



Herald photo by Melissa Stevenson

Troy Pugh, a Lynden High School senior, recently became an Eagle Scout, earning 126 merit badges on the way. Tom Winsor has been a Boy Scout for 75 years. He too is an Eagle Scout.

Scouts hunting for Eagles

Program graduates could be a natural resource

By JOYCE SCHIFFLER
of the Herald staff

Boy Scouts in every troop, district and council in the United States are searching for eagles this year — Eagle Scouts, that is.

1990 has been designated the "Year of the Eagle" by Boy Scouts of America. The national objective is to involve an additional 100,000 adult Eagle Scouts — the highest rank in Scouting — in volunteer positions.

"The goal is to identify Eagle Scouts and make use of their experience," said Jerry Hastings, Mount Baker Area Scout executive. "We can use all the help we can get."

Tom Winsor of Ferndale is a board member for Mount Baker Area Council and an Eagle Scout with 76 years of experience in Scouting. Winsor, 88, joined Boy Scouts in 1914 in Monrovia, Calif., only four years after Scouting began in the United States and six years after Sir Robert Baden-Powell founded the international organization for boys in Great Britain.

Winsor is not one of the lost Eagles. He has been very active and is the kind of Eagle every council would like to find. He has served as both a volunteer and a professional in the Scouting program in Scout councils from Petersburg, Alaska, to San Francisco.

Scouts head 'Back to the Forest'

"Back to the Forest Into the Future," the 1990 Scout-o-rama will celebrate the 80th year of Scouting May 19 at Battersby Field.

"The name tells the story," said J. Blake, scout executive for Whatcom County. "We want to show how Scouts can continue to be an outdoor organization and help save the environment for many, many years."

The Scout-o-rama will start with a parade of Scouts around the field at 10 a.m. More than 35 units have signed up, Blake said. Cub Scouts will race cars they have carved from a block of wood in the traditional Pinewood Derby. Heats will be run all day with the grand finale at 3 p.m.

Displays constructed by Scouts will include ferris wheels, monkey bridges and towers. Scouts will participate in

many activities demonstrating their skills. Members of the Bellingham Mariners, Western Washington University football team and others will be on hand to discuss sports with participants and viewers, Blake said.

The Bellingham event is one of three running simultaneously. The others are at Cascade Mall in Burlington and Oak Harbor Junior High School in Oak Harbor. Tickets can be purchased from any Scout for \$2 for a whole family and can be used at any of the locations, Blake said. "Each ticket has about \$7 worth of food coupons on it, so even if you can't attend you can't lose."

Phil MaAfee is the chairman for the Bellingham event, which is sponsored by U S Bank. Anyone who would like more information can call the Scout office at 734-3940.

The career educator, former Mount Baker High School principal and lifelong Scout received a diamond pin for 75 years in Scouting from National Chief Scout Executive Ben H. Love last June. Winsor was recognized as the 24th 75-year member of Boy Scouts of America. He has attended three national jamborees and Philmont Scout Camp in

Cimarron, N.M. and served every capacity from Scout to Scout master and council officer to executive board member.

"Scouting is an important part of my life. It always has been," Winsor said. "The boys I've worked with — it's something I'll never lose."

Winsor has kept track of some of his

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Boy Scouts are searching for Eagles

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former Scouts — among them a judge in San Francisco, a vice president for General Dynamics Corp. in St. Louis and a scientist who received his doctorate from California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

The national Scouting program could take some lessons from Winsor. Scout officials have said it is unfortunate and embarrassing that Scouting has not maintained contact with its Eagle Scouts. In the new guidebook for aspiring Eagle Scouts,

Ben H. Love is quoted as saying, "We must do whatever is necessary to enroll in NESA (National Eagle Scout Association) as many Eagles as possible, as soon as possible. Eagle Scouts are gifted interpreters of the spirit of Scouting."

Troy Pugh, 18, is one of the Eagles NESA wants to reach. He is a member of Troop 18 and a senior at Lynden High School. He has been a Scout for 10 years and he earned every single merit badge possible — 126 in all — on his way to the rank of Eagle. Twenty-one are needed for the Eagle rank.

"I haven't made use of a lot I've learned working on merit badges yet but I'm glad I have the skills," Troy said. "I like knowing about the things around me when I go on a hike. Now it's not like walking in the dark."

To both the 88-year-old and 18-year-old, Scouting is a family affair. Troy's three older brothers are also Eagle Scouts. His oldest brother Kelly earned 56 badges on his Eagle quest and helped get his younger

brother, Warren Pugh. Ryan and Roger both earned 119, all that were available at the time. Ryan is a sen-

Roger is a Latter-day Saints mission-

ary in Japan.

Winsor's wife, Grace, is active in Scouting too, working with the Cub Scout program. Their son Patrick, 50, followed his father's footsteps and is also an Eagle Scout.

Between 1912, when the first Eagle Scout ranks were awarded, and December 31, 1988, the names of 1,157,407 members of the Boy Scouts of America were entered in the National Eagle Scout Register. Ninety percent of these men are still living.

A demographic study of Eagle Scouts conducted in 1988 by NESA revealed that: 54,000 Eagles were still in high school, 105,000 were in college, 270,000 were between 22 and 31 years of age, 450,000 were between 32 and 55 and 121,000 were older than 55.

The study showed at least 400,000 Eagles over the age of 21 were not active in Scouting. Only a handful of these were not interested in reassociating with Scouting (6.1 percent) or quit because they were not used (4.9 percent).

That leaves 356,000 Eagle Scouts as a potential and valuable pool of experience for the Scouting program.

In 1988, 14 young men achieved the rank of Eagle in Mount Baker Area Council (Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan counties and North Whidbey Island). In 1989 the total doubled, with 28 achieving the top rank Scouting offers.

Mount Baker Area Scout executive Hastings estimated 25 to 30 will become the rank this year.

"Becoming an Eagle involves the whole family," Hastings said. "The boys and their parents and leaders are all to be commended for this expression of hard work and dedication to the Scouting spirit."