

# Old Kia Kima News



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## Something New This Year

Some of OKKPA's newer members including Rick Schmid, Johnny Fletcher, and Dennis Cain, all previous members of the Kia Kima Scout Reservation Staff, have concocted a real treat for the alumni of both Old Kia Kima and The Kia Kima Scout Reservation.

This year we are trying to tighten the bonds of our heritage with the Kia Kima Scout Reservation. These former KCSR Staffers have put together a tremendous program for both the OKK and the KCSR alumni that will introduce both camps to those of us that are only familiar with our own heritage.

On Friday Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, they have made provisions for a tour of the Scout Reser-

vation for everyone. They have arranged for a number of the camp staff to be on hand for tours of the reservation including use of the field sports area ( includes use of the rifle range, archery range and skeet range ), a cookout lunch at the camp and a short canoe trip from the reservation to Slick Rock.

Also Canoes and row boats will be available at the lake. Fishing is permitted in the river or lake. Repelling and black powder shooting will be available.

It is a real honor to have these "young" men take up the baton and run with it. It will inevitably be up to members of their generation and those who follow them to continue what we "older" guys have started.

Plan on attending the Reunion in September and bring a friend with you. You'll both be glad you came.

The Wall Street Journal June 6, 1968

**“Flying prospects to the Factory is an added dimension for our client’s equipment evaluation,”**

says Harry C. Danciger, President, Danciger Equipment Company, Inc., Memphis, Tennessee

Danciger Equipment Company, a manufacturer’s representative, sells rolling equipment such as stainless steel food carts, stretchers and linen trucks to hospitals and institutions over a 5-state area. You just can’t carry samples like these around to customers, so it’s easier to carry the customers to them, as Harry C. Danciger does in his new Piper Twin Comanche.



Says Mr. Danciger, “I fly hospital administrators, dealer, dietitians and architects to our factory for a plant tour, then fly to a hospital to see the equipment in use, and still get my passengers back home in time for dinner. As an example of how fast you can move with your airplane, in one day I flew 350 miles to see a hospital administrator in Knoxville, answered an emergency call for an architect in Birmingham, Alabama, then flew home...over 800 miles, and two important calls, all in one day.”

The sleek three-mile-a-minute Twin Comanche is the third Piper plane Mr. Danciger has owned and flown. “I even managed to get a large order for food service equipment on my way home from Lock Haven when I picked up my new airplane,” Mr. Danciger reports.

**Soaring Above the South Fork Waters...**

David Fleming

It was Wednesday during the last week of Old Kia Kima’s eight-week 1951 summer camping season when I was quietly sitting on the swing at the Point with Dad. In the middle of the river—almost falling from a canoe—was one of *George Billingsley’s* waterfront men loudly and excitedly shouting down river at the top of his lungs, “*McWhorter*, look... American Egrets!”

The shouting came from one of Kia Kima’s memorable characters—*Harry “Chigger” Danciger*—who at that moment had identified the last of the birds for his Bird Study merit badge, which completed his Eagle Scout requirements. *Jim McWhorter*—another revered name among those serving on the 1951 OKK Staff and OKK’s first Trek Master—was on the receiving end of *Chigger’s* shout. From that time forward *Chigger* would soar as an Eagle high above the South Fork Waters and over the USA.

To know *Chigger* is to know the meaning of OKKPA’s core values. As a 13 year old camper in 1951 and now at 66, I continue seeing *Chigger* as a man who has always epitomized the meaning of *Integrity, Responsibility, Achievement, and Courage*. To know *Chigger* better, I offer these brief snippets beginning with a nickname that has endured the test of time.

While attending Snowden Junior High School, near Overton Park, Harry Danciger

was known by his pals as *Ciger*. But, the football coach thought he heard the team members calling him *Chigger*; thus, *Ciger* became *Chigger*, forever embedded in the language of his school chums at Central High School, college friends at Ole Miss (University of Mississippi), and scouting buddies. If you look carefully, you can find his name in on one of OKK's restored cabin walls, the old waterfront staff cabin #2 (known now as Hopi).

Even today he appreciates and happily responds to "*Hi, Chigger.*" It was especially interesting in 1951 when we campers snickered upon learning that *Chigger* was courting a Camp Kiwani Girl Scout counselor by the name of "*Cricket*", *Mary Frances Easom*. Imagine a *Chigger* courting a *Cricket*!

As a journalism graduate from Ole Miss and as a commissioned officer in the USAF, *Chigger* was assigned to duty as a USAF Information Services Officer. Later he would serve as the executive/supply officer at an Air Force pilot training school. Although ineligible for USAF piloting, *Chigger's* charming personality won the trust of his fellow flying officers who frequently invited him to fly in trainer aircraft (T-28's); this instilled in him his love for flying and gave him the opportunity to learn the vernacular of flying. Later he qualified as a multi-engine civilian pilot (see photo from the *Wall Street Journal* June 6, 1968).

Like our other OKK pilot brothers, *Bobby Harriss* and *Ron Pollard*, who have soared above the South Fork Waters, *Harry "Chigger" Danciger* has put his OKK Eagle flying values to good use in his business and service to humankind.

## A New Adventure Program

### Old Kia Kima



#### Heritage Trail

This spring a committee headed by Steve Demster designed and set up an adventure trail for groups using the camp facilities.

It encompasses many varied activities that incorporate the history of Old Kia Kima and northern Arkansas, as well as the Hardy and Cherokee Village towns. It requires some compass work as well as tree identification.

The participants must be very observant and listen closely as they are told short antidotes at each stop along the trail. This activity should take about half a day and covers about 4 miles of hiking. Questions are asked at each stop and must be answered to complete the trail. At the end of the trail there is a surprise for each youth. Upon successful completion each person receives a heritage trail patch.

# My Ties to Kia Kima and Scouting

By Dan McGuire

I am a native Memphian and have lived here all my life except for 4 years in the Air Force, 3 years in Jackson, MS and Houston, TX with Avis Rent-a-car, and about 2 years spent a week at a time in various Boy Scout camps around the SE US. I graduated from Catholic High and attended Christian Brothers and Memphis State. I am employed by the Kroger Company in their distribution center and have been with them over 22 years. Currently, I am single and have a 33 year-old daughter. I am the president of St. Michael's Federal Credit Union and volunteer at the Orpheum Theater supporting the performing arts.

My life in Scouting began long before Cubs when my father and oldest brother joined a troop in 1948. In one way or another, it has been in my life ever since. My first exposure to Kia Kima came in 1953 when my family went to camp to visit my brother, Tommy, who was on the staff. I still have very vivid memories of the visit. One memory of that trip probably shaped the rest of my life. I can remember being in the top of the T-birds nest visiting the camp directors family and looking out the window down to the waterfront. There was a young man, probably staff, doing a beautiful crawl stroke across the swimming area. I commented to my mother that I wished I

could swim like that. She told me that if I worked hard and practiced (sounds like a mother, doesn't it), I would be able to do it. That probably started my career in Scouting aquatics.

The official start in Scouting came with my joining Cubs where I earned enough arrow points that they were sewed on my shirt below the belt line. I was in Pack 66 at St. Michael's Catholic Church on Summer at Graham. In May, 1957, at eleven, I joined the troop and my second camp out was a week at camp. I was really hooked and returned to camp in '58 and '59, took off a year to go to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary National Jamboree in Colorado Springs, CO, returning to camp in '61. Along the way, I earned my religious award and Eagle. In the early spring of 1965, I was selected for the Vigil Honor of the OA. The summer of '65 was my first staff year. Boyd Billingsley and I went to National Camp School for Aquatics before camp. We built Camp Cherokee at the new reservation that staff week.

The next spring, I joined the Air Force but did not leave Scouting. On a six month temporary duty to Okinawa, I joined a troop as an assistant Scoutmaster and took a week off at Christmas to do a 50 mile hike around one end of the island. It didn't hurt that the Troop Committee

Chairman was my Squadron Commander. Returning to Florida, one of the sergeants in my shop recruited me to help with his son's troop. In Vietnam, I was stationed at an airbase along the coast of the South China Sea that had a secured beach. One day on the beach while playing football, a guy walked up to me and asked where I got the Kia Kima t-shirt that I was wearing. I assured him that I had earned the staff shirt and he replied that he had attended both camps. Small world.

After my discharge, I returned to Memphis, got married, resumed college and took a pregnant wife to spend the summer at camp. Since my certificate from Aquatic School expired, I had to do it again. I was the WF director at what is now called Camp Osage in 1970 and at Camp Cherokee in 1971. Oh, the baby was a girl born in September, 1970. After camp, I was asked to form an Explorer Post for staff members. Along with Frank Mund, John McGuire, Ron Naro, John Fletcher and others, we kept it going for 7 years. In 1981, I returned to KKSRS to be Reservation Director.

1971 started a new phase in Scouting Aquatics. I was asked to be on the faculty of the Aquatics Section of National School. Since then, I have been either on the faculty or been the Section Director working at camps all over the southeast. That work led to being asked to be on the National Health and Safety Committee and Aquatic subcommittee where I participated for 6 years in helping guide the de-

velopment and updating of programs for Scouting Aquatics. I participated in the writing or review of the aquatic related merit badges, the creation of the White-water Canoeing merit badge, co-authored the Rowing merit badge pamphlet, and helped create the Snorkeling and Board Sailing activity programs. In 1977, I was part of the committee that developed the Safety Afloat program in response to an explosion in recreational activity on the water.

My Scouting career in Memphis has included: Asst. Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Chairman, Explorer Advisor, District Camping Chairman, District Advancement Chairman, Council Camping Committee. I received the District Award of Merit in 1987 and the Silver Beaver in 1989. In 1990, I took Wood Badge and the following year served on the faculty.

Currently, I am on the Council Camping Committee, the Area Camp Visitation team, and continue to teach at National Camping School. I also teach Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat at various activities during the year.

On May 20, 2004, the Southern Region of the Boy Scouts presented me with the Silver Antelope for service to the youth of the Region.

# My Early Days of Camping

By Steve Horne

At Old Kia Kima 1952—1962

1954 – My Troop No. 64, Prescott Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee decided to spend two weeks at Slick Rock, the outpost camp.

My Scoutmaster, Mr. Queen, was a retired army sergeant, was tough and that's the way his scouts learned to be. We planned a weekend camping trip once a month – Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. No matter what the weather it would not be cancelled. Usually going to Camp Currier, we would setup tents, gather fire wood, cook hot dogs, and then hit the sack. Nobody even had a sleeping bag, only blankets and a ground cloth. Mr. Queen would not stay in the cabins, which were still there at the time. We camped in 2-man pup tents. He was a great organizer. Every boy had an assigned task to do.

Fire builder, cook, water hauler or dish washer. At sunrise, breakfast was on the camp fire and we cooked it – bacon and eggs, pancakes, whatever. You learned to cook over an open fire, talley\_n@bellsouth.net  
over wood coals and the only sandwiches were at lunch. For supper we had a big hearty meal. Our troop had a lot of support from the church councilmen. One of them was Carl Payne's father, a camper who knew how to do everything, it seemed. I really think it was Mr. Payne

who taught us a lot about fire building and cooking and the knack of making a thick paste of soap to put on the cooking pots so that they would be easy to clean up. We were never idle on camping trips and we learned to work in patrols. Rain or shine. Hot or cold, we did it. And we didn't have a lot of equipment. Candles and kerosene lanterns, wood matches, pots and iron skillets, lard and no flashlights, that was about it. If it got rough, no complaining. Get wet or cold and you made the best of it.

Mr. Queen took us to Slick Rock for two weeks. That was going to be a real experience. Never camping out for more than two nights, this was going to be thirteen nights with almost nothing, and rough primitive camping.

Arriving at camp, we had our physicals and swim test, a baloney and cheese sandwich and a canteen of water.

We set out on foot on the Slick Rock Road for Slick Rock, our packs on our backs.

Slick Rock on those days was extremely remote. There was nothing there. We passed only a very few houses – all old mountain people who didn't much like us.

Slick Rock Was a fjord across the South

Fork River. A shallow place where wagons and mules could cross. So named because the rocks were slick. The next fjord down river was called Finkinger Fjord, where the ancestral farm home of the Waverick family was located in a big rambling log house that was more than a hundred years old, but sound and very pristine and just beautiful.

I didn't know it then but I was to transverse the Nine-Mile Ridge Road to the back side of Cherokee Village hundreds of times, mostly on foot. Cherokee Village did not even exist then. The Nine-Mile Ridge Road went to Ash Flat, and the old Slick Roick Road went to Hardy. All rough gravel and no bridges. Even the highway to Hardy and Ash Flat was gravel. There were no paved roads.

Arriving at Slick Rock in the rain, our Troop went to our camp site. Just set up tents and a few water cans and that was all. It seems we had small wall tents – maybe 3-man , but no bunks, and not enough straw mattresses to go around. My buddy and I got a tent but no mattress. So we threw a ground cloth down and put our packs inside.

It was raining cats and dogs and did so for the next three days. It was also cold. A fire was built under a dining fly and I think we had fried baloney, instant mashed potatoes, bread and cheese and powdered hot chocolate. This was my first of the delicious dish known as “S\*\*\* on a Shingle”.

We crawled into our tent on the soggy , lit a candle, crawled under our blankets and fell off to a torrential rain.

The next morning I was on the wood detail. Still raining and cold. It was hard to find any dry wood. Mr. Payne made a “frizzle stick” out of dead cedar and I split some with my hatchet. Soon we had a roaring fire. Even today I'm the fire builder and I'm going to have a good fire first thing and I'll keep it going. I can find dry wood somewhere and for tender look for an old bird's nest in a thicket. Works every time. I definitely remember all of this, as I never really forgot it.

I soon got really good with an axe and could split wood and make it fly. We never used any type of saw. Rain – Rain for two more days. Hauling wood and water up from the river in five gallon cans, digging a latrine which consisted of a big trench in the ground about three feet deep, crossed poles on each end and lashed together, and a cross pole for a seat and another for the back. Very comfortable and you could sit there in the woods and watch the birds and squirrels and think.

I soon got going barefoot, as socks were impossible to clean and you wore a few cloths as possible. No underwear. And at this time I don't remember any moccasins, anyway we didn't have them. Neither did we have flashlights. You just walked around at night barefooted, with no light. I never used a flashlight at camp, even on the staff. I couldn't afford the batteries and they were no good anyway. A kerosene lantern was much better, or even a candle.

Well I'm getting too far away from my story which is why I'm writing this.

*To be continued in the next newsletter*

## Old Kia Kima now has a Waterfront

In the last few weeks Dan McGuire, Bobby Harriss, Steven O'Neal- Arkansas Game and Fish, George Clark and others have put out a Herculean effort in preparing a waterfront for use this summer.

The swimming area is located just up river from the old beach area. There was a large tree in the river that had to be cleared. Also the bottom had to be cleaned and lily pads had to be removed. The Dock had to be installed and the area for swimming had to be roped off.

In order to get to the area, the road had to be extended and graveled. The beach also had to have sand brought in.

This has all be done and we now have a temporary waterfront for use by campers.



Steven O'Neal  
Arkansas Game and Fish

Removing the tree from the swim  
area



The Beach

The Dock



## PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2004 REUNION

The guys from The Kia Kima Scout Reservation are really preparing a great tour of their facilities for OKKPA members. It looks like it will be our best reunion yet.

**DON'T MISS OUT ON A SUPER REUNION**

### Reunion Fees

Registration \$20 - (*Spouse and children under 18 - no charge*)

Dues \$25 - \$50 - \$100 (*Oct 1 thru Sept. 30*)

Cabin upkeep donation \$50 (*for those staying in the cabins*)

#### **Thursday**

Golf Tournament \$30 (*\$40 with Cart*) per person

Dinner \$10—\$12 (*estimate*)

Ice Cream Social \$5

#### **Friday**

KKSR Tour \$5 (*includes all activities and a cook out*)

Lunch at OKK \$5 (*for those not going on the KKSR Tour*)

Banquet \$16

#### **Saturday**

Canoe Trip \$20

Lunch at OKK \$5

Ladies Luncheon \$10

B-B-Q at OKK \$7

**Check our Web Site for any Schedule or Fee updates**

[www.oldkiakima.org](http://www.oldkiakima.org)

# OKKPA 2004 Reunion

**Friday, September 17**

**KIA KIMA Scout Reservation hosting Old Kia Kima**

## **KKSR Tour and Activities**

8:00 AM Depart for KKSR

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

*(A FEE OF \$5 PER PERSON WILL COVER ALL ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS A COOK OUT)*

Activities will include:

Tour of KKSR

Rifle Range

Skeet shooting

Archery

Repelling

Canoeing or rowboats at lake

Fishing, river or lake

Short canoe trip from KKSR to Slick Rock

Cookout

Black powder shooting

Vespers at Chapel overlooking the South Fork

3:00 PM Return to OKK

**Saturday, September 18**

**OLD KIA KIMA hosting Kia Kima Scout Reservation**

History of OKK

Preservation of OKK (Slide show or movie?)

Tour

Attend Annual OKKPA Business Meeting

BBQ Cookout

Fellowship with OKK staff members

**Saturday Evening Closing Campfire**

## 2004 Reunion Schedule for September 16, 17, 18, 19

### Thursday, September 16th

9:00 a.m. Registration at Old Kia Kima (camp office)  
 1:00 p.m. Golf Tournament at Cherokee Village South Golf Course  
 5:30 p.m. Dinner— Clyde's Chuck Wagon Restaurant, Ash Flat  
 7:00 p.m. Vespers at Cedar Bluff  
 8:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social at Hardy Malt Shop

### Friday, September 17th

Breakfast on your own  
 8:00 a.m. Assemble for Departure from Old Kia Kima for Kia Kima Scout Reservation (Meet at the Pavilion)

#### KIA KIMA SCOUT RESERVATION hosting OLD KIA KIMA at KKS R Tour and Activities at KKS

8:00 a.m. Depart for KKS (Caravan)  
 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
 (A FEE OF \$5 PER PERSON WILL COVER ALL ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS A COOK OUT )  
 Activities will include :  
 Tour of KKS  
 Rifle Range  
 Skeet shooting  
 Archery  
 Repelling  
 Canoeing or rowboats at lake  
 Fishing, river or lake  
 Short canoe trip from KKS to Slick Rock  
 Lunch Cookout  
 Black powder shooting  
 Vespers at Chapel overlooking the South Fork  
 3:00 p.m. - Return to OKK

9:00 a.m. For late arrivals & those not on the KKS Tour, Registration/activities continue at Old Kia Kima.  
 10:00 a.m. Free Time (Coffee and fellowship @ the pavilion)  
 Noon Cold Cut Luncheon @ Old Kia Kima Dining Pavilion  
 1:00 p.m. Games and Fellowship for anyone remaining at the Old Camp  
 3:00 p.m. KKS Tour participants will return to Old Kia Kima  
 6:30 p.m. Social Hour @ Arkansas Traveler on Hwy 62  
 7:00 p.m. OKKPA Banquet @ Arkansas Traveler - Guest Speaker- Lee Morriss-Mueller, Scout Executive, Girl Scouts of the MID-SOUTH  
Saturday, September 18th

Breakfast on your own

8:00 a.m. Depart for canoe trip from Humphries' Ford to Hardy  
 9:00 a.m. For late arrivals, registration at Old Kia Kima continues (Camp Office)

10:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship @ the pavilion

Noon Return from the canoe trip  
 Noon Ladies Luncheon at Cabin #22 at Spring River Beach Club across from Spring River Beach Club Office  
 Noon Hot Dog Cook Out @ Old Kia Kima Dining Pavilion

#### OLD KIA KIMA hosting KIA KIMA SCOUT RESERVATION @ OKK

#### Old Kia Kima Tour and Activities at Old Kia Kima

1:00p.m. Tour, history and slideshow of OKK with Ranger training for new rangers for the new season  
 4:00 p.m. OKKPA Business Meeting @ Pavilion  
 6:00 p.m. BBQ @ Old Kia Kima Dining Pavilion  
 8:30 p.m. Campfire @ Old Kia Kima Campfire Amphitheater

### Sunday, September 19 th

7:45 a.m. Vesper Services  
 9:00 a.m. Farewell Breakfast on your own at Timberline Café

**OLD KIA KIMA  
PRESERVATION  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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**Annual  
REUNION**

**September  
16 -17-18-19  
2004**

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## Your Dues

Your dues run from October 1 thru September 30 of each year.

In order to participate in the annual meeting and election, your dues must be current.

You may use the enclosed form to both pay your dues and register for the reunion.

There are three levels of dues \$25—\$50—\$100. You may pay at which ever level you are comfortable. Larger donations are certainly accepted.

Your dues help defray the cost of this newsletter and operational expenses.