

Untitled

Troop 253 Scoutmasters: Earl Simpson 1967-1983 John Gorman - approx. 1 year 1984 Peter Turkell - approx. 1 year 1985 Died 1985 ~1986 along with his wife and three children in an auto accident while he moving his household to a new state due to a job relocation. Not being able to find a replacement Scoutmaster, Troop 253 folded and soon afterwards, Troop 53 acquired all of their equipment and some money that the South Schodack Fire Department still had on the books for the boys. Interestingly, I have met a good friend of Pete Turkell's and an Asst. Scoutmaster of Troop 253, Ed Farrell. Ed gave to me the community strip, state strip, and troop 253 numerals that, in what was evidently Pete Turkell's style, he literally cut, fabric and all, from his scout uniform at what was his last scout meeting. He then died days(I guess) later. The following is an exerpt from the memorial service performed at a Troop Dinner, when we presented Will's Gold Star on the Troop 253 flag to the South Schodack Firehouse. We have tried to fly the flag at each troop dinner since. Over 30 years ago Will's father William Monty, Sr. (past Troop 53 Scoutmaster) was an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 53 and later as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 253. While at Annual Training at Fort Drum, NY as a helicopter pilot, Will's Dad flew over to Stratton Mountain Scout Reservation, VT, while hovering over the waterfront he dropped a bleach bottle with "Hello Troop 53" written on it. This made quite an impression having an army helicopter fly over and say hello to Troop 53, and turned out to be the talk of camp. In August of 1967 Mr. Monty helped start Troop 253. It was a cooperative effort between Troop 53 and Troop 253. Troop 53 was very large and was exceeding the capacity of their meeting hall. I first joined Troop 253 while Troop 53 was reorganizing and retraining. So the two troops worked in conjunction with each other helping each other out, but still providing a healthy rivalry for each other. We would fiercely compete at Camporees, Klondike Derby's and Summer Camp, but we would go on joint campout's together at other times of the year."