

Old Kia Kima News Letter

APRIL 1997
VOLUME 3
ISSUE 1
REUNION ISSUE

From The Lost And Found Department: Thank You, Kia Kima By Ron Tate

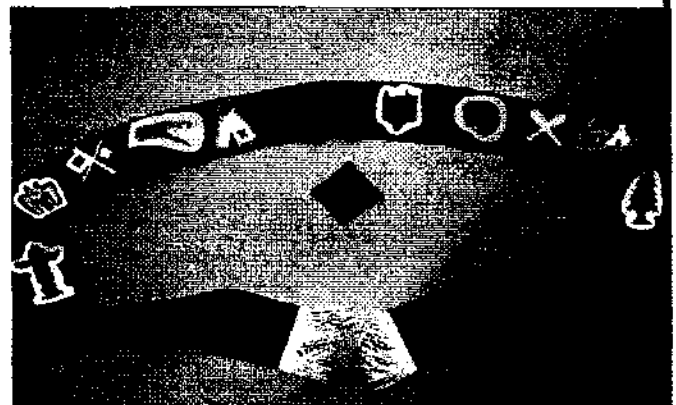
A few weeks ago, I received an unexpected phone call from John Hurt informing me that I had been found. One more soul from long ago Kia Kima. Recovered, properly identified, tagged (from what I've heard) like another Roy Riddick customer, and listed as having experienced what can only be described as the halcyon summers of Kamp Kia Kima in the heart of the Ozark mountains.

With minds racing through an endless supply of run-on sentences, our conversation was full of memories that some how defied reality. After all, we talked about things that seemed to have happened back when the earth was still a seething pit of molten lava. Names and places flowed again like the Spring and South Fork rivers.

What I found most enjoyable in my conversation with John was the whole notion of rekindling, reliving the spirit of Kia Kima. The simple act of reconvening members of that select body is as appealing to me as those cool breezes across Cedar Bluff. Even though all of us have changed lanes since our time at Kia Kima, I see a rare opportunity for sharing past lovely moments during each encounter if only briefly. I am thankful I was there and I shall look forward to being there again.

If there is anyone amongst us with a leaning towards "I'm too old for this stuff," take heart. Once you have a firm grip on the positive side of aging, you will discover, rejoice, and soon mellow to the fact that even

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What ever happened to your old Kia Kima sash? And what was its origin and its meaning?

Old Kia Kima Memory Quiz Number Two By Roy Riddick

That so many denizens of the grey brigade have returned to the land of the South Fork (indeed some live there) and that so many of us hoary-haired citizens have taken the time to articulate to each other the special feelings we have for that spot overlooking The River boggles the mind. Our attempts to preserve the place as best we can, our thoughts about providing the where withal for other scouts to have the type of experience we had, and our desire to remind those at the current Kia Kima of what went before bear witness to our deep feelings for the special place, which as Les Crocker put it, created a spirit which lives on in all of us- and one that none of us dares think of dying without some memento, some monument, some substantial mark to let others know that what really matters in life - deep personal relationships - was formed in laughter, sweat and no little romance during our sojourn in that place. We received a special gift.

One special feature of being a camper there consisted of a black felt sash with the year of first attendance and the old politically incorrect initials, KKK, sewn onto it. Each year thereafter the camper marked his attendance with a felt emblem that was sewn

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WIMACHTENDIENK WINGOLAUCHSIK WITAHemui



Words from Meteu as we began our journey so long ago.

O my friends, you are now starting
On a long and toilsome journey..
But before you undertake it,
You must Be Prepared completely.
Pause and look you back on Scouting
Whose sign and motto you accepted.
Long ago you gave your promise,
Said you firmly, "On my honor,
I'll Be Prepared — I'll do my duty."
It was plain to all who watched you.
Knowing this, we here shall test you,
For he needs to have faith and courage,
Straight must be his course and true
Who holds through many moons un-
flinching,

To pledges made in early manhood.
Symbolic of your strength and will,
I drive this arrow toward the sky.
Strong the bow and true the arrow
Straight the pathway to our goal.
(Shoots the arrow)

My solemn duty now demands that
Each new friend shall test the bow.
And doing so give proof in silence
Of his will to make the journey.

>> <<
>> <<

Call you now upon your Father
Great Creator of all nations.
To grant blessings on His children.
From His high and holy station
Guiding you upon your journey.
That his hand be stretched out to you,
As you ever help His people;
That his light may ever lead you;
As you lead the wayward to him;
That His love be ever with you,
As you love your fellow mortals.
That His Spirit rest upon you
To direct and rule and guide you
Till at last He calls you Home.
Pray you now in reverent silence,
Each of you in his own fashion.

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to the sash. After several years the paraphernalia was quite colorful, and on Friday nights for the campfire, all the scouts not decked out in Indian costumes wore the sash. To my knowledge no other Boy Scout Camp had this special badge as a memento of the time spent there.

Now for the questions, and the questions are for our history more than anything else, for I have no idea about the answers. First, how did the sash get started? Dudley, did Tweed Johnson have some left over from the thirties and present them during that first year of reopening in 1948? What has happened to this tradition? Now for the tough one. Which year did each of the emblems, tepee, buffalo head, Indian head, etc. represent? Please send your answers to John Hurt or put them out there on the Internet for us to chat about. A future edition of the Old Kia Kima News Letter will present our thoughts and hopefully, some answers.

Roy Riddick P.O. Box 608, Irvington, AL 36544

Definition of Purpose, a Proposal

by Bobby Harriss

Many ideas have been put forth since the OKKPA organization has been established that would preserve the memory of the staffers and campers that enjoyed the summers spent at the old campsite. They range from acquisition of the property to putting a plaque at the new Kia Kima in our memory.

It has also been proposed that we underwrite the cost of providing several weeks of paid camping to deserving scouts from the Chickasaw Council in memory of OKKPA members. This could be done on an annual basis and would provide us with an opportunity to provide some direct support to the scouting program and perpetuate the memory of "OLD Kia Kima" at the same time. This idea has been sent to members of OKKPA on the internet and has received a number of positive comments. The mechanics of how it would be implemented and administered have not been addressed, however there have been many ideas expressed relative to both issues.

What do you think?? This can be an item of discussion at the get-together in September. Think about it and come to the reunion and lets talk about it—all ideas are needed.

Bobby Harriss, 6 North Lakeshore Dr, Cherokee Village, AR 72542

What do the words in the headline mean? From what language do they come? First three correct written responses win an OKKPA Tbird T shirt.

Reply To:
David Fleming
1107 Halifax Ave
Davis, CA 95616

Editor?(Boy, would my 10th grade English teacher get a laugh if she saw me trying to wear that title.) John Hurt, C/O Armstrong Co., 3927 Winchester Rd, Memphis, Tn 38118 901 367 3054 or 800 288 7396

Ancient Artifact Discovered in Rag Box by Les Crocker

Several years ago my father gave me a 35 year old T-shirt for Christmas. While cleaning out his rag box (the age of the shirts an indicator of the regularity of his cleaning habits) he discovered the remains of one of my staff shirts from Kia Kima. It was battered and holey but the front logo remained intact. Now framed, it hangs on my wall as a reminder of time long past.

The bird that graces our News Letter is a recreation by Gordon (Scotty Monteath) done some years ago from memory but it's a surprisingly close rendition. I have no idea if the image remained the same over time, but this is the 1957/58 version. The head has one large eye in the center of the circle and three green lines on the left side of the head as feathers. The beak is red. The rain cloud that makes up his chest has a center triangle in red with the point down, dividing the two yellow clouds. The tail has a red bar across the top, a white line divides the black triangle that is pointing down. The tail is bordered with wavy green lines with six forked red tassel-like forms on each side. Gordon even got the number right. Five green tassels with red forked lines (squash blossoms) hang from the base of each wing. Above the head "Chickasaw Council" is printed in an arc. Beneath the bird is printed "Boy Scout Summer Camp" in an upward curving arc. "Staff" is printed in larger type beneath that.

Considering that the shirt was washed on South Fork (at least once a summer) and smoked by various campfires the original colors remain quite bright.

Dad included a 1991 Kia Kima 75th reunion patch that has a very stylized thunderbird on it, an obvious inferior offspring of the noble bird we knew. But history shows us that Royal families seldom breed true for

very long. A color corrected photo is now in the OKKPA archives of Dave Fleming. I'll keep the negative and the second copy until someone decides what to do with them, but they are available for any worthwhile cause. Rumor has it that one of the group has a cache of KK artifacts. *What else is out there?*

Leslie F Crocker, Rt #1 Box 274,
Houston MN 55943



A Kia Kima

Adventure by Dorris Goodman

I feel confident that each one of us have moments in which we reflect back on experiences and wonder how we ever "pulled it off." One such experience happened in 1948 when Buddy Irwin brought "Ole 97" to Kia Kima and took them to Calico Rock Cave for the first time. I'm not certain on all the details and maybe Louis Pritchett, Jimmy Boggs, Charles Dollar and several others on the same adventure can add to its' validity. None of us had ever undertaken a spelunking adventure such as this and the only thing we had was guts.

We had obtained the bare essentials (flashlights) and upon arriving in the area (a farmers ranch) we began looking for the entrance. As I recall we had all of Troop 97, including "Umpy" Osborne." Some were barely "Tender Feet." The cave entrance seemed to be quite large and did have a trickle of water on the floor but nothing to be concerned with. We all entered and continued back through several large rooms and some

narrow passageways. Still nothing to be concerned with. It was exciting! You could feel the adrenalin flowing.

The farther we went the more exciting it became. Our cave began to get smaller and we continued to move forward. It finally ended in a pool of crystal clear water, marred only by the bones of some long lost soul or animal, which, on being distributed by us disintegrated before our eyes. This should have been the end of our cave adventure but, oh no!

I'm not certain how the next few events occurred but suddenly I was in the water walking with just minimal breathing space over my head. It Seemed like an eternity, however it was probably only a few feet. Suddenly I came out in another large room, larger than any we had been in previously. We were able to bring all the troop through the water and into the new part of the cave. We continued on not knowing where we were or how to get back. I don't recall fear being one of the emotions, but looking back 40 plus years, it should have been.

We continued on from one room into another, the cave began to get smaller until it was only about 10 or 15 feet wide. We continued on, suddenly there in front of us was the most beautiful sight I think I have ever seen. The "Garden of Eden" appeared before my eyes. The sun shining brightly and a new adventure completed.

Although, I have never been back to Calico Rock Cave, that one adventure has been with me many times in my life. When uncertainty is facing you, sometimes the best thing to do is to keep on going forward and maybe the light will appear at the end of the tunnel. I understand that many scouts have been through Calico Rock Cave, none has or will ever have the feeling I had on that day many years ago. I thank Buddy Irwin, The Boy Scout Program, Kia Kima, and the many friends I have made in scouting through the years for many happy and memorable times.

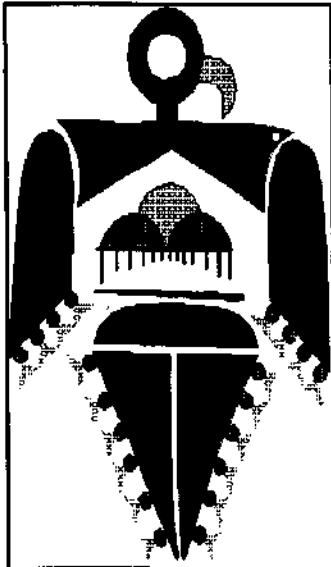
Dorris Goodman, 1008 Shades Rd,
Huntsville, AL 35803



We Are Expecting Our Biggest Kia Kima Reunion Yet!!



SEPTEMBER 1997



1997						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Labor Day 1	2nd PM	3rd XXXX	4th XXXX	5th AM	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
We will begin arriving between 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Tue. Sept 2nd. the day after Labor Day. We will begin departing after breakfast Friday Sept. the 5th.						
28	29	30				

Make plans to come! Among our many activities will be: A Cedar Bluff vesper visit. OKKPA (Old Kia Kima Preservation Association) Dinner. Visit to the old camp grounds and a visit to the new camp grounds. For those interested. a South Fork Canoe trip from Saddle to Slick Rock.. Or an alternate activity may include golf and or an upper falls swim and bull shoot. A Thursday night cook out and campfire. Each evenings' old camp war stories will continue until midnight. *You haven't laughed this much in years.* If you bring the wife, a daytime shopping and or tour activity will be provided for her.

Once again we will be staying at Village Vacations (M & S Property Mgt.Inc); P.O. box 448, Cherokee Village AR 72525; phone 800 331 5896 or 501 257 3258. Last year the cost was around \$25.00 to \$30.00 per person per night. We stayed in 3 person condos. The accommodations were adequate and reasonable. Contact David Fleming at 916 756 6430 or call Village vacations direct. If you call them direct be sure to tell them you will be with David Fleming and the Kia Kima group Also you may call John Hurt at 800 288 7396

You haven't laughed this much in years!

We Didn't Expect To Get a Bonus!

by John Hurt

Getting together with guys we hadn't seen for over 40 years has been everything we expected. It's been great to renew those Kia Kima friendships we made so long ago and relive a little of our youth. However, we didn't anticipate the new friendships that would develop. We've come in contact with guys from different staff years than ours, guys we didn't even know. So strong is the common bond of the Kia Kima experience that many of us have become instant friends. This winter while recovering from the flu and doing some reading I came across the following poem that made me think of what we have been experiencing.

Make new friends but keep the old; Those are silver, these are gold.

New-made friendships like new wine, Age will mellow and refine.

Friendships that have stood the test—

Time and change—are surely best; Brow may wrinkle, hair grow gray, Friendship never knows decay.

For 'mid old friends, tried and true, Once more we our youth renew.

But old friends, alas! may die; New friends must their place supply.

Cherish friendship in your breast— New is good, but old is best; Make new friends, but keep the old Those are silver, these are gold.

Yes, by all means come and renew those old friendships, and get a bonus! John Hurt 7791 Fawn Ridge Cr Mphs 38018



Will Old Kia Kima Be Remembered??

by Cohen 'Watusi' Oswald

In the beginning, that is after Old Kia Kima closed for the last time, there were only a few who would gather every year on the banks of the South Fork for a float trip and remembrance. Everyone who found his way to this group was welcomed. After I found the group by walking into the office at Savannah Lakes, SC and asking in a loud voice if anyone knew George Billingsley, I received a notice of the next gathering that began, "We have found another River Rat."

As this original group dwindled, others came to the meadow, crossed the river and walked through the camp for the first time in many years. The sights that greeted them must have saddened them. The Thunderbird Lodge and cabins in ruins, the waterfront, dining hall, trading post all gone. Even worse, was the evidence that some, to whom Kia Kima meant nothing, were using our beloved camp as a dump for their trash. Such an ignoble end for a place we loved.

And the Old Kia Kima Preservation Association (OKKPA) was born. Its charter is simple and direct. Acquire, restore and preserve Old Kia Kima. Oh, that it would be as easy to fulfill this noble goal as it is to state it. But it is not. The obstacles are formidable. I list here the obstacles I see, not to discourage and not to call for abandonment of the OKKPA charter, but for us to see clearly what must be overcome if we are to ever again see Kia Kima as it was except in our mind's eye. In the words of the military axiom, to know our enemy.

The person who now owns that small piece of land will not sell it below market price. Nor should we expect him to. It was never intended that we raise the purchase price within our own collective resources and this is good. Would those who could contribute little or none ever feel they were a part of the restored Kia Kima? The option is to receive a government (state or federal) or corporate grant.

States do make grants. I see the result of them in Cookeville often. But would Tennessee award a grant for a small piece of land in Arkansas when its fiscal year 1998 budget calls for a reduction of \$50 million in monies for its state colleges? Would Arkansas award a grant to purchase a small piece of land that was used almost exclusively (Crittenden County, Arkansas being the exception) by Tennessee scouts?

I don't know what federal grants may be available but I imagine even small grants from this source come under close scrutiny nowadays with the annual deficit and the national debt receiving so much worried attention. For the same stated reason support from Tennessee or Arkansas, could we count on a U. S. Representative from Tennessee or Arkansas to make representations on our behalf to a Federal agency, especially since the 75 of us are so scattered that we don't constitute even a tiny voting bloc?

The Middle Tennessee Council received a grant

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well-seasoned comrades needn't retire to Prune City never again to be heard from or about.

There is much talk these days about the aging process, including a host of fruitlessly unanswered questions about what can be done to slow it down. We reckon the subject is getting an abundance of play probably for the best or worst reasons, depending on how we look at it. You see, we have in this country an ever-increasing supply of folks like us who are passing through middle life, inexorably headed for the slow lane just to the right. But Eureka! One of the secrets to easing back into the left lane well found on the old camp ground. I relish the idea of doing the Kia Kima thing annually.

Just thinking about it has a refreshing, therapeutic effect on the heart-beat. Imagine spending three days a year that will make you forget the other three hundred and sixty-two even exist.

Although we're all from the same or similar cuts of cloth, albeit somewhat tattered, I can only speak for myself. Perhaps I've been blessed. I don't really feel any different now than when I sped past the thirty, forty, and fifty marks. I will however, admit to being more aware of television commercials hawking moisturizers, delicate skin creams, and ginseng products. And while I haven't consented to trying any of those things, I do study diligently what mirrors have to offer in return for twenty minutes of blank stares at a sucked-in profile.

I'm reminded of Mario Andretti's response to some of the younger Indy drivers who were expressing opinions that the older drivers should "hang it up."

Mario at the time, said, "Tell those guys I can't help it if I'm 47." Later, after Mario won the Indy 500, a reporter wrote, "Those guys would be a lot



better off if they concentrated on catching Mario Andretti than trying to get him to hang it up."

In a world full of couch potatoes, remotes in hand, we would all do well to remember that we still retain the right to make choices that count the most for at least three days a year. We can choose Mr. Whipple, Mrs. Olson, Madge the manicurist, the Tidy bowl Man, Depends, Polident, Big Sal, the Alpo Lady, and Ring Around the Collar...or Kamp Kia Kima, live and uninterrupted.

Nothing can make any of us any younger. The best we can do is take care of ourselves, be and do all we can be and do, consider a major attitude change if necessary, and don't rely too heavily on health food claims of no preservatives. Hell, we need all the preservatives we can get. As for jogging, it's another one of those choices we have. Personally, I no longer jog. The way I see it, if I die I'd rather be sick at the time.



is take a major health preservative choices I'd rather

Take this as enticement or as encouragement to join the group when next convened on the hallowed grounds of Kamp Kia Kima.

Late Breaking Note: During a one hour conversation only yesterday with Perry Gaither, Adjunct Professor of Dyed-In-The-Wool, Triple-A, Copper-bottomed, No-Holds-Barred Kia Kima stories, we uncovered enough fodder for another slide down the newsletter chute at a later date. Meantime, think deeply about the next gathering. And never forget the brilliant words of a few of the world's greatest philosophers.

To Do Is To Be -- Socrates

To Be Is To Do -- Plato

Do Be Do Be Do -- Sinatra

Film at eleven Ron Tate Commissary Director & Bologna Cup Extraordinaire, 8156 Walnut Valley Cove, Cordova, TN 38018

1932 Kia Kima Brochure Sheds Light On Roy's Quiz Questions

(Continued from page 5)

from Gaylord Entertainment, the folks who own, among other things, Opryland in Nashville. With this grant MTC built Gaylord Cub World a place to please any nine year old. National Capital area council received a grant from Marriott Corporation and built Camp Marriott. Both places swarm with boys and their parents in summer and on weekends. This is the key to corporate grants. Use their money in places where lots of people see their name

When we get past the acquisition obstacle we face the restoration obstacle. Do enough of us have the time, the proximity or, at our age, the energy to provide all the 'sweat equity' needed to get the job done?

Next is the preservation of Kia Kima as it was when we were boys or at least the prevention of its further use as a dump. Some have wondered if Chickasaw would be willing to take on the upkeep and maintenance of Old Kia Kima once we acquire it. Let me tell you what I've found out as an adult volunteer for 36 years. As boys we thought the Boy Scouts of America was a fun organization and it was,

"Let us leave a little part of Old Kia Kima in Scouts in the 21st century"

and is, at the boy level. Above the boy level, however, it is a business and is run as a business because it has to be in order to keep going. In each council a group of public spirited citizens

make the hard business decisions that must be made with and eye on the bottom line. Councils get most of their operating funds from the United Way and Friends of Scouting. Because of this, I doubt that the Council would put a nickel into property they relinquished 31 years ago unless there was a payoff in terms of direct benefit to today's scouts.

I do see a way to preserve and protect Kia Kima once it is acquired and restored. Others have mentioned this before me. Give it to Sharp County as a park to be used by the public and perhaps by disabled children, let it ring with their laughter before it can ever be said to be fully restored to the way we remember it.

Having said all the above discouraging words, for which I sincerely apologize for having given in to the strong need to say them, I now offer another way to preserve Old Kia Kima for as long as there is a republic and the BSA.. It can be done by us with no outside help and we can begin right now. I was not my idea, I hasten to add, but that of our brother, Bobby Harriss.

I look at my grandsons sometimes and reflect that they are my only claim to immortality. Perhaps a few of their first offspring will know me or, at least hear my name. Beyond them will come the time that not even my name will be remembered. And yet a little part of me will always exist in my descendants.

Let us leave a little part of Old Kia Kima in Scouts in the twenty-first century and beyond. If just 50 of us will donate the very modest sum of \$20. per year for the next five years we will have \$5,000 plus the interest that accrues during the five years. Let us have a written agreement with Chickasaw Council, signed by the OKKPA president and the Council president that the council will hold and invest this annual contribution from OKKPA until the corpus of \$5,000 plus the interim interest is reached. Thereafter, they will award half camperships to scouts, based on Scoutmasters recommendations, for a week at the new Kia Kima. Let the agreement state that it is left to Chickasaw Council to manage the investment returns of the rate of inflation and their hands should not be tied. They will be good stewards. If you agree to this and want to be a part of it, send a card to John Hurt, Whose address appears elsewhere in this newsletter, pledging \$20 a year for the next five years and that, if need be, your estate will fulfill the remainder of the pledge. Don't send money for this purpose yet. Not until we see if we have the participation to make it work. If enough of you pledge your support some of us will take it from there and report back to you. Old Kia Kima will then be preserved in the lives of boys yet to be born. Other contributions you wish to make toward OKKPA goals are always welcome. Cohen 'Watusi' Oswalt, 610 N Pickard, Cookeville, TN 38501

Seldom do answers to quiz questions come so quickly and they are usually reserved for the next issue of the news letter. However, when we found Gene Bradberry, staff of 56, 57 and 58, we found an instant source of *Kia Kima history*. Gene is a major league collector of many things. Fortunately for us one of his passions is collecting Kia Kima memorabilia of which he has a real cache of rare items. His answers to Roy's questions were too interesting to wait for the next issue.

The following quote is from page seven of Gene's 1932 Kia Kima '17th Season' Brochure under the heading Camp Honors. It is next to a picture of the Salomon Lodge (We knew it as the Tbird lounge. Hmm, we need to go after that bit of history too) reception room. "In putting the 'out' in Scouting, boys become well acquainted with many of Nature's secrets, and the art of taking care of themselves in the open. Kia Kima awards an emblem to every Scout who passes the required tests. The first year emblem is a black sash with the letters K.K.K. in red in the center, and gold fringe on the ends. It is worn around the waist. For each succeeding year a distinctive emblem is added to the sash. Scouts are proud to wear this honor as it is a tribute to their ability to take care of themselves in the great out of doors." This doesn't tell us the origin of the sash but it does show us that the tradition went way back.

Gene also provided the following information on the Kia Kima sash and the year patches that went on it. Year 1-the Sash, 2. Teepee, 3. Buffalo Head, 4. Indian Head, 5. Crossed Canoe Paddles, 6. Bat, 7. Round W-K, 8 Crossed Signalling Flags, 9. Blue on White Thunderbird, 10. Indian Head on Arrowhead, 11. Totem Pole, 12. Cedar Tree, 13. Snake Head, 14. Campsite, 15. Indian Good Luck Symbol, 16. Flaming Arrow.

Evidently, Roy was right in that camps in other councils did not have this type camp sash and it was for just this reason, according to Gene's memory, that The Chickasaw Council got pressure from the National Council to do away with the Sash. So somewhere in the mid to late 50's the Sash was dropped as a camp emblem.

DON'T MISS THE REUNION!!!!!!!!!!!!

The following guys have already indicated that they are comming to the 97 reunion.

Frank Simonton, Lofton 'Buddy' Keltner, 'Umpy' Osborn, Lou Pritchett, Jimmy Boggs, Bobby Harriss, Bobby Williams, David Fleming, Angus Emerson, Ron Tate, Cohen 'Watusi' Oswalt, Charles Wilson, John Hudson, Dorris Goodman, Gordon 'Scotty' Monteath, Jerry Gresham Phil Glasgow, John Hurt, Gene Bradberry, David Bowman.

Brothers and Friends of the South Fork and its Environs

by David Fleming

Over the course of the last four years we have been gathering bits and pieces of information about where we are, where we have been, what we have done, and where we have yet to go, etc. Unfortunately none of this has been put into a form we could all share. What we desire is a compilation of biographical sketches that would help us assimilate this information. With that in mind, would you please take the time to write your responses to the following suggested items? By all means expand on the thoughts and ideas sparked by these items. There isn't a formal format, only for learning more about each other. We will prepare a notebook to send to each of you (hopefully) before the 1997 reunion. Don't feel obligated to stick with a specific format. Let the good times just roll off your mind onto the paper. We want to know your scouting background, where life's steps have taken you, and where our paths may have crossed. Of particular interest is the influence of Scouting and your experience in and around Kia Kima, Kiwani, Miramichie, Hardy, Cedar Valley, and the South fork and Spring Rivers

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone, Hm _____ Wk _____

Fax _____ e-mail _____

Place of birth _____

Scouting background, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, camps attended _____

Little known info relative to you and camp _____

Dates in and around Hardy as a camper, staff member, camp director, etc. _____

Education _____

Military _____

Profession, career _____



What has your camp experience meant to you? _____

Interest, hobbies, sports, travels _____

Marriage(s) Spouse, friend _____

Children, Grandchildren, Great grandchildren _____

Anything else you would like to add=85 _____

If you don't like this format tear it up and use a plain sheet of paper. Whatever format you prefer, other than stone tablets, please send your final product to: David Fleming, 1107 Halifax Avenue, Davis, CA 95616 916 756 6430

Can We Do It?

Can we do it? Can some part of old Kia Kima be saved? Most defiantly Yes! The issue is not CAN we save old Kia Kima, but WHAT we choose to save, or what we choose to recreate.

I know that this is an emotional thing for some of us, and emotions aren't logical or realistic. But it is the emotional part that makes me believe we can do it. Our emotions often speak truths that our practical side is afraid to even consider. Probably the first thought in your mind is how can we save the Thunderbird Lodge, some of the cabins and maybe even the whole camp. Acquiring the land and restoring the lodge will take money and time, but we can do it. One of my interests is architectural history so let me use it as an example of what can be done by determined people.



In Charleston, S.C. many years ago a group of 'little old ladies' decided that they were tired of the old houses being torn down to make room for hamburger joints. Today Nachez, Ms, Madison IN., Oak Park IL, Newport RI, and dozens of other towns across the U.S. are known for their historic houses and there are architectural preservation offices in every state. Preservation works!

We can buy the land and put the buildings back together, but it wasn't ever just a place. To continue Old Kia Kima we must make it- once again- a living entity that teaches, entertains, and gives understanding about what it means to be moral human beings. Several possibilities have been put forward.

There are many scouts and even more former scouts across the world but there are very few scouting museums. Our history is part of the bigger history of scouting and we could use the site to tell the story. The site should be used as a nature preserve with and educational or research purpose. The mountains of northern Arkansas are rich in forms of life found nowhere else on the continent. The geological history is complex and interesting. What about the history of the peoples who lived in that area before whites came in?

Old Kia Kima is not just a place, and our preservation

efforts shouldn't be just land and stones. As I rediscover brothers one theme is repeated—how much the experience meant to all of us. Can we preserve that experience?

Again, I have to answer yes! We can't preserve the experience that we had but we can preserve the spirit of that experience. Various people have suggested ways of preserving the spirit of Old Kia Kima.

A fund could be created to provide Camperships to new Kia Kima for boys unable to pay their own way. A trust set up by us would continue to give others a special experience long after we have gone to the great Pow Wow beyond the horizon. How's that for the spirit of helping?

A history of the camp needs to be written, perhaps including how the people who came through the camp went on to serve our nation. There are lots of us who were affected, and have continued to affect others with our goals and ideals, 'That's part of the spirit.

A monument or memorial to the old camp at the new camp along with some "educational" material would allow the young campers to connect with a tradition that is now more than three quarters of a century old. In a time of unceasing change we can provide a connection with something important that has been going on longer than any one of us.

Why would we want to do this? Are we a bunch of old farts with nothing better to do with our time? Not likely! We are here because of a personal obligation. Law number one, A scout is trustworthy, he always takes care of his debts. We have a debt to pay. But you can't repay some debts. We can't "pay back" all the people that have helped us. But we can pay, "pay forward" to those who follow us. We can remove our own personal debt by giving to those who need the help. OKKPA is a way of paying forward to the many generations that will follow us.

Each of us has their own view of what needs to be done and what can be done. There are many paths to our final destination. Walk with us along these trails. **Leslie F. Crocker Rt #1 Box 274 Houston, MN 55943**

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Wanted: Volunteers for the History work group. Help us find the facts and information about Old Kia Kima so we can begin putting together our 'History.'

Wanted: Photos of the old Tbird lodge and other physical Kia Kima buildings. Yes, we'll make copies and get your original back to you.

Wanted: Volunteers for the membership work group. Our goal for OKKPA is 1000, yes 1000 members. With your help we can do it!

Wanted: Volunteers for a Grants work group. Help us find what money is out there for a groups like ours..

Wanted: A work group to help us decide what kind of a plaque, memorial or sculpture to commemorate OKK and where (?) to put it. And how do we pay for it?

Wanted: An Achievement Recognition 'WG' to work

on setting up an endowment to sponsor worthy scouts who don't have the funds to go to camp.

Wanted: A 'WG' with the know how and savvy to set up an OKKPA web site on the internet linked to the BSA, the Chickasaw Council and whatever else seems relevant. **By the way, sign own to the OKKPA e-mail group at**

PKBY98A@prodigy.com or KAMPKIMA@aol.com

Wanted: Help with the Publications 'WG.' Wanted now! Articles for the July News Letter. Your favorite Kia Kima memory or experience. What Kia Kima has meant to you, or whatever, etc. Wanted, Some one to do a regular "bits and pieces - tid bits - gossip -news page."

Wanted: Yes, we want your ideas and comments and your help and support. David Fleming, 1107 Halifax, Davis, CA 95616 916 756 6430 or John Hurt, 7791 Fawn Ridge Cv. Cordova, TN 38018 901 757 9001 or 800 288 7396