

GROWTH OF SCOUTING IN THE JACKSON AREA
1914 to 1923

From the Daily Clarion Ledger –

6/11/1914 – “BRANDON BOY SCOUTS VISIT THOSE OF JACKSON”

“The Boy Scouts are always welcome, and on yesterday morning the Clarion-Ledger office had an appreciated visit from Messrs. Walter May, Frances Weille, Dan Meyers, Carl Williams, Max Stapleton, Albert Thornton and Sidney Stapleton all manly-looking little fellows, who came to extend to the Boy Scouts of Jackson and the editor of the the Clarion-Ledger an invitation to join the Brandon Boy Scouts in their encampment of four days to be held beginning June 20, at Boone Springs, on the Albert Weille plantation, one mile from Brandon and very near to the famous Busick Wells. There will be at least 200 Boy Scouts and their friends to enjoy the occasion, and there will be a dancing pavilion and other attractions, so that their girl friends and their chaperones many visit them.

Everyone knows of the hospitality of the magnificent country home of Albert Weille, and all those who enjoy this encampment will have an usual pleasure and one which will be remembered throughout the coming years.”

6/17/1914 – “SCOUTS ATTENTION!”

“Scoutmaster Von Harten wants all Jackson Boy Scouts desiring to attend the Scout encampment at Brandon to meet him this morning at the Y. M. C. A., that plans for the trip may be perfected and the scoutmaster may know definitely who intends making the trip.

The Scouts are to go in camp at Brandon June 30 and remain five days. During the time they will be the guest of Maj. A. A. Weille of that place.

An interesting program for each day has been prepared, the boys will be under the supervision of competent men and it is believed the trip will prove of great benefit to every scout participating.”

7/5/1914 – “BOY SCOUTS RETURNED HOME FROM ENCAMPMENT”

“The local branch of Boy Scouts, accompanied by the Vicksburg Squad, arrived in the city yesterday from Brandon, where they have encamped for the past five days.

The Vicksburg, Brandon and Jackson scouts were all three together and numbered about one hundred. Each company was presided over by their scoutmaster. They were loud in their praise of Brandon as a camping site and want to make an annual encampment there. They say the site is ideal and the water as good as could be found anywhere.

The Jackson boys had been offered prizes for different kind of performances by local citizens and they competed for them at Brandon. The gold medal offered by Governor Brewer for the best drilled boy was won by Johnnie DePriest. Holmes King won the

prize, a suit of clothes, offered by R. E. Kennington, for the best record on deportment, service and tidiness in camp.

A large silk flag was offered to the best drilled team and this was won by the Vicksburg boys in competition against the Brandon scouts, the Jackson boys not competing because of their age. They were not old enough. The drilling was very good and the winner was hard to pick, the race being so close.”

7/18/1918 – “The Boy Scouts are due to have a very important meeting tonight at the Y. M. C. A. or the Board of Trade. The statement that the meeting is to be held was made Monday. There has been a very great increase in local interest in the Boy Scout movement and at least three more troops will be raised before the end of the week.”

7/19/1918 – “MORE BOY SCOUT TROOPS FOR JACKSON”

“Stock in the Boy Scouts went soaring last night when, at a largely attended meeting held in the Y. M. C. A. reports were made indicating the addition of at least three troops and two patrols, and considerable activity for the Scouts in the future.

There were fifty boys in attendance, and inspiring talks were made by Scoutmaster J. L. Moore, who is heart and soul with the boys, and Patrol Leader John Harris, a bright youth of nearly eighteen, who is striving for advancement to the rank of Assistant Scoutmaster, which he cannot attain until he is eighteen years of age.

Scoutmaster Moore spoke about the work of the Scouts, and what is required of them, everything tending to the noblest works in life, and imbuing the boys with hopes and aspirations for the highest code of honor.

He said the life of the Boy Scouts is destructive of all that is impure and selfish, so that they are ever on the alert to do that which is right and honorable, quick to render a service for others, and loyal to the government in thought and deed.

A large majority of those present were aspirants for membership in the Boy Scouts. A review of the work done this week, since the campaign for Scoutmasters and members was opened, showed that excellent progress has been made, and the campaign will be continued.

It was shown that troops of 32 boys each will be organized for North Jackson, West Jackson and South Jackson, with two patrols of eight each on Asylum Heights.

The boys are figuring on a hike to Old Country Club Lake, about five miles from Jackson, on a two-day outing, enjoying camp life.”

“Coast Wants Scouts”

7/13/2010

“The Boy Scouts were very much encouraged Wednesday by an address made by W. B. Fitch of Gulfport. He told the Scouts that Gulfport and Biloxi are anxious to organize a county Boy Scout troop. The people there realize it is a very good thing for their boys, and they wish to start their boys right.”

5/31/1919 – “BOY SCOUTS TO PUT ON DRIVE FOR FUNDS”

Endorsed by the Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club, The Boy Scouts movement in the city, under the leadership of Web Buie for the Rotarians and Oscar Newton for the Kiwanis, is taking on large proportions and will soon launch a movement for the raising of \$15, 000 for the expense of a three year effort to make the Scouts serve the big place that stands wide open for them in the city.

Scout leaders have been here from time to time for the last few weeks and the movement is getting well organized to start the drive for this fund at an early date. The week from June 8th to the 14th has been designated as Appreciation Week, and it is the hope of those in charge that they will get ready for this drive during that week.

The Boy Scouts played a real big part in the recent war, and the youngsters who composed this army of miniature patriots stood ready “to go” if the danger had reached near enough home for it to be necessary to call them out. They knew that they were the coming soldiers, and they stood ready by the millions to take their older brothers’ places as fast as it should be necessary.

In fact, the Boy Scouts is simply an organization of young Americans for the promotion of patriotism first of all and many other commendable traits secondly. When the call came for Liberty Bonds to be sold they fell to the traces and put over the sale of hundreds of millions of dollars worth of these bonds.

Then, too, when a group of boys is wanted to do some special work in Jackson, to whom do those in authority go to. To the Boys Scouts. They guard the airplanes that spend the nights in the city and “stand guard” on any occasion that needs an efficient and fearless execution of police regulations.

There is not the least doubt that Jackson will rally to these boys and give them the desired amount in this drive.

6/10/1919 – “BOY SCOUTS READY TO START CAMPAIGN”

“The Boy Scouts of Jackson have everything in readiness and this evening at a joint meeting of the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs their campaign will be formally lauched. The meeting will be held at the Edwards House, to convene at 8 o’clock sharp.

It is requested that all workers pm the various teams be on hand and it is also expected that every member who can of the two clubs be present, and at least lend their presence to the assistance of these deserving young Americans. The campaign is planned to begin Wednesday morning.

Not only are the Boy Scouts of Jackson to have a busy week, but this is to be Boy Scout week all over the country, and it is expected the result of the work will be to place the Boy Scouts of America of a firm and permanent foundation.

Jackson is only asked to raise \$15,000, or less than 50 cents per capita, and this sum is intended to carry the Jackson organization through a three year period, paying the salary of a trained scout executive and all other expenses. It is also hoped that the present membership of about 120 will be increased to more than a thousand.

Attorney-General W. M. Barrow, of Baton Rouge, president of the oldest Boy Scout council in Louisiana, will address the joint meeting Tuesday evening, and will have something to say that will interest not only the Boy Scouts themselves, but the members of the two clubs who have volunteered to put this campaign through.”

6/11/1919 – See Advertisement.

From the Jackson Daily News
2/15/1920 - “BOY SCOUTS’ CORNER”

“Hello! Fellows, we’re Troop 8; A. D. Wicks Scout Master and G. W. Noel Assistant Scout Master. With the help of Scout Executive Abernathy we organized last Monday night at the First Baptist Church. Three full patrols were formed and three boys were put on the waiting list of patrol 1. The time of meeting was set at 7:30 Friday night but the regular meeting was not held this week on account of this being Scout Anniversary Week and also on account of this meeting being held. Following is a list of the scouts in our Troop.

Flying Eagle Patrol No. 1. Hastings Kendall, Patrol Leader; Van Martin, Assistant; Dick Willis, J. T. Lowther, Nathan Kendal, Miller Lowther, Austin Tull, Walter Martins, Cecil Walley, Howard Batson, George Miller.

Beaver Patrol No. 2. Joe R. Harris, Patrol Leader; Harry Smith, Assistant; Gordon Simmons, Gayden Ward, Edward Saunders, Joe Bush, Buster Smith, Thomas Wainwright.

Eagle Patrol No. 3. Pete Johnson, Patrol Leader; John G. Fitzhuh, Assistant; Robert Lee, Edward Mullen, Dalton Everette, Chas. McMaster, Hugh Stevenson, Purser Hewitt.”

From The Daily Clarion-Ledger
8/29/1920 – “BOY SCOUTS HAD AN ENJOYABLE WEEK END”
“J. M Hartfield had as his guest last week end at Blue Lake Boy Scout Troops 5 and 8. Messrs Nelson, Pullen, Eager, MacGowen, and Whitten assisted Mr. Hartfield in getting the troops to the lake. Messrs Geo. R. Powell and T. B. A. Abernathy had charge of the Scout instructions.

The time was spent in hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, and eating. Altogether, it was a most delightful occasion. Scout Executive Abernathy took great interest in training

7/13/2010

the boys in camp life. The camp fires, scout yells, and stories helped to make the entertainment complete in every detail. Mr. Powell taught aquatics. Every boy with the exception of one left the camp knowing how to swim.

Twelve squirrels and a boiled ham were devoured at one meal. The boys on this hike, as they express it, will not forget the occasion.

One gentleman in the party said he never heard an oath or indecent expression during the whole trip. The boys were in a delightful humor and no harsh language was used. They were always ready for activities that had been planned for them.

The boys were thoughtful enough to express their appreciations to Mr. Hartfield, Mr. Powell, and Mr. Abernathy for this outing. They also pledged themselves to trying to live a life worthy of the example that had been set for them and to live up to the Scout laws.

The following boys were on the hike: Hilliard Jackson, Hugh Stevenson, Edwin Smith, Horatic Bland, Joe Brooks Wolcott, Frederick Whitehurst, "Here" Hester, J. M. Stevens, Gayden Ward, Dalton Everett, Chas. Selvidgt, Robt. Lee, Hasting Kendall, Purser Hewitt, Wm. Cummings, Geo. Miller, Gordon Cox, Harry Smith, and Hanson Murphy."

8/29/1920 – "SECURE SCOUTMASTER"

"The Scouts of the First Baptist Church are off. Pat Eager, Jr. has been elected Scoutmaster with A. D. Wicks, T. H. Kendall and E. E. Wolcott as assistants. The first meeting with the new officials was held Tuesday night at First Baptist church. Sixteen former members of the Troop were present. The Troop has been inactive for about five months.

Twelve members of the troop have registered for the Scout Thanksgiving Hike. Scoutmaster Eager will meet these scouts at the church at 3 p. m. Wednesday. They will then hike to Big Richmond Lake.

E. E. Wolcott was elected Assistant Scoutmaster for the Troop. His peculiar training, however, fits him better for the position of chairman on out door activities on the Troop Committee. He will probably take that as his work.

J. M. Hartfield, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, assures the Scouts of Troop 8 of the assistance and backing of that body. Mrs. Passmore, President of the W. M. U. of the First Baptist church, is preparing for a campaign as to what Scouting is among the women of the church and city."

11/28/1920 – "BOY SCOUT OUTING"

"The Boy Scouts of this city who went for a Thanksgiving camp at Big Richmond Lake enjoyed the occasion to the fullest according to reports being made by boys and by officers of the organization.

The men of the city rallied to the cause of scouting on this occasion and numerous Jackson citizens went to the lake to have their Thanksgiving dinner with the Scouts. One of the features of the occasion was a possum hunt. Ned Farish, one of the premier hunters of this section had promised to have his dogs present and they were though unfortunately Mr. Farish was unable to be present. The boys enjoyed a first class possum hunt.

The Thanksgiving service was led by Sunshine Hawks and the boys under his direction devoutly praised the Divine Father for the blessings of Thanksgiving.

The scout outing proved one of the most successful ever held here and Scout Executive Abernathy is being warmly congratulated on the success of the occasion.”

1/19/1921 – “SCOUT TROOP HOLDS ITS COURT OF HONOR”

Troop 6, Knights of Columbus Hall, held its first Troop Court of Honor Sunday morning at the Catholic Church. E. O’Brien is chairman of the Court. Scoutmaster Fischer, Committeeman A. R. Johnson, and patrol leaders Bea Logue, Earnest Thomas and James Witt constitute the Court.

Applicants must come before the troop Court of Honor before they are permitted to become Tenderfoot Scouts. They are also prepared and passed upon by the Court for the higher ranks. The applicants appearing before the Court Sunday were Victor Lott, Mat Hyland, Frank Abraham and Frank Thomas, these passed successfully. One other applicant appeared. He was unable to stand the tests.

The progress of Troop 6 since Mr. Fischer became scoutmaster is highly pleasing. The troop had nine regular members at that time. There are now twenty two regularly enrolled members in the troop. A regular program of activities has been adopted. Bi-monthly hikes are the custom. Meetings with a definite purpose are planned and carried out. The Troop has had a scouts and sisters night, a parents night, and has participated in every council activity.

1/20/1921 – “BOY SCOUT NEWS”

“Troop 10 Hold Enthusiastic Meeting and is Getting Results”

“Troop 10 held its weekly meeting in the Jewish Synagogue Monday night. The meeting was presided over by patrol leader Fred Hartman of the Owl patrol. Thirty-five scouts answered to the roll call. Scoutmaster Penfield made a short talk about Scout Achievement Week. Senior Patrol Leader Herbert Felbelman discussed baseball with the boys.

Prof. Harrell of Millsaps College had invited the troop to come to the observatory to study the stars. When the start was made to go to the college, all the stars were hidden behind the clouds. Troop 10 wishes to thank Prof. Harrell for his invitation. They will be glad to accept when the stars are out.

Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class examinations were held. Several scouts of Troop 10 expect to come before the Court of Honor at its next meeting to qualify for First Class standing.

The Owl patrol held a patrol meeting after the troop meeting was finished.

2/6/1921 – “BOY SCOUT SERVICES TO BE HELD TODAY”

“In practically all of the churches of Jackson today appropriate services for Boy Scouts Week will be held, either in the morning or evening. The services today are a part of the nation-wide observance of Boy Scout Week and as this organization is strong in Jackson it is believed that the announcement of boy scout services will attract large congregations. Scouting, as stated is strong in Jackson and there seems to be no question but that Boy Scouting has performed a big work in this city. Troops are organized from the various churches and scouting seems to be closely interwoven with religion.

Boy Scouting has also made a tremendous growth in Jackson since its inception here and there are now a bout a dozen well organized troops in the city, the boys holding hikes, camps and other events.

Scouting does a great deal for a boy morally and physically and it is noticeable that among the juvenile offenders coming before the city courts one rarely if ever finds a boy scout.

The people of the city are generally enthusiastic for scout work and have given the organization a great deal of encouragement.”

10/11/1921 – “JACKSON BOY SCOUTS TO HAVE LARGE CAMP”

“The Rotary Club yesterday raised three thousand and fifty dollars at their noon meeting with which to purchase a permanent camp site for the boys of Jackson. A committee was appointed a month ago to locate and recommend to the club such a site. Their report came in today. In eleven minutes after the bidding started, money enough to buy the site selected had been raised.

The site selected lies three miles from the Edwards House on a gravel road. It is the plan of the Scott Council to use this camp as a weekend proposition. Scout troops will use the grounds for meeting purposes. They will camp overnight there. Each troop may build for itself a lodge or cabin as it sees fit. The site was selected because of its usability. Other property was offered to the committee at a lower figure. The committee and the club looked at the matter from a boy standpoint rather than from a financial standpoint.

Very soon it is planned that a dam will be built across the ravine which cuts the property. It is estimated that a lake the size of the one at Livingston Park may easily be built. This will add much to the attractiveness of the camp for the boys. A permanent building or two on the property which may be used by the scouts for winter camping will possibly be erected.

7/13/2010

The generosity of the Rotary Club in providing this camp for the boys is in keeping with their policy of boys' work. The Rotary Club with the Kiwanis Club and other organizations first promoted the cause of scouting in Jackson."

10/16/1921 –

Louis Runge, Troop 3 at the Capitol Street Methodist Church and acting Assistant Scoutmaster at the Central Presbyterian Church, finally passed the requirements Thursday evening at the Court of Honor which makes him an Eagle Scout. Louis is the Seventh Eagle Scout for Jackson.

10/27/1921 – "JUNIOR HIGH SCOUTS INSPECT CAME SITE"

"The Junior High School Boy Scouts made a hike yesterday to the camping site that was recently selected and purchased by the Rotary club for the scouts of Jackson. The site is located on the Coopers Well road about three miles from the Edwards House.

Scout Executive Abernathy and several of the Rotarians accompanied the boys on their hike. The boys made a preliminary survey of the location and quickly decided just what they wanted to do in the way of improving the facilities of the place as a camping place. However, the plans of the boys are not official and only reflected the view that the boys themselves had of the situation.

The evening meal was prepared by the boys, the club having divided into patrols for the purpose. Each patrol fixed some portion of the meal. A number of scouts who desired to pass the scout cooking tests brought the necessary articles along with them and took the test. They returned to their homes happy after an afternoon spent in the great out doors."

11/20/1921 – "BOY SCOUT CORNER"

"Troop 8 First Baptist Church, will be re-organized with M. E. Douglas as its leader. The Troop has been dead for some time but the future is going to see a live one."

1/1/1922 – "BOY SCOUT CORNER"

"Marcus E. Douglas, Scoutmaster of Troop 8, who has been spending the holidays at Brookhaven will return on January 4."

"Troop 8 held an overnight hike Wednesday. The boys all had a good time and will go again soon. They were under the direction of Mr. Keith of the First Baptist Church."

1/13/1922 – "TROOP EIGHT TO HOLD ANNIVERSARY"

"Troop 8 of the Boy Scout organization of this city will celebrate their first anniversary at the First Baptist Church on Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

7/13/2010

They invite all their mothers and fathers to be present at the meeting which they state will be a Jolly one. The troop will render a program that will be thrilling and interesting to all who attend.

The item that pleases the boys most is that the Acme Bakery has asked the privilege of furnishing the birthday cake for the boys and they look forward to the cutting of it with great pleasure.”

4/2/22 – “BIBLE CLASS BUILDS HUT FOR BOY SCOUTS”

“Yesterday was a big day for Troop 8 Boy Scouts, of the First Baptist church. Architect N. W. Overstreet and a number of other members of the Sproles Bible Class had gone down near Raymond during the week with the scouts and located a quarry from which was blocked out sufficient stone with which to build a Scout Hut.

The money is already in the treasury for this purpose and it was only left to select the site, get the stone on the ground and do the actual work of construction.

Judge Sydney Smith is teacher of the class and R. M. Hederman president. Led by these two “workman,” a good-sized contingent of the class, which numbers about one hundred members, went down on trucks yesterday afternoon and with the boys loaded the stone and brought it into camp. Another day will be set aside soon when the entire membership will go out and do the actual construction work.

Among the men who on yesterday had charge of “gangs” of workman were: N. W. Overstreet, O. B. Taylor, J. H. Wells, R. M. Hederman, Judge Sydney Smith, T. M. Hederman, Thos. Abernathy, W. R. Hollingsworth, Corey Robinson, and a large number of scouts, who it is unnecessary to say did a large part of the work.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, however, and the fellows who failed to go out certainly missed an opportunity for a good afternoon’s exercise and also to learn something of the Scout work in Jackson.

In addition to this work, there were a large number of teams out at the camp grading and making a dam for the lake. This work will be completed at an early date, and then the camp will begin to assume a most attractive appearance. It is only about four miles from the city, situated in a beautiful woodland and close to the gravel road.”