

History

Tsalagi Lodge 163

(Reference: Much of this report is based on the book *The Spirit of the Arrow*,
A History of Tsalagi Lodge 1939 – 1989 by Lindley S. Butler)

The Order of the Arrow Comes to Cherokee Council

Since chartering in 1923 Cherokee Council had a strong camping program. From the mid-1920s Camp Cherokee, the council's Boy Scout camp, had been located on rolling wooded land in the center of Rockingham County at a 79-acre county owned playground near Wentworth. The camp director in the late 1930s was A. P. "Pat" Patterson who served as Scout Executive from 1936 – 1942. He likely observed the positive effects of the Order of the Arrow in neighboring Greensboro Council and on their program at Camp Graystone. During the summer of 1939 the camp staff became interested and they contacted Tali Taktaki Lodge in Greensboro for information. The approval of the council executive board was secured and the charter application was sent in on June 21, 1939. On July 11 the charter was granted for an Order of the Arrow lodge.



The Camp Cherokee staff wanted to name the new lodge "Cherokee". They were very disappointed to learn that an OA lodge chartered in Birmingham, Alabama in 1930 had already chosen that name. Early Order of the Arrow applications stated:

*"We have selected the Indian name _____ for our lodge,
and the totem _____ for our emblem."*

Some unknown individual marked through the name Cherokee and wrote "TSLAGI" on the council's application. This was understood to be the Indian word in the Cherokee language for "Cherokee". It was in fact a misspelling and should have been written as TSALAGI. The three Cherokee letters are GWY and are written as TSA – LA – GI. No one realized the error and so the lodge adopted the name TSLAGI and used it for the next forty eight years.

In the summer of 1940 sixteen Scouts and Scouters from Cherokee Council took the Ordeal and were inducted by Tali Taktaki Lodge at Camp Graystone. The lodge chose William Dexter Moser of Burlington as the lodge's first chief. Mr. Moser was the waterfront director at Camp Cherokee. Joe Blanks of Roxboro was elected vice –chief and Francis Atwater of Burlington was elected as secretary-treasurer. Pat Patterson served as the first lodge advisor.

1940s

During the summer of 1940 the new lodge was very active with various projects to improve camp and build a good image of the Order of the Arrow.

On August 31 – September 2, 1940 the Order of the Arrow held its National Meeting at Camp Twin Echo located near Ligonier, Pennsylvania. This event was a celebration of the OA's 25th Anniversary. Tsalagi Lodge sent eleven members to this National Meeting.

In the summer of 1941 the lodge elected and inducted the first group of Ordeal candidates using their own ceremonial team. The lodge called on Tali Taktaki Lodge's ceremonial team to conduct the first Brotherhood ceremony at Camp Cherokee. That year a future leader of the lodge, Allan Lewis, became a member of the Order of the Arrow. Mr. Lewis served as teacher, principal, and then Superintendent of the Rockingham County Schools. His office was less than a mile from Camp Cherokee so each evening after work he went to camp. He served as the medic at camp and was soon nicknamed as "Doc".

During the 1940s the lodge's whole program was centered on support of the summer camp. There was no effort made to have year round activities. Most of the camp staff were members of the Order of the Arrow. The most significant project in this era was the lodge participation in planning and building the health lodge which served the camp for a quarter century.

In the early days of the lodge the selection and Ordeal procedures were quite different. During the camp week lodge meetings were held at which qualifications of campers were discussed. A boy had to be a First Class Scout and at least a second-year camper. On Thursday the eligible candidates met with the Arrowmen and a secret ballot was taken for election to the lodge. Following the campfire that evening the tap-out was held. The candidates began their Ordeal right after the tap-out and were taken out to sleep alone. On Friday the candidates worked all day in silence and with little food. The induction ceremony was held that night at the ordeal ring which was located near a waterfall.

Millard Patton, who attended camp in the 1940s, remembered that the call-out or tap-out ceremony was held at the camp council ring in the grassy circle in front of the dining hall. The campers sat in a large circle around a campfire then an Indian would seize the candidates from behind. According to Dexter Moser the council fire was ignited by releasing a flaming arrow from the roof of the dining hall. The arrow traveled down a wire to the base of the wood stack while an Indian chief prayed for fire in pantomime.



1949 Ordeal Ceremony

Although wild stories told about the Ordeal left the candidates apprehensive about their treatment, there have never been any serious hazing incidents. The ceremony, rituals, and ordeal have been meaningful to the Arrowmen and over the years the lodge leadership conveyed a seriousness of purpose to the candidates. Yet occasionally highjinks would surface. For example, in the early years it was common practice to take the Ordeal candidates out in an automobile for their night alone. The blindfolded candidates would be driven for miles with Arrowmen implying that they were a great distance from camp. Then the candidates were placed out in the woods on the edge of camp property. During his Ordeal "Doc" Lewis was driven for a long period of time after which he was left on a grave in the pauper's cemetery near camp.

In **1942** members of Tslagi Lodge were planning to attend the National Meeting to be held at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Unfortunately, with the entry of the United States in World War II, this event was cancelled. The national leadership of the OA encouraged local Areas to hold their own fellowship meetings. On September 4 – 6 several members headed to Camp Graystone near Greensboro for the first North Carolina State Fellowship Meeting. Tali Taktaki invited Arrowmen from across the state and their invitation said:

"May you leave with a clearer idea of our Order and how to make it a more vital part of our Council and Community life. May you also renew acquaintances, make lasting friendships and gain a broader view of our Fraternity of Brotherhood and Service."

Following the end of World War II the Order of the Arrow in North Carolina resumed holding fellowship meetings. On September 28 – 30, **1945** Arrowmen went to Camp Graystone. Tslagi Lodge sent Brothers to this event. The program started on Saturday morning with a welcome and introduction of lodges and delegates by George Thomason, Greensboro Council Scout Executive. Bob Wolff covered an outline of the weekend's program. Following lunch the group was addressed by the **National OA Chief, H. Lloyd Nelson**. The afternoon was filled with discussion groups on lodge operations, elections, service projects, and costumes. There was time for recreation and supper then the Campfire Opening Ceremony. The delegates saw the Ordeal Tapping by Nayawin Rar Lodge, Final Ordeal Ceremony by Wahissa Lodge, then a Brotherhood Tapping by Itibapishe Iti Hollo Lodge. The evening ended with "Fellowship & Eats". Sunday featured an Inspirational Service then Discussions by Lodge Officials and Ritual Team members. Lunch was served then a Challenge to OA Members by H. Lloyd Nelson. Delegates departed mid-afternoon.

On October 4 – 6, **1946** members traveled to Morrow Mountain State Park for the NC Fellowship Meeting. The participants enjoyed a busy weekend of training, ceremonies, and fellowship.

In **1947** Scout Executive John B. Oakley and Camp Director Doug Kelly, along with Allan "Doc" Lewis, Charlie Cate, Rufus Ray and Lon G. Turner went to the Area Fellowship at Morrow Mountain State Park. All of the men were inducted into the Brotherhood Honor except for Lon G. Turner. Within the Order of the Arrow a few members each year were recognized with the Vigil Honor. These Brothers were chosen due to their dedication to the OA and the many hours of service they provided. **Lon G. Turner** was the first member of Tslagi Lodge to receive this honor. He entered Scouting in 1912 and served as Scoutmaster in Burlington and supported the council's summer camp program for many years. Cherokee Council eventually named the Camp Cherokee dining hall in his memory in 1952. They also established a Camping Achievement award for Mr. Turner.



In the late 1940s the lodge organized several social events. In 1947 there was a Social at Camp Cherokee. Brothers invited dates for dinner. In 1948 the lodge held a spring banquet at Wentworth High School in April. Attending this banquet were adults and youth members with guests and dates. A floor show and dancing were the entertainment.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s the country was hit with a severe polio epidemic. Polio is a crippling and potentially deadly infectious disease caused by a virus that spreads from person to person invading the brain and spinal cord and causing paralysis. Each of these years over 35,000 people were crippled by this disease. In 1948 North Carolina was severely hit and Arrowmen planning to attend the National Meeting at Indiana University were told they could not go. The disappointment affected plans for the Area Meeting scheduled for October 15 – 17 at Camp Uwharrie. This event was canceled due to low registration, but the fear of polio greatly affected people's plans. The Area Meetings in North Carolina did not resume until 1952.



1947 Lodge social at the camp dining hall.

1950s

On July 3, 1951 Allan “Doc” Lewis became the second lodge member to be bestowed with the Vigil Honor. It was traditional that each Vigil member received an Indian name. Doc’s Indian name was “Cherokee”.

In March **1952** the OA lodges of Area 6A were invited to Camp Tuscarora located near Goldsboro for the first Area 6A Fellowship. The area included the following eight North Carolina lodges:

Tali Taktaki #70, Occoneechee #104, Croatan #117, Wahissa #118,
Tslagi #163, Uwharrie #208, Nayawin Rar #296, and Klahican #331.

Arrowmen from each lodge gathered for a weekend of training, competition, and fellowship. The event rotated each year with a different lodge taking their turn to host the fellowship.

Doc Lewis led a delegation of six Scouts in attending the 1952 National OA Conference held at Miami University located in Oxford, Ohio. The group traveled by car and included Mac Robertson, Tommy Day and Martin Hedgepath, E.C. Mericks, Hugh Scott Hester, and Charles Jolly.



On March 20 – 22, **1953** a total of 43 Brothers from Tslagi Lodge were part of 280 Arrowmen that went to Camp Durant near Raleigh for the Area 6A Fellowship. A special guest for this event was H. Lloyd Nelson, Chairman of the National OA Committee. A feature of these Area gatherings was a chance for dedicated members to be recognized with the Vigil Honor. At this event Jimmy “Tank” Hardy became the first youth member of Tslagi Lodge to receive this honor. Tank had served as Waterfront Director at Camp Cherokee for several summers and was Lodge Chief for 1951 and 1952. Each year a new Area Chief was selected to lead the Area for the coming year. In 1953 Tslagi Lodge member William Harvey Price of Mayodan was elected.

On July 21, 1953 Tslagi Lodge recognized camp director Kenneth H. Davis and Bruce Carter, a Scouter from Leaksville with the Vigil Honor. Kenneth Davis served as a professional Scouter for over 40 years starting in 1938. He was the leader in designing and fundraising for the new Dining Hall for Camp Cherokee that was dedicated in 1952 to the lodge’s first Vigil member, Lon G. Turner. Bruce Carter joined the Boy Scouts in 1910 and was the first camp director for Cherokee Council in 1923. Mr. Carter was active in the council for many years serving on the Council Executive Board.

First Lodge Patch In the early days of the Order of the Arrow members were recognized by the sash that they wore. In the 1930s lodges began issuing patches to be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. Most patches were made of felt. Scouts did not care for these patches because they would shrink and lose their designs after multiple washings. In the 1940s patches were made by embroidering on twill material. Most OA lodges began issuing



patches by the early 1950s. The patches were odd shaped being round, square, oval, and arrowheads, and usually included the lodge name, lodge totem, and “WWW”. They were typically worn on the right pocket of the uniform shirt which was designated for temporary patches. Tslagi Lodge issued an arrowhead shaped patch in 1953. It featured an Indian chief in bonnet and green leggings holding a bow and arrow. Three different varieties of this design were issued between 1953 and 1958.



Eagle Class of 1953 – Lodge members wearing A1.

On March 19 – 21 Tslagi Lodge hosted seven North Carolina lodges for the **1954 Area 6A Fellowship** at Camp Cherokee. The contingents arrived on Friday afternoon and following supper the Cherokee Council Scout



C. Lin Adams & Doc Lewis

Executive and Area Advisor C. Lin Adams welcomed the Arrowmen. Lodge member and Area Chief William Price addressed the crowd. The evening campfire included a demonstration of the Tslagi Lodge Tap-out Ceremony followed by Occoneechee Lodge performing the Ordeal Induction Ceremony. On Saturday morning each lodge lead a discussion group with Tslagi covering the Vigil Honor. The afternoon included time for recreation and a little patch trading. There were skill demonstrations on Indian Dancing,



Costuming and Make-up. After supper Jim Hardy led the Vigil Tap-out. The highlight of the event was the Saturday night campfire. Doc Lewis emceed a Talent Show in which he entertained and kept the action moving. The final Vigil Ceremony started Sunday morning followed by a religious observance and final session. The group heard a “Challenge to Service” from the OA’s founder, E. Urner Goodman. As delegates departed they each received one of the pictured patches.

Doc Lewis was the only member of Tslagi Lodge to travel to Laramie, Wyoming for the 1954 National OA Conference.

A small contingent traveled to Camp Croatan in eastern North Carolina for the **1955 Area 6A Fellowship** held on March 25 – 27. The group enjoyed a weekend of training and fellowship, but commented on how difficult it was to make this long trip.

Tap-Out Ceremonies *(summarized from a Tslagi Lodge History written by Allan “Doc” Lewis in 1974.)*

During the 1950s through 1966 Thursday night at Camp Cherokee was a special night for the Order of the Arrow. Each week campers and visitors gathered for a campfire program in the center of camp. At the end of the entertainment the OA took center stage. Lodge Advisor Doc Lewis started by explaining the Order of the Arrow and the upcoming tapping ceremony. Everyone was invited to walk in a single file line with their arms folded Indian-style and follow an Indian guide to the waterfront. All of the lodge members were dressed in Indian costume and make-up. There were many Indian guides with blazing torches lighting the trail. There was the slow drumming of a tom-tom heard in the distance.

At the lake all campers stood in a single file line on the dam facing the lake while the visitors stood on either side of the lake close to the dam facing the water. In the semi-darkness campers could see at the other end of the lake a campfire at an Indian village. Torches were being lit as Indians danced around the fire. Minutes later about 20 Indians with torches started running from the Indian village toward the dam down both sides of the lake. The runners stopped along the dam lighting the area. Then three canoes sailed silently across the lake approaching the assembled campers. Each canoe carried two Indians and a lighted torch. The beat of a drum could be heard in the distance.



Allowat Sakima, the mighty chief who was in one of the canoes, gave the order for the drum to be silent. Meteu, the medicine man riding in another canoe, recited the legend so that all could hear it. The three canoes then approached the dam where there was a small dock. Each of the Indian officials left their canoes and went onto the dam. The Chief, Medicine Man, Guide and the Guard walked along the straight line of excited Scouts as if they were inspecting each camper. The boys and men that had been elected were then tapped by Allowat Sakima. As they were tapped each candidate was told to go quickly to the council circle and wait. When the tapping was completed the Indians departed in their canoes singing an Indian chant. When they reached the center of the lake they extinguished their torches and all became silent. The public tapping ceremony was over.

Through the years the Tap-Out Ceremonies became more elaborate. Sometimes a burning arrow would be seen at the beginning. At other times fireworks in the shape of an arrow were shot off. In some ceremonies a floating campfire would be seen in the middle of the lake. During a couple of summers Indian swimmers with a torch in one hand would dive into the lake about 200 feet from the dam. They would swim to the dam using one hand and leave the water in front of the amazed campers. During the mid-1960s the idea of a phantom canoe was used with great effect. An empty canoe with a burning torch would move silently toward the dam then make a right angle turn and sail back up the lake as the torch burned out.

The effectiveness of these ceremonies can be credited to Doc Lewis. Doc was a true showman with a sense for the theatric. In his younger years he was involved with theater and learned a lot about drama productions.

The **1956** Area 6A Fellowship was held on April 27 - 29 at Camp Raven Knob located near Mt. Airy, NC. The lodge took a large delegation to this event as everyone was interested in seeing Old Hickory Council's new camp which had just opened in 1954. Tslagi members helped out in several areas of the program.

In 1956 John Kinney received his Brotherhood and he shared these photographs of the ceremony team and some of his fellow Arrowmen that participated in the ceremony.



Several of these Arrowmen attended the 1957 Area 6A Fellowship on April 26 – 28 held at Camp Tuscarora.



First Lodge Flap

The BSA designated the right pocket flap of the uniform as the location for Order of the Arrow insignia. In 1957 Bob Somers, Tommy Kallam, Nat Smith and Doc Lewis designed Tslagi Lodge's first flap. After approval by the lodge the flap was available to members in 1958.

On April 25 – 27, **1958** Tslagi members traveled 30 minutes down the road to Camp Wenasa for the Area 6A Fellowship. The Area was growing in strength and leadership and cooperation between the growing lodges.

A total of 37 Arrowmen from Area 6A formed a delegation to the 1958 National Order of the Arrow Conference to be held at the University of Kansas. Attending from Tslagi Lodge were William Bell, Freddie Busick, Jeppy McDowell, Bob Pennington, Jerry Watkins, and Allan "Doc" Lewis. The chartered bus left Greensboro on Saturday, August 23, and stopped in Lexington, KY and St. Louis, MO. The group arrived at the university about noon on Monday for the NOAC. The group enjoyed a week of training, Indian Dance competition, exciting shows and lots of fun and fellowship.



1958 Area 6-A NOAC Delegation
Lawrence, Kansas

On May 9, **1959** Tslagi Lodge held a Spring Fellowship. This is the earliest record lodge function and it was a one-day event. Members traveled to Camp Cherokee on Saturday for the purpose of fellowship. A Brotherhood Ceremony was held. Time was also spent discussing the recent Area 6A Fellowship since the lodge would be responsible for hosting the 1960 event.



Pictured to the left is the staff of Camp Cherokee for 1959. Notice that all fifteen members are wearing Order of the Arrow sashes. On the right of the middle row is Lodge Advisor Doc Lewis. The group includes one Ordeal member, eleven Brotherhood members, and three Vigil Honor members. The success of the summer camp program and of Tslagi Lodge is credited to this group of Scouts and Scouters. The camp had a reputation across the state of delivering a top notch program.

1960s

The fall of 1959 and spring of **1960** were very busy as the lodge prepared to host the Area 6A Fellowship at Camp Cherokee. The camp was small covering only 79 acres and it would be tight housing 300+ Arrowmen from across the state. Lodges located nearby were advised to bring their own tentage for the weekend. Delegates arrived on Friday afternoon, April 29, set up camp, and then assembled in the camp amphitheater at 6:00. Everyone went to the cafeteria at neighboring Wentworth School for supper. At 8:00 they gathered

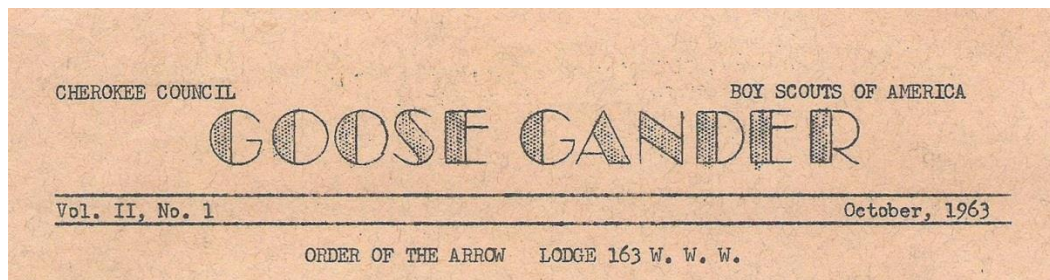
for the evening campfire and demonstration ceremonies. Tslagi Lodge performed the Ordeal Tap-out followed by Wahissa Lodge doing the Ordeal Ceremony and Tali Taktaki Lodge handling the Vigil Tap-out. An Area Congress took care of business with two delegates per lodge while everyone else enjoyed refreshments,



fellowship, trading, and "bull sessions" in the Dining Hall. Saturday was a full day with morning discussion groups and nomination of candidates for Area officers. There were presentations by Alpha Phi Omega and the American Humanics Foundation. The afternoon included Indian dancing and recreation. Following a banquet at the cafeteria Uwharrie Lodge conducted a Brotherhood ceremony. At 8:30 everyone enjoyed a campfire featuring a talent show and

Indian dancing. The evening ended with a Cracker Barrel in the Dining hall. Following Sunday breakfast at the cafeteria the delegates went to the dining hall for religious observance, installation of the new Area Chief, and presentation of awards. The delegates received the patch for the weekend and hit the road after a great weekend of fellowship.

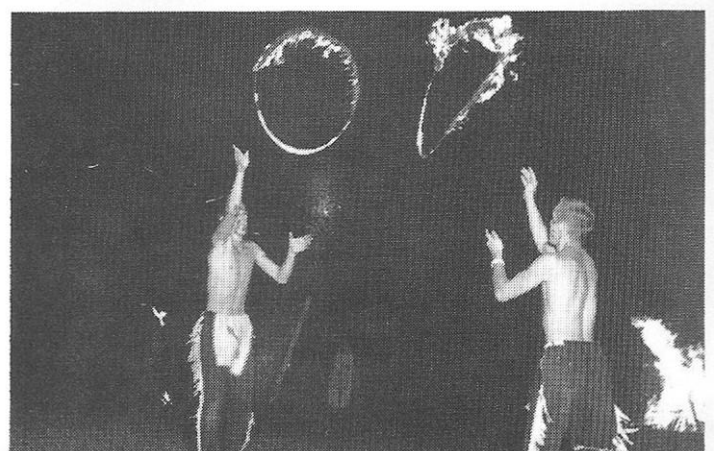
In **1962** the lodge started a newsletter named the ***Goose Gander***. It was an 8 ½ x 14 sheet copied on both sides. Details of past lodge activities and promotion of future lodge events were included. The lodge Rules and Regulations listed the Wild Goose as the lodge totem for several years in the mid-1960s, but the image never appeared on any patches used by the lodge.



In the 1960s lodge ceremonies and summer camp programs were very elaborate productions. The lodge incorporated horses in some of their ceremonies. An Indian chief in full bonnet on horseback fills the center of the lodge's pocket flap and seeing it in person created memories for members and visitors alike. Flaming hoops were tossed and Indians danced before a roaring campfire. Under the guidance of master showman Doc Lewis, the camp staff always put on a great show!



(From left) Sandy Sands and William Green open the Vigil. Tap-Out, 1962.



Sandy Sands, Howard Elam, 1962

Tslagi Lodge took a delegation to the 1963 National OA Conference at the University of Illinois under the leadership of lodge advisor Allan “Doc” Lewis. The group was part of over 3,400 Arrowmen that participated in the conference. The event included training sessions, Indian Dance competition, a display fair, and the OA National Olympics. At this NOAC Doc received the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can present, the **Distinguished Service Award (DSA)**. He was pleased that he received his award from the Order’s founder, his friend, E. Urner Goodman.



Each year the lodge sent a delegation to the Area 6A Fellowship, to Camp Wenasa in 1964 and to Camp Lejeune in April 1965. As the lodge membership grew the more activities the lodge held. In the spring there was a service weekend/fellowship, in the summer Ordeals before and after camp, and a fellowship in the fall.

One of the biggest events in **1966** for Tslagi Lodge was hosting the Area 6A Fellowship on April 22 – 24 at Camp Cherokee. In February Scout Executive Wofford E. Malphrus sent a letter to the Lodge chiefs, Lodge Advisors, and Scout Executives of Area 6A. He advised them that the cost for the fellowship was \$4.75 per person which covers meals, awards, materials, and one fully embroidered patch. A beautiful conference neckerchief would be available in the trading post for \$1.50 or for \$1.25 if pre-ordered. A special coffee mug would also be on sale. There was also mention of changes in the “Quest for the Golden Arrow”. This activity was first held at the 1965 Area 6A Fellowship. The lodge held several workdays to prepare for the fellowship. Brothers from Tali Taktaki Lodge in Greensboro



assisted with the final set-up of camp. Finally the big day arrived and over 300 Arrowmen from around the state arrived at camp. Friday included supper then an opening campfire with welcome by Lodge member and Area Chief Ed Catherwood. An Area Congress and cracker barrel ended the day. Saturday featured a variety of Training Sessions each led by other lodges. The afternoon ended with the Quest for the Golden Arrow. After supper there was a Brotherhood Ceremony by Occoneechee Lodge and then the Dance Team Competition. Tslagi Lodge handled the Vigil Ceremony. On Sunday a religious service followed breakfast then a dinner was scheduled for 11:30. The new Area Chief, David Boone, was installed and the fellowship ended. Everyone was pleased with a great weekend.



As Scouting continued to grow in Cherokee Council everyone realized that Camp Cherokee was inadequate to handle the number of Scouts. The Council leadership wanted to offer a more wilderness experience and began searching for a site for a new camp. Property was located in Caswell County and plans were made to acquire 1,400 acres. Council officials began designing a new camp.

The final year of activities at Camp Cherokee was 1966. This camp had served Cherokee Council for forty years and thousands of Scouts had enjoyed weeks at camp. There were a number of special commemorations that took place that year. Tslagi Lodge made efforts to make its final ceremonies memorable. Following the last campfire at Camp Cherokee Doc Lewis gathered ashes that would be transferred to the first council fire at the new camp.



Tommy Murray being tapped by "Doc" Lewis.
The last Vigil at the old camp, 1966.



Gifts being presented to "Doc" Lewis at the last campfire in old
Camp Cherokee, 1966.

A Chief's Ordeal

Former Section Advisor, John Young, shared a story on his rapid rise to power as a youth in Tslagi Lodge. During the summer of 1966 John worked on camp staff. His tent mate was Lodge chief Ronnie Baker. John was selected for membership in the Order of the Arrow and attended the Ordeal that followed the camp season. On Sunday morning of that weekend the lodge held its business meeting and the election of officers. Ed Boyd was elected Lodge Chief and Larry Oakley was chosen as Lodge Vice-chief. Since no one was running for Lodge Secretary, outgoing chief Ronnie Baker nominated John (a new Ordeal member). He won the office unopposed. The new chief and vice-chief went off to college in the fall and both decided to resign over the Christmas break. John Young became Lodge Chief by default. An Ordeal member that had been in the lodge for only a few months was now in charge! In August Lodge Advisor Doc Lewis and Lodge Chief John Young traveled to the University of Nebraska for the National OA Conference. John discovered that he was the only Ordeal member Lodge Chief in the nation. He was actually tossed out of a Lodge Chief's meeting and had to find Doc to verify his status as chief to get him back in the meeting. That fall John took Brotherhood and ran for Lodge Chief. He was elected and served as chief for the next year.

With the closing of Camp Cherokee came the need to transfer all BSA belongings the thirty miles from Rockingham County to the new camp property in Caswell County. Tslagi Lodge provided much of the manpower to assist with this move.

Unfortunately, the new camp property was not ready for use for the 1967 summer camp season. Cherokee Council found an alternate location. That summer the council leased Camp W. D. Campbell from Occonechee Council. This camp was located on a beautiful site on Kerr Lake. The Council and camp staff did their best to provide a productive summer camp program, but several local troops chose that summer to take special trips out of council. Everyone was looking forward to moving to the new camp.

In 1968 the move to Cherokee Scout Reservation was complete. The first event at the new camp was the council spring camporee. Tslagi Lodge performed a tap-out ceremony as part of the Saturday night campfire program. The campfire took place in the field near the new lake. For the first five summer camp seasons troops did rough camping with the units cooking meals in their campsite.

At the lodge's first Ordeal at the new camp the big project was putting the roof on the first program shelter which later became the Nature Lodge. In subsequent Ordeals for several years the clearing of land was the top priority.

1970s

Scouting was a very popular program through the 1960s and into the 70s.

The brightest and best participated in the Order of the Arrow and lodges were very active in supporting their council's camping programs.

One of the most popular events for Tslagi Lodge each year was its Fall Fellowship. During this event lodge officers were elected and the year's successes were celebrated. The lodge issued its first event patch for the 1972 Fall Fellowship. It was an especially busy event as the lodge prepared to host the 1973 Area 6A Fellowship at Cherokee Scout Reservation. The lodge set up fourteen committees to prepare for the Area 6A Fellowship. They met numerous times and the lodge held eight work weekends beginning in January.



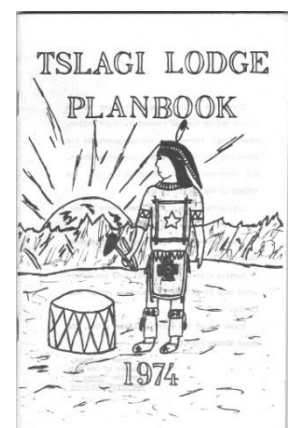
In April Tslagi Lodge hosted the final Area 6A Fellowship. About 500 Arrowmen from the eight lodges of the Area arrived at camp on Friday. There were last minute details that had to be handled, the biggest being completing the Dining Hall. Keith Christopher recalls that the gas in the kitchen was not hooked up until an hour before the delegates began to arrive. That night buffalo burgers from the herd of Sam Smith were enjoyed by all. The evening included an Opening Campfire followed by a Brotherhood Ceremony in the Council Ring. Following breakfast on Saturday lodges set up their exhibits. At 9:15 Discussion groups began. Participating lodges each took charge of a topic: Wahissa and Nayawin Rar – Service at the Nature Shelter, Uwharrie – Program at the Archery Shelter, Croatan – Secretaries & Publications at the Archery Shelter, Tali Taktaki – Lodge Administration in the Council Ring, and Klahican – Lodge Leaders in the Council Ring. In the afternoon Occonechee Lodge led the Ordeal and Brotherhood sessions, and the Vigil session on Sunday. The Dance Competition and Quest for the Golden Arrow dominated the afternoon. After supper everyone went to the Council Ring for the Team Dance competition. It was followed by the Vigil Tap-Out. The Brothers tapped for Vigil included Larry Warlick, future Section Advisor. A cracker barrel ended the evening and there was plenty of patch trading! Sunday started early with the Vigil Breakfast. After breakfast Church services were held in the Council Ring followed by a Final Assembly, Awards presentation and a Challenge to Serve. It was another successful event for the Brothers of Tslagi Lodge!



The year **1974** was another full year for the lodge. The following events were held:

- March 1 – 3 Spring Service Weekend
- June 7 - 9 Ordeal & Brotherhood Weekend
- August 8 - 11 Double Ordeal
- October 4 – 6 Fall Fellowship
- November 1-3 Officer Training Weekend
- December 28 Lodge Banquet

The lodge leadership published regular newsletters, issued a Where to Camping booklet, and detailed planbook.



On April 23 – 25, **1976** Tslagi Lodge took a delegation of 45 members to Camp Wenasa for the SE-3A Section Conclave. After setting up camp the group headed to the Schenck Arena for the Opening campfire where Section Chief Mike Feeney issued a challenge to all Arrowmen. The lodge answered by having a great event. For the second year in a row Tslagi won the Quest for the Golden Arrow. This was attributed to superior planning and a total team effort. In Indian Affairs the lodge brought home the Team War Dance Trophy. Tim Wray took 2nd in the Senior Division and Tslagi's Indian Culture exhibit placed 3rd.



On July 30 – August 1 the Southeast Region held an OA Training Conference at Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. Doc Lewis, Bryant Pergerson, Rob Sutton, and Lyndal Butler attended representing Tslagi Lodge. The purpose for this conference was detailed and intensive training. In addition to learning the latest in OA, the delegates enjoyed fantastic arena shows and professionally produced publications.

On August 6 - 8 Tslagi Lodge held a successful Ordeal at Cherokee Scout Reservation. The lodge used the Elangomat Clan System and inducted 61 new Brothers. In addition 23 members became Brotherhood. This event was a meaningful step toward improving the lodge's ceremonies and the candidates' experience.

The 1976 Fall Fellowship was held on November 19 – 21 and it proved to be the “most interesting and humdinger event to happen in a long time”. Brothers arrived on Friday and enjoyed an evening of fellowship. On Saturday morning everyone participated in “Exploring OA”. Arrowmen rotated between the Camping Promotions exhibit led by Rob Sutton, a session on the Cardinal Principles of Inductions by Steve Bland, and the Publications exhibit led by Section Chief Rick Burton. During the weekend there were numerous exhibits to view including Wood carved neckerchief slides, Stamps from around the world showing Scouts, a Scout uniform from England, OA publications, Timmy Wray's Indian Dancing costume, Alpha Phi Omega – National Service Fraternity, and the 1977 National Jamboree. Danny Hicks and Doug Young prepared an exciting Quest which was won by Alamance Chapter. The most popular activity of the weekend was the Leather Patch table. Participants received a stamped leather round for the Fellowship thanks to Bill Post. They could personalize the “patch” with their own colors. On Sunday Lodge Elections were held. Lyndal Butler was elected Lodge Chief. Tim Davis, Rob Sutton, and Steve Bland were chosen as Vice-Chiefs, Mark Bryan as Secretary and Kenny DeWeese and Tom Fouts were re-elected as Treasurer and Quartermaster, respectively.



In January **1977** the Lodge Executive Committee met at CSR with the purpose of training and planning. Under the supervision of Tommy Murray, Bill Post, and Ted Williams the lodge's youth leadership formed a cohesive team to plan a great year. Lodge Chief Lyndal Butler accepted the challenge to encourage more participation in well planned, action packed lodge events.

The Spring Fellowship was designed for clan based activities. On Saturday four clans competed in the Quest events that were planned for the upcoming conclave. Chapters carved totem poles. Under the direction of Tommy Murray a new beautiful bonnet was built. For the first time in many years a Lodge Banquet was held. On Saturday night the lodge enjoyed an address from former Occoneechee Lodge Chief Jimmy Martin on the “Ten Qualities of Inspirational Membership”.

A small but dedicated group of Tslagi Arrowmen attended the SE-3A Section Conclave on April 22 – 24 that was held at Tuscarora Scout Reservation. The lodge had several important responsibilities during the event. Doc Lewis, Steve Bland, and Rob Sutton led training sessions. Steve Worth, Mark Bryan, Dennis Smith and David Phillips prepared great exhibits. The lodge was in charge of Section Elections and assisted with the SE-3A newsletter. In competition Tim Wray and Mark Huffstadler performed well in Indian Dance and the lodge Quest team placed 2nd. In elections Rob Sutton was chosen as Section Secretary.

The lodge held a Rededication Weekend on May 27 – 29. Brothers were encouraged to join in the camp improvement projects with a renewed spirit of Cheerful Spirit. A special rededication ceremony was held for members that chose to participate.

Tslagi Lodge was well represented at the 1977 National OA Conference that was held in August at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Attending were Doc Lewis, Tommy Murray, Tim Gray, Dennis Smith, Owen Pass, Keith Myrick, Steve Worth, Lyndal Butler, Rob Sutton, and David Phillips. The week included training workshops, Indian dance competition, region meetings, outdoor fair displays, and lavish nightly shows. Lyndal, Dennis, Tim and Steve worked as staff members for one of the afternoon training seminars -“Inductions Workshop”.

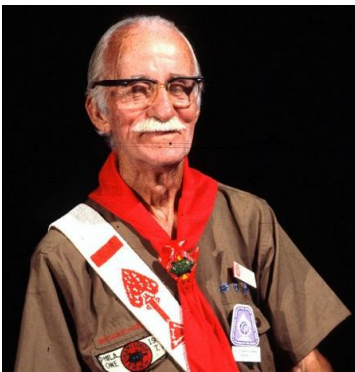


On August 12 – 14 the lodge held an Ordeal weekend. This was the first event where the new “Pre-Ordeal Ceremony” was used. On Saturday several camp improvement projects were completed. These included laying stepping stones, staining buildings, repairing trails and bridges, and folding tents. Saturday evening 89 Ordeal members were inducted and 17 sealed their membership in the Order by becoming Brotherhood.

Almost 100 Brothers attended this year’s Fall Fellowship. Everyone enjoyed exhibits especially Doc’s patches and the lodge Costumes. Many people carved OA neckerchief slides. Arrowmen in Clan teams did projects and saw “Discover OA”. Alamance Chapter won the Quest and most important, new officers were elected. Dennis Smith was chosen as Lodge Chief. Tim Gray, Nelson Dollar, and Carr Powell were selected for Vice-Chief, Bill Allen as Quartermaster, Tommy Wagoner for Secretary, and David Martin as Treasurer.

Stew Sale –In 1977 Alamance Chapter began holding an annual fund-raising program. They made Brunswick Stew. Under the leadership of chief cook Holland Phillips, chapter advisor Jimmy Workman and Tim Frye the chapter began selling 600 – 700 gallons of stew each fall. The chapter used the thousands of dollars for camp improvements and camperships for summer camp.

The Spring Fellowship was held at CSR on March 10 – 12, **1978**. The highlight for the weekend was the Lodge Banquet that included a slide show and closing ceremony with inspirational message given by Doc Lewis.



On April 21 - 23 the lodge sent 66 delegates to the North Carolina coast for the SE-3A Section Conclave. Klahican Lodge hosted the eight lodges of the section at Fort Caswell, a Baptist Church retreat near Southport. The Arrowmen did not camp in tents but slept in dorms and barracks. Shows were staged in a large auditorium. The biggest attraction of the weekend was a chance to meet and hear a message by the founder of the Order of the Arrow, E. Urner Goodman. National Vice-Chief Rick Burton was also in attendance. The lodge placed second in the Quest for the Golden Arrow and Mark Huffstetler placed 3rd in Junior War Dance. Lodge member Steve Worth was elected as Section Vice-Chief.

As Cherokee Council made plans for summer camp for **1979** they discussed the need to raise the fee for Scouts from \$45.00 per week to \$50.00. The Lodge Advisors and former Lodge Chief became concerned about this increase and its effect on attendance. A special Executive Committee meeting was called and a possible solution was discussed. They offered to donate \$1,200 to the summer camp program. The Council accepted the proposal and kept the camp fee at \$45.00. This was a unique approach to camp promotions!

On April 20 – 22 Tslagi Lodge sent a delegation of 54 Brothers to the SE-3A Section Conclave at Camp Raven Knob. The lodge prepared well for this event and demonstrated great spirit. Former Lodge Chief Dennis Smith headed up the lodge's responsibility of directing the conclave's shows.



On July 11, 1979 Tslagi Lodge celebrated the founding of the lodge forty years earlier. This low-key observance took place at Cherokee Scout Reservation on a Thursday night. Special invitations were sent to former lodge chiefs and the main guest for that ceremony was A. P. "Pat" Patterson, the Scout Executive who had been instrumental in founding the lodge. He and Doc Lewis reminisced about the lodge's early years. Another highlight

was a taped message from the OA's founder, E. Urner Goodman. A special lodge flap was issued to commemorate the 40th anniversary.

The lodge sent a delegation that included Doc Lewis, Greg Aaron, David Higgins, Mitch Patton, Owen Pass, and Kevin Smith to the 1979 National OA Conference held on August 13 - 17 at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. The group came home with many new ideas and energized to lead the lodge.

The Fall Fellowship on November 16 - 18 had two special features. The first was a session on Indian costume making. Everyone was encouraged to bring the supplies to make a torch bearer outfit. This included a breech cloth (2 yards long), a vest, and leggings. Saturday afternoon was set aside for this session. The second item was an emergency service project. Due to heavy rains, erosion had damaged Waterfront Road. Arrowmen spent a couple of hours in the morning installing water bars across the road. The most important activity of the weekend was Lodge Elections. Mike Walters was elected Lodge Chief, Nelson Dollar, Whitney Montgomery and Donald Diemer as Vice-Chiefs, Dennis Smith as Quartermaster, Kevin Smith as Secretary and Mickey Klutz as Treasurer. There was a Brotherhood Ceremony and lots of fun and fellowship.

The November 1979 Section newsletter, **APENSUWI**, reported that Tslagi Lodge had **225** active members with **148** Ordeal, **53** Brotherhood, and **24** Vigil.

1980s

The weekend of March 7 – 9 was the occasion for the Spring Fellowship & Lodge Banquet. The event was promoted for the 3 Fs – FUN, FELLOWSHIP, and FOOD! No one was disappointed as there was plenty of all three. Supper was served on Friday followed by an evening of socializing. Saturday started with training for lodge members. The day also included activities for a special Webelos to Scout Transition program. There were exhibits to view and then practice for the events to be held in the Quest for the Golden Arrow at conclave. Saturday night was the Lodge Banquet with special guest Roger Billica. Mr. Billica was a former Section Chief and at the time was a member of the OA's national subcommittee on Ceremonies.

The lodge sent 52 delegates to Bonner Scout Reservation located on Pamlico Sound for the SE-3A Section Conclave on April 18 – 20, 1980. While the lodge members participated in the activities the biggest impact of the event was the realization of how much work was required to host a conclave. Tslagi Lodge would require total effort by all members to successfully stage the 1981 event.

On November 14 – 16 the lodge held its Fall Fellowship. On Friday night there were exhibits, films and a cracker barrel. Everyone was encouraged to bring their post-hole diggers for the Saturday morning service project. The lodge renovated the Council Ring with new seating. In the afternoon there was time for costume making then Lodge Elections. Kevin Smith was elected Lodge Chief. Greg Aaron, David Martin and Owen Pass were selected as Vice-Chiefs, Steve Spoon as Quartermaster, Todd Aaron as Secretary, and Eric Johnson as Treasurer. The evening included Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies. Time during the weekend was spent planning for the **1981** SE-3A Section Conclave which the lodge would host.

The March 6 - 8 Spring Fellowship was the first big effort to prepare camp for the upcoming conclave. The lodge also held Conclave Work Weekends on March 20-22, 27-29, and April 3-5, 10-12. Members were required to work on at least three of the five weekends in order to attend the 1981 SE-3A Section Conclave.



On April 24 - 26 the SE-3A Section Conclave was held at Cherokee Scout Reservation. About 600 Arrowmen from across the state arrived on Friday for a weekend of fun and fellowship. The delegates had a chance to meet several special guests. These included William “Green Bar Bill” Hillcourt (Boy Scout Handbook author), Bill Downs (National Executive Director of the Order of the Arrow), and Brad Starr (National Chief). During the conclave each lodge had responsibility for running an activity. On Saturday morning delegates participated in training, viewed exhibits or competed in Ordeal ceremonies. After lunch a special question & answer session was held with Mr. Hillcourt and Mr. Downs. The afternoon continued with Indian Dance competition, Indian exhibits and the Quest for the Golden Arrow. Section Elections were held and Tslagi Brother Nelson Dollar was elected as Section Chief. Following Supper was the evening show then a Cracker Barrel where Scouts had a chance to collect autographs from the special guests. The multiple workdays had the camp in excellent shape and the lodge cook crew under the leadership of Millard Patton did a great job. The weather was a little cool, but everyone agreed that this was a huge success for Section SE-3A and for Tslagi Lodge!



Bill Post, “Tank”, and Green Bar Bill

On April 16 -18, **1982** the lodge traveled to the new Camp Durant located near Carthage, NC for the newly reorganized SE-7 Section Conclave. Three western North Carolina lodges joined the eight lodges from central and eastern NC. The lodge took 50 Arrowmen to this year’s event which was led by Section Chief Nelson Dollar. Tslagi Lodge was in charge of shows and Ace Stephenson did a great job in organizing this highlight of the conclave.

In the summer edition of the **1983** lodge newsletter, *Trail Signs*, it was announced that Cherokee Council had formed a committee to develop plans for a new building for Tslagi Lodge. The committee included Lodge Chief Ritchie Anderson, Bill Brackett, Ted Williams, Tim Frye and Jim Teachy.

In the October 1983 edition of **SCOUTING Magazine** Tslagi Lodge was featured. A very positive article discussed the role the lodge plays in promoting camping in Cherokee Council and the operation of this outstanding Order of the Arrow lodge.

THEY AIM TO SERVE

BY CHARLES
SEAGRAVES
*Photographs by
Bill Grimes*

*(Right) Part of
Arrowmen's action
weekend—a tug-of-war.*



The drum begins its staccato thump. The principals in the Order of the Arrow ceremony take their places in a flood of Saturday morning sunshine that streams through the still-leafless trees of North Carolina's Cherokee Scout Reservation. About 100 of the 400 members of Tslagi (pronounced "sloggy") Lodge of the Order of the Arrow have gathered on this 1,441-acre preserve for an early-spring weekend of fellowship and fun.

But first there is work to be done, some intensive practice for competitions at next month's OA section conclave. Though this is only a trial run, it is obvious that those taking part are serious about their roles.

"The boys put a high



premium on the ceremonies and inductions." Tommy Murray explains, watching the action intently. Murray has been one of the two adult advisers to Lodge 163 since 1975. "There's an emphasis on doing them well. They know how much the ceremonies mean to them when they first joined, and they try to make them memorable for each new member."

At the conclusion of the practice session, Steve Spoon, vice-chief in charge of inductions, presides over a critique. "O.K., What did we do wrong—and what did we do right?"

The Arrowmen immediately seize on the "wrongs." Errors in costume are quickly spotted by several lodge members—tennis shoes instead of moccasins, street clothes visible under the Indian costumes. One observer points out that Lodge Chief Ritchie Anderson's face paint "looks weird." Everyone laughs as Ritchie removes his glasses.

"He looks more like a clown than a chief, doesn't he?" Spoon asks. "We purposely exaggerated that to show you how small things like face paint make a difference. Remember, the whole ceremony is a series of technicalities, but each is important to the total effect."

The critique continues until practically every possibility is exhausted. That kind of attention to detail as well as the business-like way Tslagi is run have paid dividends in the past five years.

The lodge has played a major role in the Cherokee Council's increase in summer camp attendance, an increase that continued even during the worst of the influenza.

Like so many Order of the Arrow groups, Tslagi Lodge does an outstanding job of promoting camping and making its members aware of our Indian heritage.

(Right) Lodge Adviser "Doc" Lewis, second from right, presents plaque of appreciation to outgoing chief, Greg Aaron. Far left, Associate Lodge Adviser Tommy Murray; far right, new chief Ritchie Anderson. (Left) Scouts recreate the traditional OA brotherhood ceremony.




Scouting October 1983

The **1985** Spring Fellowship was held in March and there was one special activity planned for this event. The lodge held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new OA Lodge Building. Doc Lewis was a key participant as the lodge planned to name the building in his honor. Construction on the lodge building did not start until the end of the year.

On April 18 – 20 **1986** Tslagi Lodge sent a delegation to Tuscarora Scout Reservation for the SE-7 Section Conclave. The weather was nice and the training was good. A few of the highlights for the lodge were Eddie Tate's Indian Culture Exhibit which won 2nd Place, David Bone's educational Topic Exhibit, and Alamance Chapter's Ceremony Team did well in the Pre-Ordeal ceremony competition. Eric Lassiter won 1st place in costuming and dancing. Charlie Aman was unsuccessful in his effort to be elected Section Chief, but Daniel Dollar was chosen for



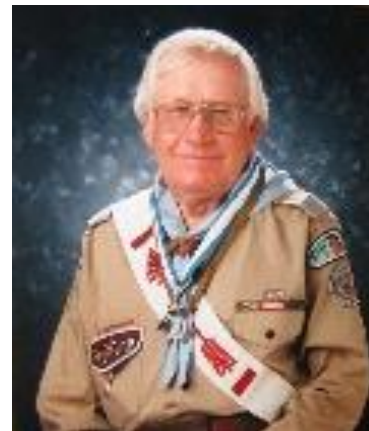
Section Vice-Chief of Administration and David Bone was elected Section Secretary. The biggest prize of the weekend was also earned: Honor Lodge. It was a great weekend!

Construction on the lodge building moved quickly in early 1986. On April 27 Lodge Chief Daniel Dollar called an Executive Committee meeting in the building which was not finished, but had been closed in.

Allan “Doc” Lewis Lodge Building Dedication



On July 9, 1986 hundreds of admirers of “Doc” Lewis came to Cherokee Scout Reservation for the dedication of the Allan “Doc” Lewis Lodge Building. A special ceremony kicked off the official opening of the building including comments from Doc himself. The participants enjoyed a hot dog dinner and took tours of the new OA Lodge.



The building was a modern two-level heated frame structure with a kitchen, bathrooms, a dressing room with showers, a large meeting room which had a stone fireplace and an unfinished full basement for storage and future expansion. The meeting room housed the memorabilia of “Doc” Lewis, some of which were treasured gifts presented to him by the staff at the last campfire at old Camp Cherokee in 1966. The attractive book cases and cabinets on either side of the fireplace were built by Charles Dooley, Sr. who donated them in honor of his Arrowmen sons Charles and Jason. The fine portrait of Doc hanging in the foyer was done by Arrowman Mark Wagoner, a professional photographer of Greensboro.

Lodge Name Change: TSLAGI to TSALAGI

Over the years there were some questions about the lodge’s name, “TSLAGI”. It was suggested that this was the name of a Cherokee Chief or it was from a different dialect, but no one ever researched this. In a letter dated April 11, 1985 Mrs. Cedelia C. Miley, an advisor of Explorer Post 728 in Madison, wrote to the Council President, Hamp Poole, and advised him of the misspelling. Mrs. Miley had worked for many years as a publicist for the Cherokee Historical Association and she was familiar with the Cherokee language. The Lodge Executive Committee discussed the lodge name at a May meeting, but decided they needed more information before considering a change. Jim Boyd, long-time dance team advisor was asked to investigate the name. In August Mr. Boyd suggested there were variations in different dialects and the lodge decided to leave the name as it had been for forty-five years.

In September and October 1987 the issue of the misspelling reappeared. After a presentation by the rules and regulations committee chairman, Tom Butler, on Sequoyah’s Cherokee alphabet and syllabary that TSA-LA-GI was the correct spelling there was much discussion. When Doc Lewis with his usual eloquence spoke in favor of the change, the executive committee approved the spelling correction. At the Fall Fellowship in November 1987 the lodge membership adopted the revised Lodge Rules and Regulations which included the name change. The corrected name first appeared on the fiftieth anniversary lodge flap that became available in early 1988. A flap for the 1988 NOAC had a similar design and soon new Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil flaps were issued with the new spelling.



The year **1988** was another busy one for Tsalagi Lodge. The schedule included: Spring Fellowship (March 4-6), SE-7 Section Conclave (April 22-24), May Work Weekend (May 27-29), OA Week (July 24-29), Ordeal Weekend (August 5-7), Vigil Weekend (September 17) and Fall Fellowship (November 18 - 20).

On August 15 - 19 Tsalagi Lodge took a delegation to the 1988 National OA Conference held at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, CO. A highlight of this visit to the Rockies was the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award (**DSA**) to **Bill Brackett**. Mr. Brackett had served as Scout Executive in Cherokee Council since 1978. He was a big supporter of the Order of the Arrow and credited the lodge for much of the success of the Council's camping program.



Section Leadership

Tsalagi Lodge was a cradle for leadership within Section SE-7. Under the guidance of Tommy Murray and Doc Lewis a number of Arrowmen took important leadership roles in the section. The following members served as Section Chief: Nelson Dollar (elected in 1981), Ritchie Anderson (1984), Mike Strader (1985), Daniel Dollar (1987), and David Bone (1988). In December 1988 David Bone was elected as Southeast Region Chief.

In October 1988 Lodge Chief David Poteat appointed Will Butler to be the 50th Anniversary Chairman. He joined the following Brothers on the anniversary committee: Mike Strader, Mike Doolittle, Mike Walters, Steve Jones, Marvin Preslar, Todd Hodges, Ritchie Anderson, Tom Butler, Grant Boone, Bill Pergerson, David Poteat, Bill Brackett, Buster Brown, Mitch Patton, Millard Patton, and Ted Williams. This group met over the next several months to plan activities for the 1989 Spring Fellowship.

1989 – 50th Anniversary Year

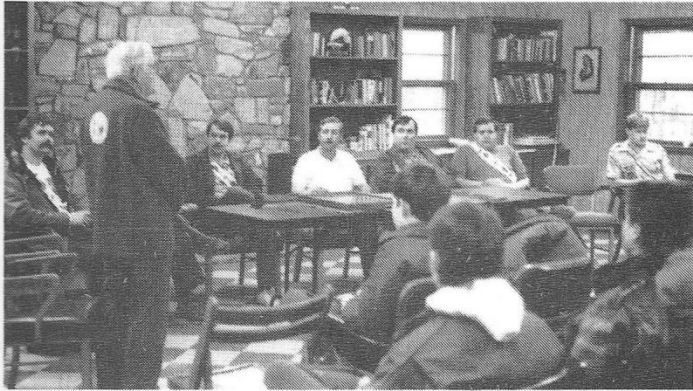
Despite a cold drizzle, over one hundred Arrowmen registered on Friday evening of March 3 for the Spring Fellowship. On Saturday morning additional members arrived bringing the total attendance to about 200 for the 50th Anniversary celebration. This event included the usual activities of a spring fellowship plus special features for the anniversary. The chapters competed in the Quest which was won by Conestee Chapter. Former lodge chiefs were invited back and the following ones attended:

Dexter Moser (1st Chief from 1940)
Allan Myers (1969)
Blair Madren (1972)
Bryant Pergerson (1976)
Lyndal Butler (1977)
Mitch Patton (1979)
Mike Walters (1980)
Greg Aaron (1982)
Ritchie Anderson (1983 & 1984)
Daniel Dollar (1986)
David Poteat (1988)



There was a former lodge chief roundtable led by Doc Lewis where many reflections on the lodge's past were shared. An old-timer Brotherhood ceremonial team was assembled and dressed in full regalia and make-up. A special ceremony was held with the planting of commemorative bushes dedicated to the four chapters around the OA Lodge. This completed landscaping that had started at the Fall Fellowship. On Saturday afternoon there was a highly successful patch auction run by Buster Brown which raised \$2,000 for the lodge treasury. For dinner everyone enjoyed a pig pickin'. The evening included a campfire program with some down home

entertainment from the “Country Boys” – Mike Walters on banjo and Ted White on guitar. On Sunday morning the participants were inspired by a message from Dexter Moser and leadership of Reverend Allan Myers during a worship service. Throughout the weekend there was a real sense of Brotherhood. Everyone went home looking forward to the next fifty years!



Former chiefs round-table discussion with “Doc” Lewis. From left to right: Blair Madren, Keith Christopher, Bryant Pergerson, Lyndal Butler, Mitch Patton, Greg Aaron, and Daniel Dollar.



Down Home entertainment at the campfire with the “Country Boys”. From left to right: Mike Walters, Jeff Vernon, Ted White, Mike Doolittle, Nelson Dollar, Mitch Patton, and Steve Spoon.

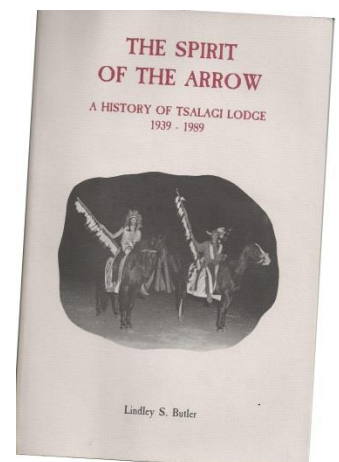


Buster Brown runs the patch auction like a “pro”.



Old-timers Brotherhood induction team. From left to right: Jim Boyd, Steve Spoon, Greg Aaron, Tommy Murray, “Doc” Lewis, Mike “Turtleman” Walters.

In preparation for the lodge’s 50th anniversary lodge member and local historian Lindley Butler compiled a book on the lodge. **“THE SPIRIT OF THE ARROW: A History of Tsalagi Lodge 1939 – 1989”**. In his Acknowledgement he describes the difficulty in writing this history due to lost or discarded documents and members that have moved away or are now deceased. The history was made possible by the involvement of Doc Lewis who was active in the lodge for most of those first fifty years.



1990s

Tsalagi Lodge continued to prosper in the 1990s. The lodge was well run and provided valuable service to Cherokee Scout Reservation. Efforts were made to promote camping and support was given for several Council events.

The lodge began planning for its next big hosting responsibility, the 1992 SE-7 Section Conclave. Committees were formed and members were recruited to handle the many duties for a weekend with almost 1,000 participants expected.

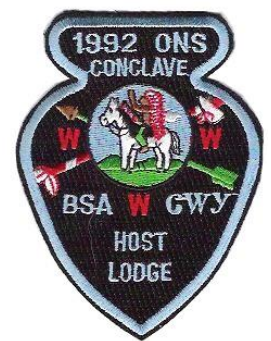
Tsalagi Lodge held several workdays in March and April to prepare Cherokee Scout Reservation for the **1992** SE-7 Section Conclave. Under the leadership of Lodge Chief Jeff Crumpton and Lodge Advisor Tommy Murray the lodge was mobilized to do many projects around camp.

On Friday April 10, the host lodge moved in only a few hours before the ten visiting lodges arrived. There was a total of almost 1,000 Scouts and Scouters attending this year's conclave. The evening started with an opening campfire in the Council Ring and



spirited cheering by all the delegates. A cracker barrel followed and many participants were seen trading patches under the Dining Hall Shelter. Following Saturday breakfast some delegates attended training while others prepared for competition. At 10:30 there was Team Dance and Ceremony competition. Indian Culture and Topic Exhibits were also set up for viewing. After lunch the competition continued with Individual Dance and the Quest for the Golden Arrow. A big Patch Auction was held followed by a Candidates Forum and Section Elections. The lodge's chief, Jeff Crumpton, was elected as Section Vice-Chief of Program. A great supper of Pork

Barbecue and all the fixings was prepared by the lodge cook crew. That evening there was another moving campfire program. Sunday started early with the Vigil Breakfast. After everyone ate breakfast a morning worship service was held followed by an Awards Ceremony. The event ended following the passing of the bonnet from the old to newly elected Section Chief, Rob Shelton. Once again Tsalagi Lodge hosted a great section conclave!



In August the lodge sent a delegation to the University of Tennessee for the 1992 National OA Conference. One of the highlights of the NOAC was the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award (**DSA**) to lodge member **David Bone**. He was elected as SE-7 Section Chief in 1988 then chosen as Southeast Region Chief for 1989 – 1990,



The **1993** SE-7 Section Conclave was held on April 18 – 20 at Camp Durant. The lodge competed in several areas and won the Quest for the Golden Arrow.

On April 15 – 17, **1994** members of Tsalagi Lodge traveled to Camp Wenasa for the SR-7 Section Conclave being hosted by Keyauwee Lodge 70. The lodge was well organized and Tsalagi Lodge earned the most prized award of the weekend, the Spirit Award.



The lodge took a delegation to Purdue University for the 1994 National OA Conference. A highlight of this event was the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award (**DSA**) to **Tommy Murray**. His award was presented to him by Doc Lewis. Tommy was recognized for his many years of service to the section. He has also served on the training staff for several NOACs. Former Tslagi Lodge Chief and recent Section SE-7 Advisor **John Young** also received the DSA.

MERGER

In early 1994 leaders of Old North State Council and Cherokee Council discussed the possibility of merging the two councils into one. The idea of merging was not popular with some volunteers, but the benefit of one larger council outweighed their concerns. The leaders of Cherokee Council were pleased that part of the new council plan was to make Cherokee Scout Reservation the council Boy Scout camp. The merger was approved in May 1994.

With the merger of the councils came the need to merge the Order of the Arrow lodges. The lodge charters did not expire until November 1994 so there was a few months to plan for the new lodge. Members of Tslagi Lodge 163 and Keyauwee Lodge 70 met and discussed their future. There was a genuine desire to make all parties feel they were part of the transition. Suggestions were solicited for a name and totem of the new lodge. A letter was sent to all members of the new lodge requesting their vote on the final name and totem. The vote came in and the new lodge was named Tsoiotsi Tsogalii which means in Cherokee, "We Three Are Friends". The red-tailed hawk was chosen as the lodge totem. The new lodge held its first fellowship in November 1994 at Camp Wenasa and on Saturday night a special re-dedication ceremony was held at Camp Nikwasi to help instill a fresh spirit for the Order's purpose in all involved.

