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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT
TOPAZ, UTAH

MERIT BADGE EXPOSITION AT TOPAZ

by

RUSSELL A. BANKSON

PROJECT REPORTS DIVISION
Historical Section

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The Boy Scouts have made a fine record at Topaz in view of the restricted possibilities. Some of their activities have been documented in the past, particularly their participation in the summer camp of 1943 at Antelope Springs in the mountains 38 miles west of the center. This document will serve to bring their activities up to date.

With the coming of winter, under the aggressive leadership of Keigo Inouye as Scout commissioner for Topaz, a program was carried forward that has kept the Scouts on their toes with many activities and has established an enviable record of advancement.

This winter program culminated in a merit badge exposition and a Court of Honor, which was held Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5, in the civic auditorium in Topaz. The exposition was opened to the public Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The Merit Badge Court was held Sunday evening. During the two days, more than two thousand persons participated in the exposition, either as Scouts or as spectators, which in itself is a remarkable record and shows the center-wide interest in the Scout work here.

Commissioner Inouye has given unstintly of his time to develop and carry forward the Scout program, and in this he has had the backing of the appointive staff, many of whom were old and experienced in Scout work. On all occasions, both resident

and appointive personnel have responded heartily to Commissioner Inouye's requests for assistance.

Scouting in Topaz became a fact early in January of 1943 when Mr. Inouye, an old Scout worker from San Francisco, called together the nucleus of the first troop. At that time 16 boys who had been active in scouting in the San Francisco area responded to the call and the first troop, No. 703, was formed.

The boys came with the parts of their uniforms which they possessed and carried on the program as developed under the guiding hand of Mr. Inouye. From that small beginning, a little over a year ago, the Boy Scouts in Topaz have grown to 140 scouts now registered, with an average of 105 in weekly active participation, and from Mr. Inouye as their leader, to a group of 20 scouters, both resident and appointive personnel.

In March of 1943, at impressive ceremonies conducted in the scout headquarters, rec hall 42, and attended by representatives of the Utah National Parks Council. Since that time the single troop has grown into three complete troops, all affiliated with the National Parks Council, Troops 701, 703 and 704. These troops meet every week and since that first charter meeting in March, have held three Courts of Honor.

As a public relations gesture, it was proposed that the exposition at this time should expand to include Scouts and guests from surrounding communities. The invitation was sent out and the response was heartening. The attached table, Exhibit A, indicates how well the response was, with 70 Scouts

and 22 scouters coming in for the Court of Honor. These included one Sea Scout troop from the neighboring town of Hinckley.

So that interest in the exposition would be wide-spread, a team of Scouts was assigned to each subject presented at the exposition and it was so arranged that spectators would be called upon to participate in the demonstrations and the experiments. Visiting Scouts and scouters especially enjoyed joining in with the program.

Besides the Sea Scouts, another troop of Scouts attended from Hinckley, together with a troop from the town of Deseret, a troop from Oak City, and two troops representing the combined communities of Delta and Sutherland.

The entire auditorium was used for the exposition. The booths lined the four walls with demonstrations, models and displays, including wind tunnel models, demonstrations, camping and cooking, bugling and music, astronomy, collections of mechanical specimens, Indian artifacts, stamps and coins; electricity, firemanship, first aid and life saving, handicraft and woodwork, pioneering, pathfinding, public and personal health, radio and signaling.

In this latter demonstration the boys constructed a high tower of slates and ropes from the top of which they sent their signals.

The Court of Honor Sunday evening, included induction of ten tenderfoot Scouts; 14 second class Scouts; two first class

Scouts; three star Scouts and two life Scouts. There were 54 merit badges awarded. At this time two boys lack only one merit badge each of becoming eagle scouts. An organizer's badge was presented to a Kay Mayeda. Three honor Scouts from each of three troops were presented with honor awards for general citizenship, advancement, attendance, effort and participation in community services.

Several visiting scouters were called upon to make brief statements at the Court of Honor and members of the resident and appointive personnel participated in the program, either as speakers or as officials.

Drayton B. Nuttall, principal of the Topaz high school, served as exposition chairman, while George Lafabregue, personnel officer, was general chairman of the Court of Honor. In the absence of Project Director Charles F. Ernst, Roscoe E. Bell, acting project director, addressed the Court. The general chairman for the exposition and Court was Rev. J. K. Tsukamoto.

The detailed program is attached as Exhibit B.

EXHIBIT A

SUMMARY OF TOPAZ MERIT BADGE EXPOSITION
 in
 CIVIC AUDITORIUM

March 4-5, 1944

Exposition, Saturday afternoon, March 4, 1944.

Number of Topaz Scouts participating	53
Number of Topaz Scouts attending	87
Number of Spectators	350

Exposition, Sunday afternoon, March 5, 1944.

Number of Topaz Scouts participating	53
Number of Topaz Scouts attending	78
Number of spectators	300
Number of outside Scouters visiting	3
Number of outside scouts visiting	15
Total Exposition participation	<hr/> 939

Court of Honor, Sunday evening, March 5, 1944

Number of Topaz Scouts participating	83
Number of outside Scouts visiting	70
Number of outside scouters visiting	22
Number of outside ladies visiting	15
Number general spectators	1000
Total Court of Honor participation	<hr/> 1090

Grand Total participation	2029
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Speech, Acting Project Director.....Roscoe Bell
Speech, Vice-chairman District Council.....Rev. J. K. Tsu-
kamoto
Speech, Chairman community council.....Dr. George Ochi-
kubo

III. Court of Honor.....Judge George Lafabregue
 Clerk Kinge Okauchi
 Orderly Irvin Hirabayashi

IV. Closing Ceremony:

Closing Remark.....Chairman
Scout Law.....Saburo Yoshizawa

TALENT SHOW

Chairman: Ichiro Sasaki

1. Drum & Bugle Corps.....Boy Scouts
2. Vocal.....Florence Nagano
3. Skit.....Troop 703
4. Accordion.....Jane Kuroko
5. Skit.....Troop 704
6. Vocal.....Kaoru Inouye
7. Tonette Duet.....Takahashi Bros.
8. Piano.....Mabel Sugiyama
9. Skit.....Troop 701
10. Vocal.....Stanley Shusho
11. Jivesters.....Jivesters
12. Taps.....Scouts
