

# William S. “Bill” Yeager

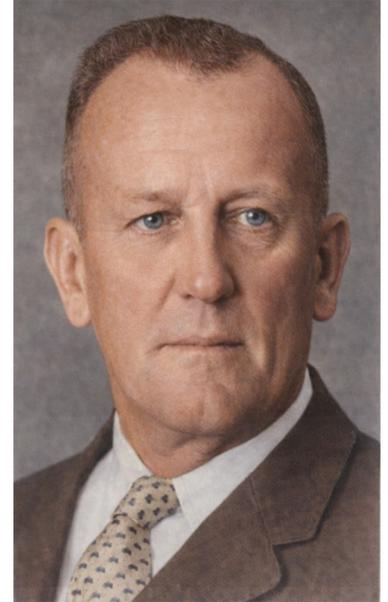
## [A Life of Service and Leadership](#)

12 Sep 1906 - 01 Dec 1998

[William Sherman Yeager](#) was born September 12, 1906 in Albany, N.Y., one of the six children of Mary Kelly and George Edward Yeager. He graduated from Westfield High School, Westfield, N.J., and attended Rutgers University.

In 1927, he joined Western Electric Company where he remained his entire career. As a young man, he was named the Director of Labor Relations and then the Director of Industrial Defense Planning. In 1957, he became the Assistant Works Manager in North Andover, Mass. In 1959, he was named General Personnel Director for the company. [In 1960 he was named General Manager of the North Carolina Works of the Western Electric Co.](#), a position he held until his retirement in 1967.

While living in Winston-Salem, he devoted his considerable energy to community service. He was President of the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce. He served on the Board of Directors of Wachovia Bank, Triad Life Insurance Co., Goodwill Industries, Junior Achievement, Winston-Salem Rotary Club, and Forsyth Country Club. He was a member of the Board of Visitors of Wake Forest University. He served as Vice President of the Northwest North Carolina Development Association. He was President of the Old Hickory Council of Boy Scouts from which he received the Silver Beaver Award. He was a United Way Campaign Chairman and a member of St. Leo’s Catholic Church. His favorite leisure pursuits were golf, boating, ice-skating and skiing.



## Original Trophy



# Yeager Elected Head Of Boy Scout Council

William S. Yeager, retiring general manager of the North Carolina Works of Western Electric Co., was named president of the Old Hickory Council of the Boy Scouts of America last night.

Yeager, 60, requested early retirement from Western Electric and has said he plans to remain "a very active resident of Winston-Salem." He has indicated that he plans to work in voluntary community activities.

Yeager said yesterday that the presidency of the local Scout council is one such activity. By retiring, he said, he will have more time to devote to volunteer work.

Yeager praised the scouting movement as a character builder. He said he has no preconceived notions about how to make improvements, but he is sure improvements can be made.

Yeager served as a scoutmaster before he moved to Winston-Salem in 1960. He also has worked with youth in the Junior Achievement program and the Northwest North Carolina Development Association.



**WILLIAM  
YEAGER**

... retiring  
from WE ...

He is a past president of the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce and a past member of the Mayor's Biracial Goodwill Committee.

Other officers elected by the Council are Robert C. Vaughn Jr., a lawyer, and M. Henry Garrity, director of development and alumni affairs for Wake Forest College, vice presidents; Roy Hinshaw, an accountant with Western Electric, commissioner; and Rodney E. Austin, personnel manager of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., treasurer.

Winston-Salem Journal, March 10, 1967

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/winston-salem-journal-bill-yeager-coun/190616742/>

# Retired Engineer Returns to Scouting

When William S. Yeager retired as general manager of the North Carolina Works of the Western Electric Co. two years ago, the big question was what would he do.

At 60, he was still relatively young and a hot prospect for public service. Both parties wanted him to enter politics. Charities saw him as a prospective fund-raiser.

He ended up back in the Boy Scouts where he started 52 years ago.

This is his third year as president of the eight-county Old Hickory Boy Scout Council. With the present illness of Ted G. Kellogg, scout executive, Yeager has moved in to help take up some of the slack in the organization. Kellogg is recuperating from a heart attack.

Scouting is nothing really new to Yeager. In fact, he credits the Scouts with spurring his interest in electronics which led him to leadership in the electronics industry.

Scouting in the United States was still in its infancy in 1917 when Yeager joined a troop near Delmar, N. Y., a farm community in the Albany area. Radio telegraphy was new too. Yeager learned about both of them together.

A retired Navy radio operator started a Boy Scout radio club in Albany. The boys scrounged copper wire and insulators, did a little soldering and fashioned primitive radios over which they broadcast Scout news occasionally.

During an interview recently, the former chief of things like princess telephone production and Nike missile systems in North Carolina sketched out on a note pad a diagram of his first radio: "Here's your antenna coming in here and here's your cord. If you were rich you could buy a capacitor. And you put your headphones here."

Six or eight of the boys would hike into the nearby Helderberg Mountains to a place where the Iroquois lay in wait for colonists coming up from Albany. The lads would camp for a week at a time.

Yeager became a First Class Scout with eight or nine merit badges.

As an adult in the 1930s he was a scoutmaster at the



WILLIAM S. YEAGER  
... heads Scout council ...

Holy Trinity Church troop in Westfield, N. J. After that he was transferred from job to job in the Western Electric network of plants, advancing up the management ladder.

Since he had three daughters and no sons, he was out of Scouting for several years. Then he retired.

His main project since becoming president of the Old Hickory Council has been working with other volunteers to build up the camping program. Largely through his efforts the council has raised enough money to double the size of Camp Raven Knob.

He saw it as a necessity. In 1963, 986 boys attended summer camp. This year the council expects 2,500. In 1963 1,080 attended weekend outings at the camp. This year 4,700 will camp out there on trips other than regular summer camp outings.

Obviously camping, which is the heart of any Scout program, is growing at a phenomenal rate. About 3,500 boys are expected for the 1973 summer camp session.

The council needed land to insure an adequate camp site well into the future. With the recent acquisition of 1,100

**ADMIRAL**  
**Air Conditioners**  
"For All Your Cooling Needs!"  
**MOORE CONST. CO.**  
Cardinal Shopping Ctr. 784-0837

acres, the Scouts got this insurance.

One of Yeager's central interests is to try to draw poor youths into the scouting program.

"There's a new interest in scouting as an antipoverty measure," he said. "The Scouts are now in a 'Boypower '75' program, in which we hope to attract 35 per cent of each year's crop of boys into Scouting. In the past our goal has been 25 per cent. The additional 10 per cent we are after now are underprivileged boys."

Now there is a Negro scout camp, R. C. Vaughn, near Walnut Cove, but the program this summer at Raven Knob is integrated, and Yeager is hopeful future seasons will have even more integration.

"There is no question that Raven Knob is completely open. All races are welcome," he said. "We'd like to see one camp for all."

Yeager recently returned from a Scout conference where leaders told of tough, slum kids who were not Scouts being brought into a Scout summer camp.

"They learned to give the tougher ones positions of responsibility," said Yeager. "They soon felt needed and took the responsibility. Of the 40,000 kids this has been tried with so far, two-thirds have gone into Scouting."

"I have theories about adult leadership too. You walk through the northwest section of Winston-Salem and almost every house you see produces leaders of some sort. And they have time to give."

"But you walk through the poorer sections of the city and those folks don't have time. There just aren't as many people free. They can't buy

a Scouting program."

So now the council is beginning to send some of its white Scout leaders into Negro sections. And, Yeager hopes, the result will be to draw poor youths into responsibilities that go with it.

"In kids there's a certain push for achievement. They want to be part of a successful group."

"All it takes is something real for them to do — like camping — Scouting."

—JOE GOODMAN

## Habits Health Hazards

LONDON (AP) — The loud-mouth office bore and even the fellow at the next desk who taps his teeth with his pencil are health hazards, says London's deputy health and medical officer, Dr. Dilwyn Jones. He told a conference opening a week-long "quiet city" campaign: "What is a hell of a row to one man is a comparatively interesting sound to another."



Roland P. Early, C.L.U.

representing  
**Metropolitan Life**

Life, Health, Group Insurance  
and Annuities

Member Life Underwriters Assn.  
451 W. 5th St. Phone 724-1993

Open Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. 'til 9 p.m.  
Open Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. 'til 9 p.m.

**PIC 'N PAY SHOES**

Storewide Clearance  
Now In Progress

USE YOUR BANK CREDIT CARD

Imported from Italy

Winston-Salem Journal, July 13, 1969

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/winston-salem-journal-bill-yeager-scouti/190618540/>

# Keep Up With Times, Scout Leaders Urged

By Jim Shertzer

Staff Reporter

The president of the Boy Scouts of America said here last night that scouting programs must keep up with the times if tomorrow's leaders are to have the qualities that they will need to meet the demands of the future.

Irving J. Feist of New York City, who has been active in scouting for 50 years, told Scout leaders at the 50th anniversary dinner of the Old Hickory Council that the Scout programs of the '30s, '40s and '50s are not adequate for youngsters today.

He urged them to listen to what young people say and to try to adapt their programs to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

"We at the national level want to try to keep our programs current. We want to be 'with it,'" Feist said.

He said that this does not mean that scouting should include "guerrilla warfare or the techniques of street fighting."

But scouting must find new ways to reach the goals of physical, mental and spiritual development for the young that its programs have always held, he said.

Feist said that the Boy Scout program is doing all it can to reach more boys of all backgrounds and to attract new adult leaders.

He explained the goals of the "Boypower '76" program. By the end of 1976, national Scout leaders hope to have a third of all boys in America involved in scouting programs.

Feist said there is no generation gap between adults and young people in scouting. The success of Scout programs shows that the young and the old involved in them know and understand each other, he said.

Before Feist's speech, the Old Hickory Council presented Silver Beaver awards to four men who have been active in scouting for many years — D. S. Hartsfield, vocational instructor at Atkins High School here; Arthur M. "Buster" Bush,

a recreation director at North Wilkesboro; Cal A. Smith, manager of Larsen's Department Store here; and William S. Yeager of Winston-Salem, retired general manager of the North Carolina works of the Western Electric Co.

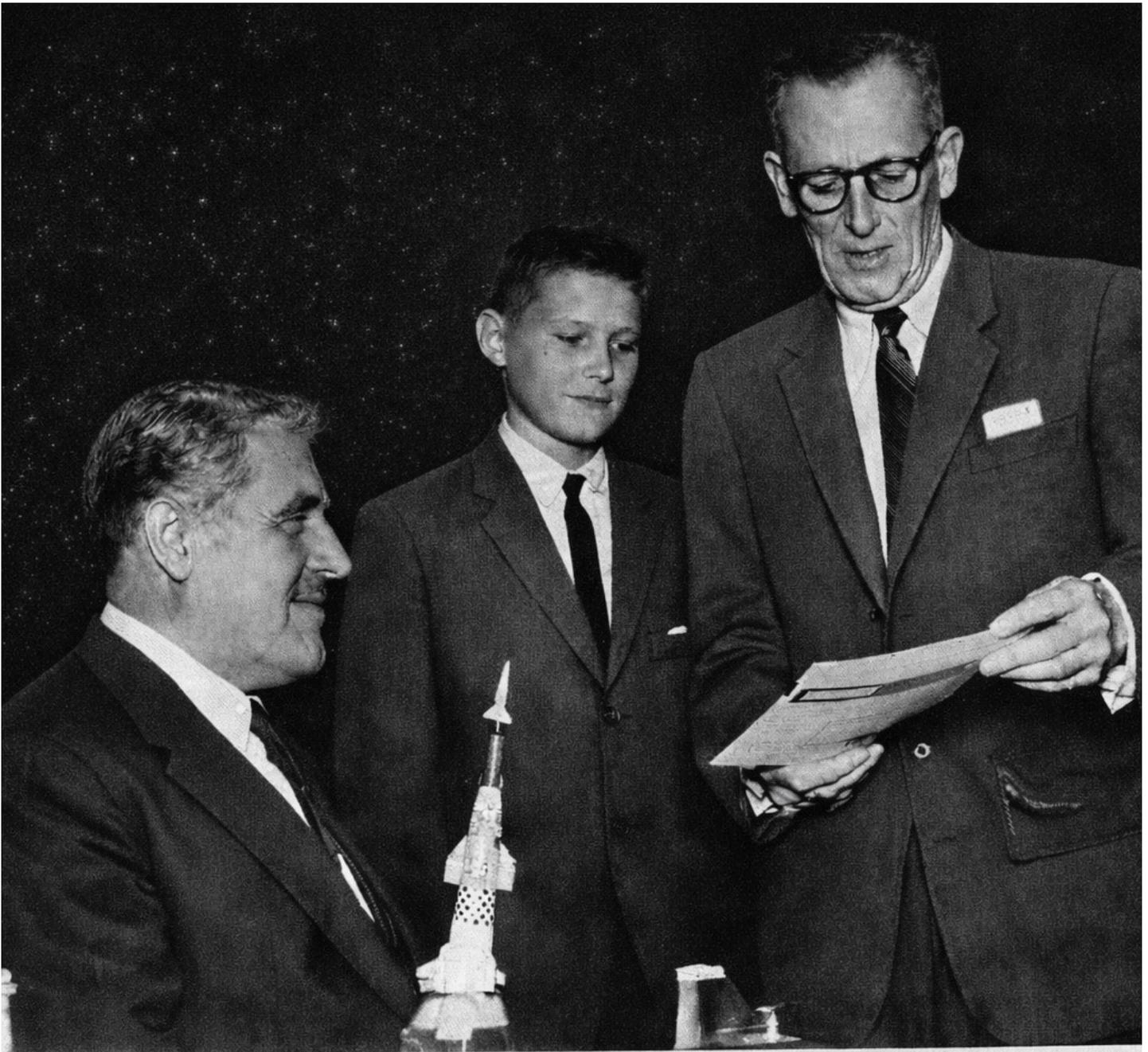
Yeager, who has been president of the Old Hickory Council for three years, was succeeded last night by Henry C. Allen.

Other new officers installed last night are Herbert J. Caudle, John C. Clark, D. Vernon Deal, Frank Joffrion, John McKenzie and Arthur Spaugh Jr., vice presidents; and Thomas E. Capps, treasurer.

The dinner, attended by about 400, was in the cafeteria of the Western Electric Co. building on Reynolda Road.

Winston-Salem Journal, Nov 19, 1969

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/winston-salem-journal-bill-yeager-silver/191376283/>



Staff Photo by FRANK JONES.

**Wernher von Braun, Henry Mickey and William S. Yeager at annual meeting.  
of local Chamber of Commerce.**

**Winston-Salem Journal, Dec. 9, 1965**

Werner Von Braun was invited by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce to give a speech. William S. Yeager was the presiding President of the Chamber of Commerce.

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/winston-salem-journal-bill-yeager-and-vo/190619844/>

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/winston-salem-journal-bill-yeager-and-vo/191327201/>



Staff Photo by Tom Wood

**TRANSITION**—William S. Yeager observes an activity resulting from Lexington Road plant's transition from defense to telephone production. Mrs. Hazel Coffey is engaged in final assembly of multiplex bay, which makes possible 1,800 simultaneous telephone conversations on one microwave channel or one pair of cables.

Staff Photo by Tom Wood

**Winston-Salem Journal, Mar. 12, 1967**

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/winston-salem-journal-bill-yeager-retire/190616692/>



Community leaders (left to right) M. C. Benton, William S. Yeager and Dale H. Gramley with All-America City flag.

**Winston-Salem Journal, April 10, 1965**

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/winston-salem-journal-bill-yeager-civic/190618949/>



Staff Photo

WITNESSING the ribbon-cutting for the new Sherwood Office of Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. were (left to right) Smith W. Bagley, Mrs. Ruth Cox, William H. Kirk Jr., William S. Yeager, Miss Jane Carter,

the Rev. Ray W. Benfield, Meade H. Willis Jr. and his daughter, Linda.

Staff Photo

**Winston-Salem Journal, May 4, 1964**

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-sentinel-bill-yeager-ribbon-cutting/190620255/>



Staff Photo by Howard

Chamber of Commerce officers are (from left) John D. Baldrige Jr., William S. Yeager, Thomas H. and J. Harry Mann. Richard B. Port (far right) is outgoing president.

**Winston-Salem Journal, Feb. 23, 1963**

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/winston-salem-journal-bill-yeager-cc-pic/190619108/>



Staff Photo

**John F. Watlington Jr., W. Frank Clingman Jr., Dause L. Bibby and William S. Yeager.**

**Winston-Salem Journal, Nov. 6, 1964**

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/winston-salem-journal-bill-yeager-meetin/190619041/>



Gov. Dan K. Moore speaks while (left to right) Mayor M. C. Benton, William S. Yeager, Chamber of Commerce president, and Jean Herrick of Look magazine look on. Staff Photo by Frank Jones

**Winston-Salem Journal, April 24, 1965**

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/winston-salem-journal-bill-yeager-with-g/190619190/>



Staff Photo

INSPECTING a model of a civil defense fallout shelter are (left to right)

J. Donald McBride, William L. Lineback, William S. Yeager and Hamilton Howe.

**Winston-Salem Journal, Sept. 12, 1960**

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-sentinel-bill-yeager-fallout-shelter/190619078/>