

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF TROOP 12 LODGE

Prior to the building of Troop 12 Lodge the troop used a cabin to the west of the Wanaque Reservoir called Wyanokie. Originally it was leased but later the troop used it as squatters. The troop had tried to keep the cabin in repair but vandals did so much damage that the cabin became unusable.

Troop 12 at that time and after it was reorganized in 1930 by Scoutmaster Osborne K. Taylor did a great deal of camping and now needed a place for camping and to hold its camp-o-rees. The Troop Committee in the spring of 1947 decided that Troop 12 should build its own cabin either on Camp Glen Gray property or buy and build on some land adjacent to the camp. Two of the requirements for a cabin site were that it be reasonably accessible and that water be available. A site with a well on it, on the way into Glen Gray, was negotiated for but the owner would not sell. The site of the lodge as finally selected by the committee was the best spot in Glen Gray that met the above requirements. At that time there was water in the Gilwell spring.

The site was cleared on May 24, 1947 and during the following Saturdays work was done on the road to the lodge and on its footings. During the week following the close of school several scouts and one leader with the help of a rented truck transported the lumber from the ball field to the plateau below the lodge. The truck was unable to negotiate the hill onto the plateau so all material had to be carried from the truck onto the plateau and later had to be moved by hand up hill to the building site. This work party also finished the footings, started the frame and enclosed what was the storeroom with a temporary roof and floor. During the summer and fall every Saturday and Holiday saw work parties at the lodge. The roof was on by Labor Day. From then on most of the effort was spent on the fireplace and on the finish floor. The uncompleted lodge was used as a headquarters during the forest fire that came close by.

The lodge was finally closed in on December 20, 1947 with the chimney for the fireplace ending at the roof line and using a smoke pipe extension. It had been planned that the lodge would be used for a winter camp during the Holidays but the big snow of 1947 prevented its use. The first use of the lodge for troop activities was by the Raccoon Patrol during the last weekend of January 1948. The lodge was dedicated on April 27, 1948 as the finale of the Troop's Spring Camp-o-ree.

The outbuilding was completed in the spring of 1948 and the woodshed was added to the lodge that fall. The chimney was completed in the fall of 1949. A kitchen counter with two sinks was put in in 1954 and was extended into what was formerly the storeroom in 1966. The wall cabinets were added at this time. An extension was made to the outbuilding in 1956 to accommodate a second generator.

The site selection committee was headed by Troop Committeeman William E. Mutch. However the actual site was located by Assistant Scoutmaster Melville V. Stecher. The raising of the funds was under the supervision of Troop Committeeman William H. Street. Much of the funds were raised by Troop 12 Scout Mothers' Association. The construction of the lodge was under the supervision of Troop Committee Chairman Edward M. Smith. All the work on the lodge was performed by members of Troop 12 - its Scouts, its Leaders and its Committeemen.