

*Supplement to the attached "History of Camp Naish*

*At the time Mrs. Naish gave the Camp to Kaw Council she was a retired school teacher living in Detroit, Mich.*

*She and Mr. Naish had bought the property and built a house on it, the foundation of it can still be seen by doing a little searching. It has now crumbled.*

*They used the place to give working girls from the city week end vacations in a pleasant surrounding.*

*Kaw Council Scouts were not the first to camp on the property. In 1919 250 Scouts from the Kansas City, Mo. Council camped there 12 days.*

*B.B. Dawson, then Scout Executive, was instrumental in securing the donation of the property from [correction: from] Mrs. Naish.*

*As soon as it was acquired a Camp Development Committee consisting of Harry G. Miller, owner of the Kansas City Pattern Works and father of our Judge Miller, Chris Kopp, owner of the Kopp Bakery and O.C. Smith, Vice-President of the Kansas City Structural Steel Co. was appointed and [correction: and] were largely responsible for the early development of the camp.*

*The fence around the, then, camp property was put in by three older Scouts: Ray Ryan, Lee Judy and Leon Zimmerman under the direction of Scout Executive Dawson who had a hobby of surveying.*

*Rotary Hall, now a part of the dining hall in Central [correction: South] Camp, was constructed under the personal direction of Scout Executive Dawson, the Kansas City Rotary Club contributing to its expense.*

*There was no road into the camp during those first years so the Scouts had to carry their camping gear from the trolley line at the bottom of the hill up the draw that paralleled the present road, some climb..*

*The first road into camp was constructed later. The Camp Development Committee discovered a road marked on an old county map that ran from the highway through and past the camp.*

*They persuaded the county officials to have the road built. It wasn't desirable to have a public road running through the middle of the camp, so when the builder reached to [correction: the] top of the hill, just this side of where the flag pole now is, they, the Development Committee Persuaded the road builder to stop there and instead of going further, to excavate for a hoped for swimming pool. That excavation is still visible just southeast of Rotary Hall.*

*An old house was located where the present home of the Camp Ranger now is. In the early days of the camp it was strongly suspected this house was occupied by bootleggers. Law enforcement officers asked for and received permission to sit high on the hill, secluded, and thru binoculars kept track of the activities below.*

*The steel building was acquired before the road was built into camp and was carried, piece by piece up the hill to the present site where it was assembled.*

*During the first years water was obtained from a small trickling spring that was on the slope opposite the "cooking flats". A supply for camp use was obtained by constantly pumping water from the spring to a tank located on the roof of the back porch of Rotary Hall.*

*One dry summer day that spring gave out during the first session of camp. All the water that was available for the remainder of the sessions that summer had to be ported into camp in tank trucks. Later a good well down by the highway was dug. It proved to be so good that during the rest of that dry spell, the county set up facilities there so nearby farmers could come and get water for their farms as their wells too became dry.*

*When the camp was first used by Kaw Council there were three camp sites. Two had tents for shelter. Camp Jim Bridger was about 100 yards south of Rotary Hall and camp Dan Boone was up, back of the draw which came up from the highway. Later several service club in Kansas City provided money for three bunk houses. This camp was name Dan Beard.*

*Those were days of segregation so no black Scouts camped with the White Scouts. The last session of camp each summer was reserved for the black Scouts. These boys were not permitted to swim in Lake of the Forest so they had no swimming (with the exception of one enterprising young black who somehow managed to climb up into the tank and was discovered swimming around in the drinking water.*

*For dining, an open air kitchen was built just northwest of where steel building is located. At the side of it a canvas roof was placed over dining tables and it was on these the Scouts ate their meals. After Rotary Hall was in use, I think the former kitchen was converted to a handicraft center.*

*As there were no swimming facilities the first few years permission was given for the Scouts to swim in the Lake of the Forest so once a day all the campers hiked down to the Lake for their daily swim.*

*In those days autos were not so numerous so the Kansas City Scouts came to camp via the electric trolley line. The Scouts assembled at City Park and were brought to and from camp by the*

*electric trolley line which ran "specials" for the occasion. The Scouts were unloaded at the bottom of the hill and had to carry their personal camp equipment to the top. This was quite a climb.*

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*Submitted May 29, 1973 by Earle Behrend who was there.*

*(1928 thru 1937)*

[Researcher's note: This document was re-typed by Tom Baker for online publication at <http://campnaish.org>, during April 2001. Typos and spelling errors were included just as they existed in the source document. In some cases, bracketed comments were added to increase readability or to question the accuracy of the content. The source document (a photocopy) was provided by Ed Hubert and was slightly over 2 pages in length. It appears to have 1.5 spacing and uses a light brush-stroke font. Whether Behrend typed this document or another did is unknown at this time.]