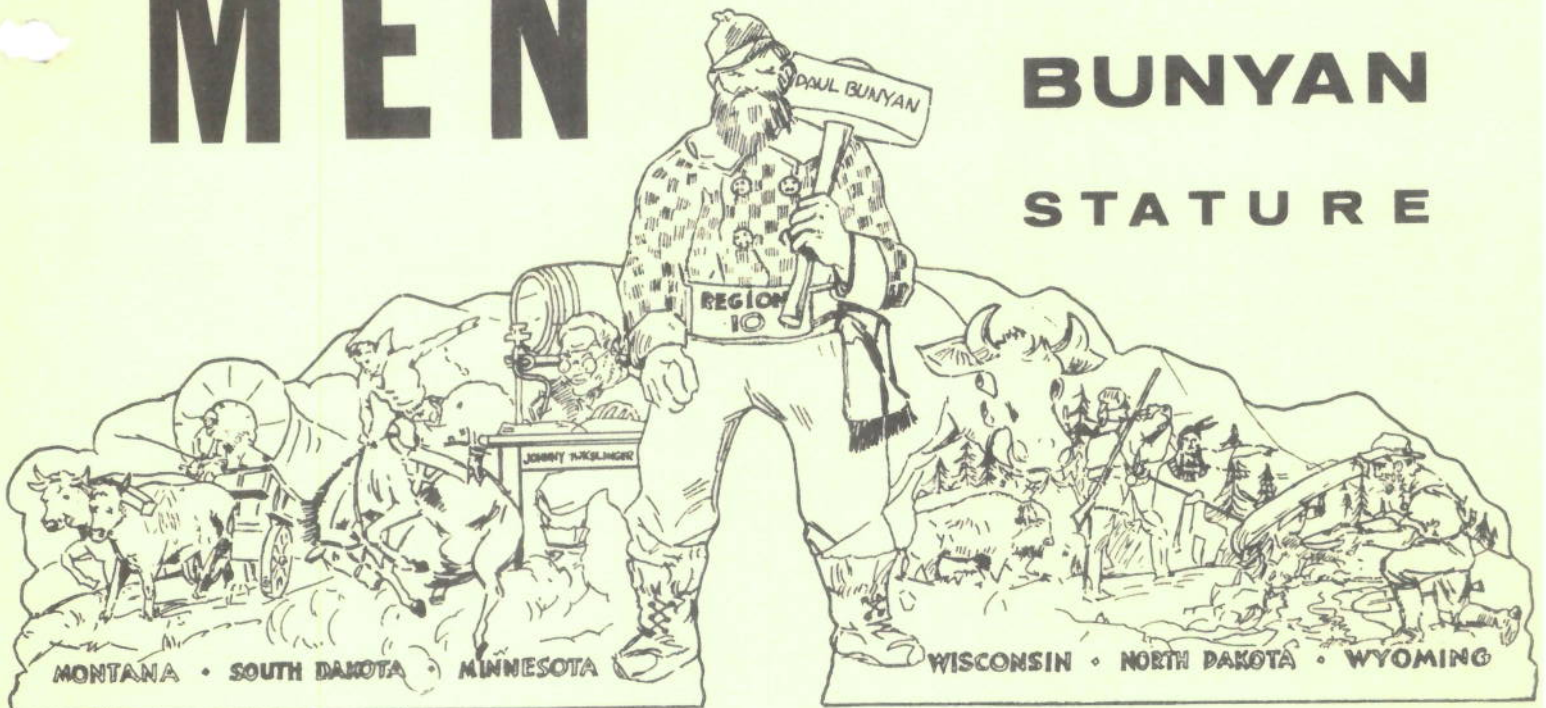


# MEN

of

# PAUL BUNYAN STATURE



.....a history of Region Ten that attempts to show what a Boy Scout Region is, what it does, and how it is guided by the men who give it leadership.....

"Time present and Time past  
are both perhaps present  
in Time Future and Time  
Future contained in Time  
Past."

T. S. Eliot

Chapter 7THE DEBUT OF A SONG-"ON MY HONOR"

The lights dimmed again in the vast, comfortable, air conditioned auditorium and 3,000 professional Scout leaders and their wives attending the 8th National Scout Executives Conference at Indiana State University readied themselves for the next Regional stunt. The spotlight played on the slowly rising orcestral plateform and illumined the bright red caps of some forty men whose torsos were proudly displayed in gleaming white "T" shirts emblazoned with a blackbearded Paul Bunyan. Several men were emulating the famous Paul, slashing chips from rough logs as they swung their axes. Behind the men were evergreen trees -- a truly effective and colorful scene. For the writer, it was a scene to be long remembered, especially as the group of men swung into their songs. One of these was, in effect, the Scout Oath, set to music. It was sung through once, then hummed softly as Robert Bugge repeated the Scout Oath. It was a new song beautifully staged and competently sung. The applause that followed, as the platform disappeared into auditorium depths, was a genuine tribute to the nation's smallest Region and to a new song.

Harry Bartelt, Scout Executive of the North Star Council at Duluth, Minnesota, was the composer of the new song and its story is best told by him, "The attempts to write a song that had within it the spirit of the Scout Oath were carried on by me over a period of many years. Although I possessed great interest and enthusiasm for music, I lacked experience and good training in composition. The reason for the effort in the first place was the hope that the Scout Oath might be sung instead of being verbally repeated. It seemed to me that on certain occasions a musical Scout Oath might be especially effective.

After many trials at the piano, only frustrations were the result. The exact words as they appeared in the Oath just simply would not fit into lyrics. After being inspired at a particularly effective Court of Honor ceremony, another session at the piano resulted. This time, for an entirely unknown reason, a change took place, not only in the sequence of words but the wording itself. Here's what happened:

The Scout Oath

On my Honor, I will do my best  
to do my duty to God,

and my country

Words of the Song

On my Honor, I'll do my best  
to do my duty to God,

On my Honor I'll do my best  
to serve my country as I  
may

To help other people at all  
times,

To keep myself physically  
strong

mentally awake

Morally straight

On my Honor I'll do my best  
to do my good turn each day,

To keep my body strengthened

And keep my mind awakened

To follow paths of  
Righteousness,

On my Honor I'll do my best.

"But no effort was made to expose the song to the public ear. Then one day, George Hedrick, a Deputy from the Region Ten Office, was in my home. He saw the original score on the piano. (this original score is now held by the Johnson National Scout museum at New Brunswick, N. J.) George liked the song and urged its use."

Following the presentation of the song at the Bloomington Conference in 1947 several hundred recordings were purchased, mostly by professionals in Region Ten. The song was copyrighted in 1948. Bartelt continues, "Since that conference the use of the song spiraled beyond belief. It has been used at International and National Jamborees, in fact, I received a copy of the Japanese Boy Scout songbook and found "On My Honor" included, the only song printed in English. In preparation for the National Jamboree at Santa Ana, California, a boys choir group from "the Little Church Around the Corner" in New York cut a recording of Scout songs and "On My Honor" was among the songs used. The Church of the Latter Day Saints at Salt Lake, Utah asked for and received permission to publish the song in their educational materials."

"This is the story of the how and why of the song "On My Honor".

There never has been an official Boy Scout song -- and there probably never will be, but Harry Bartelt's "On My Honor" has come closest to reflecting the spirit of Scouting and it continues to have great appeal and a cordial reception from the passing parade of Scout Leaders.

# ON MY HONOR

5-106  
Mimed  
Copies  
Wards only  
100

ON MY HON-OR I'LL DO MY BEST TO DO MY DU - TY TO GOD,

TO SERVE AS I MAY  
ON MY HON-OR I'LL DO MY BEST TO SERVE MY COUNTRY AS I MAY,  
TO SERVE AS I MAY

ON MY HON-OR I'LL DO MY BEST TO DO MY GOOD TURN EACH DAY, TO

KEEP MY BO-DY STRENGTHENED AND KEEP MY MIND A - WAK - ENED TO

FOL - LOW PATHS OF RIGHT - EOUS - NESS, ON MY HON - OR, I'LL DO MY BEST.

HARRY BARTELT DULUTH, MINNESOTA

PROPERTY OF  
SIOUX COUNCIL

