

I think I remember.....Scouting

Located on the north side of the 100 block of east Walnut Street was an old log cabin. The cabin was home to a Boy Scout Troop made up of boys mostly from the Argos area. The Scout troop was known for being very active and a few boys from outside of Argos were active in the troop as well. The log cabin was in fairly good shape and was comprised of one large room. All the logs and the chinking between the logs were maintained. In each of the four inside corners was a small cubicle with a bench that allowed for separation of the scouts into Patrols. Each Patrol comprised of about 6-10 boys of the same age group and were led by a Patrol Leader. They worked on achieving the next higher rank and also worked on merit badges. The east end provided an area for the leaders to conduct the scout meetings. A large stone fireplace was located in the center of the north wall and provided all the heat in the winter months. No other facilities (water, toilets, etc) beside electricity were available. The small lawn in front of the cabin provided an area for staging of activities. Most games or activities that required more room were held directly south across Walnut Street in a parking lot between the Phone Company office and Dr Hampton's medical office. For fund raising, the Boy Scouts generally held two paper drives yearly. Homeowners would stockpile all their newspapers, magazines, etc to help support the drive. On drive collection days, the scouts would all help to gather the papers from homes with the help of adults driving small trucks/cars. They would then transfer all the paper to much larger trucks at the scout cabin. The large trucks then transported the paper to a facility on west Jefferson Street in Plymouth where the paper was sold by the ton. Scouts always looked through the magazines for any of special interest and if found, were stuffed off to the side for perusal later. The scouts provided help in the community throughout the year in clean up activities, etc that would help earn merit badges. For one week during the summer, a number of Boy Scouts attended Camp Tamarack, located in lower Michigan. Swimming, boating, camping skills, crafts, merit badge work and nightly campfires with skits were all enjoyed. All scouts stayed in tents above short wooden platforms, two scouts to a tent. During the week you had to take your turn working in the large mess hall during meals. At some point during the week, the scouts went on a day canoe trip that included cooking a meal and portages (carry the canoe) that tested your skills. Once a year an activity called Scout-A-Rama was held over a weekend at the Plymouth Armory. This brought together all the scouts in the local region to test skills and showcase to the public what Scouting was all about. Some years, a hog was roasted over a fire all weekend and on the last day sandwiches were sold as a fund raiser. Advance tickets were sold by the scouts to residents who wanted to attend the event. To entice scouts to try to sell tickets all over Argos, Silver dollars were awarded to the Scout that sold a ticket to the multiple homeowners that held the Silver dollars. It really spiked interest in selling tickets.

Argos also had an active Cub Scout Pack. Weekly meetings were held at Pack leaders homes to sharpen skills. Outings were limited due to the age of the boys. Pack meetings were used to build skills and provide the knowledge to move up to

Boy Scout level when they were old enough. Monthly meetings were held at the Methodist Church on south Michigan Street. I think the church sponsored the Pack.

Argos also had an active Explorer Scout Post sponsored by the American Legion. The Explorers held dances at the legion hall during the school year and they also had a dunk tank at the Marshall County fair. These were fund raising events that helped support a yearly canoe trip to Region Seven or Ten in northern Wisconsin or Minnesota. The Scouts traveled with all their gear on an old school bus to reach the boundary site. After completing a swimming test and canoes assigned, they departed and spent all week carrying minimal food and supplies. They camped each night and had to complete a number of portages which required carrying the canoes and all supplies. The route was a large circle using rivers and lakes eventually returning to the main camp. Upon arrival back at the camp, canoes were inspected for any scratches, and a fine was assessed for each new scratch obtained during the usage.

Many adults in Argos supported the Scouting effort.