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War's End Brought Town Its Own Girl Scout Council by Mrs. Anthony Velonis

Eight years ago, on June 27, 1945, a public meeting was held to discuss the formation of a Glen Rock Girl Scout Council. Prior to this time Glen Rock Girl Scouts were included in the Paterson area. Judge Philip C. Wadsworth presided, and representatives of eight organizations in town, plus members of the Glen Rock Girl Scout District Committee, troop leaders, and citizens interested in scouting, attended.

Miss Anne Graham of National Headquarters outlined the program and explained the help that the national office could give. Chester B. Pierce presented a resolution to the effect that the Borough of Glen Rock establish an independent Girl Scout Council, which was approved.

The first president of the Council was Mrs. Chester B. Pierce, who served until June 1948. Mrs. R. W. Douglass, the second president, served until June 1952. Mrs. S. D. Koonce is president now.

From the beginning, organization chairmen have worked hard to establish enough troops to accommodate all the girls who want to be part of scouting. Getting leaders has always been the biggest problem. The PTA in each school has a representative on the Council to help in this work.

During the first year of the Glen Rock Council there were 11 troops and 24 leaders, with a total registration of 215 girls and 96 adults. This year the troops number 14, with 45 leaders, and a total of 335 girls and 125 adults. The present organization chairman, Mrs. James T. Walker, recently planned a tea for mothers of youngsters who will reach Brownie age by fall. Although very few mothers attended, all of those who did will become leaders.

The training chairman works very closely with organization and program. There is an intensive 16 hour training period for leaders, which covers all phases of activity flag ceremonies, program planning, games and songs, and record keeping. During the year Leaders Club meetings are held once a month, with outside experts coming to demonstrate various scouting projects and activities. Help is available for planning field trips and other outdoor events. Mrs. John Gluckler has been training chairman this year.

The program chairman is responsible for planning and carrying out such affairs as the Fall Rally, the Mother-Daughter Dinner and Spring Rally. This year Mrs. John Bridge and her committee also provided a Roller Skating Party for Intermediate troops and a Picnic at Ringwood Manor for Brownie troops.

The Girl Scout Council is a Community Chest agency, and the interesting and varied program is made possible by the generous support of the Chest. There are many program aids for troop leaders in the office: a bookshelf crammed with information, equipment for outdoor activities, flags, filmstrips, etc. The office is on the second floor of the Municipal Building, and is open at least two afternoons a week, with an able Scout-wise person in charge.

In the fall of 1947 the first Cookie Sale was held, and 1630 boxes were sold. This is the only money raising event the Scouts participate in. This year, with Mrs. John Phillips as chairman, 6774 boxes were sold.

For two years a two week Day Camp was run by the Council, but in the last several years Glen Rock Girl Scouts and Brownies have participated in the Ridgewood Day Camp. The new Camp Chairman is Jack Sheridan and the council is hoping to put more emphasis on camping through his leadership. A permanent Camp Fund was started several years ago, but that project is not expected to be realized for some time.

Brownie troops start by working on crafts, making sit-upons, and often include some service project for hospitalized or orphaned children. In the third year of Brownies, Fly-up requirements take much time, and include such things as keeping a Home Helpers Chart, bedmaking, etc. In the Intermediate troops the Scouts work for their Second Class Rank which has eleven fields of interest. The girls learn knot tying, fire building, nature study, basic steps in sewing, folk dancing, etc. After this rank is achieved each girl can work on Badges of special interest to her.

Scouting is not a closed corporation. If you enjoy working and playing with girls; if you believe in the values of an over-all Scouting program; then Scouting is for you. Any of the Chairmen mentioned above would be glad to have you call and volunteer to help.