

3 March 2025

Bill Cotter

Dear Mr. Cotter,

Thank you for showing an interest in the Camp Wauwepex items of my late father-in-law James Paret Briggs (1928-1886). Like many of us, Scouting was an important part of his youth. He was a member of Troop 151 Floral Park, New York from 1941 to 1949. He held multiple leadership positions in the Troop. He was a member of Order of the Arrow. He was the Troop Bugler. As such, he performed in many Troop functions as well as annual celebrations of the death of President Theodore Roosevelt. Jim is the Bugler in the enclosed picture and newspaper clipping.

The items he kept reflect his lifelong affection for Camp Wauwepex. It appears he attended the camp from 1941 to 1947. He was initially a camper and later was a member of Camp Staff (1946-1947). When I knew him, he always had fond memories of Camp Wauwepex.

The items included are:

1. Camp Wauwepex Applications for 1945 and 1946
2. Camp Wauwepex Service Newsletters 5 July 1941 - 16 August 1941 and 10 July 1942 - 28 August 1942
3. James Briggs Camp Wauwepex Staff Contracts 1946 and 1947
4. Camp Wauwepex Staff Lists from Chef's Banquet 1944-1947
5. Copy of James Briggs Eagle Scout letter 17 February 1944
6. Picture and news article regarding President Theodore Roosevelt Memorial

Jim went on to have a successful career in sales with IBM. He married Patricia Briamonte, and they had four children: Jamie, Jeff, Hilary and Alison. Jamie has his father's bugle.

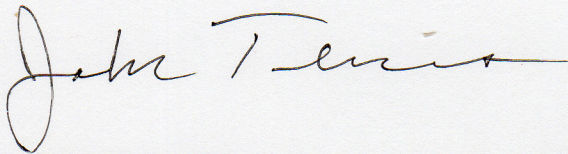
Hilary and I inherited the above items as well as his Scout Sash and a framed picture of the Scout Law which I keep in my office.

As a side note, I am a retired Orthopedic Surgeon and Navy Captain. I became an Eagle Scout on 13 November 1969 (Troop 57 Orinda, California). I attended the 13th Scout World Jamboree in 1971. My son Daniel became an Eagle Scout on 19 May 2002 (Troop 174 Charlotte, North Carolina). I was the Eagle Scout Coordinator for the troop.

That position gave me the opportunity to bring along a number of Scouts to the rank of Eagle. I shared with them the following true story about Once and Eagle, Always an Eagle.

"I was in my Orthopedic Residency at Naval Hospital Oakland in 1989. I was in the Resident's room with 5 of my fellow Orthopedic residents. All of us were Navy Lieutenant Commanders. One resident mentioned Scouting which prompted the question "Was anyone an Eagle Scout?" Five of us were Eagle Scouts. The other resident was a woman."

Hilary and I thank you for accepting these historical items which meant so much to Jim Briggs.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Ternes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Ternes, MD

