



More About the Boy Scouts in Pacolet

The original articles on this website about the Boy Scouts in Pacolet (<http://pacoletmemories.com/boyscouts.html>) covered up through the early and mid-1950s. Recently, I have received information from Jimmy Hodge that provides an update on scouting in Pacolet through the 1960s and into the 1970s. This information is given in this article. Jimmy was a member of Troop 151 in Pacolet Mills and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. We would like to thank Jimmy for furnishing this material to the Pacolet Memories website.

In addition to this article, Jimmy has also compiled a list of all the Boy Scouts from Pacolet that achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. This list can be seen at [Pacolet Eagle Scouts](#).

There has been a long record of Boy Scout activity in the Pacolet Black community but it has not always been widely publicized. One example is that of Cub Scout Pack 290. A picture of the boys and leaders in this pack was found in the *Benjamin E. Mays Consolidated School Annual*, 1953 – 1970. Thanks to the help of Ms. Gloria Smith, the members of this pack have been identified. You can see the picture, with the names, at [B. E. Mays Cub Scout Pack 290](#).

More About the Pacolet Boy Scouts

(Written By Jimmy Hodge)

I was a member of Troop 151 which was chartered in 1960 under the Palmetto Council. Rodger and Bruce Pace were the initial scout leaders. Later, John Earl Hogan and Jim Lee became Scout Masters. The [churches](#) in the [Pacolet Mills](#) area supported the Scout program. Each church had two representatives from each church to serve as council members. Several councilmen, James Wells, Raymond Smith and Tom Mabry, helped in getting tents and other equipment for the troop. They also provided transportation to [Camp Palmetto](#) and Jamborees for the scouts. There were many other men and women who helped support the troop during those years. Two men who gave a great deal of their time to the troop were Raymond Smith and Jim Lee. They would take time every summer to help the scouts. For one week in the summer Raymond Smith would meet the scouts every morning at the [Anderson Pool](#) and teach swimming and life saving, which were major merit badges needed to advance toward the Eagle rank. He also assisted the scouts in getting their Mile Swim badge. Jim Lee, as Scoutmaster, would take a vacation week from work every summer to stay with the scouts at [Camp Palmetto summer camp](#). These men gave so much to Troop 151 and could never have been thanked enough for the time they spent with us.

One accomplishment that Troop 151 was known for was that 11 of its scouts earned the rank of Eagle Scout all at the same time. A newspaper article about that appeared in the *Spartanburg Journal*, October 24, 1961:

ELEVEN SCOUTS IN SAME TROOP GET EAGLE RANKS

Eleven Boy Scouts of the [Pacolet Mills](#) Troop 151 have set an outstanding record in their community by attaining the rank of Eagle Scouts.

The boys have equaled all previous records of Spartanburg District. Only one other troop of the District - Routh Memorial Presbyterian Church - has ever had 11 scouts to receive the Eagle Award at the same time.

Award ceremonies will be conducted Sunday at 11 a.m. services at [Pacolet Mills Baptist Church](#) and the 7 p.m. service at [Montgomery Memorial Methodist Church](#).

Scouts receiving the high honor and their achievement were listed as follows:

Steve Goforth, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kansas Goforth of Gaffney route 4, with 40 merit badges and excelling in science. His hobby is insects and reptiles.

Jimmy Hodge, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hodge of [Pacolet Mills](#), 53 merit badges, favorite subjects are French and science. He is a collector of coins and models.

Gary Robinette, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Robinette of [Pacolet](#), 53 merit badges, is a member of the Order of the Arrow, and [Pacolet High School](#) football team.

Billy Goforth, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Goforth of [Pacolet Mills](#), has 56 merit badges, is a member of the Order of the Arrow, holds a mile swim award, attendance pin, and is qualified for emergency service. His hobby is pets.

Ronnie Hodge, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hodge, is a twin of Jimmy Hodge, and has 49 merit badges. He is a coin collector.

Kenneth Allen, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Allen of [Pacolet Mills](#) has 27 merit badges and excels in physics and chemistry. His hobbies are models and mechanics.

Donnie, 13, and Phil Hodge, 15, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Troy Hodge of [Pacolet Mills](#) have a combination of 35 and 45 merit badges. Donnie likes sports, coin collecting and math. Phil is a stamp collector and likes fishing and math.

Sid Loftis, son of Mrs. Aughtry Loftis of [Pacolet Mills](#) is a member of the Order of the Arrow, [Pacolet High School](#) football team and [Montgomery Memorial Methodist Church](#).

Don Courtney, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Courtney of [Pacolet Mills](#) has 25 merit badges.

David Trent Martin, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Martin of [Pacolet](#), is a member of the Order of the Arrow and has 25 merit badges.

Troop 151 is also unique in that it is sponsored by all of the churches of [Pacolet Mills](#). The troop committee is composed of two representatives from each of the [churches](#). The troop is self-supporting by the scouts operating the concession stand at the [local ball park](#) during the summer months. John Hogan, employee at [Pacolet Manufacturing Co.](#) is the Scoutmaster.

The troop's programs include Explorers, Cubs and Girl Scouts. Twelve members are qualified for the one Mile Swim, two for lifeguards, and expert rifle marksmanship training is available.

The troop has two buildings on the former [Victor Inn](#) property which they maintain for Scout Huts.

Photos of 9 of the 11 Eagle Scouts are shown on the following page.

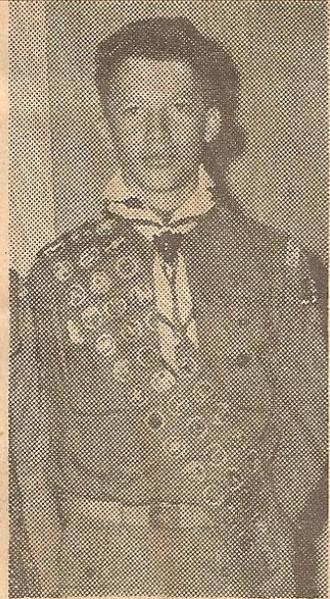
(A list of all the Boy Scouts from Pacolet that achieved the rank of Eagle Scout can be seen at [Pacolet Eagle Scouts](#).)



RONNIE HODGE



DONNIE HODGE



JIMMY HODGE



STEVE GOFORTH



BILLY GOFORTH



GERRY ROBINETTE



TRENT MARTIN



SID LOFTIS



PHIL HODGE

The following is a transcript of the second newspaper article that appeared the following day in the *Spartanburg Herald* newspaper, posted on October 25, 1961, page 5. The news article is below:

PACOLET MILLS TROOP 151 EQUALS DISTRICT EAGLE AWARDS RECORD

Sponsored by all Pacolet Mills churches, members of Pacolet Mills Boy Scout Troop 151 have matched Routh Memorial Presbyterian Church's (Spartanburg) record of 11 Scouts attaining the rank of Eagle at the same time. Award ceremonies will be conducted Sunday at 11 a.m. services in Pacolet Mills Baptist Church and again at Montgomery Memorial Methodist Church at 7 p.m. Absent when these pictures were made were Don Courtney, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Courtney, Pacolet Mills, with 25 merit badges; Kenneth Allen, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Allen, Pacolet Mills, 27 merit badges; Others pictures above are Steve Goforth, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kansas Goforth of Gaffney, Route 4, 40 merit badges; Jimmy Hodge, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hodge, Pacolet Mills, 53 merit badges; Gary Robinette, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Robinette, Pacolet, 53 merit badges; Billy Goforth, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Goforth of Pacolet Mills, 56 merit badges; Ronnie Hodge, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hodge and twin brother to Jimmy who is also receiving an Eagle award, 49 merit badges; Donnie Hodge, 13, and Phil Hodge, 15, both sons of Mr. and Mrs. Troy Hodge of Pacolet Mills, have 35 and 45 merit badges respectively; Sid Loftis, son of Aughtry Loftis, Pacolet Mills; David Trent Martin, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Martin of Pacolet, 25 merit badges. John Hogan, a Pacolet Manufacturing employee, is scoutmaster. His firm has turned over to the Scouts two buildings on the former Victor Inn Property for use as a scout hut."



Insignia of Troop 151



Scout Neck Scarf - Especially Designed for Troop 151

During that same period [Pacolet Station](#) had Scout Troop 166. They also had several Eagle Scouts.

(Editor's note: Thanks to Nettie Gentry for providing more information about Boy Scout Troop 166. They met at the [Pacolet United Methodist Church](#) and were sponsored by the Pacolet Ruritan Club. Her husband, Scott Gentry, was a scoutmaster for the troop.)

The Color Guard from both Troops are pictured below. It was taken to be used in the production of a promotional calendar: (pictured from left to right); Denzel White, Monte Lee, Barry Gray, Neville Brown, Steve Banks, Ned Camby, Jimmy Hodge, Steve Goforth, Ray Roberts.

COLOR GUARD OF TROOP 151 AND 166

