

LYLE “SKI” NOVINSKI



TESTIMONIALS FROM CANYON CAMP

July 20, 2011

DEDICATION

These materials honor Lyle “Ski” Novinski in appreciation for your legacy of leadership, and creation of continuing Canyon Camp traditions.

From Canyon Camp staff, campers, scouters and all others who benefitted from the skills you imparted to us, Thank You.

In the spirit of Canyon Camp.

July 20, 2011

AUG • 60



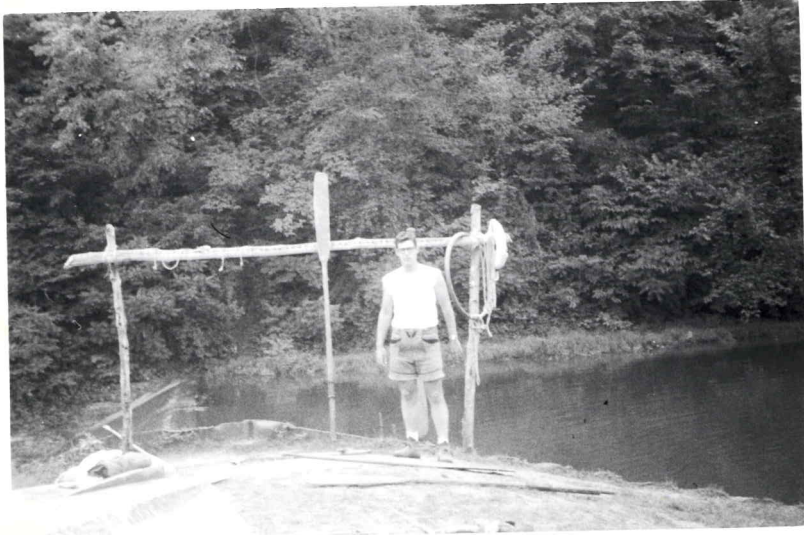
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AUG • 60



Prange, Roy L.

From: Adrian Andree [apa2@one.net]
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2011 6:20 AM
To: Prange, Roy L.
Subject: Lyle Novinski Tribute
Attachments: Novinski.doc

Roy,

I have written a little something about Ski and it is attached. If you have trouble opening the file, please let me know. I can always fax a copy to you.

Adrian Andree

Let's go back to June, 1957. It was my first year as a staff member and Ski had hired me to the program staff for the summer.

Staff week was about half over. We had taken the shutters off the mess hall. The headquarters and handicraft cabins had their bunks, moved in the previous fall for winter camping, removed and the fireplaces cleaned out. The campsites had tents on them and we'd distributed the bunks and mattresses. Grass had been cut. All was ready to go. Or was it?

That's when Ski announced to the program staff we were going camping! He had developed the idea of The Big Seven Demo, whatever that was. We soon found out that this was a combination hike, overnight campout, cook your own meals deal that would fulfill seven advancement requirements for First and Second Class rank. Good deal. However, on the afternoon we were assembling our foil packs in the mess hall, we had a spring event as only can happen at Canyon Camp – a huge downpour.

The rains fell like crazy. It was like being inside a car wash going full tilt. The hard rain lasted for at least a half hour, or so it seemed. The ford was flooded. Coon Creek was backing up behind the dam and into the council ring. Well, we figured Ski would cancel the campout and we'd just eat our foil packs in the mess hall. After all, why should we, the program staff, go out in all that wet stuff when everyone else was staying snug and dry in the staff area?

That notion wasn't on Ski's schedule, so off we went. We crossed the ford, which had, by that time, come down, turned left and went up to an area behind the farmhouse. There was an open area up there along the camp boundary where we'd spend the night.

After we got our tents pitched (I never did like the "Overnighter"!), Ski showed us how to get fires going when the wood had been soaked by rain. He convinced us, or me at least, that we wouldn't melt in the rain and that we could stay warm and eat hot food. Everything went well for us. We ate, we slept, and we kept dry. It really was fun.

It was an excellent learning experience for me and I came away from that little experience with a new confidence in myself. In later years, on active duty in the army, that summer and The Big Seven Demo stood me in good stead for situations I encountered in the field. And it carried over to my experiences in later years as scoutmaster and assistant scoutmaster as well as in camping with my family.

Thanks, Ski! I learned a lot on that overnight and I thank you for the experience.

Adrian Andree

Prange, Roy L.

From: Adrian Andree [apa2@one.net]
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2011 9:13 AM
To: Pat Butler; Prange, Roy L.
Cc: Ron Spielman; Chuck Kranz; ELaugh7782@aol.com; Bill Determan; Pdrimington@Comcast.net; jr_swenson01@comcast.net; JTTuba@aol.com; rvuylsteke@amcham.org.hk; jeglums@shaw.ca; lovekiwi@tds.net; shirlronpal@msn.net; CASWHS@AFES.com; jktad@comcast.net
Subject: Re: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

I've got to use the "Reply All" option on this one! Pat, I remember the "Excursion" you described in your tribute to Ski, but there's one detail I'd like to clarify. There were TWO of us who missed camp the following week! Yes, it was a lesson in humility. I had a heckuva time explaining to my Dad why I was home on a Sunday afternoon!

All in all, Canyon Camp has provided a great lifetime of wonderful memories, and most of those, at least in my estimation, are due to Ski. It's wonderful to know the traditions continue!

Adrian Andree

----- Original Message -----

From: Pat Butler
To: Prange, Roy L.
Cc: Ron Spielman ; Chuck Kranz ; ELaugh7782@aol.com ; Bill Determan ; Pdrimington@Comcast.net ; jr_swenson01@comcast.net ; JTTuba@aol.com ; rvuylsteke@amcham.org.hk ; Apa2@One.net ; jeglums@shaw.ca ; lovekiwi@tds.net ; shirlronpal@msn.net ; CASWHS@AFES.com ; jktad@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 12:10 PM
Subject: RE: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

Roy and everyone else,

Here's my tribute to Lyle and an historic picture, I still have the yearbooks from 1958 & 1959- my mother saved them. Have a great time. One of these days I'm going to visit John Jeglum in Victoria, BC, I also live in Vancouver so I'm not too far from John.

Pat

Staff- 1957, 1958 & 1959

Patrick R. Butler, FCSLA, ASLA | *Principal Landscape Architect*
ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd.

Prange, Roy L.

From: Pat Butler [pbutler@islengineering.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 11:10 AM
To: Prange, Roy L.
Cc: Ron Spielman; Chuck Kranz; ELaugh7782@aol.com; Bill Determan; Pdrimington@Comcast.net; jr_swenson01@comcast.net; JTTuba@aol.com; rvuylsteke@amcham.org.hk; Apa2@One.net; jeglums@shaw.ca; lovekiwi@tds.net; shirlronpal@msn.net; CASWHS@AFES.com; jktad@comcast.net
Subject: RE: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute
Attachments: 110711_9128 Lyle Novinski for Pat Butler (2).docx; Lyle and Ron (2).jpg; Lyle and Ron.pdf

Roy and everyone else,

Here's my tribute to Lyle and an historic picture, I still have the yearbooks from 1958 & 1959- my mother saved them. Have a great time. One of these days I'm going to visit John Jeglum in Victoria, BC, I also live in Vancouver so I'm not too far from John.

Pat

Staff- 1957, 1958 & 1959

Patrick R. Butler, FCSLA, ASLA | *Principal Landscape Architect*
ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd.

July 12, 2011

Lyle Novinski

While on the camp staff in 1958, Lyle gave me an experience I'd never had before ... He fired me (actually, it was a one week suspension without pay) as a result of the "weekend of the stolen camp truck". It was worth it, a three state romp!" None of us were old enough to drive so we recruited Denny Pratt as the driver with the promise of excitement and girls, but the truck episode is another story. I was the only one to feel the wrath of Ski.

As pay back, Mike Duffy and I washed Lyle's car at the end of the season. We left dirty streaks but when it was wet, it looked good. As Lyle drove off, the car started to dry and looked like a zebra. We had our revenge, we laughed like hell!

Years later, my father (former scout executive of the US Grant Council) told me that he'd never seen Lyle so mad. He thought Lyle might have a heart attack. My dad laughed and said it was a good experience for the both of us.

In thinking back to the firing experience; it was a good thing for me. I focussed on where I was going and in 1959, when Jake was the camp director, I was a better staff member (more or less).

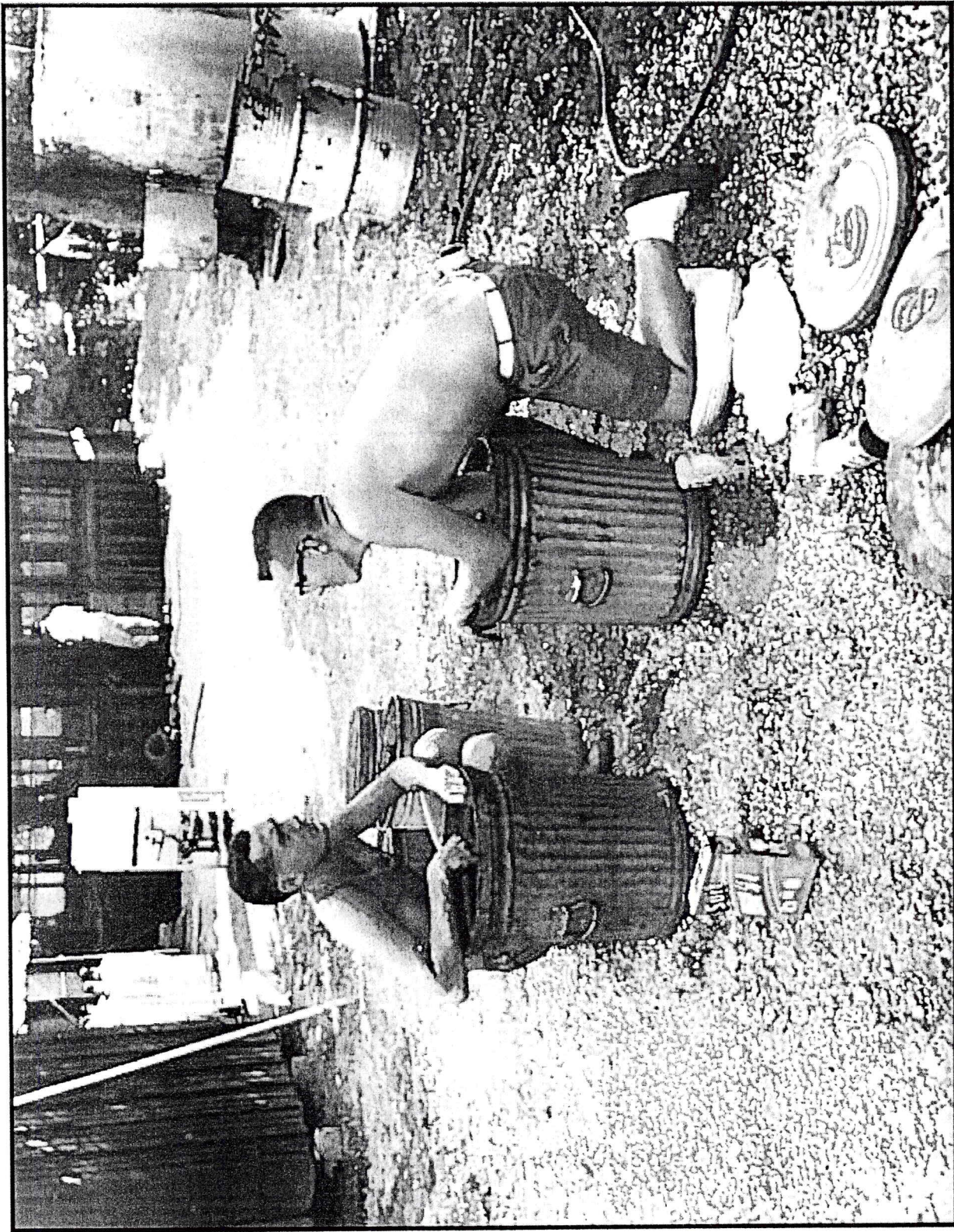
In life, there are influences that help you become a better person and Lyle was the first step in my growth. I became a landscape architect, was involved in scouting at the local and regional level and I'm very involved in the community as a volunteer.

A few years ago, I was in touch with Lyle and he told me he was retiring as a university professor and that one of his greatest achievements was the creation of a campus forest. Lyle, as at Canyon Camp, you've shown that you're committed to people and the environment and no doubt had a successful teaching career.

You can be assured that you were a positive influence on me; there are not many people that I reflect on from over 50 years ago – you are one of them. Thank you.

Pat Butler

Camp Staff: 1957, 1958 and 1959.



LYLE EMERGING FROM THE GARBAGE CAN
UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF RON SPIELMAN

June 10, 2011

Dear Mr Prange,

What a beautiful testimonial to Lyle Novinski you and your Canyon Camp scouting friends are creating.

I have never met Lyle. However, he wrote to me several times after he learned of Lynn's passing in April of 2006.

Lyle also sent me a remembrance he wrote about Lynn, their long friendship, and their camping experiences. He asked me if Canyon Camp could have Lynn's memorabilia about camping. They were to be placed in the Camp's Museum. My brother-in-law, Tom Cherrier, delivered the boxes to Mr. Joshua Eilers in 2007.

My best regards to Lyle and to his family.

Sincerely,
Kathryn S. Cherrier

Kathryn Cherrier
6520 49th St. N
Oakdale, MN 55128-2001

ST. PAUL, MN 551

11 JUL 2011 PM 1 T

Mr. Roy L. Prange, Jr.
33 East Main Street
Suite 900
Madison, WI 53703

Prange, Roy L.

Subject: FW: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute
Attachments: Tribute to Ski.doc

From: Bill Determan [<mailto:billdeterman@tds.net>]

Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 3:40 PM

To: Adrian Andree; Pat Butler; Prange, Roy L.

Cc: Ron Spielman; Chuck Kranz; ELaugh7782@aol.com; Pdrimington@Comcast.net; jr_swenson01@comcast.net; JTTuba@aol.com; rvuyksteke@amcham.org.hk; jeplums@shaw.ca; lovekiwi@tds.net; shironpal@msn.net; CASWHS@AFES.com; jktad@comcast.net

Subject: Re: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

Hi All,

Attached is my tribute to Ski

Bill Determan

Last year, 2010, the Boy Scouts of America celebrated its 100th Anniversary. 51 years ago, in 1960, the 50th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, I had the pleasure of serving on the Staff at Canyon Camp. The Camp Director that year was Lyle Novinski.

What a learning experience that summer turned out to be.

As a dishwasher that summer, I learned that dirty dishes left unattended multiplied geometrically and small piles of plates became mountains.

I learned that dishwashers, even though they were at the bottom of the food chain, could be and were included in everything the staff did, the fun stuff and the hard work.

I learned that Potassium Nitrate and sugar in the proper proportions would produce brilliant orange flame and billows of white smoke to herald the opening of the Wednesday night Indian pageant.

I learned that canoes can be very tippy, but, that's another story for another time.

I learned that two trumpets, a trombone, a tuba and some drums can make up a decent brass band for the 50th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts.

But most of all I learned that nothing constructive gets done without the hard work and cooperation of many hands and concerned, caring direction.

That summer Ski instilled in us a sense of family working together to achieve a goal and in doing so left an impression on most of us of the value of what we were doing and a pride in our accomplishments. Most of all, his direction lit a spark that still glows in most of us about the Scouting program and Canyon Camp.

We left at the end of the summer, Ski to the University of Dallas, to make his mark in the art world, others went on to become lawyers, accountants, teachers and businessmen, all of us carrying with us that little spark ignited that summer.

Over the years I have returned to Canyon Camp more times than I can count. Ron Spielman and I have discussed many times the fact that coming through

the twin pillars at the gate to Canyon Camp is like going through a time warp. The outside world does not penetrate the barrier formed by those pillars. For us it is a return to the memories of our youth and the spark that was ignited in those brief few weeks we spent at Canyon Camp with Ski.

Bill Determan

Prange, Roy L.

Subject: FW: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute
Attachments: Testimonial to Lyle Novinski-Jul2011.doc

From: John Jeglum [<mailto:jeglums@shaw.ca>]

Sent: July 12, 2011 11:20 PM

To: 'Prange, Roy L.'

Cc: 'ELaugh7782@aol.com'; 'Pdrimington@Comcast.net'; 'jr_swenson01@comcast.net'; 'JTTuba@aol.com'; 'rvuylsteke@amcham.org.hk'; 'Apa2@One.net'; 'pbutler@islengineering.com'; 'jeglums@shaw.ca'; 'lovekiwi@tds.net'; 'shirlronpal@msn.net'; 'CASWHS@AFES.com'; 'jktad@comcast.net'

Subject: RE: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

Hello Roy, and All the old Stalwarts!

Here is my testimonial contribution, the facts have probably been distorted with the passage of time, but it captures my main reminiscences, thoughts and feelings. I do truly wish I could attend, but time and other demands have prevented this. I hope you have a great program and give Ski the recognition and well wishes he richly deserves. If you find any factual, spelling, etc errors in my testimonial, feel free to do minor editing.

I note that my buddy Bill 'Sudsy' Summers is not on the list, he was a close friend and Scouting buddy, and was the Swimming Pool Director as well as worker behind the scenes who build the center of the lake Council fire for visitor's evenings. I have lost contact, but If you can contact him I would bet he would like to make a testimonial statement. Please, if you have or find the addresses and/or emails of Bill Summers, L. Kent Smith, Lynn Cherrier, Carl Adams, and any others in our era, please send them on to me (and the rest of us on the list above). I need emails for Ron Spielman, Chuck Kranz, Bill Determan,

Thanks for doing this, Roy. This is a wonderful thing to do for Ski, and for all of us with our common history at Canyon, and I do wish I could be there. All the best, let's keep in touch.

John Jeglum
406-225 Belleville St.
Victoria, BC V8V 4T9
250 382 5228
[Jeglums@shaw.ca](mailto:jeglums@shaw.ca)

Testimonial to Lyle Novinski, 'Ski'

It has been my great pleasure to have known and worked with Lyle Novinski, 'Ski', at Canyon Camp. I was a Scouter (Guncher) for a couple of summers before being taken on Staff for another couple of summers (in the late 50's and early 60's). I was privileged to serve as Program Director under Ski in the last year. These camp days are still in my memory as the best days of my young adulthood, and many of the best memories are owing to Ski. Ski was a remarkably dynamic, personable, animated leader who was (and still is) completely dedicated to the Scouting movement. He played a central role in developing and molding the program at the Camp over several years, and in demonstrating by personal actions and deeds the high ideals of Scouting. I remember his presence and leadership at the flag raising and lowering ceremonies, at the meals, throughout the program hours, and at the visitor's evenings. He filled us all with enthusiasm to tell stories ('People who live in grass houses shouldn't stow thrones', I still use this, thanks Ski!), act in skits, and sing with gusto at the mess hall and around the campfires. Do you remember one of Ski's favorites, 'I was born about a thousand years ago', with his great long strides in the centre of the mess hall, eyes shining with spirit, long arms pumping in time, leading Gunchers and Staff alike. Ski was filled with a fire of enthusiasm, always had a humorous story or joke, or was deeply concerned to make something in the program better. He was the Father/Big-brother figure for the Gunchers and Staff, sympathetic and diplomatic, angry and demanding, encouraging and supportive, depending on the need. Ski led by actions and deeds. There was one visitor's evening when pans and dishes had accumulated, the cook was off duty, and Ski stepped in with enthusiasm and cheerfully led the Staff in washing and cleaning up. Ski was not just a director, he was a hands-on leader, demonstrating, showing, assessing, performing. He had his own tent platform down by the ford where he spent many evenings to get away for rest and thoughtful contemplation. He carried out the inspection rounds to the campsites in mornings to ensure the troops had cleaned and tidied their tents and bunks. As an incentive the top campsite was rewarded with the much coveted and revered 'cup', a old well-worn pitcher, painted gold. Remember at noon meals the great cheers and hullabaloo for 'The Cup, The Cup'. Along with others on the Staff as willing accomplices, Ski played a major role in developing the ceremony of the Cup, and its significance, tidy campsites! And Ski gave full support and promotion to the Indian Dancing and tapping-out ceremonies at the visitor's nights. Many will recall the innovation and dancing of the Drum Dance by Ski and Jake Pettera. And Ski, along with Lynn Cherrier and others of the old guard, played an important role to maintain and increase membership in the Order of the Arrow, and to promote the higher levels of the Order. In my memory, Ski stands out as one of the most memorable and influential persons in my formative years. The experiences at Canyon Camp, influenced by Ski, indirectly led to my interests and education in botany and ecology, forest research, and eventually teaching in university in Sweden. My great thanks to you Ski, and to Canyon Camp, for the memories, experiences, and skills that influenced my paths in life. To Ski, and all you old guard Canyon Camp Staff of the Ski-era, may your paths continue to be filled with enthusiasm, spirit, productivity, and accomplishment.

John Jeglum 'Jeg'
Victoria, BC, Canada
12 July 2011

Prange, Roy L.

Subject: FW: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

From: Jerry Killingstad [<mailto:jktad@comcast.net>]

Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2011 11:27 AM

To: 'John Jeglum'; Prange, Roy L.; ELaugh7782@aol.com

Cc: Pdrimington@Comcast.net; jr_swenson01@comcast.net; JTTuba@aol.com; rvuylsteke@amcham.org.hk; Apa2@One.net; lovekiwi@tds.net; shirlronpal@msn.net; CASWHS@AFES.com; ELaugh7782@aol.com

Subject: RE: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

Hello to All...

I have enjoyed reading your e-mails about the Canyon Camp reunion. Jerry would have enjoyed them also, as he enjoyed all contacts with those he knew from his years in the Boy Scouts of America.

I am late in telling you, but Jerry died 5/21/2011 from renal cell bone cancer. He was diagnosed in January 2010 and his leg broke two days later. He had surgery, but was never able to walk again and was in a great deal of pain from the cancer, the rod they implanted, and having to spend all his time sitting or laying on his back.

I am responding to this e-mail as I know your name, John...and Pat Butler's message indicated dates in the 1950's so I expect you both knew Jerry. I know that all who are able to attend your event will enjoy seeing old friends and that those who can't physically participate will be there in spirit.

Mary Killingstad

CHARLES A. KRANZ
12361 River End Road
Darlington, WI 53530

July 20, 2011

LYLE NOVINSKI

As we reflect on 75 years of Scouting at Canyon Camp and the Camp's traditions and attitudes that are the "Spirit of Canyon Camp" much of what we know and do today had its genesis in one man over 50 years ago, and his influence continues to this day - Lyle Novinski.

Even though you may not know him personally or had the privilege to work with him, and even though your mentors and Staff Leaders may not have known him or worked with him and don't know that they have been carrying on what he was influential in creating; your Camp experiences have been influenced by Ski.

I first saw Ski as a camper in 1956. Tall, slender, short curly hair, much as he looks today. He had a long, purposeful "stork-like" stride as he marched to retreat or strode from the office to the Dining Hall and around Camp. He was full of enthusiasm and creativity. He created a sense of fellowship in the Dining Hall. He was inspirational at the Campfires. Camp was about providing the best experience for the campers. I wanted to be a part of the Staff and work with Ski. Fortunately, I did.

The Camp was making some transitions then, and Ski was there to guide the Camp and its programming. The pool was relatively new so campers no longer had to swim in the lake. The tree plantings on the hill had taken hold and more were done in the back of camp. Resources were limited, but nonetheless, with a Staff of 25, nearly 1,000 Boy Scout Campers and their leaders were served each summer. Oh, and by the way, Ski did it with a Staff made up of high school kids and two or three in college. Ski had a "can do" attitude. There was nothing that we could not do - even if the Camp and Council didn't have enough money. We just needed to figure out a way to accomplish the goal. He had the creativity to compliment that attitude and actually get things done.

Others will undoubtedly tell tales (mostly true) about adventures at Camp when Ski was Camp Director. If you still need to know more about "gunching", "gunnel jumping", use of the camp truck, the Woodbine telephone exchange, refereeing of cooks, etc. see me later.

Ski wanted to get Scouts out to experience the whole camp, not just the central area. The Program philosophy became providing what the Troop and Scouts wanted and flexible programming as opposed to solely predetermined and rigidly scheduled skill classes. As an example, the Second Class hike was developed where Scouts could learn the required skills to become Second Class

Scouts as part of an integrated activity. Other skills could be taught in such combinations as desired. The trail system was laid out. How to encourage Scouts to use the trails and recognize their progress? No money. Ski made leather flaps and Scouts attached colored yarns as they completed hikes. The trails were a hit.

Some of the Camp traditions Ski was instrumental in creating include:

The Apple Canyon hike to the park and back. Ski convinced everyone it was such an adventure that soggy wet boots from multiple water crossings was just great.

The Wednesday night tap out ceremony and Indian dancing. Previously, the calling out ceremony was during camp with just campers and their leaders present. The Council wanted it to become part of Wednesday night when visitors were present. The tap out was developed. But there needed to be more. Ski and John Jeglum taught every Staff man to Indian dance and made costumes. It was all quite primitive compared to the standards developed by Bill Kline, Lee Binkley and Critter Held of excellent dancing, drumming and authentic singing, and elaborate and authentic costumes you will see tonight, but it was the start.

The floating fire.

The call from the cliff and arrow lighting the fire.

Instituting weekly ordeals so the Scouts could fully experience their calling out and induction to the Order of the Arrow and making sure that the merit badges and other advancements could still be accomplished.

As young Staff members we were assuming responsibilities beyond our years. Ski made it possible. He let us do our jobs. As we gained some experience more responsibilities were given to us. Ski was astute enough to let the young Staff assume more of the hands on day to day matters. Soon we were leading more songs, doing more dances, making arrangements with Scoutmasters, and adding new features to our programs. He then could be and was a mentor, example and role model. He didn't feel he had to lead every song, just some. Just the ones that set the atmosphere needed at that particular moment. He didn't have to be in every dance, just a couple like Big Small, Little Small. We could deal directly with Scoutmasters. Our ideas for changes and improvement were welcomed. We embraced the values and spirit he exemplified. It got passed on to our successors and their successors and their successors and on and on.

What a gift to those of us who worked directly with Ski. We received unique opportunities to become leaders, to assume responsibilities, to deal with all sorts of personalities, and to turn ideas into accomplishments. A review of the roster of Staff men that Ski hired and their many and varied

successes and accomplishments in life after Canyon Camp attests to Ski's influence on us. (I should say life after completion of time as a Staff man. There is no life after Canyon Camp. It and the Spirit of Canyon Camp is and forever will be a part of you - whether you are a long time Staffer or a one-time camper.)

What a gift to all Scouts who have come to Canyon Camp and those who will come in the future. Infectious enthusiasm; serving others; cheerful service; not a problem, we can do it; the Camp serves the Campers, not the Staff; inspire all to be the best they can; give everyone the opportunity to succeed; do it well; the Canyon Camp traditions and programs that continue today; and having fun doing it.

Thanks Ski!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul H. King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent loop at the end.

Prange, Roy L.

Subject: FW: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute
Attachments: SKI memory.docx

From: ELaugh7782@aol.com [<mailto:ELaugh7782@aol.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 7:44 AM

To: rvuylsteke@amcham.org.hk; JTtuba@aol.com; pdrimington@comcast.net; Prange, Roy L.; spiel335@tds.net; ckranzjkm@centurytel.net; billdeterman@tds.net; jr_swenson01@comcast.net; Apa2@One.net; pbutler@islengineering.com; jeglums@shaw.ca; lovekiwi@tds.net; shirlronpal@msn.net; CASWHS@AFES.com; jktad@comcast.net

Subject: Re: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

ROY,

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED MY "TRIBUTE" AND MEMORY OF LYLE. I am opting to share this with all, as it is probably too long to be included with the official tribute on Wednesday night. Time and distance will NOT keep me away. I will be there, God willing.

For what it is worth you are invited to visit my wife April and my web site at www.partnersinstewardship.com We do not update it very often, but its message is still clear.

In the Spirit,
Ed Laughlin

||

SKI

My first thought was just to send this to Roy Prange, but since many of you have hit “reply all” and I must admit it is great to see your names and to rescue thoughts and memories associated with each of you, I am sending it to all.

Time and distance will NOT keep me away, as I will fly into exciting Moline, Illinois, rent a car and drive up to camp on Friday, and try to be a part of the activities during the weekend. Of course, I cannot come early enough to be there on Wednesday night, but my life has offered me the privilege of getting to camp for many Wednesday nights in the past 25 years, as both of my sons worked at camp on the staff—Mike for 4 years and James for 6 years, which in the latter’s case provided an excuse for an annual pilgrimage to northwestern Illinois from home base in Florida.

I have shared this particular memory of Ski previously, but since it was literally a life-changing event, a thought which probably reaches my mind at some point on a daily basis, it is worth repeating.

My first summer on staff was 1958. I was 14 years old and a Star scout. Ski, of course, was the Camp Director. I was hired (at \$5 a week) to be a dishwasher. Because being a dishwasher was such a burden, and because they viewed the position as sort of a counselor in training position, we were hired to work for two weeks. However, all of us were to be there for staff week. Then every two weeks during the 8 week season two dishwashers would be present. I was fortunate enough to be scheduled to be at camp the first two weeks, so I received sort of a “permanent” sleeping arrangement by being assigned with two staff members who would be there all summer in one of the 8 man Army tents we used in the staff area. My two tent mates were also new to the staff, and I think we were tented together because we all had kitchen assignments—they were two guys from Freeport—Denny Pratt and Ron Spielman. Before I launch into the permanent memory, I need to share that I was fortunate that at the end of my two weeks as dishwasher, I was re-hired in a position titled “Commissary Agent” and thus was able to spend the entire summer on staff.

Being a dishwasher in that era was very different—we did not have the technology to do anything but scald dishes, pans, and silverware after we washed them all by hand. The only thing that made it fun was that we would sing while we did it. My important Ski memory revolves around Family Night on Wednesday and washing dishes. For us as dishwashers (as stated there were only two of us once camp actually was in session) to be involved in the activities of Wednesday night and to dance and participate, we had to let the dishes wait until all was completed—in other words 9:30 or 10:00 at night. That is

what "Pinky" Parker, my fellow dishwasher, and I opted to do. When we got to the dishwashing room on that initial Wednesday night, it was a disaster. I literally thought I was going to cry. I know that I suddenly felt very homesick and very unhappy. There were dirty dishes everywhere and in particular large dirty pans with caked on barbecue. It seemed as if every visitor had sneaked into the kitchen and utilized the dishes and silverware there rather than the disposable items which were to have been used. We stared at the stacks with the thought that we would be there half the night. But we began the laborious undertaking.

We had not been struggling with the task very long when into the dining hall burst a large number of staff members led by Ski in search of food and drink. My initial reaction was that our chore was about to get worse, when Ski led them all into the kitchen. He surveyed the situation, and briskly moved up to me saying something like, "Step aside, Eddie. This is a man's work." He and John Jeglum and Jake Pettera and the others began to wash, dry, clean, and store. Pinky and I were relegated to doing almost nothing but observing. Throughout it all sang with gusto. What had appeared to us as an impossible task was completed in perhaps 15 minutes.

I recall that incident almost on a daily basis. I did not forget it the rest of that summer, as I pitched in when necessary to help the dishwashers even when I was "officially" no longer one of them. I have never forgotten it. I learned that leadership involves humility, sacrifice, and sharing. It also involves doing things with enthusiasm, with joy, and with a spirit which cannot help but be infectious. It was a life lesson which not only allowed me to develop a philosophy of life which has been with me to this day, but placed me in positions of leadership where I was successful—all because a man called Ski showed me how to lead by actions, not by words. I might add that his words were pretty good, too. I cannot be next to a campfire without kicking it and watching the sparks rise up and identifying with the sparks which rise the highest.

The effect life at Canyon Camp had on me, the friendships made there, the concept of team which was instilled there, and the appreciation for God's wonderful creations is difficult to replicate. It was as if one man, a man called Ski, gathered us all up and lifted us to heights of human ability and understanding which many adults do not achieve, let alone a group of teenagers. How can I thank Lyle Novinski? I cannot—the best thing I can do is try to live and to relate to people the way he did and the way he continues to do. Thanks, Ski!!!

Prange, Roy L.

From: Ron Palmer [shironpal@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 12:21 PM
To: Prange, Roy L.
Subject: Tribute to Lyle Novinski

I had the good fortune of sharing a staff tent on numerous occasions with Ski during my time on Canyon Camp staff in 1954, 1955 and 1956. Ski was a role model to many of us and I recall numerous things that he taught me personally by example: Keep yourself and your "space" neat clean and tidy - set an example for others who look up to you. Ski encouraged me to go to Philmont for national training in 1954. Ski was the moving force that "pushed" me to finish up requirements for Eagle in 1955. He was a great friend and a great "go to" guy.

Being around Ski was always a positive - his spirits were always "up" and it moved many of us to follow his lead - always setting an example for other campers, and later in life, remembering what positive leadership can mean to those around you.

"Thanks for the Memories" Ski along with the valuable and worthwhile life lessons you shared with all of us.

Ron Palmer

**Roy L. Prange, Jr.
6418 Antietam Lane
Madison, WI 53705**

To Ski,

July 20, 2011

I expect these reminiscences and comments about Ski will echo those of many others who had the privilege and good fortune to have served under Ski, and, more importantly, to have learned from him. And did I ever learn a lot.

It started for me in 1957, my first year as a camper, and a highly gullible eleven year old at that, but with eyes wide open at the glory of Canyon Camp and in awe of the Camp Staff. Of course Ski stood out. Gullible, by the way, meant taking the cure for that dreaded disease "earlobes"; traipsing around from staff man to staff man, at the behest of one of their own, seeking to procure a left-handed monkey wrench and a tent pole straightener. My Troop 26 (Warren, IL) was there the first week. Monday morning found our little band wandering about, looking for program areas, eager to chop wood (or legs, etc.), build fires, and all that other good stuff. Ski marched (I should say "strided") up to us, sat us all down, and proceeded to pull out a metal band-aid can (now of course, obsolete) and proclaim it to be a "survival kit". Ski explained how he and John "Jeg" Jeglum, Program Director/ACD had a contest as to who could cram the most items into the box. They had to be legitimate survival items, e.g. fish hook and line. He was looking to us for help. I was enthralled, and that was just the first day of my life at Canyon Camp.

I returned as a camper in 1958 and 1959 and was invited to stay on as Staff in 1959 (despite still being somewhat gullible). Then Ski returned as Camp Director in 1960 and I couldn't be happier. And he brought his new bride Sybil to Camp where the two of them set up house in the health lodge. That immediately resulted in a virtual epidemic of ongoing visits to the health lodge by yours truly along with Bill "Sudsy" Summers, Charlie Kranz and Rick Vuylsteke for myriad health problems most of which were imagined (except my chicken pox that cost me a week away from Camp).

Ski had this uncanny ability to give nicknames to virtually every staffer. I am forever grateful that he named me "Prong", a shortened version of my more formal, Ski invented, nickname: "Pring-Prang-Prong". This was a significant improvement over a nickname I had been assigned (by a rascal Scoutmaster) in 1959, namely "termite", which was immediately exterminated. And when it was my turn to lead a song, it was Ski who would pluck the supporting wires holding the Dining Hall together, with the resounding chorus of "Prong". And that gets me to my point. Ski taught me self-confidence; he taught me how to get up in front of a group, whether adults or kids, and lead a song or direct the group or otherwise get them to do what needed to be done. That skill alone was most significant to me in later years practicing law.

Impersonations was another Ski trait that is worth mentioning. He could make us roll in the aisles of the Dining Hall with impersonations of almost every staff man. It was good fun and it didn't take long to figure out that being a target of a Ski impersonation was an honor (Ski's

impersonation of Dining Hall Steward Carl Adams' Sunday night orientation to the new group of campers, was priceless).

1960 was an unusual year due to Scoutings' 50th Anniversary, and the departure of a number of Camp Staff to the National Jamboree. We who remained were spread thin, but we had Ski to guide us. He saw in us, irrespective of age, the abilities to handle almost any job at Camp, and that we did. Here were 14 year olds running the rifle range. I learned leadership and control. We took our turns running the Trading Post (serving "Big Rooties on draft", a Wisconsin influence no doubt). I learned finance (anybody know how to make change anymore?). I helped guide hikes to the Canyon State Park. I learned psychology and group dynamics (dealing with "My feet are too wet; are we there yet?"; this later phrase would plague me in later life on car trips with kids; but I was prepared for it...by Ski).

Looking back at 1960, it's easier for me now to examine Ski's leadership and influence. Back then, he was unobtrusively imparting these skills that have stood well by me in adult life. His reaction to almost any idea we would come up with, was "try it". And in doing so he urged us on (with a silent look of confidence, and perhaps a few words that convinced us we could do it). And we did; and whether successful or not, we learned from the experience.

Ski led by example and showed us how that could work wonders. We learned that you never asked someone else to do something that you weren't willing to do (that was tested somewhat when it came time to clean the grease trap, but we all survived).

We simply learned from Ski how to deal with people. It was a challenge for a teenage Camp Staffer to stand up to an adult Scoutmaster making unrealistic demands for special treatment, but we learned how to do it -- with finesse and diplomacy - thanks to Ski.

I continued to serve on Camp Staff through 1968, the last few years as Program and Waterfront Director (using Ski skills learned in 1960 in carrying out multiple roles). It was my privilege during that time to try to pass on what Ski taught me to Camp Staffers.

If one simply stands on the parade ground and looks in all directions, you will see Ski's influence. From the physical beauty of the Camp itself, to Camp Program, to the Wednesday Visitor's night and Order of the Arrow Calling Out Ceremony, there is Ski.

Canyon Camp remains a magical place because of Ski. We can return after more than 50 years and find a place that is untouched, and continues traditions that hopefully will influence young scouts as we were.

Thanks, Ski.

Prong

Prange, Roy L.

Subject: FW: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

From: Paul Rimington [<mailto:pdrimington@comcast.net>]

Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2011 8:59 PM

To: Prange, Roy L.; 'Ron Spielman'; 'Chuck Kranz'; ELaugh7782@aol.com; 'Bill Determan'; jr_swenson01@comcast.net; JTTuba@aol.com; rvuylsteke@amcham.org.hk; Apa2@One.net; pbutler@islengineering.com; jeglums@shaw.ca; lovekiwi@tds.net; shirlronpal@msn.net; CASWHS@AFES.com; jktad@comcast.net

Subject: RE: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

Guys:

It is unfortunate that I will not be able to attend the reunion this year, especially since it is the 75th anniversary and the tribute to Ski. The memorial for a friend is that week end.

In the Spirit,

Paul Rimington
221 Sunnyside
Elmhurst, IL 60126
630-776-8213 (c)
pdrimington@comcast.net

From L. Kent Smith

I was on the staff at Canyon Camp for about five summers between 1951 and 1957. In 1959 I came west to school and did not return to the Middle West.

I began under Bob Paton as camp director, then Dave Miller (both were professional scouters). I think Lyle was director during my third and fourth summers.

Besides these (and other) directors I also worked with PR Palmer, also from Savanna, Illinois, my hometown, and staffers like "Bubbles" Boebel, "Killer" Killingstad, Miff Schwitz, Lynne Cherrier, John Jeglum, Bob Stutzman and many others.

Although I had worked with PR and Jon l'hommedieu in Troop 41 in Savanna, the Canyon Camp staff was much more my home troop, and the experience on staff is probably what led me to continue in scouting for twenty more years.

I consider myself fortunate to have served on the staff at Canyon Camp and to have known Lyle Novinski. I believe both these experiences were Providential for me since they helped put me on the road I have traveled ever since.

I have also been fortunate to be able to continue my friendship with Lyle, during my time in the US Army and afterwards, visiting or seeing him every few years, and talking with him more often by telephone.

A series of wise camp directors, like Lyle, made Canyon Camp in those years a place often filled with grace—for me and, I think, many others. They led by example, always the best way to teach.

Certainly my experiences changed my life and made it better as well as richer. And Lyle, long after Canyon Camp, has been a close friend whom I treasure.

I have many memories of being a staffer in those years. Here are a few:

- Lyle's frequent response to our suggestions for doing something (often something new): "You like it? Fine. Do it."
- Playing "gunch ball" in the swimming pool with other staff members. The idea was to take a soccer-sized ball away from whomever had it, usually by partway drowning him, and then keep it away from everyone else as long as possible.
- Opening a trail system around the camp.
- PR's JLT troop double-timing by, under full packs, at 1 AM.
- Cracker barrels and patch swapping. I still have my collection. (Don't call!)
- "Casey's coffins, they are fine, made of satin, brass and pine; so when death knocks at your door, call Columbus-six-oh-four. Casey, Casey, Casey: drop dead today."
- The overnight when the boys made dinner by simply putting all the packets of dried food together in one pot and adding water.
- Vega-rice dinner—my favorite trail food of that time. And what I served the staff when I was cook.
- Catholic staffers gathering in the kitchen on Friday night at midnight to cook hamburgers.
- Working with a scout axe—doing anything. Tying knots. Building a cooking fire. Building campfires. Pitching a trail tent in sixty seconds.
- The dining hall—just the building itself. Meals in the dining hall with singing afterwards. Mail call.
- Some of the fine men—the Scoutmasters—who brought their troops to camp and with whom I worked and from whom I learned.
- The many friendships and long conversations we all had, more than fifty years ago now, from which we learned so much, probably without realizing it.

I would like to believe that, as staffers, we made scouts' weeks at camp as good for them as the experience we had working on staff, but I do think we were the more fortunate ones: able to work together in Canyon Camp week after week, and year after year.

I would also like to believe that other camp staffers, in all the years since, have had as fine an experience as we did.

Prange, Roy L.

Subject: FW: LYLE NOVINSKI
Attachments: LYLE NOVINSKI.doc

From: Ron Spielman [<mailto:spiel335@tds.net>]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 1:54 AM
To: Prange, Roy L.
Cc: Michael Beeth; Ron's Office
Subject: LYLE NOVINSKI

Roy:

Here is my contribution to Lyle's binder. Let me know if you can't open, print or have questions.

Ron

LYLE NOVINSKI

Camp Director, Leader, Boss, Coach & Mentor

At the age of 15 in the Spring of 1958 I interviewed for my first real job....serving on the Canyon Camp Staff. I went with Denny Pratt to the office of US Grant Council, BSA located in the basement of the Carnegie Library in Freeport. I had been to Canyon Camp for a week of camping the prior summer and had also attended JLT Training that I believe may have been much of Staff Week in 1957. Denny had never been a camper at Canyon Camp. Neither of us was yet an Eagle Scout. Both Denny and I were members of Troop 3 where Jack James was our Scoutmaster.

While we were both seeking to be a part of the 1958 Canyon Camp Summer Staff we were naive as to our own expectations and fairly clueless on what jobs were available. Could we qualify? Would we get paid? As I recall, we were interviewed by Lyle Novinski and perhaps John "Jeg" Jeglum. Surprise Surprise...I was hired to be the Dining Hall Steward for the 1958 Summer Camp Season.

Young....Naive....No Real Experience....little knowledge of the job and only BSA Patrol Leader Training and JLT the summer before to provide guidance as leader for the dishwashers who rotated through the summer in two week increments. As a 15 year old I recognized Lyle was my boss. and I was to do as instructed by Lyle. My parents were of the generation that provided strong basic advice: Do as I was told.....keep my mouth shut unless asked....show up on time and do my job to the best of my ability. During the summer of 1958 I really didn't give much thought to Lyle's leadership style and techniques. I only worked for Lyle that one summer some fifty-three years ago. Yet, I have often thought about

Lyle's influence upon my life and his Legacy of Leadership shared by me with literally hundreds of individuals.

Yet today Lyle often closes his emails with "WWW" before he signs off. Cheerful Service....easily said, but a difficult personal habit in today's "I" society. How many times in business could an internal or external customer benefit from dealing with an individual engaged in cheerful service? Cheerful...the 8th Scout Law. Lyle didn't have to explain a cheerful disposition or attitude as he always seemed to demonstrate for staff, scouts and Scouters that life was good. Campers were "gunchers" to Lyle and every young camper figured he too must be special because as he passed THE Camp Director a smile and friendly verbal greeting assured the scout that it was another great day at Canyon Camp. In a reflection to start a recent meeting at my office a fellow employee read Charles Swindoll's A "Yes" Face. Again, Lyle possessed and still possesses a "Yes" Face. When you approach Lyle you feel welcomed, like you're greeting an old friend and you are the most important happening in Lyle's life at the very moment of your encounter. I generally have a "Yes" Face... at least most of the time, but not as often as Lyle.

Empowerment was a word I heard frequently in the banking business and now again in health care. As a fifteen year old I don't remember hearing that I was empowered as Dining Hall Steward. Yet, I recognized I could make decisions everyday without asking Lyle what I was supposed to do next. When I made mistakes Lyle would help remedy the situation and quietly coach (another focus word in today's HR world) me on the alternatives and maybe even a bit of sage political advice with regard to dealing with another crusty Scoutmaster. In business and as a community volunteer I make sure those I lead understand that they are

empowered to do those things that are for the greater good. A Novinski skill I still strive to regularly emulate.

The skills of a Thespian. Serving on staff with Lyle meant you would have multiple opportunities to stand in front of campers at a campfire or in the dining hall to participate in a skit, lead a song or deliver a "Life's Lesson" in a chapel setting or after breakfast in the dining hall. I am asked regularly to speak to audiences and MC a wide variety of events. Service on the Canyon Camp Staff watching Lyle lead songs, laugh at the skits and kick the Friday Night campfire provided me early training as a Thespian and gave me confidence to stand in front of an audience. Through my efforts with the Monroe Arts Center I encourage youngsters to take the stage to sing, dance, recite lines and to not be fearful of those invisible people out beyond the lights.

At a recent meeting I heard the expression that a persons actions were so loud that their words could not be heard. Lyle was everywhere in camp, interested in everyone and always providing the previously mentioned Cheerful Service. What a role model for young staff members! In the dining hall seven young campers would sit at the dining table with a staff member. Somewhere in the midst of the summer the staff member realized just as he was trying to emulate Lyle, those young campers were trying to emulate their favorite staff member. Whoa....the burdens of being a role model. Lyle's actions spoke loudly and that meant he could be very quiet with his words.

Today we hear about Leen, Lean, Green and eco-friendly. As my leader in 1958 Lyle was always personally lean and striding trim. I would regard Lyle as a minimalist.....he always seemed to get the maximum out of the minimum. A relatively small and young staff were empowered and delivered a

quality program and enhanced The Spirit of Canyon Camp. Do the best with what you have available and no whining about what you lacked were demonstrated lessons...not lectures. Jennifer & I had the opportunity to walk with Lyle on his campus at the University of Dallas where most of the campus landscaping was planted by Lyle or under his supervision. His office is Spartan....constructed primarily of recycled or surplus materials....still proving that the quality of the program is more dependent upon the teacher than upon the sophistication of the classroom.

In the 1958 Staff Yearbook there was a picture of Lyle and I out behind the Dining Hall. We were probably preparing for a camp inspection and I was scrubbing a garbage can. I think the picture is symbolic of Lyle's leadership. As Dining Hall Steward I'm doing a grubby task that needed to be done. There is the Camp Director stopping to chat over a smelly garbage can. I have no clue what we were talking about. Yet, Lyle is kneeling so as to talk to me at eye level....Not talking down to me. One of the least glamorous tasks being performed in camp that day still drew the attention of our leader and his willingness to stop and chat provided a subtle message of support and recognition.

Those of us who served at Canyon Camp in 1958 were indeed blessed to be able to spend a summer with Lyle as our leader and mentor. We all learned many lessons of life in general and many people skills that we didn't identify as such until much later in life. While our staff was small in number in 1958 I truly believe Lyle's Legacy of Leadership continues to influence the lives of thousands. Lyle mentored Denny Pratt and Denny mentored Lee Binkley & Dick Reynolds who now mentor the next generation. Every scout who camps in this Canyon is being influenced by the teachings of Lyle Novinski.

THANK YOU LYLE for hiring me in 1958. I am a better man and a better community citizen for having served with you at Canyon Camp.

Ron Spielman
July 20. 2011

Prange, Roy L.

Subject: FW: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

From: jr_swenson01@comcast.net [mailto:jr_swenson01@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 12:12 PM

To: Prange, Roy L.

Subject: Re: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

I wish I could be there. The tribute is more than well deserved. It's odd that a single place like Canyon Camp should have had such an influence on so many of us during our formative years and that that influence was so overwhelmingly positive. Much of the reason for that, I'm sure, was because Ski did so much to create the environment and the ethos that captured our imaginations and helped to form our characters. What is perhaps so gratifying is to see that the place is still working for new generations. That is quite a legacy for Ski and I am grateful to have participated in it even in a small way.

Prange, Roy L.

From: JTTuba@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 1:41 PM
To: Prange, Roy L.
Subject: Tribut to Lyle
Attachments: lyle novinski.ltr.docx

Roy,

Attached is my tribute to Lyle. Wish I could be there. John

Lorton, Virginia
July 13, 2011

Dear Lyle,

When I think of you so many memories come flooding back. Canyon Camp was special, very special. When I mixed with scouts from different councils, as I did when my father was transferred into the Chicago area, I understood how lucky we of the U.S. Grant Council were. Reflecting on those years, now half a century past, it is easy to see one outstanding person who shaped Canyon Camp, its staff and everyone who he touched during that time: Lyle Novinski.

Attending camp as a young scout, you gave the experience a sense of reverence, reverence for the facility, for nature, for tradition back to Baden-Powell and E. Urner Goodman, and a lasting desire to keep returning as a “Gunsher” and then a staff member.

About three years ago my wife, Peggy, and I took a road trip, and we made a point to stop by the camp. No one was there — in our days camp would have been in full swing — so I gave us a little tour. Peggy was less than thrilled when I drove her new Volvo through the ford, but I assured I had done it many times before. The buildings had changed, some were new, some were gone, but the sense of purpose still pervaded the old camp ground.

The purpose of scouting is to mold lives, and you were Baden-Powell’s chief molder. You taught all of us a sense of purpose that came both from your schooling and service to the country. Those lessons served me well as I pursued a career in music and later, writing, and helped me smile my way through Army basic training at age 28.

Lyle, thank you so much for your spirit and deft management that made Canyon Camp such an experience, one that has lasted a lifetime, and guided so many of us on the trail of life.

John M. "Rawhide" Taylor

Prange, Roy L.

Subject: FW: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

From: Richard Vuylsteke [<mailto:rvuylsteke@amcham.org.hk>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 2:46 AM

To: JTTuba@aol.com; pdrimington@comcast.net; Prange, Roy L.; spiel335@tds.net; ckranzjkm@centurytel.net; ELaugh7782@aol.com; billdeterman@tds.net; jr_swenson01@comcast.net; Apa2@One.net; pbutler@islengineering.com; jeglums@shaw.ca; lovekiwi@tds.net; shirlronpal@msn.net; CASWHS@AFES.com; jktad@comcast.net

Subject: RE: Canyon Camp - Lyle Novinski tribute

Greetings from Hong Kong!

Like John, time and considerable distance are going to keep me from attending the Canyon Camp staff reunion. I would dearly love to be there and see old friends and even hit a trail or two like old times.

So many memories not only of staff times, but of the many campers who passed through the dining hall, merit badge classes, campfires, and tap-out ceremonies.

At the center of great Camp memories – which remain surprisingly vivid – is Ski. My first contact was as a camper on several occasions, and then I had the pleasure of actually serving on staff with him one year before he and Sybil moved on. My clearest repeat memory is of him reaching up and grabbing a dining hall cable with one hand, and then launching into a conversation, or speech to a larger gathering, with an almost magical intensity and relevance to the kids and adults around him. Truly the spirit of Canyon Camp.

Guys – I'll miss seeing you, but I'll look forward to seeing all the photos and related materials you all put on line. I've take the liberty of attaching a couple of photos of myself, one with another guy you may recognize, although he's better known in sports circles than Scouting ones. Please note that the absence of hair on my part is voluntary – three years ago my three sons and I auctioned off our hair here in Hong Kong to raise money for a children's cancer foundation. My sons decided I looked better without hair, so bald I remain, as the other photos attest.

Let's keep in touch – and let me know if any of you ever travel this way. There's always a great Hong Kong dinner awaiting you!

Best wishes always,

Rick

Richard R. Vuylsteke (Ph.D.)
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