe Trip Planning".

November 5th: William Jefferson Clinton is reelected to a second term as President of the United States.

December 11th: The "MOBS" (Mothers of Boy Scouts) receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop's Annual Family Christmas Dinner. The "MOBS" is an

unofficial “Mothers’ Auxiliary” founded in October of 1982.

By the end of 1996, 678 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 147 (21.68%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 163 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1997

The Troop recharter with 39 Scouts and 22 adults.

January 1st: Francis R. Beresik, age 49, becomes **Committee Chairman**.

January 12th through the 22nd: The NASA Space Shuttle “Atlantis” (mission STS-81) performs the fifth shuttle docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. Atlantis drops off NASA astronaut Jerry M. Linenger, and picks up NASA astronaut John E. Blaha. The seven-person crew (including the Mir upload and download) includes one former Boy Scout: Commander Michael A. Baker (Life Scout).

January 22nd: Madeline Albright becomes the first woman to serve as US Secretary of State.

January 24th through the 26th: The Beaver Patrol of Troop 186 takes first place at the William D. Boyce District Klondike Derby and Winter Camporee, held at Camp Twin Echo.

March 22nd: The Beaver Patrol of Troop 186 takes second place and the Cobra Patrol takes third at the William D. Boyce District First Aid Meet. Cub Pack 186 takes first and third places in the Webelos division.

March 22nd: The Forty-first Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The four **Honor Eagles** (Seth M. Thomas, Doston A. Kish, Robert K. Wyant, and James M. Glath III) bring the Troop total to 134 Eagle Scouts. A **Bronze Eagle Palm** is awarded to Matthew J. Bergstrom.

March 26th: 39 members of the “Heaven’s Gate” cult commit suicide in an attempt to board an alien spaceship they believe is hidden by Comet Hale-Bopp.

April 20th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts’ Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the “Canyon” of the Cheat River in West Virginia. Three Scouts and three adults (one paddler and two drivers) participate.

May 1st: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Rob Schulties receives the William D. Boyce District **Outstanding Eagle Service Project Award**.

May 9th through the 11th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts’ Canoe Trip covers 51.7 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River from Shawville to Keating. Two Scouts and two adults participate.

May 15th through the 24th: The NASA Space Shuttle “Atlantis” (mission STS-84) performs the sixth shuttle docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. Atlantis drops off NASA astronaut C. Michael Foale, and picks up NASA astronaut Jerry M. Linenger. The eight-person crew (including the Mir upload and download) includes two former Scouts: Mission Specialists C. Michael Foale (Cub Scout) and Carlos I. Noriega (Webelos Scout). Mike Foale is the first former to Scout to serve on Mir.

June 21st and 22nd: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 30.9 miles on the Juniata River from Lewistown to Millerstown. Six Scouts and eight adults participate. On the way home, the Troop travels a little bit out of its way to ride the Millersburg Ferry across the Susquehanna River and back.

July 1st: Hong Kong is returned to Chinese rule, ending 155 years as a British colony.

July 5th: The NASA spacecraft “Sojourner” sends photos back from the surface of Mars.

July 20th through the 26th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 33 Scouts and 7 adults. The cost per Scout is \$125. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 22nd of July. Eleven Scouts and one adult participate. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Greg Capoccioni serves on Camp Guyasuta staff for the summer.

July 28th through August 6th: The Fourteenth BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia, attended by 36,015 campers.

September 25th through October 6th: The NASA Space Shuttle “Atlantis” (mission STS-84) performs the seventh shuttle docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. Atlantis drops off NASA astronaut Dr. David A. Wolf, and picks up NASA astronaut C. Michael Foale. The eight-person crew (including the Mir upload and download) includes four former Scouts: Pilot Michael J. Bloomfield (First Class Scout), and Mission Specialists Scott E. Parazynski (Eagle Scout), Dr. David A. Wolf (Cub Scout), and C. Michael Foale (Cub Scout).

October 12th: Troop 186 participates in the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches Walk for Hunger, which replaces the Church World Service CROP Walk. Previously, 25% of money raised in the CROP Walk supported the AVAC Food Bank, and the rest supported hunger relief elsewhere. Now, all the money raised benefits the local Food Bank.

November 11th: Sonny Lauffer attends the Troop meeting on the unit's 55th anniversary. As the meeting's main program, he tells stories and answers questions about the troop's early days, and helps to blow out 55 candles on the troop's birthday cake.

December 9th: Committee Chairman Francis Beresik receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop's Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

By the end of 1997, 693 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 150 (21.65%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 165 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1998

The Troop recharterers with 41 Scouts and 29 adults.

January 22nd through the 31st: The NASA Space Shuttle "Endeavour" (mission STS-89) performs the eighth shuttle docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. Endeavour drops off NASA astronaut Andrew S. W. Thomas, and picks up NASA astronaut Dr. David A. Wolf. The eight-person crew (including the Mir upload and download) includes four former Scouts: Pilot Joe F. Edwards, Jr. (First Class Scout), and Mission Specialists Michael P. Anderson (Webelos Scout), James F. Reilly (First Class Scout), and Dr. David A. Wolf (Cub Scout).

March 2nd: Member of Committee Doc Barrage dies in office from complications of Multiple Sclerosis after 28½ years of service as Institutional Representative, Webelos Den Leader, Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, and Member of Committee. During his tenure as an adult leader with the troop, 87 boys became Eagle Scouts, including a troop-record 34 during his tenure as Scoutmaster. Memorial donations are received by the Troop in the amount of nearly \$1,000, and a custom gear trailer is purchased with the funds.

March 21st: The Forty-second Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The two **Honor Eagles** (Robert J. Schulties and Brian C. Glath) bring the Troop total to 136 Eagle Scouts.

May 1st through the 3rd: Troop 186 attends the Greater Pittsburgh Council-Wide Spring Camporee at Mingo Creek County Park. 4,700 Scouts and adults attend the camporee.

May 8th: Troop 186 Life Scout Jim Turner speaks on the subject "What Scouting Means to Me" at the annual William D. Boyce District's "M.P. Acee Memorial Luncheon" fundraiser.

May 16th and 17th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 50.2 miles on Redbank Creek from Brookville to the confluence with the Allegheny River. One Scout and two adults participate.

May 31st through June 2nd: On the 13th anniversary of the record 21-tornado outbreak of 1985, 22 tornados strike Pennsylvania. Two nights later, a second wave of 20 tornados strikes the state, including one that touches down in the Mount Washington section of Pittsburgh and passes over Three Rivers Stadium, interrupting the game between the Pirates and the New York Mets. The Pittsburgh tornado strikes just as members of Troop 186 are leaving for Harrison Hills Park for our weekly softball meeting, which is cut short as parents quickly return to the park upon learning of the weather news.

June 2nd through the 12th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Discovery" (mission STS-91) performs the ninth and final shuttle docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. Discovery picks up NASA astronaut Andrew S. W. Thomas, ending a period of 907 days of American presence onboard Mir, including 225 days by former Scouts. The seven-person crew (including the Mir download) includes one former Scout: Pilot Dominic L. Pudwill Gorie (Webelos Scout).

June 19th through the 21st: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 30.3 miles on the Susquehanna River, from Sunbury to Clemson Island. Three Scouts and three adults participate. A juvenile American Bald Eagle is sighted near the village of Liverpool on Saturday the 20th. It's the troop's first Bald Eagle sighting on the Susquehanna River.

July 26th through August 1st: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 40 Scouts and 12 adults. The cost per Scout is \$130. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 28th of July. Nine Scouts and four adults participate. Troop 186 Eagle Scout Greg Capoccioni serves on Camp Guyasuta staff for the summer.

October 9th through the 11th: Troop 186 takes second place in the "Best Menu" competition at the William D. Boyce District Fall Camporee held at Camp Guyasuta.

October 11th: Troop 186 participates in the Church World Service CROP Walk for Hunger sponsored by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches. The walk is led (from the Heights Plaza parking lot to the Highlands Middle School) by Birdville Troop 186 Eagle Scout Jon Love, playing his bagpipes.

October 29th through November 7th: 77-year-old John H. Glenn returns to space on board the space shuttle "Discovery" (mission STS-95) to test the effects of space flight on older adults. Also included in the seven-person

crew are four former Scouts: Commander Curtis L. Brown, Jr. (Cub Scout), Pilot Steven W. Lindsey (Eagle Scout), and Mission Specialists Scott E. Parazynski (Eagle Scout) and Stephen K. Robinson (Life Scout).

November 7th: As subject matter expands at the Greater Pittsburgh Council University of Scouting, Scoutmaster Bob Barrage becomes “Professor of Edible Wild Plants”, in addition to Canoe Trip Planning.

November 20th: Construction of the International Space Station begins with the launch of the Zarya Control Module atop a Russian Proton rocket from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. Zarya provides battery power, fuel storage and rendezvous and docking capability for Soyuz and Progress space vehicles.

December 4th through the 15th: The NASA Space Shuttle “Endeavour” (mission STS-88) performs NASA’s ninety-third shuttle mission, and the second to include no former Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts among the crew. In fact, it’s the first “Scout-free” shuttle crew since STS-51J (October 3rd through the 7th, 1986), ending a 12-year streak of 71 shuttle missions with at least one former Scout on board. In the second phase of construction of the International Space Station, Endeavour delivers the Unity Node with two pressurized mating adapters, captures the Zarya Control Module, and mates it with the Unity Node inside the Shuttle’s payload bay.

December 16th: Senior Troop Guide and future Troop 186 Eagle Scout Brian E. Poprik receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop’s Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

December 19th: Craig Hazelett becomes Troop 186’s second second-generation **Eagle Scout**. Craig is the son of Ralph O. Hazelett.

December 19th: President Clinton is impeached by the House of Representatives. He is the second US President in history to be impeached.

December: The eleventh edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is published. Although choices can still be made that allow an Eagle Scout to avoid taking Swimming (or Hiking or Cycling) and Lifesaving (or Emergency Preparedness) merit badges, the bulk of the Swimming merit badge requirements, including basic lifesaving techniques, are broken up and included in the requirements for the lower ranks. Also, most of the requirements for Cooking merit badge are similarly incorporated into the Scout-skill requirements for the lower ranks. Personal Fitness replaces Safety on the Eagle-required merit badge list. Thus, in the 27 years since the major overhaul of advancement requirements contained in the eighth edition, the current requirements appear to be an updated version of the seventh edition of 1965. In other words, the revolution that was intended

by the eighth edition has been almost entirely undone. The resulting list of required merit badges for Eagle Scout includes First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Personal Fitness, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, Swimming or Hiking or Cycling, Camping, and Family Life. Reflecting the change in policy (in 1988) permitting women to serve as Scoutmasters, the phrases “he or she”, “him or her”, and “his or hers” are used throughout the eleventh edition when referring to the Scoutmaster.

By the end of 1998, 707 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 157 (22.21%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 175 adults have served on the Troop charter.

1999

The Troop recharter with 44 Scouts and 29 adults.

February 12th: President Clinton is acquitted by the Senate.

March 12th: Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic become the first former Soviet bloc nations to join NATO.

March 20th: Troop 186 takes first and third places at the William D. Boyce District First Aid Meet. Cub Pack 186 takes first place in the Webelos division.

March 20th: Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones complete the first around-the-world balloon flight, completing the trip in 20 days.

March 27th: The Forty-third Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The five **Honor Eagles** (D. Mark Bloch, Jr., Craig J. Hazelett, James M. Turner V, Jonathan J. Miller, and Sean D. Glath) bring the Troop total to 141 Eagle Scouts. **Bronze Eagle Palms** are awarded to James M. Glath III and Robert J. Schulties. Greater Pittsburgh Council Scout Executive (and future Chief Scout Executive of the BSA) Bob Mazzuca serves as the Keynote Speaker.

April 15th: For the second time, Troop 186 Life Scout Mike McInnes speaks on the subject “What Scouting Means to Me” at the annual William D. Boyce District’s “M.P. Acee Memorial Luncheon” fundraiser.

May 1st: Troop 186 wins the 1998 William D. Boyce **District Advancement Award** for highest per capita rank advancement. Due to the creation of the Japechen District, and the resulting end to the Boyce District, the

traveling Advancement Trophy remains in the Troop's permanent history collection.

May 7th through the 9th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 55.8 miles on the Clarion River, from Ridgway to Millcreek. Four Scouts, including one guest from Tarentum Troop 180, and two adults participate. An Osprey is sighted on Saturday, and a mature American Bald Eagle is sighted on Sunday. This is the first known sighting of an Osprey, a species even more rare than the Bald Eagle, on a Troop 186 outing, and the troop's first Bald Eagle sighting on the Clarion River.

May 27th through June 6th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Discovery" (mission STS-96) performs the second International Space Station flight. Discovery delivers logistics and supplies, and mounts a Russian cargo crane outside the Station for future spacewalking and maintenance activities. The seven-person crew includes three former Scouts: Commander Kent V. Rominger (Cub Scout), Pilot Rick D. Husband (Second Class Scout), and Mission Specialist Daniel T. Barry (Star Scout).

June 12th: Troop 186 participates in the "Young Eagles" program sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association of America. The program provides free rides in private aircraft for youth, with the goal of providing first flights for one million young people before the centennial of the Wright brothers' first flight in 1903.

June 26th and 27th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 34.2 miles on the Allegheny River, from Buckaloons National Forest Campground to Fox Run Canoes, near Hunter Station. The trip passes one Eagle nest near Tidioute on Saturday, and another on Tionesta Island on Sunday. Sixteen Scouts and eight adults participate. Included in the participants are two guest Scouts and one guest adult from Tarentum Troop 180. One mature American Bald Eagle is sighted on Saturday. Two juvenile and three mature Eagles are sighted on Sunday.

July 1: The William D. Boyce and Guyasuta Districts merge to form the "Japeechen" District, Lenni Lenape for "one along the river bank".

July 25th through the 31st: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 47 Scouts and 13 adults. The cost per Scout is \$135. The troop celebrates the 20th season of Heritage Reservation with the largest Summer Camp attendance on record. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 27th of July. Four Scouts and three adults participate. Troop 186 Life Scout Brian Poprik serves on Camp Twin Echo staff for the summer.

August 29th: Sonny Lauffer (the first Eagle Scout of Troop 186) dies after 21 years of service as Camp Guyasuta Ranger. He is succeeded by Michael Daniher, the husband of his granddaughter. By the end of the year, the Greater Pittsburgh Council institutes the "Sonny Lauffer Memorial Fund" for the maintenance and improvement of Camp Guyasuta for perpetuity.

September 20th: The weekly Troop 186 e-mail newsletter "The Birdville Days" is established by Life Scout, and future Eagle Scout, Jeff Barnett.

October 10th: Troop 186 participates in the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches Walk for Hunger, which once again replaces the Church World Service CROP Walk (see October 12th, 1997).

November 11th: Troop 186 becomes 57 years old. Clearance is obtained from the Greater Pittsburgh Council to wear Heinz (*fifty-seven*) pickle-pins as veteran troop bars on the uniform sleeve during the anniversary year. The pins are donated in bulk by Heinz USA.

By the end of 1999, 717 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 160 (22.32%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 177 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2000

January 1st: Contrary to the years of hype leading up to this day, the world does not end, computer systems do not crash, power grids and municipal water supplies do not fail. Food banks around the country gain a windfall of donations from those who had stocked up canned goods and other non-perishables in preparation for the end of civilization.

The Troop recharter with 48 Scouts and 33 adults. It is the fifth consecutive year that the youth roster at chartering time has increased, setting a new troop record for sustained growth.

March 18th: The Forty-fourth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The two **Honor Eagles** (Michael J. Powell and Matthew S. Lucke) bring the Troop total to 143 Eagle Scouts. The Keynote Speaker is Carolyn S. Bengel, District Justice, Magisterial District 05-2-05.

March 25th: Cub Pack 186 takes first and second places in the Webelos division of the Japeechen District First Aid Meet.

May 12th through the 14th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 51.7 miles on the West Branch

Susquehanna River from Shawville to Keating. Three Scouts and two adults participate.

May 2nd: At approximately midnight EDT, the United States government removes “selective availability” from 24 of its Global Positioning System satellites, for the first time allowing anyone with a Global Positioning System Receiver (GPSr) to accurately navigate using the satellites’ transmissions.

May 3rd: A computer consultant named Dave Ulmer hides the world’s first “geocache”, which he calls the “Great American GPS Stash Hunt”, near Beaver Creek, Oregon, and posts its coordinates in an internet GPS users’ group. It’s found within three days.

May 19th through the 29th: The NASA Space Shuttle “Atlantis” (mission STS-101) performs the third International Space Station flight. Atlantis installs four new batteries, 10 new smoke detectors and four new cooling fans in the Zarya Control Module, and installs handrails on the Unity Node for future spacewalks. The six-person crew includes two former Scouts: Mission Specialists Jeffrey N. Williams (Star Scout) and James S. Voss (rank unknown).

June 15th through the 18th: Troop 186 travels to the Gettysburg National Military Park to complete the **Gettysburg Heritage Trail Award** administered by the York-Adams Council of the Boy Scouts of America, in cooperation with the National Park Service, the Gettysburg National Military Park, and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. 24 Scouts and 9 adults participate. The cost per participant is \$67.

June 23rd through the 25th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 31.9 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River, from the Greevy Access in Williamsport to the Chillisquaque Creek Access near Lewisburg. Four Scouts and two adults participate. One mature American Bald Eagle is sighted on Saturday in the “Gut”, a remote area only accessible at the unusually high water level enjoyed on this weekend. It’s the troop’s first Bald Eagle sighting on the West Branch Susquehanna River.

June 25th: President Clinton announces the completion of the first survey of the entire human genome, a rough draft that is expected to lead to the mapping of the 100,000 genes and 3 billion DNA sub-units of the human genetic code.

July 9th: For the second time, Troop 186 participates in the “Young Eagles” program sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association of America. The program provides free rides in private aircraft for youth, with the goal of providing first flights for one million young people before the centennial of the Wright brothers’ first flight in 1903.

July 12th: The Zvezda Service Module is launched atop a Russian Proton rocket from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The Zvezda provides living quarters and performs some life support system functions to the International Space Station.

July 23rd through the 29th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 41 Scouts and 16 adults. The cost per Scout is \$135. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 25th of July. Four Scouts and four adults participate. Troop 186 Life Scout Brian Poprik serves on Camp Twin Echo staff for the summer. For the first time, Summer Camp Log entries are accepted via e-mail. In an odd coincidence, the Troop’s 57th Summer Camp is attended by 57 campers.

September 2nd: The “geocaching.com” website is launched, allowing anyone with Internet access and a GPSr to take part in the hunt that began on May 3rd, 2000, in Beaver Creek, Oregon. At the time of the launch, there are 75 known caches in the world

September 8th through the 20th: The NASA Space Shuttle “Atlantis” (mission STS-101) performs the fourth International Space Station flight. Atlantis delivers supplies and performs maintenance on the Station. The seven-person crew includes two former Scouts: Pilot Scott D. Altman (Second Class Scout) and Mission Specialist Daniel C. Burbank (Cub Scout).

October 6th: Yugoslav dictator Slobodan Milosevic concedes defeat in presidential elections after his military commanders refuse to overturn the election of Vojislav Kostunica by force.

October 8th: Troop 186 participates in the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches Walk for Hunger.

October 11th through the 24th: The NASA Space Shuttle “Discovery” (mission STS-92) performs the fifth International Space Station flight during NASA’s one-hundredth space shuttle mission. (Of those first 100 flights, Discovery flew 28, Columbia flew 26, Atlantis flew 22, Endeavour flew 14, and Challenger flew 10.) The seven-person crew includes three former Scouts: Commander Brian Duffy (Cub Scout), and Mission Specialists Michael Lopez-Alegria (Cub Scout) and William S. McArthur, Jr. (Life Scout). To date, since the beginning of the space shuttle program, every crew except two (STS-51J, October 3rd through the 7th, 1985, and STS-88, December 4th through the 15th, 1998) has included at least one former Boy Scout or Cub Scout. Of the 262 astronauts and cosmonauts who participated in the first one hundred space shuttle missions, 106 were once Scouts, including twenty-five Cub Scouts, two Explorer Scouts, four Tenderfoot Scouts, ten Second

Class Scouts, fifteen First Class Scouts, eight Star Scouts, fifteen Life Scouts, and twenty-five Eagle Scouts.

October 30th: The International Space Station's first resident crew, Expedition One, launches from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, on a Soyuz rocket. The three-person crew includes one former Scout: William M. Shepherd (Cub Scout). The docked Soyuz capsule provides the crew assured return capability without the Space Shuttle present. Thus begins what is intended to be the permanent, international occupation of space.

November 7th: The closest US Presidential election in history is too close to call. Recounts begin almost immediately in several states, but Florida's large Electoral College representation make its recount the one that will decide the election.

November 11th: In commemoration of the unit's 58th anniversary, the Troop History Hike begins at Harrison Hills Park, takes participants passed all of the Troop's meeting places since 1942, then returns to the park for a cook-out and campfire.

December 1st through the 3rd: In response to a request for assistance from Troop 556, a new unit in Lower Burrell, members of Troop 556 are invited to attend Nutbadge 2000 at Camp Twin Echo. Fourteen Scouts (8 from 186 and 6 from 556) and six adults (4 from 186 and 2 from 556) participate. For the first time, brass washers are presented to repeat participants to add to their Nutbadge.

December 13th: The US Supreme Court orders a halt to all recounts in Florida in a 5 to 4 decision divided along party lines, effectively clinching the election for Republican candidate George W. Bush in the Electoral College, despite Democratic candidate Al Gore's 300,000-vote lead in the nationwide popular vote.

By the end of the millennium, 726 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 162 (22.31%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 186 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2001

The Troop recharter with 43 Scouts and 30 adults.

January 20th: President George Walker Bush is inaugurated. Retired General Colin Powell becomes the first African-American Secretary of State.

January 26th through the 28th: The Scouts of Troop 186 plan and staff the 2001 Japeechen District Klondike Derby at Camp Twin Echo. The camporee is attended by 144 youth (including 18 from Troop 186, 14 of whom serve on staff) and 66 adults (including 6 from Troop

186, one of whom, 18-year-old Eagle Scout Jeff Barnett, serves as event chairman).

February 12th: The NASA spacecraft "NEAR Shoemaker" makes a "controlled decent" onto the surface of Eros, making the first landing on an asteroid. On the same day, researchers working on the Human Genome Project reveal that the human genetic code contains only about 30,000 genes, as opposed to the previously postulated 100,000. Human DNA therefore contains about twice the genes of fruit flies, and roughly the same number of genes as sweet corn.

March 8th through the 21st: The NASA Space Shuttle "Discovery" (mission STS-102) performs the eighth International Space Station flight. Discovery delivers the Expedition Two crew to the Station, and returns the Expedition One crew to Earth. The three-person Expedition One crew includes one former Scout: William M. Shepherd (Cub Scout). The three-person Expedition Two crew includes one former Scout: James S. Voss (rank unknown). The four-person shuttle crew includes two former Scouts: Pilot James M. Kelly (Webelos Scout) and Mission Specialist Paul W. Richards (Tenderfoot Scout).

March 24th: Cub Pack 186 takes second place in the Webelos division of the Japeechen District First Aid Meet.

March 24th: The Forty-fifth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The lone **Honor Eagle** (Jeffrey E. Barnett) brings the Troop total to 144 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Brian C. Glath (Bronze), Craig J. Hazelett (Bronze), and Michael J. Powell (Bronze and Gold). The Keynote Speaker is the Reverend Thomas E. Brown of Trinity United Methodist Church.

April 1st: Deposed Yugoslav dictator Slobodan Milosevic, wanted by the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal, is arrested after a day-long armed standoff.

May 5th: Troop 186 Eagle Scout and Scoutmaster Robert G. Barrage receives the **Silver Beaver Award**.

May 11th through the 13th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 51.7 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River from Shawville to Keating. Three Scouts and five adults participate. An Osprey is sighted three times, as well as several Great Blue Herons and Kingfishers, on a stream once too acidic to support a fish population.

May 24th: Republican Senator from Vermont James Jeffords defects from the Republican Party and declares himself an independent, suddenly giving the Democratic Party control of the US Senate with a 50-49-1 majority.

June 23rd and 24th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 32.9 miles on the Allegheny River, from Franklin to Emlenton. Four Scouts and four adults participate. Included in the participants are one guest Scout and one guest adult from Tarentum Troop 180. One mature and one juvenile American Bald Eagle are sighted on Saturday. Two mature Eagles are sighted on Sunday.

July 14th: For the third time, Troop 186 participates in the “Young Eagles” program sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association of America. The program provides free rides in private aircraft for youth, with the goal of providing first flights for one million young people before the centennial of the Wright brothers’ first flight in 1903. 22 youth and 9 adults participate.

July 22nd through the 28th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 41 Scouts and 14 adults. The cost per Scout is \$145. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 24th of July. Four Scouts and three adults participate. Troop 186 Life Scout Steve Mellor serves on Camp Liberty staff for the summer. The old North Bridge, built in 1981, serves its last summer, and is dismantled at the close of the camping season. It is replaced with a floating pontoon bridge.

July 23rd through August 1st: The Fifteenth BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia, attended by 42,002 campers.

August 8th: Joel Keith Erickson becomes Troop 186’s third second-generation **Eagle Scout**. At the age of 13 years and 59 days, he is the youngest Eagle Scout in the history of Troop 186. Joel is the son of Evan K. Erickson.

August 10th through the 22nd: The NASA Space Shuttle “Discovery” (mission STS-102) performs the eleventh International Space Station flight. Discovery delivers the Expedition Three crew to the Station, and returns the Expedition Two crew to Earth. The three-person Expedition Two crew includes one former Scout: James S. Voss (rank unknown). The three-person Expedition Three crew includes one former Scout: Frank L. Culbertson, Jr. (Second Class Scout). The four-person shuttle crew includes two former Scouts: Mission Specialists Daniel T. Barry (Star Scout) and Patrick G. Forrester (Eagle Scout).

September 10th: Participants in the troop’s upcoming camping weekend at the Fort Necessity National Battlefield make final arrangements for their outing during this evening’s weekly Troop Meeting.

September 11th: Terrorists attack The United States. Four airliners are hijacked, one of which crashes in a remote area of Somerset County Pennsylvania, one of which crashes into the Pentagon, and one each impact with the 110-story twin-towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, resulting in their collapse. 2,823 are killed or missing. For the first time in history, all commercial air traffic over the US is grounded until the 13th. The New York Stock Exchange suspends trading until the 17th. President Bush and Secretary of State Powell characterize the attack as an act of war.

September 14th: During the three days since the terrorist attack of September 11th, not a single Scout, adult leader, or parent asks if the upcoming camping weekend has been cancelled. Food has been purchased; bags have been packed. Everyone signed up for the Troop’s Fort Necessity trip shows up as planned, ready to go.

October 7th: In response to evidence connecting the al-Qaeda terrorist network and its leader, Osama bin Laden, to the September 11th attack on the United States, the US invades Afghanistan, where bin Laden is believed to enjoy the protection of the fundamentalist Islamic regime of the Taliban.

October 14th: Troop 186 participates in the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches Walk for Hunger.

October 19th through the 21st: Troop 186 takes first place in knot tying, first place in first aid, and first place overall in the competitive events at the Japechen District Fall Camporee, held at Camp Twin Echo, earning a \$75 Dunham’s gift certificate. Troop 186 shares the Trafford troop site with Tarentum Troop 180, who wins third place overall, and a \$25 gift certificate.

December 5th: The “Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-Establishment of Permanent Government Institutions” was signed by representatives of anti-Taliban forces and several other Afghan political parties and groups in Bonn, Germany.

December 5th through the 17th: The NASA Space Shuttle “Endeavour” (mission STS-108) performs the twelfth International Space Station flight. Endeavour delivers the Expedition Four crew to the Station, and returns the Expedition Three crew to Earth. The three-person Expedition Three crew includes one former Scout: Frank L. Culbertson, Jr. (Second Class Scout). The three-person Expedition Four crew includes one former Scout: Daniel W. Bursch (Tenderfoot Scout). The four-person shuttle crew includes two former Scouts: Commander Dominic L. Gorie (Webelos Scout) and Pilot Mark E. Kelly (Cub Scout).

December 11th: Treasurer and Troop 186 Eagle Scout Evan K. Erickson receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop's Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

By the end of 2001, 740 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 169 (22.84%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 192 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2002

The Troop recharter with 51 Scouts and 31 adults. It's only the second time in the history of the troop that the youth roster at chartering time has exceeded 50 Scouts (see 1969); it's the fifth consecutive year that the youth roster at chartering time has included 40 or more boys, tying the record set in 1971; and sets a new record for the largest total charter roster (82 total Scouts and adults) in the history of the unit (see 2010).

January 9th: Steve M. Mellor and Kevin R. Lamison become Troop 186's **149th** and **150th Eagle Scouts**.

January: "A Brief History of Birdville Troop 186" is published. The 238-page book includes a summary of world events at the time of the troop's founding, an expanded and illustrated version of this Timeline, listings of all youth and adult members, complete charter rosters for every year of the troop's history, an Eagle Scout honor roll, and vital statistics and portraits of all of the unit's Scoutmasters and Committee Chairmen. Along with a companion "Troop History Scrapbook" compact disc, the book is offered for sale by mail and at the Eagle Banquet on March 9th. The cost for the book and CD-ROM is \$10 each. A "Troop Photo Album" compact disc is also offered for sale, but isn't ready in time to be distributed at the Eagle Banquet.

January 25th through the 27th: Troop 186 takes third place in the Scavenger Hunt at the Japeechen District Klondike Derby and Winter Camporee, held at Camp Twin Echo.

March 9th: A new troop flag enters service, which reads, "Troop 186/Birdville Pa.", reproducing the flag that had been in service since the late 1950's. The old flag continues to be used on outings. (During discussions leading up to the purchase of the new flag, a suggestion is made to update the town and add the name of the troop's current sponsor, eliciting collective gasps from the long-tenured members of the adult staff.) The new flag is used for the first time at the 2002 Eagle Banquet.

March 9th: The Forty-sixth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The presentation of six **Eagle Awards** (Jacob T. Beresik, Joel K. Erickson, Brian E. Poprik, William J. "B.J." Barch, Steve M. Mellor, and Kevin R. Lamison) ties the Troop

record set in 1965 and previously tied in 1971, 1978, and 1986, and brings the Troop total to 150 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Matthew S. Lucke (Bronze, presented February 19th), Joel K. Erickson (Bronze), and William J. Barch (Bronze). The Dinner is expanded to a celebration of the Troop's 150-Eagle milestone. All Troop Eagle Scouts, adult leaders, and charter members located through the six-year Troop History Project are invited to attend. The Banquet is attended by 36 Eagle Scouts, 42 adult leaders, and Greater Pittsburgh Council Scout Executive (and future Chief Scout Executive of the BSA) Bob Mazzuca, who delivers the keynote address.

March 10th: The Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall suffers structural damage during the cast party for the Highlands High School class musical, forcing troop meetings to move to the Citizens Hose Volunteer Fire Department (formerly Birdville Elementary School).

April 26th through the 28th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 50.2 miles on Redbank Creek from Brookville to the confluence with the Allegheny River. Seven Scouts and five adults participate. Osprey sightings occur frequently over nearly the entire length of the trip.

June 5th through the 19th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Endeavour" (mission STS-108) performs the fourteenth International Space Station flight. Endeavour delivers the Expedition Five crew to the Station, and returns the Expedition Four crew to Earth. Neither the three-person Expedition Five crew nor the four-person shuttle crew includes any former Scouts, but the shuttle's return flight from orbit includes, among the Expedition Four crew, one former Scout: Daniel W. Bursch (Tenderfoot Scout).

June 15th and 16th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 28.5 miles on the Juniata River from the Point Access at the mouth of the Raystown Branch Juniata River to Mattawana. Five Scouts and five adults begin the trip, and four Scouts and six adults complete it, as B.J. Barch celebrates his 18th birthday on Sunday. Two mature American Bald Eagles are sighted on Saturday. It's the troop's first Bald Eagle sighting on the Juniata River.

June 27th through July 1st: Troop 186 travels to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, near Dayton, Ohio, camping on the base for four nights, eating in the base dining hall, and touring the Air Force Museum. While in the area, the troop also visits the Wright brothers' original bicycle shop, the Wright Brothers Memorial, the Carillon Historical Park, the Sunwatch Indian Village (a partially reconstructed, 800-year-old archeological site still under excavation), and the Wyandot Lake water park near Columbus (on the way home). 13 Scouts and 4 adults participate. 1 sister and 3 mothers stay in a motel off of the base and take part in the program. The cost per participant is \$79.80.

July 21st through the 27th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 40 Scouts and 19 adults. The cost per Scout is \$145. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 23rd of July. One Scout and three adults participate. The old North Bridge, built in 1981, has been replaced with a new floating pontoon bridge.

July 24th: Nine miners are trapped underground in the QueCreek Mine, near Heritage Reservation. Led by faulty maps, they had drilled into an abandoned, water-filled tunnel, flooding their mine. All nine are rescued in good health on July 28th.

October 7th: For the first time since March 3rd, Troop meetings return to the newly-repaired Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall.

November 23rd through December 7th: The NASA Space Shuttle “Endeavour” (mission STS-113) performs the sixteenth International Space Station flight. Endeavour delivers the Expedition Six crew to the Station, and returns the Expedition Five crew to Earth. The three-person Expedition Five crew includes no former Scouts. The three-person Expedition Six crew includes two former Scouts: Kenneth D. Bowersox (Eagle Scout) and Donald R. Pettit (Eagle Scout). The four-person shuttle crew includes two former Scouts: Mission Specialists Michael E. Lopez-Alegria (Cub Scout) and John B. Herrington (Second Class Scout).

December 4th: In recognition of the Troop’s 60th anniversary (November 11th), 60-year Veteran Troop Bars are presented to all members in attendance at the Annual Family Christmas Dinner. Troop 186 Eagle Scout and Committee Member Norman R. Walters is intended to receive the **Lewis A. Rehner Award**, but is absent from the dinner. The award is presented at the January Troop Committee meeting.

December 26th: A baby named “Eve” is born, which an organization called “Clonaid” claims is the first successful human clone. Clonaid is associated with the “Raelians”, a religious sect that believes that all humans are the product of genetic engineering performed by ancient alien astronauts. No evidence is found that “Eve” is a clone, or even exists.

By the end of 2002, 749 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 169 (22.56%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 196 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2003

The Troop recharter with 39 Scouts and 33 adults.

January 7th: Committee member and Troop 186 Eagle Scout Norman R. Walters receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the January Troop Committee Meeting. (Norm was unable to attend the Troop’s Annual Family Christmas Dinner.)

January 24th through the 26th: Troop 186 takes second place in the Scavenger Hunt at the Japeecheen District Klondike Derby and Winter Camporee, held at Camp Guyasuta.

February 1st: The NASA Space Shuttle “Columbia” (mission STS-107), the first to fly in space in 1981, breaks up during reentry over Texas at an altitude of over 200,000 feet and a speed of over Mach 18, killing all seven astronauts, including four former Scouts: Commander Rick D. Husband (Second Class Scout), Pilot William C. McCool (Eagle Scout), Mission Specialist David M. Brown (Life Scout), and Payload Commander Michael P. Anderson (Webelos Scout). It is Columbia’s 28th space flight. The accident occurs five days after the 36th anniversary of the fatal fire on board Apollo 1, and four days after the 17th anniversary of the explosion of the Space Shuttle “Challenger”. Two operational shuttles remain of the four originally built, with “Endeavour” (Challenger’s replacement) making a total of three. All are grounded pending an investigation. It is eventually discovered that a piece of insulating foam associated with the shuttle’s external fuel tank broke loose during launch and damaged heat shield tiles on the leading edge of the shuttle’s wing, allowing the heat of atmospheric friction during reentry to melt the internal structure of the wing. Unlike Challenger, Columbia will not be replaced.

February 9th: Troop 186 hosts the Second Annual Japeecheen District Ecumenical Scout Sunday Service at the Most Blessed Sacrament Worship Site. Participating clergy are Father Stan M. Gregorek and Deacon Patrick Wood of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Parish, and Pastor Harry G. Souders of Faith Lutheran Church.

March 1st: The CIA, in cooperation with Pakistani officials, captures Khalid Shaikh Mohammed in Pakistan. He is third in command of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization, and the alleged mastermind of the September 11th 2001 attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

March 15th: The Forty-seventh Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The presentation of six **Eagle Awards** (Michael W. McInnes, Mark W. Turner, Adam E. Friel, Christopher M. Tarbi, Gregory S. Garso II, and Christopher R. Nold) ties the Troop record set in 1965 and previously tied in 1971, 1978, 1986, and 2002, and brings the Troop total to 156

Eagle Scouts. It's the first time that the Troop has honored six Eagle Scouts at two consecutive Eagle Banquets. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Adam E. Friel (Bronze), Steve M. Mellor (Bronze and Gold), William J. Barch (Gold), and Joel K. Erickson (Gold and Silver). The Keynote Speaker is Larry Dunn, former Chairman of the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners.

March 19th: A pre-dawn cruise missile attack on Baghdad signals the start of an invasion of Iraq by US and British forces, in an effort to overthrow the government of Saddam Hussein. The Hussein regime has allegedly hidden efforts to develop nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in violation of several United Nations resolutions, and has aided and sheltered members of al-Qaeda. (None of those allegations turn out to be true.)

April 9th: American tanks roll into Baghdad, welcomed by cheering crowds. Saddam Hussein is missing.

April 12th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the "Canyon" of the Cheat River in West Virginia. One Scout and two adults participate.

April 25th: With the space shuttle fleet grounded pending investigation of the loss of Columbia, the Expedition Seven crew of the International Space Station launches in the Soyuz TMA-2 capsule from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The two-person crew includes no former Boy Scouts.

Spring: Troop 186 alumnus Michael A. Zeiler (1996-2003) is named Highlands High School **Boy of the Year** by the Allegheny Valley Chapter of Optimists International.

May 2nd through the 4th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 53.4 miles on Pine Creek from Ansonia to Torbert. The trip covers the entire length of the Pine Creek Gorge, the so-called "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania". Four Scouts and six adults participate. Osprey sightings occur frequently over nearly the entire length of the trip. A pair of American Bald Eagles and their nest are observed on Sunday. It's the troop's first Bald Eagle sighting on Pine Creek.

May 3rd: With the space shuttle fleet grounded pending investigation of the loss of Columbia, the Expedition Six crew of the International Space Station returns to Earth in the Soyuz TMA-1 capsule, landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan in central Asia. The three-person crew includes two former Scouts: Kenneth D. Bowersox (Eagle Scout) and Donald R. Pettit (Eagle Scout).

May: The "Troop Photo Album" compact disc, for which paid orders had been received since February of 2002, is published and distributed. The CD-ROM contains 2,774

photographs taken on 261 outings from the summer of 1953 to March of 2003, and costs \$10. (An additional 363 photos taken on 36 outings from 1946 to 1957 are included in the "Walter Baker Scrapbooks" on the "Troop History Scrapbook" CD that was distributed in 2002.) A "Scrapbook Update" disc is included with each Photo Album, containing artifacts found since the publication of the Scrapbook CD sixteen months earlier.

June 21st and 22nd: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 33.2 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River from Rolling Stone to Keating. Three Scouts and three adults participate. An Osprey is sighted on Sunday.

July 16th: Matthew Brian Finley (stepson of Norman R. Walters) becomes Troop 186's fourth second-generation **Eagle Scout**.

July 20th through the 26th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 28 Scouts and 18 adults. The cost per Scout is \$150. The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 22nd of July. Two Scouts and four adults participate. The "**Birdville Titanium Man**" award is instituted, which requires a candidate to participate in the "Discovery Outpost", "C.O.P.E", and "Heritage Iron Man" programs. The two inaugural Titanium Men are Cory Chelko and Adam Friel. They both insist that Assistant Scoutmaster Scott Garso also receive the award, since he was unable to participate in the Discovery Outpost program because he elected to go rafting instead. The rules are later changed to allow candidates to choose between Discovery Outpost and the whitewater-rafting trip. Heritage Reservation institutes the "**Brownsea Island Honor Camper Award**" and the "**Green Bar Bill Honor Patrol Award**". The Fun Patrol (a patrol of convenience organized only for Summer Camp) is the first patrol from Troop 186 to earn the Green Bar Bill award, and the members of that patrol, Chris Nold, Andrew Fraser, Mike McArdele, Mike Nold, and Chris Tarbi, are the first to earn the Brownsea Island award.

August 14th: The largest power failure in North American history leaves 50 million people without electricity from New York to Michigan and from Pennsylvania to Canada. Birdville is unaffected.

October 18th: With the space shuttle fleet grounded pending investigation of the loss of Columbia, the Expedition Eight crew of the International Space Station launches in the Soyuz TMA-3 capsule from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The two-person crew includes one former Scout: C. Michael Foale (Cub Scout).

October 19th, on the last day of the Japeechen District Fall Camporee at Moraine State Park (October 17th through the 19th), the troop finds a “geocache” along the North Country Trail, following coordinates listed on the geocaching.com website. It’s the unit’s first foray into geocaching, a worldwide treasure hunt launched in 2000 for those with access to Global Positioning Satellite receivers.

October 27th: With the space shuttle fleet grounded pending investigation of the loss of Columbia, the Expedition Seven crew of the International Space Station returns to Earth in the Soyuz TMA-2 capsule, landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan in central Asia. The two-person crew includes no former Boy Scouts.

December 9th: Troop 186 Committee Member Edward D. Friel receives the **Lewis A. Rehner Award** at the Troop’s Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

December 13th: Elements of the U.S. Army 4th Infantry Division capture ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. He is found, alive and well, in a hole in the floor of a grass and mud hut in the vicinity of his hometown of Tikrit, with a gun and \$700,000 in cash.

By the end of 2003, 754 youth have belonged to Troop 186, of whom 169 (22.41%) have or will eventually become Eagle Scouts. To date, a total of 201 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2004

The Troop recharter with 30 Scouts and 34 adults. It’s the largest adult staff in the history of the unit to date, and the first time in the troop’s history that the charter contains more adults than Scouts.

The fourth edition of the Boy Scout Fieldbook is published.

March 13th: The Forty-eighth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The presentation of five **Eagle Awards** (Matthew B. Finley, Cory M. Chelko, Donald L. Barch, Jr., Shane T. Penn, and Timothy K. Garso) sets a new troop record of 17 Eagle Scouts recognized at three consecutive Eagle Banquets, and brings the Troop total to 161 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Donald L. Barch, Jr. (Bronze), Cory Chelko (Bronze), Christopher R. Nold (Bronze), Christopher M. Tarbi (Bronze), Adam E. Friel (Gold and Silver), and Joel K. Erickson (Bronze II and Gold II). The Keynote Speaker is Robert R. Schleiden, Freeport Senior High School Principal.

April 18th: With the space shuttle fleet grounded pending investigation of the loss of Columbia, the Expedition

Nine crew of the International Space Station launches in the Soyuz TMA-4 capsule from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The two-person crew includes one former Scout: E. Michael Finke (Webelos Scout).

April 29th: With the space shuttle fleet grounded pending investigation of the loss of Columbia, the Expedition Eight crew of the International Space Station returns to Earth in the Soyuz TMA-3 capsule, landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan in central Asia. The two-person crew includes one former Scout: C. Michael Foale (Cub Scout).

April 30th though May 2nd: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts’ Canoe Trip covers 55.8 miles on the Clarion River, from Ridgway to Millcreek. Five Scouts and five adults participate. Osprey sightings occur frequently over nearly the entire length of the trip. Three adult American Bald Eagles are sighted on Saturday, and one juvenile Eagle is sighted on Sunday.

May 15th: The age requirement for joining a Boy Scout troop is further clarified, setting the minimum age at ten years old. (Since 1990, boys under the age of 11 had been permitted to join a Boy Scout Troop before completing fifth grade, if they had earned the Arrow of Light Award, but no absolute minimum age was specified.)

May 16th: Joel K. Erickson becomes the troop’s second youth **Vigil Honor** member of the Order of the Arrow. (The first was James R. Boyle, Jr., in 1982.)

June 2nd: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Joel K. Erickson speaks on the subject “What Makes a Scout” at the Japeechen District’s Program Kickoff Picnic at Camp Guyasuta. He prepared the speech for the district’s Friends of Scouting fundraiser breakfast, but the event was cancelled.

June 5th: Former President Ronald Regan dies. At the age of 93, he is the longest-lived U.S. President in history. His record will be broken in 2006 by the man who defeated him for the 1976 Republican Presidential Nomination, Gerald R. Ford.

June 10th: Robert G. Barrage ties Dr. Robert H. “Doc” Barrage, his father, for the longest tenure as Scoutmaster of Birdville Troop 186, at 3,372 days.

June 12th and 13th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 30.9 miles on the Juniata River from Lewistown to Millerstown. Three Scouts and three adults participate. The trip passes through the emergence of Periodical Cicada Brood X, and the insect chorus can be heard, during daylight hours, for almost the entire length of the trip. It is the first known troop canoe trip during a 17-year cicada emergence. A report on the

troop's observations is submitted via the Internet to entomological researchers, and helps to revise the map of where Brood X emerges, moving the boundary farther to the north than scientists had expected.

June 17th: The troop web site, "birdvilletroop186.com", is launched. The site is designed and constructed by Star Scout Noah Purdy and Eagle Scout (and Assistant Scoutmaster) Greg Garso. Although the site is short-lived, and is abandoned after one year on line, the troop will eventually return to the web for the long haul. (See December 24th, 2006 and August 28th, 2010.)

June 22nd: Sixty-three year old Mike Melvill pilots "SpaceShipOne" to an altitude of 62.2 miles, then glides to a landing in the Mohave Desert, during a flight that lasts about ninety minutes. SpaceShipOne, designed by Burt Rutan and financed by Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen, thus becomes history's first privately funded manned spacecraft. (See October 4th)

June 24th through the 28th: Troop 186 travels to the Gettysburg National Military Park to complete the **Gettysburg Heritage Trail Award** administered by the York-Adams Council of the Boy Scouts of America, in cooperation with the National Park Service, the Gettysburg National Military Park, and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. 15 Scouts and 7 adults participate. The cost per participant is \$85.99.

June 29th: The United States turns over sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government. Later in the week, deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and several of his chief deputies are handed over to Iraqi authorities, but still remain under American guard.

July 25th through the 31st: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 33 Scouts and 15 adults, during the Reservation's twenty-fifth season. The cost per Scout is \$140 (including a \$20 on-time payment discount from the Troop). The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 27th of July. Three Scouts and four adults participate. Mike Ross earns the "**Birdville Titanium Man**" award, which requires a candidate to participate in the "Discovery Outpost" (or the raft trip), "C.O.P.E", and "Heritage Iron Man" programs. The Circle Patrol (like the Fun Patrol of 2003, a patrol of convenience organized only for Summer Camp) earns the "**Green Bar Bill Honor Patrol Award**", and Circle Patrol members Tim Garso, Don Barch Jr., Joel Erickson, and Matt Nold earn the "**Brownsea Island Honor Camper Award**". Joel Erickson earns his 66th, 67th, and 68th merit badges during the week, surpassing the previous unit record of 66 merit badges set in 1977 by Paul Freehling (see June 6th, 2006).

July 26th: Assistant Scoutmaster John Merli dies in office after 26½ years of service as a Cub Leader, Assistant Scoutmaster, District Vice Chairman, District Chairman, and Scoutmaster. During his tenure as an adult leader with the troop, 66 boys became Eagle Scouts, including 18 during his tenure as Scoutmaster.

September 8th: The remnants of Hurricane Frances drop a 24-hour record 3.6 inches of rain on the Pittsburgh area, a record that stands for only nine days.

September 17th: The remnants of Hurricane Ivan drop up to nine inches of rain across Western Pennsylvania, triggering massive flooding and mud slides which damage or destroy numerous bridges and close hundreds of roadways around the area. A 24-hour record 5.9 inches of rain falls in Pittsburgh, breaking the nine-day old record set by the remnants of Hurricane Frances.

October 4th: On the 47th anniversary of the launch of "Sputnik I" (the world's first artificial satellite), "SpaceShipOne" flies to an altitude of 71.6 miles, then glides to a landing, breaking the world altitude record for a rocket-powered plane. By flying successfully for the second time in a week, both times carrying extra weight representing two passengers, the SpaceShipOne team wins the \$10 million Ansari X prize, which was established in 1996 to spur commercial space travel. The project cost roughly \$20 million.

October 9th: For the first time, Afghan citizens, including roughly 850,000 refugees in Pakistan and Iran, elect their new President. Osama bin Laden, the original target of the invasion of Afghanistan, is still believed to be hiding in the mountains near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

October 13th: With the space shuttle fleet grounded pending investigation of the loss of Columbia, the Expedition Ten crew of the International Space Station launches in the Soyuz TMA-5 capsule from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The two-person crew includes no former Boy Scouts.

October 15th through the 17th: The Japeechen Chapter of the Order of the Arrow plans and staffs the Japeechen District Fall Camporee at Northmoreland Park. The majority of the staff is composed of Troop 186 Eagle Scouts and OA members, including Cory Chelko (Chapter Chief), Joel Erickson (former Chapter Chief), Kevin Shaffer, Bob Barrage, and Evan Erickson (Chapter Advisor).

October 23rd: With the space shuttle fleet grounded pending investigation of the loss of Columbia, the Expedition Nine crew of the International Space Station returns to Earth in the Soyuz TMA-4 capsule, landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan in central Asia. The two-

person crew includes one former Scout: E. Michael Finke (Webelos Scout).

October 29th: In a videotaped message aired on the Arab-language Al-Jazeera television network, Osama bin Laden admits responsibility for the September 11th, 2001 attack on the United States.

November 2nd: George W. Bush is reelected to a second term as President of the United States.

November 23rd: At the Greater Pittsburgh Council Eagle Recognition Dinner, Birdville Troop 186 Eagle Scout Timothy K. Garso wins the \$500 **Sonny Lauffer Memorial Scholarship** essay contest. Tim is the first and only member of Sonny's old unit to be so honored. (The award will be discontinued after the 2005 Council Eagle Recognition Dinner.)

December 26th: A rare undersea megathrust earthquake strikes deep in the Indian Ocean off the western coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia. At a magnitude of 9.0, it's the largest since the 9.2-magnitude Good Friday Earthquake off Alaska in 1964, and it ties for fourth largest since 1900. Tsunamis created by the earthquake devastate the shores of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, and other countries with waves up to 50 feet high, even reaching Somalia on the east coast of Africa, 2,800 miles west of the epicenter. It's one of the deadliest natural disasters in history, with at least 230,000 people known to have died as a result of the tsunamis. The true final toll may never be known due to bodies lost at sea and generalized chaos, but is likely to be considerably higher.

By the end of 2004, 767 youth have belonged to Troop 186. To date, a total of 203 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2005

The Troop recharter with 34 Scouts and 32 adults.

January 14th: After separating from NASA's Cassini spacecraft, the European Space Agency's Huygens probe lands on the surface of Saturn's largest moon, Titan, ending a seven-year journey from Earth.

March 12th: The Forty-ninth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The presentation of three **Eagle Awards** (J. Kevin Shaffer, Michael C. Glath, and Christopher A. Lucke) brings the Troop total to 164 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Shane Penn (Bronze), Timothy K. Garso

(Bronze and Gold), Donald L. Barch, Jr. (Gold and Silver), Cory Chelko (Gold), and Joel K. Erickson (Silver II and Bronze III). The Keynote Speaker is Father Richard J. Thompson, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Parish.

April 2nd: Pope John Paul II dies, ending the third-longest papacy in history.

April 14th: With the space shuttle fleet grounded pending investigation of the loss of Columbia, the Expedition Eleven crew of the International Space Station launches in the Soyuz TMA-6 capsule from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The two-person crew includes one former Scout: John L. Phillips (Cub Scout).

April 16th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Whitewater Rafting Trip takes place on the New River in West Virginia. Two Scouts and three adults participate.

April 18th: 78-year-old Joseph Ratzinger of Germany becomes Pope Benedict XVI. He is the first Pope from a German-speaking nation since 1057.

April 24th: With the space shuttle fleet grounded pending investigation of the loss of Columbia, the Expedition Ten crew of the International Space Station returns to Earth in the Soyuz TMA-5 capsule, landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan in central Asia. The two-person crew includes no former Boy Scouts.

April 29th though May 1st: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 44.4 miles on the Allegheny River, from Bonnie Brae to Franklin. Four Scouts and four adults participate. Three adult American Bald Eagles and five juvenile Eagles are sighted on Saturday.

June 4th: Scoutmaster Robert G. Barrage marries Lori Alayne Schneider. Lori's son, Troop 186 Eagle Scout J. Kevin Shaffer, serves as Best Man, and becomes, retroactively, the troop's fifth second-generation Eagle Scout.

June: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Cory Chelko and his father, Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Chelko, attend Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

June 24th through the 26th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 30.3 miles on the Susquehanna River from Sunbury to Clemson Island. Seven Scouts and three adults participate. One mature American Bald Eagle is sighted on Saturday.

July 24th through the 30th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 29 Scouts and 18 adults. The cost per Scout is \$140 (including a \$20 on-time payment discount from the Troop). The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny

River on the 26th of July. Two Scouts and five adults participate. Beginning in the summer of 2005, the “Birdville Geological Survey” map series (surveyed by various members of Troops 180 and 186, and drawn by Scoutmaster Bob Barrage) become the official maps of Heritage Reservation.

July 25th through August 3rd: The Sixteenth BSA National Scout Jamboree is held at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia, attended by 43,000 campers.

July 26th through August 9th: The NASA Space Shuttle “Discovery” (mission STS-114) performs the first shuttle flight since the loss of “Columbia” in 2003. The seven-person crew includes four former Scouts: Pilot James M. Kelly (Webelos Scout), and Mission Specialists Charles J. Camarda (First Class Scout), Soichi Noguchi (Star Scout), and Stephen K. Robinson (Life Scout). Insulating foam breaks off during launch, similar to the foam that caused the fatal damage to Columbia’s heat shield tiles, and the shuttle fleet is grounded again while the foam-shedding problem is further investigated.

August 29th: Hurricane Katrina strikes the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi with 145-mph winds and 20-foot storm surges.

September 30th: With the space shuttle fleet still grounded, the Expedition Twelve crew of the International Space Station launches in the Soyuz TMA-7 capsule from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The two-person crew includes one former Scout: William S. McArthur, Jr. (Life Scout).

October 10th: With the space shuttle fleet still grounded, the Expedition Eleven crew of the International Space Station returns to Earth in the Soyuz TMA-6 capsule, landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan in central Asia. The two-person crew includes one former Scout: John L. Phillips (Cub Scout).

October 14th through the 16th: At the Japeechen District Fall Camporee, the “Other” Patrol of Troop 186 takes first place in tower building and second place in blind-folded tent pitching, and the Dragon Patrol of Troop 186 takes first place in the wheel barrow race, second place in tower building and fire building, and third place in the Overall Patrol Competition.

October 28th through the 30th: Troop 186 spends the weekend camping at the Fort Necessity National Military Park, touring the new Visitors’ Center (dedicated October 8th) and clearing downed trees from the section of Braddock Road that crosses the battlefield. On Sunday the 30th, the Troop hikes the portion of the 250-year-old Braddock Road that passes to the north of Heritage Reservation, providing GPS survey information to Robert L. Bantz, an amateur archeologist from

Maryland working to map all surviving sections of the old road.

By the end of 2005, 774 youth have belonged to Troop 186. To date, a total of 206 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2006

The Troop recharter with 29 Scouts and 38 adults. It’s the largest adult staff in the history of the unit, and the second time in the troop’s history that the charter contains more adults than Scouts.

February 5th: The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Seattle Seahawks 21 to 10 in Super Bowl XL.

March 25th: The Fiftieth Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The presentation of four **Eagle Awards** (Michael G. Nold, Kasey M. Koscianski, Michael A. Ross, and Joseph D. Tarbi) brings the Troop total to 168 Eagle Scouts. **Eagle Palms** are awarded to Cory Chelko (Silver), and Joel K. Erickson (Gold III and Silver III). Joel Erickson’s third Silver Eagle Palm ties the troop record set in 1977 by Paul E. Freehling, who performs the Palm presentation ceremony. The five-year total of 24 Eagle Scouts recognized at the Banquets of 2002 through 2006 ties the record for the largest five-year total in the Troop’s history set by the Banquets of 1969 through 1973, and previously tied by those of 1974 through 1978. The Keynote Speaker is Alf Tuggle, Greater Pittsburgh Council Scout Executive.

March 29th: With the space shuttle fleet still grounded, the Expedition Thirteen crew of the International Space Station launches in the Soyuz TMA-8 capsule from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The two-person crew includes one former Scout: Jeffrey N. Williams (Star Scout).

April 8th: With the space shuttle fleet still grounded, the Expedition Twelve crew of the International Space Station returns to Earth in the Soyuz TMA-7 capsule, landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan in central Asia. The two-person crew includes one former Scout: William S. McArthur, Jr. (Life Scout).

April 21st through the 23rd: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts’ Canoe Trip covers 50.2 miles on Redbank Creek from Brookville to the confluence with the Allegheny River. Three Scouts and seven adults participate. Osprey sightings occur frequently over nearly the entire length of the trip, and a juvenile American Bald Eagle is sighted Saturday morning. It’s the troop’s first Bald Eagle sighting on Redbank Creek.

Spring: Troop 186 Eagle Scout Joel K. Erickson is named Freeport Area High School **Boy of the Year** by the Allegheny Valley Chapter of Optimists International. Joel is the son of Troop 186 Eagle Scout Evan K. Erickson.

May 21st: Cory M. Chelko becomes the troop's third youth **Vigil Honor** member of the Order of the Arrow. (The first was James R. Boyle, Jr., in 1982, and the second was Joel K. Erickson, in 2004.)

June 6th: Four days before his eighteenth birthday, Joel Erickson passes his Board of Review for a tenth **Eagle Palm (Bronze IV)**, surpassing the previous unit record of 9 Eagle Palms set in 1977 by Paul Freehling. He also hands in his 73rd merit badge, earned the previous day, setting a new record for merit badges earned by a member of Troop 186.

June 10th and 11th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 34.2 miles on the Allegheny River, from Buckaloons National Forest Campground to Fox Run Canoes, near Hunter Station. The trip passes one Eagle nest near Trunkeyville on Saturday, and another on Tionesta Island on Sunday. Twelve Scouts and eight adults participate. Four juvenile American Bald Eagles are sighted on Saturday. One mature and two juvenile Eagles are sighted on Sunday.

June 22nd through the 26th: Troop 186 travels to Washington DC, camping at Pohick Bay Regional Park for four nights, and touring the Capitol Building, the monuments, memorials, and museums of the National Mall and Tidal Basin, and the National Zoological Park. On the way home, the troop also visits King's Dominion amusement park near Richmond, Virginia. A local record 10.28 inches of rain falls in the Washington area during the outing, but never interferes with program. Closing of roads and the Metro system because of flooding begin Sunday night, after the troop has returned to camp, and closing of museums and other attractions begin Monday, the day the troop spends at King's Dominion. 14 Scouts and 4 adults participate. The cost per participant is \$100.00.

June 28th: The Pennsylvania Game Commission announces that, for the first time in over a century, more than 100 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles are known to reside in the state. The number of known breeding pairs has increased from 3 in 1983 to 106 in 2006. There are 7,066 such breeding pairs throughout the lower 48 United States. (There are approximately 70,000 Eagles in Alaska and 20,000 in British Columbia.) It is estimated that over 500 Eaglets have taken flight from Pennsylvania nests since 1990.

July 4th: The NASA Space Shuttle "Discovery" (mission STS-121) performs the second shuttle flight since the loss of "Columbia" in 2003, and the first shuttle mission

since the July 26th, 2005 launch of the "Discovery", during which insulating foam broke off during launch, similar to the foam that caused the fatal damage to Columbia's heat shield tiles, prompting a second grounding of the shuttle fleet. The launch is delayed after cracks are discovered in the insulating foam, and small pieces are observed breaking loose during lift off, though NASA doesn't believe any of the pieces are large enough to present a danger to the shuttle's heat shield tiles. It is the first Independence-Day launch of a space shuttle, and the most-photographed shuttle mission in history to date, with more than 100 cameras documenting the launch and climb to orbit, and the use of a laser dynamic range imager, a laser camera system, and an intensified television camera mounted on the orbiter boom for in-flight heat-shield tile inspection. Discovery delivers Thomas Reiter of the European Space Agency to the International Space Station, who becomes the third member of ISS Expedition Thirteen. The seven-person crew includes four former Scouts: Commander Steven W. Lindsey (Eagle Scout), Pilot Mark E. Kelly (Cub Scout), and Mission Specialists Michael E. Fossum (Eagle Scout) and Peirs J. Sellers (Cub Scout).

July 23rd through the 29th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 27 Scouts and 18 adults. The cost per Scout is \$160 (including a \$30 on-time payment discount from the Troop). Ospreys are sighted in Latham Cove on Monday (two) and Thursday (one, carrying a Bluegill). These are the first Osprey sightings by Troop 186 at Heritage Reservation. For the first time since 1988, new Ordeal Order of the Arrow candidates are not offered the opportunity to complete their Ordeal during Summer Camp, and must participate in one of several Ceremonial Weekends planned for the fall and spring.

August 24th: The International Astronomical Union sets new criteria for defining a planet, demoting Pluto – which had been considered the ninth planet since its discovery in 1930 – to a "dwarf planet". For the first time since 1930, our solar system officially contains eight planets.

September 18th: Despite the space shuttle fleet's return to flight, the Expedition Fourteen crew of the International Space Station launches in the Soyuz TMA-9 capsule from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. The three-person crew includes one former Scout: Michael E. Lopez-Alegria (Cub Scout).

September 28th: Despite the space shuttle fleet's return to flight, the original two members of the Expedition Thirteen crew of the International Space Station returns to Earth in the Soyuz TMA-8 capsule, landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan in central Asia. The two-person crew includes one former Scout: Jeffrey N. Williams (Star Scout).

October 17th: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of the United States surpasses 300,000,000.

December 24th: Scoutmaster Bob Barrage establishes a “group room” entitled “The Birdville Gallery” on the website of Snapfish (a photo processing company), which includes his photographs of Troop 186 outings from 2000 to the present. Members may browse the gallery, add photos of their own, and order prints of the ones they like.

December 26th: Former President Gerald R. Ford dies. At the age of 93, he is the longest-lived U.S. President in history, surpassing Ronald Reagan’s record by 45 days.

December 31st: Member of committee Edward “Smacks” Kesicki retires after 32 years of service as Assistant Scoutmaster, Chartered Organization Representative, and Member of Committee. During his service as an adult leader, 98 boys became Eagle Scouts. He retires as the longest-tenured adult member in the history of the troop, breaking the record set by Joe Michalek in 1981.

By the end of 2006, 782 youth have belonged to Troop 186. To date, a total of 216 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2007

The Troop recharter with 29 Scouts and 37 adults. It’s the third time in the troop’s history that the charter contains more adults than Scouts.

May 4th through the 6th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts’ Canoe Trip covers 53.4 miles on Pine Creek from Ansonia to Torbert. The trip covers the entire length of the Pine Creek Gorge, the so-called “Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania”. Three Scouts and seven adults participate. An adult American Bald Eagle is sighted on Saturday, and an Osprey is sighted on Sunday.

June 8th through the 10th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 31.9 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River, from the Greevy Access in Williamsport to the Chillisquaque Creek Access near Lewisburg. Eleven Scouts and five adults participate.

June 29th through July 1st: Troop 186 travels to the Ligonier Camp and Conference Center for an Adventure Rope Course Weekend. Scoutmaster Bob Barrage is absent, ending a troop-record eighteen-year streak of perfect attendance at unit overnight outings, during which he participated in 203 overnights with the troop, including 15 as Assistant Scoutmaster, 42 as acting Scoutmaster (filling in for John Merli), and 146 as Scoutmaster.

July 22nd through the 28th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 28 Scouts and 15 adults. The cost per Scout is \$150 (including a \$50 on-time payment discount from the Troop). The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 24th of July. Four Scouts and two adults participate, for an additional fee of \$52.41.

September 1st: Bob Mazzuca becomes the Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. He formerly served as the Scout Executive of the Greater Pittsburgh Council from 1995 to 2005, and as the Keynote Speaker for the Birdville Troop 186 Eagle Banquets in 1999 and 2002.

November 14th: Michael John Matjasko becomes Troop 186’s sixth second-generation **Eagle Scout**. Michael is the son of Kevin J. Matjasko.

December 20th: Queen Elizabeth II, reaching the age of 81 years and 243 days, becomes the oldest British monarch in history, surpassing the record set by her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria. (She is currently the fourth longest-reigning English monarch, three months behind King Henry III, four years behind King George III, and eight years behind Queen Victoria, who ruled for almost 64 years.)

December 31st: Francis R. Beresik retires from the post of Committee Chairman after 11 years of service. During his tenure as Chairman, 40 boys became Eagle Scouts. He retires as the second-longest-tenured Committee Chairman in the history of the troop (second only to Lewis A. Rehner, who served for twenty-nine years). Mr. Beresik remains on the Troop Charter as a Member of Committee.

By the end of 2007, 788 youth have belonged to Troop 186. To date, a total of 221 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2008

The Troop recharter with 28 Scouts and 35 adults. It’s the fourth time in the troop’s history that the charter contains more adults than Scouts.

January 1st: Dr. Eric S. Bengel, Sr., age 42, becomes **Committee Chairman**.

February 4th: At 11:33 AM, Birdville Cache #1, waypoint GC18PCJ, the troop’s first geocache, was published on the Geocaching.com website. A geocacher called “purple_kv” was the first to find it at 3:20 PM.

March 1st: The Fifty-first Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most

Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The presentation of five **Eagle Awards** (Ryan J. Davis, Michael J. Matjasko, Patrick J. D'Amico, Joseph C. Sadecky, and Aaron T. Sutara) brings the Troop total to 173 Eagle Scouts. Two Scouts are recognized for earning **Eagle Palms** (Kasey Koscianski, Bronze; and Joel K. Erickson, Bronze IV), although neither could be present at the Banquet. Joel Erickson's fourth Bronze Eagle Palm sets a new troop record (see June 6th, 2006). The Keynote Speaker is the Honorable Jason Altmire, U.S. House of Representatives, 4th PA Congressional District.

April 28th: Troop 186 Eagle Scout J. Kevin Shaffer is named Freeport Area High School **Boy of the Year** by the Allegheny Valley Chapter of Optimists International. Kevin is the stepson of Troop 186 Eagle Scout Robert G. Barrage.

May 2nd through the 4th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 51.7 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River from Shawville to Keating. One Scout and three adults participate. One adult and six juvenile American Bald Eagles are sighted in three groups on Saturday, and Osprey sightings are common on both days. These are the troop's first Bald Eagle sightings on this section of the West Branch Susquehanna, in an area once too acidic to support a fish population.

June: Troop 186 Star Scout Tyler Uric attends Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

June 19th through the 23rd: Troop 186 travels to the Gettysburg National Military Park to complete the **Gettysburg Heritage Trail Award** administered by the York-Adams Council of the Boy Scouts of America, in cooperation with the National Park Service, the Gettysburg National Military Park, and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. 19 Scouts, 3 sisters, and 15 adults participate. The cost per participant is \$107.17.

June 29th: With Member of Committee Mike Roenigk at the wheel, Troop 186's "fourth troop bus" wins the **Big Butler Fair School Bus Demolition Derby**. Mr. Roenigk donated the bus to the troop, and the Scouts and their families painted it during the June 24th troop meeting.

July 20th through the 26th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 30 Scouts and 17 adults. The cost per Scout is \$150 (including a \$60 on-time payment discount from the Troop). The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 22nd of July. Five Scouts and four adults participate, for an additional fee of \$42.65 for a spot in a raft or \$51.65 for a ducky. The troop wins the **"Anything That Floats"** race on Wednesday, with a

brick-shaped, Styrofoam-filled plywood boat piloted by Eric Davis, Mike Powell, Gavin Roenigk, and Tyler Uric.

August: In anticipation of the upcoming one-hundredth anniversary of the BSA in 2010, changes to the Boy Scout uniform are instituted. In addition to new fabrics, button designs, and pocket configurations, the most obvious change is that almost all red is removed from the uniform, as white-on-red troop numbers and red-on-khaki "Trained" strips are replaced with a forest green-on-khaki scheme, red shoulder loops are replaced with forest green, and a monochromatic forest green ball cap is introduced.

August 9th and 10th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 33.0 miles on the Allegheny River, from Franklin to Emlenton. Ten Scouts and seven adults participate. Two mature and two juvenile American Bald Eagles are sighted on Saturday. One mature Eagle is sighted on Sunday.

August 22nd through the 24th: During a Troop 186 camping weekend along the Allegheny River in Johnetta, a mature American Bald Eagle is sighted on Saturday afternoon, and another on Sunday morning. These are the troop's first Bald Eagle sightings on this section of the Allegheny River. Along with sightings on the Senior Scouts' 50-Miler Canoe Trip in May and the troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip two weeks ago, these two sightings bring the total number of Bald Eagles seen on troop outings during 2008 to a single-year troop-record fourteen.

November 4th: Barack Obama is elected President of the United States. The forty-seven-year old son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, he is the first African-American to be elected President.

By the end of 2008, 802 youth have belonged to Troop 186. To date, a total of 224 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2009

The Troop recharter with 32 Scouts and 29 adults.

January 16th: NASA announces the discovery of methane gas plumes seeping from the Martian surface. The gas might be of geological origin, or might be a byproduct of life.

January 20th: On the day after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President Barack Obama is inaugurated before an estimated 1.5 million onlookers assembled on the Capitol grounds and the National Mall, the largest crowd ever to witness a Presidential Inauguration.

February 1st: The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Arizona Cardinals 27 to 23 in Super Bowl XLIII, becoming the first team in NFL history to win six Super Bowls.

March 7th: The Fifty-second Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The presentation of two **Eagle Awards** (Matthew R. Nold and Dylan J. Levish) brings the Troop total to 175 Eagle Scouts. Ryan Davis is recognized for earning a **Bronze Eagle Palm**.

May 1st through the 3rd: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 50.2 miles on Redbank Creek from Brookville to the confluence with the Allegheny River. Two Scouts and four adults participate. A juvenile American Bald Eagle is sighted on Sunday.

June 10th: Eric Scott Bengel, Jr., passes his **Eagle Scout** Board of Review. He is the first Eagle Scout in the history of Troop 186 to be born after his Scoutmaster took office.

June 12th: The Pittsburgh Penguins defeat the Detroit Redwings in the 2009 Stanley Cup Finals in seven games.

June 13th and 14th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 28.5 miles on the Juniata River from the Point Access at the mouth of the Raystown Branch Juniata River to Mattawana. Ten Scouts and eight adults participate, still weary from the previous evening's Stanley Cup celebrations. Three juvenile American Bald Eagles and one Osprey are sighted on Saturday.

July 19th through the 25th: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 37 Scouts and 21 adults, during the 30th season of Heritage Reservation. The cost per Scout is \$170 (including an \$85 on-time payment discount from the Troop). The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 21st of July. Four Scouts, one youth guest, and five adults participate, for an additional fee of \$46.95 for a spot in a raft or \$56.95 for a ducky.

August 1st: The twelfth edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is published. It is the first "green" edition, printed on recycled paper with environmentally-friendly paper-making and printing processes. It is also the first edition to be paired with a website (bsahandbook.org) providing greater detail and periodically-updated information on selected topics. Thanks to gradual small changes to requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class Scout made to later printings of the eleventh edition, the twelfth edition contains only minor revisions to advancement requirements. For the first time, Life Scout candidates are required to select from a list of Scout skills to teach to a younger Scout. The

required merit badges for Eagle Scout remain First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Personal Fitness, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, Swimming or Hiking or Cycling, Camping, and Family Life. Looking forward to the upcoming one-hundredth anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, each copy of the new Handbook includes a pamphlet entitled "The Boy Scout Handbook: Centennial Timeline."

September 7th: The Pittsburgh Pirates lose 4 to 2 to the Chicago Cubs, clinching their 17th consecutive losing season, the longest streak for any team in the four major North American professional team sports.

September 1st: Cub Pack 186 begins meeting on Tuesday nights at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall, transferring their charter from St. Barnabus Episcopal Church in Brackenridge to the Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, reuniting with the Troop after a 19-year separation. The OLMBS Parish becomes the Cub Pack's eighth sponsor.

October 9th: The 2009 Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to President Barack Obama for his "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples". He becomes the fourth U.S. President to be so honored, the third while in office, and the first during his first year in office. (Theodore Roosevelt won the prize in 1906, as did Woodrow Wilson in 1919, and former President Jimmy Carter in 2002.)

By the end of 2009, 820 youth have belonged to Troop 186. To date, a total of 233 adults have served on the Troop charter.

2010

The Troop recharter with 45 Scouts and 37 adults, tying the record set in 2002 for the largest total charter roster (82 total Scouts and adults) in the history of the unit.

January 1st: The advancement requirements contained in the new twelfth edition Boy Scout Handbook become effective for all new Boy Scouts. Current Scouts may continue to work on their next rank advancement using the requirements contained in the old eleventh edition Boy Scout Handbook, no matter how long it takes them, but after that, the new requirements will take effect for them, too.

February 5th and 6th: A storm nicknamed "Snowmageddon" drops 20.6 inches of snow in the Pittsburgh area, the region's fourth largest storm total on record.

February 8th: The Boy Scouts of America celebrates its one-hundredth anniversary. Despite the snow-storm-related state of emergency proclaimed by Pennsylvania governor Ed Rendell, widespread power outages, and the closings of roads, churches, and schools, Troop 186 attends Mass at the Most Blessed Sacrament worship site on Scout Sunday, February 7th, holds a Troop History Night at St. Joseph High School on February 8th (attended by troop alumni representing every decade of the unit's history and featuring an informal social and the display of the troop's extensive Scouting memorabilia collection), and gathers yet again for a Family Dinner, Court of Honor, and Summer Program Kickoff in Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament worship site, on February 9th.

February 9th and 10th: An additional 7.9 inches of snow falls in the Pittsburgh area (partly during the troop's Family Dinner and Court of Honor), making the ten-day-old month the region's snowiest February on record with 29.6 inches of snowfall to date.

February 28th: February comes to an end as the snowiest month on record in the Pittsburgh area, with a total snowfall of 48.7 inches.

March 20th: The Fifty-third Annual Troop 186 Eagle Recognition Dinner is held at Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Worship Site. The presentation of three **Eagle Awards** (Eric S. Bengel, Jr., Gregory A. Huth, and Michael D. Powell) brings the Troop total to 178 Eagle Scouts. Dylan J. Levish, Joseph C. Sadecky, and Michael D. Powell are recognized for earning **Bronze Eagle Palms**. The Keynote Speaker is Michael Surbaugh, Greater Pittsburgh Council Scout Executive.

April 23rd through the 25th: The Troop 186 Senior Scouts' Canoe Trip covers 51.7 miles on the Allegheny River, from Tidioute to Fishermen's Cove. Two Scouts and four adults participate. One adult American Bald Eagle and nine juvenile Eagles are sighted on Saturday, and 2 juvenile Eagles and one Osprey are sighted on Sunday.

June 5th and 6th: The Troop 186 troop-wide Summer Canoe Trip covers 36.7 miles on the West Branch Susquehanna River from Keating to Queens Run. Seven Scouts and five adults participate.

June 24th through the 28th: Troop 186 travels to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, near Dayton, Ohio, camping on the base for four nights, eating in the base dining hall, and touring the Air Force Museum. While in the area, the troop also visits the Wright brothers' original bicycle shop and print shop, the Carillon Historical Park, attends a Native American Powwow at the Sunwatch Indian Village (a partially reconstructed, 800-year-old archeological site still under excavation), and stopped on the way home at the Zoombezi Bay water park near Columbus. 26 Scouts and 11 adults participate. 1 sister, 1 dad, and 3 mothers stay in a motel off of the base and take part in the program. The average cost per participant (which varies depending on program participation and gasoline allowances) is \$89.71.

July 25th through the 31st: Troop 186 spends Summer Camp at the Old Allegheny troop site, Camp Freedom, Heritage Reservation with 32 Scouts and 23 adults. The cost per Scout is \$220 (including a \$50 on-time payment discount from the Troop). The week includes a troop-wide Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Youghiogheny River on the 27th of July. Three Scouts and three adults participate, for an additional fee of \$57.05 for a ducky.

August 28th: The troop web site, "birdville.terapad.com", is launched. The site is designed, constructed, and maintained by First Class Scout Dan Kovach, the troop's first "Webmaster", a position of responsibility (meeting the leadership requirement for rank advancement) newly introduced in the twelfth-edition Boy Scout Handbook. As interpreted by Troop 186, the new office incorporates the responsibilities of Editor of the "Birdville Days" weekly e-mail newsletter, established in 1999, which heretofore has not counted as a rank-advancement requirement.