

SYMBOL OF SERVICE

Ed, note: Taken from a personal interview with Dr. E. Erner Goodman, founder of the Order of the Arrow, at the National Conference by Council Correspondent, Ed Barvin,

"to be really happy, you have to help the other fellow," This was the founding principle of the Order of the Arrow,

As Dr. E. Erner Goodman looked for a dramatic presentation of this idea, he dreamed of an organization whose watchword would be service. He wanted a "happy camp." So he founded the Order of the Arrow, a camping organization that has grown to a national status with over 200,000 members in over 500 lodges stretching from coast to coast.

It all started in 1915, when Dr. Goodman was camp director at Treasure Island Boy Scout Camp. He and his assistant, Col. Garret Edson, decided that there must be some recognition for Scouts and Scouters who were doing an outstanding job in the Scouting movement. This recognition would be in the form of membership in a camping society. The order's original name was "Wamachtendienk, Wangelanahok, Witshemul, the Delaware Indian words for brotherhood, cheerfulness and service. This was later changed to the "Order of the Arrow" for obvious reasons.

The first Brotherhood ceremony was very simple. Dr. Goodman would take the candidates into a wooded area and pick out the largest tree he could find. Satisfied with his selection, he would ask a candidate to clasp his arms around it.

Try as he may, the candidate would not be able to do it, but if another candidate were to join hands with the first, the task was easily accomplished, proving one of the Order's founding principles; with brotherhood, there is nothing that can't be accomplished.

THE ORDER OF THE ARROW IS A THING OF THE OUT OF DOORS RATHER THAN THE INDOORS. IT WAS BORN ON AN ISLAND WILDERNESS, IT NEEDS THE SUN, AND THE RAIN, THE WOODS AND THE PLAINS, THE WATERS AND THE STARLIT SKY.

THE ORDER OF THE ARROW IS A THING OF THE SPIRIT RATHER THAN OF MECHANICS. ORGANIZATION OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE, AND PARAPHRASES ARE NECESSARY IN ANY LARGE GROWING MOVEMENT, BUT THEY ARE NOT WHAT COUNTS IN THE END. THE THINGS OF SPIRIT COUNT.

E. Erner Goodman

POINTS TO PONDER

"I expect to pass this way but once. If therefore, there be any good thing that I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."

-William Penn-

"He alone is worthy to wear the arrow who will faithfully continue to serve his fellow men"

-The Order of the Arrow-