

History of BSA Troop 196 & Camp Pioneer

by Rick StLouis, July 21, 2007

Brief History with details beginning on page 2.

The Troop was first chartered in May, 1957 with the PTA (Parents Teachers Association) of the Sporting Hill Elementary School (Mechanicsburg) as our chartered organization (sponsor).

However, in May, 1960, the Keystone Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America was looking for a youth group to sponsor so they became our chartering organization at that time. They have remained as our chartering organization ever since however, the name of the organization was changed to the "Telecom Pioneers" several years ago.

The Telecom Pioneers is the largest industry-related volunteer organization in the world with chapters throughout the US, Canada and Mexico. They were founded in 1911, originally known as the Telephone Pioneers of America, and consist of over 600,000 current and retired communication employees who have joined together to make their communities better places to live and work. You can take a look at their website, www.TelecomPioneers.com to learn more about this great organization.

Troop 196 currently has a roster of 65 Eagle Scouts and we currently have a roster of 30 registered Scouts.

As for Camp Pioneer, it is true that a troop cannot own any property. However, in 1962, the then Committee members sought to find a closer camping site than the Council's Hidden Valley Scout Reservation. The 14 acres of ground in Dillsburg were found and purchased by the committee, the parents of the scouts at that time, and through donations from the Pioneers and others. The property is located at 332 Coffeetown Road and deeded to the Troop 196 Committee Association. The Committee was incorporated in 2005 and is now known as Troop 196-Camp Pioneer, Inc.

The cabin was built by the members of the Troop in 1972 through materials donated by several organizations. The cabin is actually a cinder block building that was located on Skyport Rd, Mechanicsburg, that was dismantled and re-constructed on the Dillsburg property. The windows and flag pole were donations from the now defunct Capitol Products, Inc., the doors from a Lancaster Hilton Hotel, concrete footers from Pennsy Supply and the concrete floor from Hempt Bros. The grunt work was done by many volunteers. Paneling for the inside of the cabin was paneling that was damaged during the Agnes flood and was being thrown out in the trash by an area lumber company. The paneling was cleaned, dried and installed inside the cabin. The cabin has 14 bunk beds and can sleep 28 people. The property also has an Adirondack-type structure (3-sided building) that was constructed by Committee members in December, 1988 to handle any overflow of scouts. (At that time, the Troop consisted of 54 Boy Scouts). In August, 1998 a 25 by 50 ft pavilion was constructed.

Mr. Ray Knecht spent 39 yrs as Camp Pioneer's Campmaster and he retired from that position in December, 2006. Rick StLouis has since assumed those responsibilities. Members of the Troop Committee and Scouts help as needed.

We are proud of what this organization has achieved in its first 50 years as a chartered organization and we are so fortunate to have a chartering organization of the caliber of the Telecom Pioneers to be our sponsors for all but two of the Troop's 50 years!

BSA TROOP 196 – CAMP PIONEER

1957 – 2007

HISTORY

Introduction

During May of 2007, Boy Scout Troop 196 became 50 years old as a chartered troop of the Keystone Area Council's Adventure District. The following pages reflect the history of Troop 196 and Camp Pioneer.

Most of the history of the Troop and Camp Pioneer is thanks to the careful note taking of Mr. Ray Knecht. Ray was very instrumental in making Troop 196 what it is today. Along with Ray's talents as Cubmaster of Pack 196 and Scoutmaster of Troop 196, Ray was the backbone of acquiring Camp Pioneer. Ray was the Campmaster of Camp Pioneer for 39 years, a position he passed on in December, 2006. The entire Troop 196 organization owes a tremendous amount of gratitude to Ray Knecht for all that he has provided to the Scouts and Scouters who have been a part of this troop. As a result, we dedicate this Historical document in Ray's honor.

We hope to continue to add to the history of BSA Troop 196 and of Camp Pioneer in the coming years. If anyone has added knowledge of key elements of the Troop and Camp Pioneer that might be missing in this document, we ask that you provide them to us. We would like to make this historical document as complete as possible.

If you are reading this, you are or have been a part of this organization and we applaud what you have given to this Troop/Camp.

We hope that you continue to be a part of the Troop 196 family in the future and that you maintain communications with the Committee and help out as you can. We are in constant need of help, both material and financial. Please make sure you occasionally check the Troop's website (www.scoutingpages.org/us/pa/Troop196/).

History

Boy Scouts of America Troop 196 was first chartered in May, 1957 and was sponsored by the Parents, Teachers Association (PTA) of the Sporting Hill Elementary School in Hampden Township, Mechanicsburg, PA.

In the early days of 1960, the Keystone Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America was searching for a youth group to sponsor. When rechartering was held that year, the Keystone Chapter, Telephone Pioneers of America officially became our chartering organization, the position they still hold in 2007!

Records indicate that a Mr. Bill Swearington served as Scoutmaster prior to May, 1960 and was replaced by Mr. Bill Hoffert at that time. The notes do not indicate how many Scouts may have been a part of the Troop in its infancy stages.

During 1962, the Committee, consisting of Mr. Earl Davis, Mr. Bill Hoffert, Mr. Charles Scott, Mr. Jim Dukes, Mr. John Dodson, Mr. Norm Shires and others, decided to seek a camp site closer to Keystone Area Council's Hidden Valley Scout Reservation located in Loysville, Perry County. The current property consisting of over 14 acres was found and purchased at a cost of \$2,700 plus \$100 for a Right of Way from Coffeetown Road into the property.

Mr. Shires, Dukes and Hoffert were listed on the Deed as Trustees and would, in reality, be responsible with the loan payments for the property if the plans for the financing fell through. Several donations from the Telephone Pioneers and other businesses were secured and the families of the existing scouts were expected to pay \$1.00 per scout per month for three years to use the camp.

The years between 1962 through 1966 were somewhat troublesome. A trail was leveled on the Right of Way into the camping area. An area was then cleared and prepared for a pond for water activities. The \$1.00 per scout per month payments was not being made and there were problems within the Committee and the camp fell on hard times and was to be sold. Mr. Ray A. Knecht was the Cubmaster of Pack 196 when the land was purchased and Mr. Charlie Scott showed the area to Ray and asked if the Cub Pack could donate one month per year doughnut sales towards the camp since the Cubs would probably join the Troop. This was agreed to but Ray's job was soon transferred out of town and he lost direct involvement with the Camp and returned to the area in January, 1967.

Mr. Derl Latsha was apparently a part of the Troop Committee in early 1967 and had remained in contact with Ray Knecht when Ray was transferred out of town. Upon Ray's return, Derl asked Ray to become the Troop's Scoutmaster and asked Ray to attend the Thursday Committee meeting. During that Committee meeting, as soon as the gavel sounded to announce the start of the meeting, the Chairman put out a motion to sell the camp. The votes were in favor of selling the Camp by "one" vote! Mr. Norm Shires criticized the Committee for selling the Camp without giving the new Scoutmaster (Ray Knecht) at least six months to get things going again for the Troop. A new vote was taken and it was unanimous to keep the Camp. Although not part of Ray's notes, the story that is told is that Ray called a Parent's meeting of the Scouts in the Troop at that time and explained the situation with the Camp and that unless a certain amount of money was raised that month to get caught up with the payments, the Camp would be lost. Enough was raised that evening, not only to make the payments current, but to pay off the loan in its entirety.

Money was being collected and the Committee was looking into building "Patrol Cabins" or something. It was decided that building a single cabin and making it suitable for winter use would be more practical and the building could then be rented out to other units if desired. In 1972, arrangements were made with Bill Keeler Realtor for the donation of a cinder block building located on Skyport Road in Hampden Twp. The building use to be a part of a hangar building for a landing strip located on Skyport Road. The building was dismantled and moved to the Camp property in a pile to wait for construction. Mr. Dale Hench was the Troop's head carpenter and the Committee was well on its way to constructing the cabin. In 1974, windows were acquired from the now defunct Capitol Products through Mr. Derl Latsha. Double doors

were acquired from a Hilton Hotel in Lancaster. Concrete footers were donated by Pennsy Supplies and the concrete floor was donated by Hempt Bros. through Mr. John Lauver and the grunt from many.

In May, 1975, a wheelbarrow was purchased in honor of Ms. Ruth Brauen who had twice donated \$25 towards Camp Pioneer. Mr. John Lauver paid the balance of the cost.

In 1976 the dock was replaced with material supplied through then Institutional Representative, Mr. Don Fry. Don, Ray and Tom Moore did the actual work in August, 1976. Also in this year, the brick walkway to the cabin was started by Bill Moore as a scout project. Ray Knecht finished the walkway in 1977.

1976 also saw the purchase of 24 mattresses and eight cots from Connecticut with money earned from an auction that was held in 1972 and the proceeds were maintained in the Camp's treasury. Thanks to a motion made by Mr. John Lauver and seconded by Howard Seith who was the Institutional Representative from 1972 through 1976, the money was used to buy those items for the Camp.

The brick pump house was an Eagle Project of Scout Joe Ronemus and was started in 1976 and completed in 1977. The dam at the far end of the pond which provided water for the pond, washed away twice. Thanks to an Eagle Project of Scout Scott Keeler of another troop, the dam was moved back a few feet and built from telephone pole pieces and secured. The cabin itself was finally painted as an Eagle Project of Scout Charles Ratliff in 1976. The Committee had picked the original "Butterscotch" color.

The latrine area was Eagle Projects of Greg Hench of Troop 196 (the sit down portion) and Matt Davis of another troop (urinal portion). Both of these projects were completed in 1974 and 1975 respectively.

From April through June of 1977 Mr. Knecht, Mr. Don Fry and Scouts Joe Ronemus, Tom Moore and Danny Henderson dug the water well pit leading to water being provided to the cabin. Mr. Don Fry, who at the time was the troop's Institutional Representative, acquired the assistance of the construction firm of Hinkle and McCoy for the backhoe work.

The "Camp Pioneer" gateway was originally a Life Scout Project of Kenneth Emig and consisted of tree limbs for the structure. They deteriorated quickly and had to be replaced. In July, 1977, Ray Knecht and his brother, Clair, used a chain saw to split a telephone pole for the cross members and re-hung the sign. This too deteriorated and when the lower cross member had to be removed when the property was logged in 1993, Ray made a new frame of treated lumber and repainted the sign.

The 'ceremonial' area logs were put in place by Mr. Don Fry and Ray Knecht in August, 1977. On March 1, 1978, Mr. Leroy Weaver was selected as the Troop's new Scoutmaster. In April, 1978, Mr. Ray Knecht with AT&T's Mr. Charles Deyno and Mr. Clair Stein, arranged to have 25 telephone poles from the Navy Depot donated to the Camp.

The campfire area, located in the hollow, was the original Eagle Project of Ken Emig and consisted of cut tree logs place on the ground. These soon deteriorated and Todd Weaver of Troop 68 (Mr. Don Fry's troop), requested we allow him to put in poles and steps for his Eagle Project. Permission was granted and this work was completed in June, 1978.

The Chapel area was the original Eagle Project of Herb White and was designed with cut trees. However, the trees soon rotted out and the area was restored with telephone poles in June, 1979 by Ray Knecht and his brother Clair, Son-in-Law John White, Jones and Rick.

On July 5th and 6th, 1979 Ray Knecht and Telephone employees Glenn Heffner and Len McCartney did some backhoe work to reverse the slope from the creek to the bank. This was a big reassurance when the snow came that any sliding of vehicles entering the camp would slide into the bank and not down into the creek.

On May 23rd, 1980 the floor of the cabin was scrubbed and sealed by the Knecht family. This prevents dirt from penetrating the concrete and being difficult to remove.

On August 3rd, 1980 a retaining wall and bridge posts were installed by Ray Knecht, John White, Gary Gutshall, and Chuck Burgoon. Chuck dug the long ditch for the bottom pole for a Life Rank assignment.

The flag pole was arranged for and installed by Gary Gutshall with the help of Jim Dennis and Chuck Burgoon. Gary purchased the flagpole for \$0.50 a pound from the scrap pile of Capitol Products.

In July, 1981, Ray Knecht installed bars on the rear windows due to several break-ins into the cabin.

Mr. Ray Dennis was elected as the new Scoutmaster on January 1, 1981. During the summer of 1981 the bridge to “camp swampy” was completed and large pipe was installed in the stream for a cross-over. (The back side of the camp did not have any streams for mountain water to reach the main creek. It will take years until the Good Lord and Ray gets this accomplished. Keep the faith...it will happen!)

In December, 1981, Ray Knecht was directing another troop on tree removals to straighten road to “camp swampy” and suffered a broken shoulder blade when a falling tree changed direction. On September 25, 1982 a Baltimore troop helped Ray move the metal bridge over the stream at the ceremonial campfire area. Someone let go of their end too soon and the falling grate fell on Ray’s toe and broke it. (As Ray said “No big deal, the shoe still fits”)

On April 13, 1983, Ray completed the concrete steps at the pond overflow. He had hoped to get some help from a crew that was to work on an Eagle grill but no one showed. The concrete was mixed by hand and made a long day for Ray and his good wife Pat.

The barbeque Eagle project of Dave Lohman was not approved. The barbeque was too small and there was no scout involvement as was outlined in his approved project write-up. Rick St. Louis was elected Scoutmaster on September 1, 1984.

In November, 1984, trees were removed in order to prepare to build a pavilion; however, it never came to pass. Picnic tables were built instead.

Mr. Don Fry celebrated his 10th year as our “Institutional Representative” (1976-1986). Larry Book became the new Telephone Pioneer Rep.

In May & June, 1987 tree stumps were removed from the proposed pavilion area and grass seeds were planted.

In February, 1987 Ray Knecht's former church (Wesley United Methodist) donated a refrigerator and electric stove to replace a "has been". A letter thanking the church was sent.

An outside sink was donated but a rock had gone through the bottom of it. However, a hunting camp donated a replacement which Ray installed in August, 1987.

The cabin roof was painted in September, 1987 by John Messinger, Ed Bliss, Rick St. Louis and Ray Knecht, etc.

In 1988, the Troop had increased in size to 54 Scouts and 5 Assistant Scoutmasters. The cabin could not accommodate everyone if all the Scouts and Assistants attended a campout. So an "outcamp" or Adirondack shelter (3-sided) was built in December, 1988 by Ray Knecht, Rick St. Louis, Ed Bliss, Barry Ernst, John Messinger, Don Fry, Arleen Heintzelman and Gene Council. This shelter could accommodate an additional 16 people and was constructed from lumber derived from fallen trees on the property. The infrastructure was built from locust logs and the remaining was built from tulip poplar lumber.

Five picnic tables were built on May 22, 1989 from our precut wood by Gary Gutshall, Barry Ernst, John Messinger, Joe Brugger, Ed Bliss and Rick St. Louis. The Adirondack shelter was also stained and chicken wire installed by scouts and Mr. Knecht underneath the floor joists to hold up the floor insulation.

A neighbor's tree fell on the electric line supplying the cabin and tore the electric meter from the cabin wall. This second time (as result of Hurricane Hugo), the winds interrupted our electric and it was decided to install the electric service underground on September 26, 1989.

In March of 1990, Ray Knecht purchased a used skid loader to support Ray's pick and shovel work and would be loaned to Camp Pioneer for camp improvements. The old house foundation, in front of the cabin was dug up and used for the road to the outcamp. Grass seeding was done in the chapel area, around the cabin and where the foundation was removed. A 150 feet of drainage pipe was installed in wet area and lots of grading and seeding accomplished. Ray also secured 25 loads of fill from the Township and graded the area from the pond overflow to the sink overflow stream.

In June, 1991 Rick St. Louis, Ray Knecht, Gene Council, and John Messinger cleaned the attic and installed insulation under the attic floor to help conserve cabin heat. There was a large canoe in the attic that had been given to the troop but needed repairs. The canoe had been in the attic for some time and was finally given away. Thirty or so stumps were removed to clear the property line for the Speck family to install fencing for their horses. Six to eight foot wide area was seeded and will be kept mowed. Ray was planning on continuing to use his skid loader to clear and seed the property line as time permitted.

On September 14, 1991, Ray was presented a plaque from the Troop during a Court of Honor for the "countless hours of dedication to Camp Pioneer" and "a man who personifies the real meaning of Scouting". In addition, Ray was presented a wooden plaque to be placed above the fireplace mantel which read "KNECHT LODGE" in Ray's honor. The plaque was carved by Gene Council's father.

In the spring of 1992 the Township continued to widen Coffeetown Road and agreed to install a new crossover entrance pipe. The Troop paid \$225 with a \$75 donation from a neighbor (Ray Wenger) for the pipe. The pipe replaced a collapsed 28 year old pipe.

On September 19, 1992 Rick St. Louis resigned as official Scoutmaster in hopes for new talent to accept the position. After six months, no one came forward so John Messinger stepped forward to take the position on a temporary basis until a new Scoutmaster could be found. The Committee elected John officially on January 20, 1993.

In May, 1993 Charlie Hoke became our new Chartered Organizational Representative (Telephone Pioneers).

September 13-15, 1993, the steps to the ceremonial campfire area were replaced by Ray Knecht and friend Jere Zinn of Dillsburg. Top soil was added and seeded.

On November 5, 1993 tree harvest was started by Mr. Brian Yingling Enterprises of Red Lion (244-7078) and was completed on December 10th, 1993. We allowed skidding and loading of Mr. Cassel's (neighbor) from our camp since it would be difficult to get into his property. The Troop realized \$3257.97 from the harvest and expects to spend approximately \$900-\$1000 for removal of troublesome stumps, and install a drain field for kitchen sink.

On April 12, 1994 stumps were removed and drain field for the kitchen sink was completed at a cost of \$910 for stumps and \$65 for stones and \$29.61 for pipe and fittings for the 42 foot drain field.

Don Cook was elected Scoutmaster effective June 1, 1994 and brings with him a lot of Cub Scout experience. John Messinger will return to his choice of Assistant Scoutmaster.

On September 12, 1994 all of the stumps were burned and all the areas were graded and seeded including the road to the chapel as well as adding top soil in the chapel area and again re-seeding. Fertilizer was also added this time. With little sun and rain reaching the ground through the trees, it was difficult to keep grass growing in the chapel and ceremonial campfire areas.

During a beautiful October day in 1994, Ray kept busy all day painting the inside of the latrine, and the outside roofs of the latrine, cabin, pump house and wood shed.

During December, 1994 and January, 1995 Gary Gutshall completed the outcamp (adirondack shelter) fire pit.

On March 3, 1995 20 tons of #2A stones was placed on the roadway and packed. Many stumps were removed and the bank along the pond was graded and seeded as well with zosia grass plugs planted in strategic locations around the pond.

Camp Pioneer finally got an official address...232 Coffeetown Rd. (Exact date this occurs is not mentioned in Ray's notes). The address was painted on the Right-of-Way pipes and also on corner of property pipe by gate.

The overflow pipe for the pond had a PVC 40, 10 inch diameter pipe installed on June 21, 1996. The metal pipe that had been used was rusted out for years and the water ceased to go through it. Diane Bollinger became the Troop's new Scoutmaster on September 1, 1996. Diane had been involved as Committee Chair for Pack 196 for several years before becoming Assistant Scoutmaster for the troop.

Gary Gutshall and the committee completed a wood storage area at the outcamp on November 9, 1996. Total cost for concrete, wood, nails, etc. was \$87.37.

In January, 1997 the cabin door lock was replaced at a cost of \$24.48.

On March 8, 1997 Ed Trump (Committee Member) and Ray painted the ceiling with two coats of paint. Cost of the paint was \$57.49.

On March 10, 1997 Ray and his friend Jere Zinn replaced the two front ceiling lights (24 inches by 48 inches). The lights were donated by Tim Kiner of Calvary UMC.

On March 24, 1997 40 tons of SA Modified stones were spread on the road in the areas not previously covered on March 3, 1995. Jere helped Ray with the project and some Scouts service hours were used for rolling the stone on March 26, 1997.

On June 29, 1998, the bridges and dock were stained with Glidden's Endurance Redwood #9625 stain. Grandson John White helped Ray and the paint cost was \$35.92. Paint was semi-transparent.

In late August, 1998 a pavilion was built at a cost of \$7000. The funds for this project came from the efforts of Ed Trump who worked for Rite Aid Distribution. Over 10,000 VHS tapes were shipped to the Rite Aid Distribution warehouse with incorrect jackets. The vendor, indicating it would be more costly to return the tapes, told Rite Aid to throw them away. Ed talked to management of Rite Aid and convinced them to donate the tapes to the troop. The troop sold the tapes for \$1 each. The electrical work on the pavilion was completed on October 3, 1998 with the guidance of Tim Kiner. Grading, seeding, etc. were completed by Jere Zinn, Ed Trump and Ray. Jere also assisted Ray and Tim with the electrical work.

On September 7, 1999 3 tons of 4B stones were added to the path to the latrine. From August 27th through September 11, 1999, there was pond restoration on the stream side due to erosion. Telephone poles were anchored with steel stakes, stones, ground fill, grass seed and lots of help did the job.

On September 16, 1999 the latrine was pumped out by Peck's for \$80.

On February 15, 2000 John Messinger and Ray Knecht assisted in the installation of a gas heater (Hot Dawg – HD 60,000 BTUs) for the far end of the cabin (kitchen area) to assist the fireplace in heating up the cabin. Cost of the unit with installation was \$1033.77 and is warranted for 2 years. Thermostat is set at 60 degrees and is covered with a locked cage.

In July, 2000 three 24 inch diameter fire rings were purchased for \$60. The previous fire rings, an Eagle Project of Pat Hench, finally gave up the ghost. They were great and lasted 20 years. In August, 2000 Jere and Ray used a kit to build a picnic table for the adirondack shelter (outcamp). The table was anchored in the ground as to prevent "roaming". Additional paint was purchased from Eberly Lumber to paint the bridges and dock again. Rubbol Deck #052 was used.

On September 14, 2000, a Troop 196 plaque that was made from a stump slab by Diane Bollinger was installed on the pavilion by Ray and Jere.

On November 4, 2000 Scout Tim Heath and his father Calvin ground out 18 stumps for Tim's 6 hour service hour requirement. Tim had to stand in front of the machine to direct the forward, reverse and side way motion and any depth requirements for each stump as it was ground out. Scout Rob Hooganboom and Ray removed the wood chips and filled the holes with top soil and seeded 13 areas.

In March, 2001, through the efforts of Kathie Robinson and the Committee, they arranged for the American Society of Highway Engineers to replace our drain pipe under the entrance road with a 10 inch diameter black plastic pipe. They also did some stone work on the hill area.

From May 19-31, 2001 Ray Knecht, Rick St. Louis and Ed Donohue discovered the well overflow pipe was crushed and would need to be replaced with 4-inch PVC Schedule 40 pipe. Ray's friend, Lewis Albert dug a new ditch. Ray and Jere installed the pipe. The cost was about \$85. The backfill was accomplished by Diane Bollinger, Gary Gutshall, Mike Lyden, etc. Seeding was done by Ray.

On September 18, 2001, Ray's friend, Jere, which you read of so much in these notes, passed away at the young age of only 51. Jere obviously loved Ray and Camp Pioneer and he provided more help over the years as his health improved and he was able to secure employment. Thank you, Jere, for all that you gave to Camp Pioneer and to the Troop....you will be missed! In Late September and on October 8th, 2001 the buildings were painted by Rick and Sue St. Louis, Mike and Joy Lyden, Ed Donohue and Kathie Robinson. Ray had completed preliminary cementing and metal work on doors. Green paint was donated by Ed Bliss (thanks, Ed!) and Ed helped with the final painting on Nov. 12th.

In December, 2001 the cabin stove's upper portion was replaced.

In March, 2002 the latrine lock was replaced due to high winds blowing open the door against the concrete wall.

Replaced the double oven stove on April 18, 2002 through a donation of used stove from Merkel Remodeling.

During May, 2002, Scout Chris Henry and Ray added a wood shed roof extension for additional storage.

The roofs on the cabin, pump house, and latrine were replaced in August of 2002 by Century Spouting at a cost of \$4,516. The Pioneer account contributed \$2500 and hot dog and candy sales in September paid the balance.

On May 31, 2003 a 25 ft. telephone pole was installed to replace portion of the top 30 ft. pole beside the stream. Diane Bollinger, John Messinger, Dave Messinger, Karen Messinger and the scouts helped Ray to get the job finished. They also suggested we cut the pine tree on the corner so the flag could be seen and also make access to the cabin's double door easier. Ray just happened to have his chainsaw along and in an hour the tree was gone. Dave trimmed the tree and cut it up into firewood. The scouts moved the wood to the side of the shed and the brush was placed on the dump pile. Ray cut the stump and seeded the area on June 6, 2003.

On September 25, 2004, Dave Mack was selected as the Troop's new Scoutmaster. John Messinger also stepped down as Assistant Scoutmaster. His son, Dave, accepted his Dad's Assistant Scoutmaster position.

The footbridge boards were replaced due to termite damage. The boards used were recycled boards from a building in Harrisburg. The 21 six foot boards were donated by our neighbors, Ray and Theda Wenger in August, 2006.

Two coats of paint (Rubol Deck # 052) were placed on the bridges, dock and picnic table at the adirondack shelter. The paint was secured from Eberly Lumber for \$176. Last time they were painted was in August, 2000.

In September, 2006, ivy was planted up the entire Right-of-Way bank to the top of the road. This should eliminate the need to weed-whack the weeds twice a year.

On November 11, 2006, Rick and Ray (Ed Donohue was late!) installed a metal pipe to replace the flexible black plastic pipe at the adirondack shelter area. The plastic pipe would not stay in place. The 9 ft by 6 inch pipe was given by the Yellow Breeches Anglers Club.

In December, 2006, during the Holiday@Pioneer dinner, Ray Knecht, after 39 years as Caretaker of Camp Pioneer, handed over the duties and responsibilities of maintaining Camp Pioneer to Rick St. Louis. Before Ray left the cabin after dinner, he paused, looked at the cabin and said: "I have a million memories here"! (Note: Words just cannot express what Ray has done for this troop over all of the years he spent with this unit. If nothing else, the words in this history, basically written by Ray, is a testimonial to what he has done. Ray's blood, sweat and tears are evident in this Camp Pioneer! It is truly fitting that the cabin is named after Ray! All we can say to Ray is "THANK YOU" for all that you have done for the sake of a boy! The Good Lord will certainly be with you always!)

In August, 2007 Rick St. Louis started in earnest to install the engraved bricks around the flag pole. It was decided to do a 6 foot square around the flag pole. The area was dug to a depth of approximately 9 inches to accommodate several inches of stone dust (4 pick-up loads) and an inch or so of leveling sand. To date, approximately 32 bricks have been purchased. Proceed from the sale of these bricks help provide the funds necessary to maintain the camp. With the help of Sue St. Louis, 198 "red velour" paver bricks were purchased from Glenn Gerry Bricks in Harrisburg as placeholder pavers. The hope is to have the area around the flag pole finished in time for the 50th Anniversary/Reunion of Troop 196 scheduled for Sunday, September 23, 2007. In August, 2007, a new leather seal was replaced in the hand pump. In addition, some of the sediment in the pond was shoveled and placed under the telephone poles in the back of the pond to try to slow down the progress of the pond leakage.

On September 2, 2007 Rick purchased a 32 foot section of stainless steel chimney liner for \$300 from a Mr. Don McKenzie on New Bloomfield. It was supposedly only used a couple of time and the liner also included a rain cap, chimney cover shield, rain shield and other components. The liner will be used to assist us in connecting the used fireplace insert that was purchased in 2006. It is hoped that the insert will not only stop the flow of smoke into the cabin from the now defunct heaterlator metal fireplace but also assist in the use of less firewood. Thanks to Ed Donohue who found the newspaper ads for both the insert and the chimney liner. Although several scouters were involved in the installation, Mike Shank was named the "Dirtiest Dad" or "Filthiest Father" after doing most of the work inside the chimney and fireplace.