

Bicentennial Camporee at Fort Frederick is historic first

By LIBBIE POWELL

Bicentennial Camporee—1776-1976—is going to be an historic first.

For the very first time in any city, town or hamlet all over these United States, the Boy Scouts of America will join the Girl Scouts of America for a co-ed camporee.

This historic event will take place in an equally historic setting, Fort Frederick State Park, on the weekend of April 30-May 1. It is under the sponsorship of the Mason-Dixon Council, Boy Scouts of America and Shawnee Council, Girl Scouts USA and will be held in conjunction with the formal re-dedication of the newly restored Fort Frederick State Park.

The complex arrangements for this event, the logistics which all but stagger the imagination, involves 2,000 boys and girls from four states. It is being coordinated by Donald H. Frush as general chairman; and Annette Smith of Shawnee Council, Girl Scouts of America, general co-chairman.

Frush, Command Sergeant Major of the 510th Field Depot, USAR, Baltimore, Md., has marshalled numerous community organizations to support the affair. Leading Maryland State officials will be present for the dedication of the reconstructed barracks.

Other organizations playing a very important role in handling such a vast operation are the Washington County Sheriff's Department; Mack Trucks CB Club; the state and local tourism divisions; United States Army Reserve's 1007th Light Equipment Maintenance Company and the 510th Field Depot.

The overall themes of this Bicentennial Camporee are: "Heritage-Festivities-Horizons." This will be interpreted by the many scheduled events and special ceremonies to rededicate the oldest British stone fort in America.

Notables to be present

Fort Frederick, situated on the banks of the Potomac River, will be formally rededicated at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 1. A large group of dignitaries will be present including U.S. Senator Charles "Mac" Mathias, who hopes to be present; Maryland Comptroller Louis Goldstein, who will be the featured speaker; U.S. Congressman Goodloe E. Byron; Maryland State Senator John Corderman; State Senator Edward J. Mason; U.S. Representative William Shuman from Pennsylvania; Maryland Delegate Donald Munson;

West Virginia State Senator Robert Steptoe; Pennsylvania State Senator, William J. Moore; Maryland Secretary of State for Planning, Vladimir Wahbe; Maryland Bicentennial Commission chairman, Louise Gore; Maryland Bicentennial Commission director, Lt. Gen. Claire Hutchin; 97th ARCOM Commander Maj. Gen. B. L. Hutton; many county commissioners, mayors and counsellors, Interior Department representatives, National Park Service representatives, State Department Natural Resources representatives and military representatives.

Members of Scout troops of the Mason-Dixon Council, B.S.A., the Shawnee Girl Scout Council, Explorer Scouts and Scout units from other areas, will be in attendance. The public is invited and there is no charge for visitors.

For 85 cents

The Scouts are going to have a ball. And all for 85 cents. That is the total cost to the Scouts for the weekend of activity. Everything else has been underwritten by friends of Scouting and industry.

"We are already committed to almost 2,000 Scouts," chairman Don Frush said this week, when giving an insight into the enormity of the detail that has gone into the planning of this gigantic program. "We expect about 90 per cent of the Scouts to set up camp Friday afternoon and evening. The program does not actually start until 8 a.m. Saturday.

Then, at the sound of Jamie Bishop's bugle, things will get off to a flying start. In fact, Bishop will blow his bugle to announce every change of event during the day.

"We are having live Army Reserve units, including two local units, come from Cumberland and Baltimore. This doesn't include the National Guards. We will have constant communication with the Sheriff's Department. There will be a center command post for communications and I will be there at all time so that I will know who is arriving and what is going on.

"One of our biggest problems will be the traffic. Think of the amount of cars involved when all of the parents of the Scouts try to get up that one narrow road leading into the fort. Each person arriving will check in. If he is expected, he will have an escort, told where to park his car, then brought into the fort. There is no way anyone can get in there without first registering in."

Shades of the early settlers of the fort. Never in their

wildest dreams would they have thought their battle defense facility would have come to this!

Full schedule

The schedule for the Camporee, during which no ground fires will be permitted, all cooking will be done with propane gas or charcoal, will include several happenings that will take place both morning and afternoon on Saturday.

Following breakfast there will be a take-off on the TV program, "Almost Anything Goes" such as climbing a greased pole, crossing the plains, playing bases loaded, "Dunker Hill" and "Crossing The Delaware." These are all games of fun mixed in with a little bit of skill and rough and tumble.

There will be a canoe contest "over the rocks" on the Potomac; a "Pot of Gold" or survival contest, from McCoy's Ferry across country, so the Scouts can better understand their environment. Here, according to Frush, the Sheriff's Mounted Patrol will be on duty to "cut out and find any strays, and, through CB radios, we can turn them around in case it gets too late. These will help too for emergency reasons and in case of First Aid emergencies."

"During the fishing contest in Big Pool, the Scouts must bring back their catch and report to the head tent," Don Frush continued; "and 5,000 trees will be planted on state land, including a walnut grove at Fort Frederick, under supervision of the state and county foresters.

'Orienteering'

"The Orienteering will show the Scouts how to read maps and help them know where they're going, while some of the Scouts will design a new nature trail, then identify all of the plants to be found on it," Don explained.

"Other activities will be a demonstration by Cresaps Rifles, a Bicentennial recognition at 8 p.m., by Louise Gore and Lt. Gen. Hutchins of the State Bicentennial Committee; a "Retreat" at 6:05 p.m.; dinner under the direction of the Scout leaders; and a "Campfire Program."

This, Don says, is going to be just great. "We're going to have 'Friends 'N Spirit' and a Scout Talent Revue, plus a 'Mod' musicale, not a 'rock' but a 'Mod' bit of music.

"There will be ten major events for the Scouts, who will be in competition all day. Then, we'll have the camp fire program with "Taps" by Jamie Bishop at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday will bring breakfast at 7:30 a.m. followed by

church services at 9 a.m., arranged by Father Davies. There will be an Awards Retreat at 10 a.m. with patches distributed by Don Frush and Scout Executive Alan Shaeffer.

"The Scout Code and Scout honors will prevail throughout the Camporee. This is a must," the organizer stressed.

Those helping

Chairman for the program of activities will be: Mike McGauhey, arrival-set up tents; Wanda Allenback, "Almost Anything Goes"; Jim Brown, Orienteering; Paul Sprecher, "Nature Trail; Hyman Ross, fishing contest; Paul Sprecher, tree planting and fort re-dedication; Marty Snook, Don Munson, Bill Shuman, John Corderman, proclamations; Don Frush, Merle Elliott, VIP recognition; Sterling Moyer, canoe contest; and Keller Nigh, "Pot O' Gold Survival Course."

Cresap's Rifle Militia, it was learned, is a reactivated 18th century rifle company active in Western Maryland during the French and Indian War. It will assemble and drill on the Parade Ground and demonstrate firing muskets and rifles at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, May 1. The men will also execute a Retreat Ceremony with a firing of the six-pound cannon and the lowering of the flag.

The encampment will give every troop, post and individual Scout a chance to demonstrate skills acquired throughout the year. It will bring Scouts closer together through the teamwork needed to have a successful camping weekend.

Parents are invited to view the activities.

Overall committees

The official committee includes: chairman, Donald R. Frush, Boy Scouts of America; co-chairman, Annette Smith, Girl Scouts of America; publicity, Don Munson; physical arrangements, Mike McGauhey; physical arrangements VIPs, Marty Snook, Don Frush; outstanding awards, Hyman Ross; health and safety, Stoyan Russell; security, Mike McGaughey; inspection and judging, John Bogdanski, Merle Elliott and Hy Ross; VIP recognition, Merle Elliott; communications, Wanda Allenback; CB radios, Joe Craig, bugler, Jamie Bishop; headquarters cooks, Arthur Katz, registration, Alan Shaeffer; VIP Escorts, Coreen Potter; Trading Post, E.K. Mowen; activities equipment logistics, Mike McGauhey; camp site guides, Wilbur Kiene and H. W. Zimmerman; church services, Father Joseph Davies.