

SCOUT TROOP FOUNDER STILL HIKES WITH THE BOYS



Explorer Advisor James W. Carrington (far right), who was Troop 55's first Eagle Scout, stands with four other Eagle Scouts in a 1971 photo.



Troop 55 of 1961 assemble in the spacious edifice of Old White Rock Baptist Church for photos. The church was a casualty of the city's urban renewal program that ripped through and destroyed the prominent black residential and commercial district called Hayti.



In 1969 Ralph Hunt (far left) became Troop 55 Scoutmaster as James W. Carrington (left center), a fifty year patriot of the troop, congratulates Nathaniel White (right center) for 26 years of service. White was scoutmaster from 1942 from 1968. At left is the Rev. Lorenzo A. Lynch, pastor of White Rock Baptist Church.



TROOP 55

By Donald Alderman
When he was 17-years-old back in 1932, James W. Carrington, then a Hillside High School student, wanted to be a Boy Scout. But there were no scout troops in Durham at the time that accepted blacks.

That didn't deter Carrington who, along with six other "aggressive boys", formed Troop 55, Durham's first scout troop for blacks, and now one of the city's oldest troops.

The troop, headquartered at White Rock Baptist Church, observes its 50th anniversary next week, with a two-day celebration that will reunite several of the original members of the troop, many of its participants over the past half century, and other scouts from around the country. The celebration will begin Friday, July 16, and run through Sunday, July 18.

Carrington, 67, a retired printer, who says he can still "hike 20 miles any day", will participate in the celebration program. He was Troop 55's first Eagle Scout.

The troop has come a long way since it was formed in July, 1932, by seven high school buddies and Carrington, who now advises the troop's Explorer Scouts (age 14), remembers the old days well.

"The first troops were probably some of Hillside's most aggressive boys," he said during a recent interview. "We were involved in many things before and thought that form-

ing a troop was an excellent opportunity for blacks."

There were times, according to Carrington, that some of Durham's white scout masters didn't want black scouts to wear their uniforms north of the railroad tracks, though several local white scout leaders had helped the youngsters form the troop.

Some of the troop's early members are now well known Durhams. They include William Pearson, II, now a Durham District Court judge, was an assistant scoutmaster, as was the late John A. Spaulding. The troop's first scoutmaster was William Powell.

Scouting has changed somewhat also, Carrington says.

"It was much harder to make Eagle in the early days," he said. "The special projects had to be much more involved than now and we had little to work with."

He said advances in scouting techniques make scouting progress easier for youngsters today, but he hastened to add that that's not a negative observation.

"Scouting is still a good way for boys to develop leadership abilities, discipline and determination," he said. "It still makes good men for society."

He said each youngster chooses special projects ranging from making electrical gadgets to demonstrating the principles of first aid. "We had to demonstrate lifesaving



In the early 1960's the late Dr. Miles Mark Fisher (left), a staunch supporter of Troop 55 and pastor of White Rock Baptist Church from 1932 to 1965, received a plaque from Henry Gillis (right), another Troop supporter. Seated at the right are Scoutmaster Nathaniel B. White and George Nixon, a local educator.



The Annual Troop 55 Parents' Banquet of 1969. Standing were Nathaniel B. White (left) and James Carrington (right).

techniques such as saving a drowning victim," he said, to cite another way that scouting is easier today. "Boys today only have to know how to apply the techniques."

But Carrington says

he's proud of the steady progress the troop has made over the years.

Recently, two scouts were honored by the Boy Scouts of America for giving aid to an injured person. They received the Medal of Merit — a first for Troop 55.

And for the first time, Troop 55 currently has five Eagle Scouts.

According to Scoutmaster Jimmy Lawton, Troop 55 emphasizes brotherly love, self-reliance and honesty. Wilbert Mason is assistant scoutmaster and Marshall B. Revels, Jr., is Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

The troop has been represented at all ten of the Boy Scouts of America National Jamborees, scouting affairs where troops from around the country assemble to fellowship.

Contributions from White Rock Baptist Church, the troop's sponsor, where a troop committee functions, usually helps to defray the cost of these trips.

The troop also participates in various community projects such as cutting wood for low income families and helping to landscape the church grounds.

Registration for the two-day 50th anniversary celebration begins at 6 p.m., Friday and runs through 10 p.m., at 412 Pekoe Street (home of C.C. Malone, Sr., and Mrs. Evelyn M. Thorpe) off Fayetteville Street in southeast Durham.

Registration continues from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Saturday at White Rock Baptist Church, 3400 Fayetteville Street.

A 5 p.m. banquet at



Louis E. Austin worked until his death in 1971 as a loyal supporter of Troop 55. He was the founder, publisher and editor of *The Carolina Times*.

the North Carolina Central University Student Union highlights Saturday's activities, and an evening of entertainment follows, beginning at 8 p.m., featuring Grady Tate, a nationally known musician. Tate, a Durham native, performs throughout the country and has recorded numerous albums.

During the Saturday evening banquet, all of Troop 55's Eagle Scouts who are present will receive special recognition. According to N.B. White, Sr., there about 40 Eagle Scouts of the troop.

The troop's 50th anniversary celebration ends Sunday morning with church services at White Rock.

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Troop 55 Forty "Eagle" Troops

James W. Carrington	May 4, 1942	Spencer A. Irving, Jr.	May 5, 1964
Ronald C. Foreman, Jr.	November 30, 1944	George W. Cox, III	January 26, 1965
Calvin E. Hubbard	October 28, 1945	James A. Carrington	May 27, 1967
Carl B. Whitted	October 17, 1946	Ronald A. Fields	February 21, 1970
Clark Egerton, Jr.	October 26, 1948	Haywood A. Allen, Jr.	October 3, 1970
Leo Daniel Johnson, Jr.	October 26, 1948	Edward R. Boyd	October 3, 1970
James M. Schooler, Jr.	July 3, 1952	Robert L. Page	October 3, 1970
Henry W. Gillis	October 1, 1952	Kenneth Bright	1972
Stephen H. Starks, Jr.	December 1, 1952	Anthony Armstrong	1972
Wilbur Hamilton	November 23, 1953	Manley Michaux	1973
James F. Morris, Jr.	November 23, 1953	Clyde Moore, Jr.	1973
William A. Clement, Jr.	September 18, 1958	Edward J. Clemons	October 25, 1976
James W. Brown, Jr.	December 20, 1960	Clark Egerton, III	January 4, 1979
Wesley D. Clement	August 6, 1961	Ralph Vaughn, Jr.	January 4, 1979
Arthur John Clement	January 29, 1962	Joseph A. Battle	September 28, 1979
James A. Stewart	July 6, 1962	Herbert Wingfall	September 28, 1981
George D. White, III	October 31, 1962	Frank Pratt	September 28, 1981
Robert O. Perry	April 8, 1963	James Lawton	September 28, 1981
Chatry D. Perry	July 12, 1963	Barry M. Revels	September 28, 1981
Joseph H. Thorpe	November 26, 1963	Eric M. Nails	July 1, 1982

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