



The Mountain Echo

"THE VOICE OF IRON COUNTY SINCE 1937"



Volume 61 Number 43 Ironton, Mo. 63650

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

50 cents (Tax Included)

1 Section, 12 Pages

Connelly Memorial unveiled Sunday



Pictured above at the Pop Connelly Memorial on Taum Sauk Mountain are his descendants, front, l-r: Don Moses, Lillian Moses and Paul Connelly. Back: Frank Moses, Peter Connelly and John Connelly.

The late J.L. "Pop" Connelly is known as the "Father of the Taum Sauk Trail." Born on March 25, 1886, Pop Connelly, along with the Boys Scouts of America, initiated the Boy Scout Trail that originally ran from Graniteville to Taum Sauk Mountain and then on to Johnson's Shut-Ins. This trail was dedicated on April 12, 1958. Now, forty years later, a memorial has been placed along the trail at the site of a cairn (rock pile) started by Pop Connelly and contributed by thousands of Boy Scouts over the years on Taum Sauk Mountain.

Descendants of Connelly held a dedication service on Sunday, April 19, at the cairn site in which a red granite

marker and bronze plaque were unveiled marking Connelly's contributions to the Boy Scouts and the trail. Connelly's sole surviving daughter, Lillian Moses, her two sons Don and Frank Moses, and some of their children, along with Connelly's grandsons Peter, Paul and John Connelly, all from Louisiana, plus a host of other friends, relatives and former Boy Scouts paid tribute to Connelly and spoke lovingly of his hard work and dedication to the service organization he clearly loved, the Boy Scouts.

Paul Connelly gave the following presentation at the memorial service at the site:

"On this 40th anniversary of

See 'Connelly,' pg. 3

Connelly

continued from page 1



Pictured above is the cairn along the Boy Scout Trail on Taum Sauk Mountain.

the Taum Sauk Trail, we dedicate this monument to J.L. "Pop" Connelly.

Pop Connelly lived a life of service and conservation, and recognized the Boy Scouts as an organization that would pass these values along to future generations.

Although to some, this may be just a pile of rocks, each of these rocks represents a scout - a young man that was exposed to the scouting principles that Pop Connelly lived. We are proud to erect this marker to recognize what this monument

represents.

This trail is part of Pop Connelly's legacy - a legacy that includes three generations of Eagle Scouts.

Let us hope and pray that each of us here, and each scout that walks this trail, will live and pass along the value expressed in the Scout Oath and Scout Law, and that Pop Connelly's challenge will live on ..."

J.L. "Pop" Connelly died on November 7, 1975, but the trail he helped establish forty years ago continues to provide scouts and others a remarkable journey through the pristine wilderness of the Ozarks. The trail now begins at Fort Davidson State Historic Site and still continues on to Taum Sauk Mountain State Park and through to Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park.

The rock cairn and the granite memorial marker are located on property owned by Paul and Faith Light on Taum Sauk Mountain. The memorial was paid for by contributions from area individuals, businesses and organizations.