

Bell Acres History...

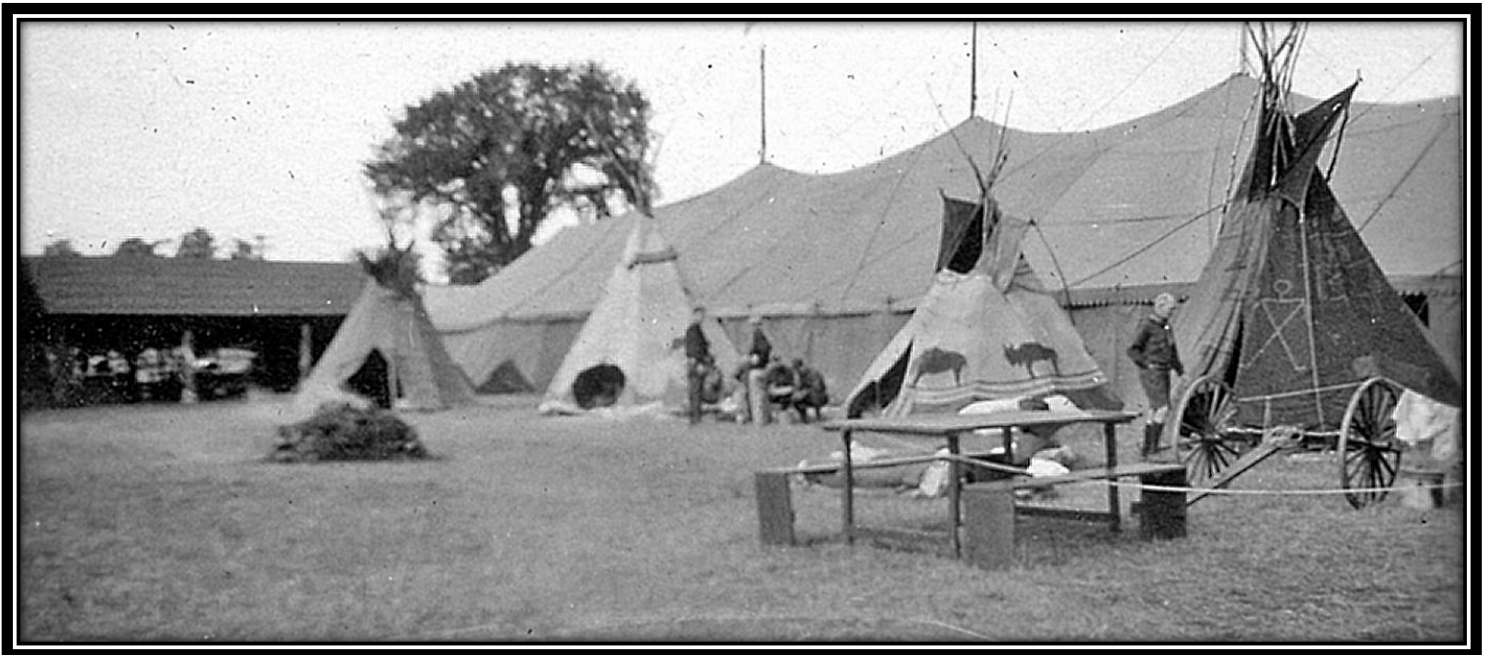
Boy Scout Camp

While area residents have memories of swimming at the GAPA pool on Turkeyfoot Road, what they may not know is that the pool was built in 1930 on the old pageant grounds of Boy Scout Camp Umbstaetter. Between 1924 and 1949, what is now part of Bell Acres' Nature Park was Allegheny County's premier boy scout camp that every summer welcomed scouts from across the state.

Built on land gifted by Edgeworth resident Wilhelmina Leet Shields Umbstaetter in memory of her husband, the camp offered a variety of facilities that included a replica pirate ship anchored in a small lake and tree house tent platforms. Pictured is the large mess tent that occupied the site prior to the construction of a dining hall.

The camp was sold to the Ambridge Greek American Progressive Association in 1948, which continued to operate the pool and picnic facilities for several years until the property was acquired by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Today, the original 105-acre tract is preserved as part of Bell Acres Borough's Nature Park.

To share stories and photos of Camp Umbstaetter or the GAPA pool, please contact: history@bellacres.org



(William Darrah Photo)