

VENTURING MAGAZINE

Crossroads of America Scout Band 2014 Pensacola Tour

September 2014



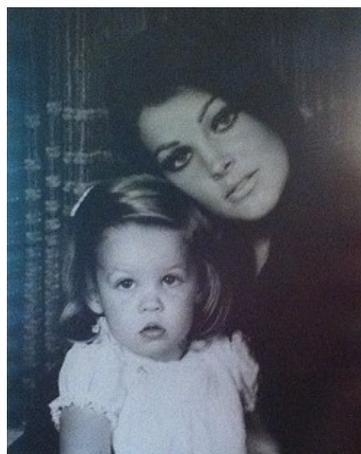
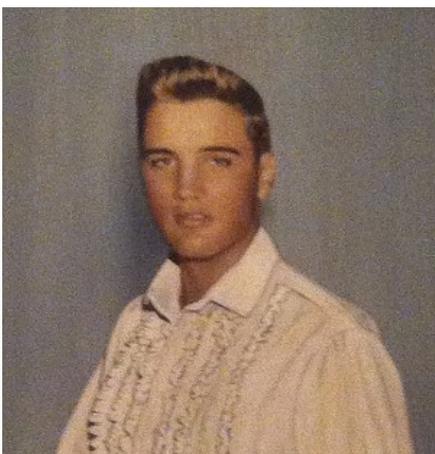
The oldest Scout Band in the United States is second only to a unit in London England to being the oldest Scout Band worldwide. July 12, 2014, Crew 559, Crossroads of America Scout Band, Indianapolis, IN, started its annual concert tour.



A rest area for sack lunch was the first stop. Youth burned built up energy reminding that a playground is for all ages.

First scheduled stop was Graceland, home of the King of Rock-N-Roll, Elvis Presley. Due to

mechanical issues we did not arrive in time to play a concert but we were able to take the tour of his home and learn about the life of this famous musician.



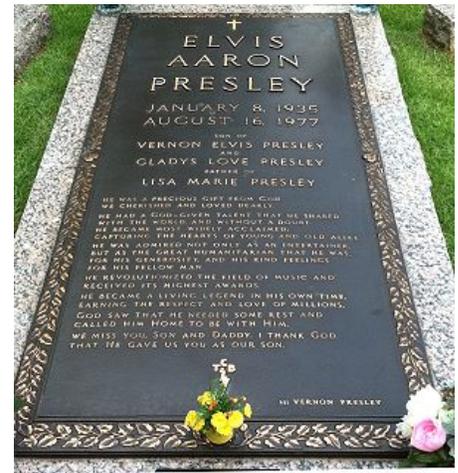
Elvis was drafted into the Army as were most young men those days. During his tour in Germany he met his wife, Priscilla, the daughter of an Air Force Captain, also stationed in Germany. They had one daughter, Lisa Marie, in 1968.

The Heartbreak Hotel, subject of one of his songs, really does exist.

Elvis Aaron Presley, 1935-1977, started as a gospel singer in Tupelo, Mississippi. His mother bought his first guitar from a hardware store when he was 10.

Teenage girls screamed and fainted when he appeared on stage and the pandemonium continued after he left the stage. "Elvis has left the building" was announced to disburse the crowds.

His last concert was at Market Square Arena on June 26, 1977. Although the Arena no longer exists, there is a marker commemorating his last concert. A great musician and performer dependent on prescription medication and other health problems, he died of heart failure on August 16, 1977.



Our first concert was performed in the visitors' center of the Battleship Memorial Park. It felt cool but not for long. Hate to admit it, but we generate a lot of hot air!



We saw the history behind the movie and the song we play about the Midway.



It was quite a climb to get to the guns but youth members conquered the task effortlessly.



What it must have been like shooting a gun on a "battle-boat."



USS Alabama "battle-boat" as we lovingly referred to it for the benefit of our Crew Advisor, a Navy Vet. Look at the size of those guns!



What a catch!

Dinner was at Tacky Jacks, a rather confusing place. There isn't always ketchup in those plastic ketchup bottles. Cocktail sauce on hamburgers - not good!



Which way? Even our best Marine couldn't figure out this sign!



What a surprise - an alligator in the wild was sighted in a pond near the motel - a first for many. All members were present and accounted for when we boarded the bus for more adventures.



We returned to the USS Alabama the next day to perform another concert this time outdoors on the fantail. Notice the rainwall (shows better in black and white) behind us - it hit in the middle of the concert. A "little" rain never hurt anybody! It took three days to dry our clothes and shoes. We looked and felt like drowned rats. Of course, we all had rain gear ... on the bus! The bus driver let us back on the bus but we had to sit on trash bags.

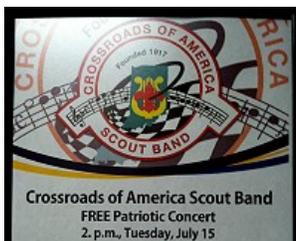


Dinner was at Lamberts Cafeteria. Although it has a family-style service and individual meals are ordered, it is known for its unique service methods.

Ordering, serving, and catching a fresh, out-of-the-oven roll!

... and they still found room for more!

A formal picture with instructions to place instruments on our laps. Our Conductor/Advisor was totally confused when a young percussionist tried to put the base drum on his lap! You'll notice an adult anchoring the base drum after this attempt!



Posters were on the walls announcing our scheduled concert. However, since the Blue Angels practice was canceled due to lightening (followed by rain) we were requested to perform an additional concert in lieu of the Blue Angels practice. We actually performed two concerts that day for them. We were told we "saved the day."

Blue Angels Naval Aeronautical drill team - what we came to see.

What we saw on the airstrip - more rainfalls! Yes, we got wet - AGAIN!



⇐ Our Crew Advisor/Conductor in action leading the band.

What he saw when he turned around! There must have been hundreds of people listening. The audience cheered after the Star Spangled Banner! Between concerts lunch was served in the Blue Angels Ready Room. Mastering the writing table was a challenge but like typical



Scouts, what one learned was shared among others. After the second concert, there was time to explore the museum, and explore we did!





The best way to get this overhead shot!



Several simulators were available and experienced, from this stationary cockpit to mobile Blue Angel simulators.



The Atomic Bomb This nuclear device is representative of the type of atomic bomb, nicknamed "Fat Man," that was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan to end the Second World War.



Presidential Helicopter



A short tour was taken of Ft. Barrancas, the location of the "Shot Heard 'Round the World." Guess what happened - yup - wet again! This tour has been renamed: "It's not gonna' rain!"



without an electrical elevator - no light

The Pensacola Light House was built in 1869 and



the Keepers' Quarters have been fully restored including things like: a chamber what? (pots), a wind-up record player? (gramophones),



and a treadle sewing machine (how can a sewing machine work cord???). There are 177 steps to climb to the light - no switch.



The basement was a little eerie, so was the yard. An invitation to a ghost hunt!



A day on Johnson's Beach, a day of fun and relaxation. There were lots of clouds threatening but the first dry day we had - so what did we do??? We jumped in the water!!! Frisbee, cornhole, and one young man wanted to find out just what was under all that sand!



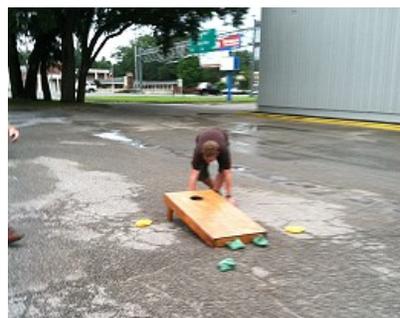
Money money everywhere! McGuire's Restaurant is lined with over one million dollar bills. Everybody that has ever been anybody that has ever visited McGuire's has autographed and attached a dollar bill to the walls and/or ceilings.



Concert for Camp Gulf RV Park. One of the campers had always wanted to conduct a band so she was given that opportunity and was presented with a t-shirt.



There was a friendly game of hoops between the band and the young campers of Camp Gulf.



The main attraction at Fudpuckers was not the food but what they found in the pond outside the restaurant. Yes, they did have alligator on their menu.

Magic, Euchre, lantern lighting, and Cornhole were just some of the evening activities. There was a cornhole tournament although, at times, it appeared to be more like Horseshoes! Mark was crowned King of Cornhole - Youth Champion!



Several hours were involved in the creation of this makeshift tail light for the bus. The original light fell off. Because of this malfunction, we did not make it to The Hermitage concert. We went to Hard Rock Café instead. What a treat! We were requested to play a couple songs but it was late and with all the equipment unloading and reloading, it just was not feasible.



Next year's plans include the celebration of the end of the Civil War, WWII, and Vietnam Conflict and marching in the National 4th of July Parade in Washington DC.