

The Scout

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for Boy Scout & Wolf Cub



Leader

Leaders of the Boy Scouts
Association in Canada

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No. 3

ON Christmas, 1924, at least 2,400 children who otherwise would have been disappointed were made happy by the visit of a Santa Claus who filled his sack at a Scout Toy Repair Shop. The actual number was greater, but the above was the total reported to the Scout Leader in the accounts of the shops operated in Calgary, Chatham, Ont., Ottawa and Halifax.

The number of Scout Toy Shops this Christmas will be considerably increased, as indicated by the mention of preliminary arrangements already appearing in newspaper clippings.

The reports received on the 1924 shops were most enthusiastic. The delight of the boys in the work was noted; the profit to many Scouts through coming personally in contact with the hard conditions of poor families; the value of the experience of working alongside members of the big service clubs and other welfare organizations; the public attention attracted to one of the outstanding principles of Scout training, and finally, the peculiarly scouty character of the work required in the repairing of broken toys, dolls and derelict books.

Unfortunately space will permit only a brief "idea" summary of the very interesting experience-reports received.

The Calgary Toy Shop was run in conjunction with the Calgary Herald's annual Sunshine Christmas Cheer Fund; and the newspaper gave the Shop excellent publicity. This included some striking 4-column pictures of the Toy Shop in operation.

An empty store in a downtown block was secured with little trouble.

For toy collecting purposes the city was divided into districts, requests to call for toys were listed, and when sufficient had been received Scouts were sent out in cars provided by the Kiwanis Club.

The 1924 Scout Toy Repair Shops

On receipt at the Shop, toys were sorted over and those requiring attention were distributed to certain "departments"—for the carpenters, the mechanical experts, the painters, etc. The repairs were done chiefly by senior Scouts and Rovers. Valuable assistance with the dolls was received from Girl Guide leaders, who laundered, repaired, and if necessary made doll's clothing.

a Guide Company was giving poor children.

The Toy Shop of the 1st Chatham (Ont.) Troop was the troop's headquarters hut. The first step of Scoutmaster Buesnell was to secure the cooperation of the Chatham Daily News. This was readily given, and an announcement was published inviting those having old, broken or unused toys to leave them at a certain store, or to telephone a given number, when a Scout would call.

In order to avoid duplication, names of children were secured through the Goodfellows' Club. The parcels were made up the day before Christmas, and delivery begun at 8 p.m. The packages were left at the doors. Eighty-three children were taken care of.

The Ottawa Toy Shop was directed by Secretary Norman Leach, and was supported by all the troops of the district. The necessary newspaper publicity was readily accorded by the Morning and Evening Journal and Citizen. The toys, dolls, skates, books, etc., came in such numbers that after all requests had been met, a ton truck load was stored. Over 1500 children in 850 families were remembered by the Scout Santa Claus.

Names of families, and number, age and sex of children were secured from the Welfare Bureau. Parcels were made up accordingly, and placed in special red bags. All collection and distribution was made by

Scouts in full uniform. Cars for the distributing Scouts were furnished by the Rotary Club.

The following "improvements" have been planned for the 1925 Shop:

Repair equipment to be purchased: Blow torch and solder, for repairing metal toys. Two vices. Two fret saws and plenty of blades. Paint and brushes.

Use paint on dolls, to touch up lips, cheeks and eyes.



The Calgary Toy Shop, 1924

Courtesy Calgary Herald.

A Toy Shop Committee was in charge of the shop, and two members of this committee were on hand each evening during the fortnight's activities.

A definite objective was set—toys for children in 125 families; in all, 423 children. When these were taken care of, the remaining toys, dolls and books were turned over to the Public Welfare Board, the Junior Red Cross Hospital, and a Christmas Tree which

The Scout Leader

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OTTAWA, DECEMBER, 1925

For Peace on Earth

THE following tribute to Sir Robert Baden-Powell and to Scouting was paid by His Eminence Cardinal Bourne on the occasion of the departure from England of the 756 British and Irish Scouts who made the Scout Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome.

"I can hardly say how glad I am to have beside me the Chief Scout. I was saying to him only a moment ago that it is given to few men, as has been given to him, to see the full realization of a magnificent vision. All over the world there are now Boy Scouts, united—though they may be divided by language and by religious faith—in the purpose of certain ideals which he has set before them; ideals which will do, as he desires them to do, an immense work to bring together all the nations of the earth in mutual peace and understanding."

We May Be Proud of This

COMPLETE returns for the year's Provincial Wallace Nesbitt Junior first aid competitions show 70 Scout teams to have competed, and first place to have been taken by a Scout team in every province but one. The teams winning first place were: 1st Nelson Troop in British Columbia. No. 1 team 1st Melville Troop in Saskatchewan. No. 1 team 16th Winnipeg in Manitoba. A Team 1st Huntsville in Ontario. Second 4th Quebec Troop in Quebec. 1st Grand Falls in New Brunswick. The 7th Lethbridge for the first time in several years had to content itself with second place in Alberta. The Huntsville team won in Ontario over 31 competitors of whom 16 were Scout teams. Eleven teams competed in Saskatchewan and 10 in Manitoba.

Scout leaders throughout Canada will join in congratulating the Scoutmasters' First Aid team of Saint John, N. B., who this year won second place in the Canada-wide Senior Wallace Nesbitt General first aid competition, being but one and a fraction points behind Div. St. J. A. B., Winnipeg, who took first place. Why not a few more Scoutmasters' teams in this competition? Or Rover teams?

Three Silver Wolves in 1925

DURING 1925 three of our Canadian leaders were honoured with the greatly prized Silver Wolf in recognition of their service to the Scout Movement. They were Assistant District Commissioner E. O' Callaghan of Toronto, Provincial Commissioner Edward Fitzgerald of Manitoba and Sea Scoutmaster L. V. Masters of Vancouver. Mr. Fitzgerald, under whom Scouting in Manitoba made notable progress, had the additional honour of receiving the decoration at the hands of His Excellency Lord Byng, Chief Scout for Canada, during a visit of the latter to Winnipeg.

District annual meetings everywhere report a most encouraging year, with increased interest and improved Scouting on the part of both scouts and leaders, increased community service and increased numbers. The enrolment figures forecast a census total of over 55,000 Scouts and Cubs and 3,000 leaders.

It would arouse fresh interest in Christmas if all the adults in Calgary could come to see the repair jobs on old toys that the Boy Scouts are doing for Sunshine. A rocking horse comes to Sunshine with nothing to rock on, with the spring halt and spavins and not even a painted hair on his head. The Scouts take the dismal creature in hand, fit him with new rockers, repair his maimed legs, equip him with flowing locks, paint him all afresh, and make him a thing of beauty and joy for some forlorn and toyless kiddie. This is one of the latest and most beautiful manifestations of the Christmas spirit, working through the Boy Scouts and Sunshine.

—Calgary Herald,
Dec. 15, 1924.

At the request of the Secretary General of the League of Nations Dame Katherine Furse has been appointed by the International Committee of the Boy Scouts Association as a member of the League of Nations Advisory Committee on the Protection of Children.

Sea Scouting in Canada and Vancouver in particular suffered a loss in the departure for Australia of Sea Scoutmaster L. V. Masters, organizer, and for many years head of the 1st B. C. Sea Scouts. At a farewell banquet attended by leaders of B. C. Scouting Mr. Masters was decorated with the Silver Wolf by Provincial Commissioner R. R. Sutherland. In addition he was presented with a handsomely engraved wrist-watch. Undoubtedly Canada's loss of a valued leader will prove Australia's gain. Good Sea Scouting to Mr. Masters in the sister colony!

ALONG the TRAIL



Keep the OUT
in Scouting

A Merry Xmas of Many Good Turns!

The Oshawa Rotary Club presented the 4th Oshawa Troop with a Union Jack and a Troop flag.

Service Club troops have been added to by the 1st Gimli, Man., fathered by the local Lions Club.

A Provincial Patrol Leaders' Conference is being planned for Edmonton for December 27-31. It will be run on the Patrol System.

Scout Law plays are being used more and more generally, as indicated by newspaper mention of troop meeting doings. Are you using them?

Mr. A. H. Ball, Deputy Minister of Education for Saskatchewan, is the new Chief Commissioner for Saskatchewan, in succession to Mr. W. F. Kerr, resigned.

On leaving for the west on mission work Scoutmaster White of the 34th Hamilton was presented with a handsome Bible, inscribed with the name of each boy in the troop.

First place in the year's Wallace Nesbitt Junior first aid competition for the Saint John, N. B., district, was won by the Sunrise Troop, Boys' Industrial Home, East Saint John.

The 6th international Pacific-Northwest Patrol Leaders' Conference was held at Wenatchee, Washington, Nov. 27-29. The conference was organized into patrols, these being made as widely representative as possible.

The broad adaptability of Scouting was recently demonstrated by the organization in Charlottetown, P.E.I., of two troops by the League of the Cross, one troop at Zion Church and one at the West Kent School.

The activities of ladies' and parents' auxiliaries of troops and packs are noted from many places. If your troop or pack is not yet backed by such an organization you are missing a "very present help."

Friends of Scouting in Drumheller, Alta., are raising \$2,000 for the building of a Scout Hall. The troop is supported by an active ladies' auxiliary, which is giving the usual excellent support always provided by such organizations.

A special Scout programme was given at the Father and Son banquet of the Vancouver Rotary Club, October 13. Rope spinning, signalling, musical numbers, the Wolf Cub grand howl and first aid work were among some of the numbers.

Lieut.-Governor Newlands of Saskatchewan presented the gold medals won by the first aid team of the 1st Melville, Sask., Troop in the year's provincial Wallace Nesbitt Junior competition. General Superintendent B. T. Chappell of the C. N. R. was present on behalf of the St. John Ambulance Association.

THE 1924 SCOUT TOY SHOPS

(Continued from page 17)

If possible find a Scout Bookbinder, and place in charge of the book mending. Otherwise, use boys who love books, and get a professional bookbinder to give them some hints.

Designate four troops to supply the necessary boys each day. From these designate those you wish on duty for the 24th—a hundred in all.

Have a leader in charge to maintain good discipline and keep work moving. (Some boys cannot resist playing with the mechanical toys.)

For the Shop secure, if possible, a vacant store with plenty of shelves on the walls.

"Christmas, Inc." was the name under which the 8th Halifax Troop, Scoutmaster P. J. Power, operated its Toy Shop. For some years the Halifax Herald and Morning Chronicle have raised subscriptions for Christmas Cheer distribution among poor families. The fund did not permit the presentation of toys to children, consequently the offer of the Scouts to add toys was welcomed. The two papers gave the Shop splendid publicity support, running some mention of its activities every day. The Scoutmaster's next move was to approach the presidents of the local service clubs—Rotary, Gyro, Commercial and Progressive—and from these the heartiest cooperation was promised—and received.

A vacant store, rent free for a month, was secured in the heart of the down town business section. The local lighting company wired and lighted the store without cost (the bill was accompanied by a covering cheque). A telephone also was arranged for.

"The toys did roll in. The majority were of the more expensive kind. Repairing did not amount to a great deal—a bolt here, a wheel there, a coat of bright flat paint, then a coat of varnish." One of the service clubs had given an order on a paint shop for all the paint required.

The collection of toys was stopped several days before Christmas. An inventory showed calls made about 700, toys collected 1900, toys ready for distribution 1600. These included 200 mechanical toys in perfect working order.

Distribution was made with the aid of the two newspapers' organization and cars provided by the four service clubs.

All Scouts calling for toys were in full uniform. Five Scouts were always on duty at the Shop from school close to 10 p.m., the staff being changed each day. The individual boys averaged between 50 and 60 hours' work.

"We ran our business under the name of 'Christmas, Inc.," concluded this report, "our object being to incorporate some Christmas cheer into the hearts of unfortunate children. We did not take the name 'Christmas Limited,' because we did not intend to limit the cheer if we could help it."

Other Xmas Good Turns

Other Christmas Good Turns of last year included the providing by troops and packs, or patrols and sixes, of hampers for needy families, fuel (usually wood, in the smaller towns), basket and parcel delivery for various Christmas Cheer organizations, furnishing of Christmas trees and church and Sunday-school decorations, visiting and presenting gifts to boys and other unfortunates in hospitals. The Patrol Leaders of one troop visited the boys' ward in a sanatorium, taking along a collection of some 80 story books. A Quebec troop, learning of a family in particularly difficult circumstances, left on their doorstep provisions for a considerable period and filled their cellar with wood, all without the identity of the donors being discovered. Of the giving of Christmas baskets by one Toronto troop and pack, the Scoutmaster said, "I know personally that in several cases the boys themselves did not have quite as good a dinner as they were helping to provide others."

In appreciation of the extra good work of one Ontario town troop—which included the furnishing of 20 hampers and several cords of fire wood—the boys were given a Christmas week banquet and party. For this, "The tables were arranged in the form of a cross, with a flag in the center, and each table was decorated with the different patrol colors. For place cards each boy found a copy of the 1925 Canadian Scout Diary."

An Ideal Scout's Own

F. Leslie Sara of Calgary writes thus of a June Sunday spent with brother Scouts of Nelson, B. C.—

Imagine a winding woodland trail passing through dim dewy aisles of murmuring pine and cedar, the ground decked with the lovely white of the mountain lily thrusting up through the carpet of moss and pine needles; picture the fairy loveliness of silver birch and vine maple and in fancy call back the delicious perfume of the woods, the myriad sounds of insects, the call of birds, and your mind will be attuned to the scene that I can inadequately picture.

The path deploys on to a rocky bluff overlooking the lake stretching below in a sheen of purple and grey and green; mountains rise on all sides, and fleecy clouds float in the azure dome above. A brilliant humming bird darts to and fro, poisoning on droning wings; a mocking bird in an alder thicket pours out his song of thanksgiving, and over all hangs the quiet and peace of a Sunday morning.

In such a spot one could have none but noble thoughts; the nearness of God in the wonders of his works is ever present; it is a veritable temple not made with hands. Such is the setting in which the Scouts of St. Saviour's Troop at Nelson hold their "Scouts' Own" service each Sunday morning at 9.30.

The beautiful simplicity of the Scout service, the cheery hymns, the passage of scripture read by one of the Patrol Leaders, and the short manly talk by the Scouter have a wonderful appeal in such a setting, and it is little wonder that the service is beloved by the Scouts attending. Just a brief forty-five minutes that seem all too short before the Scouts hike back to town down the rocky path to their grey stone church for the regular service.

I can most heartily commend such a "Scouts' Own" to you Rovers and Patrol Leaders.

Another very successful and well attended Scouts' Own service is that of the 18th Winnipeg, held very Sunday afternoon at the Point Douglas Presbyterian church. A newspaper announcement of the resumption of the service invites a visit from Scouts of other troops. We should have more of these Sunday Scout gatherings—they are always enjoyed by the boys.

Scout Relief for Scouts

IN response to an appeal from "Dominion No. 6," a Cape Breton mining community of 700 people said to be in dire need of clothing, the Scouts of Halifax have inaugurated a winter-clothing-collection campaign. The clothing is called for, cleaned, and handed over to the Red Cross. Particular attention is being given the gathering of clothing for the Scouts and other boys of "No 6." Scouts in other Eastern communities who desire to contribute may do so through their local Red Cross branch, or may communicate with Mr. W. E. Tibbs, Assistant District Commissioner, Boy Scouts Association, Halifax.



Repair Department of the Halifax Shop, "Christmas, Inc."

—Courtesy Halifax Herald.



The Scoutmaster's Five Minutes



The Star in the East

AS with all who have studied the stars, many of you Scouts will at this Christmas time be asking questions concerning the "Star in the East" that led the "wise men" to the scene of the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. What kind of star was it? Was it a "miracle star" that came into being for its special purpose, then disappeared? Was it a comet? Just what was it?

Bible students and scientists do not always agree; but it is interesting to note that Sir Isaac Newton, one of the world's greatest astronomers, believed that the "Star in the East" was some unusual heavenly visitor. He declared that he had come to the conclusion, from close study of records, that all great events of history have occurred at a time when there was some unusual condition in the heavens; and he believed that Our Saviour's birth was marked by some heavenly phenomenon.

So we have the Bible and the reasoning of a great scientist as authorities for believing that the "Star in the East" was a fact, and was something out of the ordinary.

Just what was it?

Let us look at the Gospel of St. Matthew, in which the story of the star alone appears. The references to the star read: "... we have seen His star in the east ..." "enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared." "... and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

A star that "went before" of course would be a moving star, presumably of the nature of a comet. One suggestion has been that it was in fact a comet such as Donati's Comet of 1858. Against this assumption, however, is the fact that although astronomers since long before the coming of Christ have left records of comets, there is no recorded mention of such a heavenly visitor being seen at any date approximating the time of Christ's birth.

Some Bible students believe it possible that in the translation of St. Matthew's Gospel from the original Hebrew into Greek, and later from Greek into English, certain grammatical errors may have occurred, and that if corrected these would make the references to the star coincide with astronomical observations, while taking nothing from its significance. According to one commentator, for instance, the translation from the Greek which gave the words "went before" might with equal correctness have read "led them on"; and a further slight change of grammar would have given, "till they came and stood over (against) where the young child was."

If this commentator's suggestion has a good foundation, the expression "led them on" could have referred to a star having an apparently fixed position over Bethlehem; a star new

in the sky, whose brilliant light "led them on" toward their destination.

On this assumption several astronomical explanations have been offered. One was that the star represented the conjunction in the year 7 B. C. of Jupiter and Saturn, or in 6 B. C. of Jupiter and Venus. The difficulty here is that the most careful calculation places the date of our Lord's birth not earlier than 5 B. C. (according to our calendar).

Another theory is now more generally regarded as a possible explanation. This is that the "Star in the East" was in fact Sirius, the particularly bright star of the constellation of Canis Major; for it has been established that this constellation during each of the four years 4, 5, 3, and 2 B. C. appeared at sunrise on the first of the Egyptian month Messori—corresponding to the later part of our December. And in turn, this phenomenon (to the people of that generation) is involved both in astronomic forecasts and in biblical prophecies of the coming of Jesus.

The "wise men," as you know, were not Jews. Not being Jews they possibly were not familiar with the Jewish scriptures and their prophecies. How then did they know of the coming of "the King of the Jews"?

The Egyptian name of the month, Messori, apparently provides the answer. Messori means "Birth of the Prince," or in other words, "the month of the Birth of the Prince." Now let us see where the Egyptians got that name.

Some three hundred years earlier Egypt had become the centre of the world's astronomic study, and all the wisdom and records of the then known world were gathered in a great Museum of Philosophy. On studying the records of the Babylonian "magicians and astronomers," which doubtless included Daniel, the Egyptian astronomers found forecasts of the unusual position in the heavens of the star Sirius in the years 4, 5, 3 and 2 B. C.

Now let us go back there ourselves, in the biblical records; and in the Book of Numbers, Chapter xxiv, 17, we read this prediction of the prophet (and also doubtless astronomer) Balaam: "There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel."

The assumption is that the biblical prophecy of the coming of the Prince of the House of David and the astronomical prophecy of the unusual position of Sirius were combined, and suggested for that month the name Messori—the month of the "Birth of the Prince."

So while the "wise men" may not have been familiar with the Jewish scriptures they would as astronomers have knowledge of the predictions of the "astronomers" Balaam and Daniel, and the great event that was to fall in the month "Messori."

"Scouting" through Ancient History is a wonderful pastime, for over and over again we find the trail of truth centuries old; and the trail of truth always brings us to God. Sir

Isaac Newton was a "Starman Scout", and he followed the trail through the records of the starmen of Rome, Egypt, Greece and Babylon, and back again to Bethlehem; and he was so convinced of the correctness of his deduction that he became a great preacher of the "glad tidings" that came to us with the "Star in the East."

The Christmas stars are so wonderful in their beauty that we must take a look at them. Orion is magnificent this month—and east of Orion is Canis Major, with Sirius shining like a diadem. You will study Sirius with a new interest, a new awe.

On the other side of Orion is glaring Aldebaran, the great eye of Taurus the Bull. Away in the south-west is Formalhaut, and in the north-west shimmering Vega in the Lyre. You will remember that if you draw a line from Vega to the North Star, and on for about the same distance, you will come to Capella in Auriga. If you look out early you will also see Altair in the west. It is the bright star between two others which together form Aquila. Towards the west, in the Milky Way, you will see the Northern Cross or the Swan. Those four bright stars in the south which form a square are the Stall of Pegasus, and if you look carefully you will make out the horse's head. Stretching from the most easterly corner of the square up into the Milky Way is Andromeda, the little girl who feeds the horse.

It was nearly two thousand years ago, but the stars that shone over Bethlehem shine for us as they did then. Gaze upon them until you catch their message of order and peace. Truly they seem to be a setting specially prepared for the happiest event of all the ages; and out from the glory of it all we seem to hear the angel voices singing, "Glory be to God on high and in Earth peace, goodwill toward men."

"Like Silver Lamps in a distant Shrine,

The Stars are sparkling bright.

The Bells of the City of God ring out,

For the Son of Mary is born tonight."

And he who cannot sing and worship and spread goodwill seems strangely out of tune.

S.M. and Rev. A. S. Mitchell,

Markdale, Ont.

A Good Pack Evening

"In spite of the bad weather there was a good attendance last Friday night. After Grand Howl the Jungle Dances of Kaa, Baloo and Bagheer were carried out. This was followed by p. t. games of Crows and Cranes and Down and Under. Instructor J. Isard had the Tenderpad Class, Sixer C. Palmer instructed in One Star Tests and A.C.M. Alf. Reynolds and Akela started a new class in the Observer's Badge work, in which seven Cubs passed the first trial in Kim's Game. Cub Harry Ford is in the lead in the competition. After the meeting the pack enjoyed a peanut hunt."

1st Kincardine, Ont., Pack.



Scouty Ideas from Coast to Coast



A year's record sheet of each boy of the 4th Winnipeg was mailed to parents.

A winter camp for the Christmas holidays is being planned for the Hamilton, Ont., district.

The 44th Winnipeg devotes the second meeting of each month almost entirely to games and stunts.

Galt Scouts studying for the Missioner's Badge were shown through the Galt hospital by the matron of that institution.

The Pack Committee of the 5th Saint John Pack, St. Jude's, is composed of the rector and mothers of three of the Cubs.

At a November meeting the 1st Moose Jaw built a truss bridge across their river, the entire troop then passing over.

Scouts from Grand Rapids, Mich., spent a week-end in the Border Cities district, as part of an educational tour programme.

The programme at a Parents' Night of the 4th Oshawa Troop was provided by Scouts working on their Musician's and Entertainer's badges.

"We find the Scout Instructors a great help to our pack. They each take a Six for instruction periods."—17th Saint John Cubs.

The 1st Kamsack Troop, Sask., holds its regular troop meeting on Thursday evening, and meets on Wednesday evening for gymnastic and boxing classes.

The 19th Wolf Cub Pack of Saint John, N.B., visited the local Natural History Museum for a lecture by the curator, Dr. William McIntosh.

The boys of the 4th Chatham were put on a trail that led through the city streets. The trail terminated at Brotherhood Hall and a banquet.

A child's silver cup was presented by Calgary Rovers to Rover Leslie Sara in honour of the arrival of a Brownie at the latter's home.

"Patrol hikes are this week's feature. Each P. L. will have his patrol out, to complete some outdoor tests or badge work."—5th Vancouver.

A gold Scout ring was presented to Patrol Leader Card of the 2nd Portage La Prairie for having made the most progress in test work during 1925.

"The P. L.'s meet each week for a special instruction period, with the Scoutmaster in charge. This helps wonderfully in the patrol corners."—13th Saint John, N. B., Young Jud-eans.

Calgary Scouts are already on Xmas Good Turn work. Older Scouts and Rovers have been selling "O.K. Rotary Apples" on behalf of the Xmas Sunshine Fund of the Calgary Herald.

"Leatherstocking," of the Kincardine Review-Reporter, has been running a series of chatty articles on the patrol animals and birds of the local Scout patrols.

The all-day Thanksgiving hike adventures of the 1st Moose Jaw included the trailing of a coyote, which "as a result of their training the boys were able to follow with comparative ease."

The "Going Up" of eight Cubs of the 1st Portage La Prairie Pack, four to the 1st Portage Troop and four to the Second, was made an impressive occasion, as described in the Portage Graphic.

A demonstration "model patrol corners," during which the Scoutmaster, his two assistants and troop leader each took over a patrol, the P.L. looking on, was a successful novelty of a 6th Ottawa November meeting.

A successful rally and field day of Border Cities troops wound up with a big supper and Council Fire. Medals were presented to Scouts who had distinguished themselves in athletic events at the Essex County Fair.

Ottawa Sea Scouts celebrated Thanksgiving by a land voyage, during which the "Drakes" and "Nelsons" sought to ambush one another. Arriving at the objective, "the flag was broken, the Promise repeated, and a temporary camp erected."

On the occasion of his marriage, Scouts of Invermere, B.C., presented their Scoutmaster, the Rev. Bertram Atkinson, with a purse of gold. They provided a guard of honor at the ceremony, and at the conclusion formed an arch of staves from the church door to the auto.



Manitoba Gillwellians building one of their big bridges.

The 12th Regina Troop and Pack have just completed a Headquarters built by members of the Troop Committee and the boys, after nearly two years of spare time work. The building is frame, 16 by 24 feet, and has separate equipment lockers for the various patrols and sixes. The ground was rented at a nominal fee from the Canadian National Railways.

The Victoria Avenue School of Gananoque, Ont., shortly to be vacated, has been leased for five years to the local Scout troop, at \$40 per annum. The Scouts "are to keep the building in good repair and not to expect the Board to spend any money on it for upkeep or otherwise."

A splendid addition to the famous Scout Hall of Kelowna, B.C., has been completed and handed over to the trustees of the Boy Scouts Association by the local Gyro Club. The addition, which cost over \$2500, comprises an annex with dressing rooms and shower bath in both the girls' and boys' section, and an up-to-date heating plant.

A big district Council Fire was held by the Scouts of Saint John on the beach several miles from the city. The preliminary directions requested each Scout to take a lunch and blan-

ket, and if possible a Scout songbook, a flashlight and a mouth organ. The Council Fire started at 6.30 and closed at 8. The troops then returned to the city.

"We don't say much, but we are still on the map. Our weekly meetings have been carried on all summer over by the old creamery, where we have our Council Rock. Last Tuesday we returned to our hut on Third Street . . . This season we are out for real Cubbing. A Six competition starts in October for three months, terminating at our annual New Year's Eve reunion, when the Good Turn Ball is to be unwound. . . ."—1st Red Deer (Alta.) Pack.

Some 1400 Toronto Scouts from 60 different troops engaged in a big Scout field day on Thanksgiving. During the morning a big Indian game of stalking was played, the Scouts being divided into two large groups. The afternoon was taken up with other Scout games and field sports. At 5 o'clock supper was cooked over many camp fires, and this was followed by a big Council Fire sing-song.

The various troops of Sydney, C.B., again this fall had their special section in the Cape Breton Island Exhibition. The printed 4-page programme shows these classes: Garden Produce, Cut Flowers, Poultry, Pigeons, Rabbits, Carpentry or Model Making, Photography, Nature Study Collections, Sketching, Map Drawing (best map as required for the Pathfinder's Badge, drawn since the 1924 Exhibition), Leather Working, Wireless Telegraph, Handwriting and Penmanship, Model Making, Painting (signs, texts, monograms), Metal Working, Music, Stamp Collections.

Community Good Turns

THE Scouts and Cubs of Galt, Ont., assisted in various ways in connection with the local I.O.D.E. Milk Fund Campaign.

Montreal Scouts aided the Federated Charities by distributing publicity matter door-to-door and by placing cards on automobiles.

Moose Jaw Scouts are organizing a two-patrol District Ambulance Corps, to be in attendance at all sports, picnics, celebrations, etc., where mishaps may occur.

Throughout Ontario Scouts aided in the provincial drive for the Beck Memorial Fund, raised to carry on the work of the Queen Alexandra Sanatorium for tuberculosis.

Calgary Scouts took charge of the distribution throughout the city of the circular letter and special number of the Alberta Red Cross News which preceded the Society's financial campaign in Alberta in November.

The Red Deer Cubs from time to time visit the Provincial Training School, to entertain the children there with gymnastics and games. The visits are greatly enjoyed by both the School children and the Cubs.

(Continued on page 24)

THE CAMP CHIEF'S PAGE

OUTDOORS IN DECEMBER

The big outdoor event of this month is the Christmas Bird Census, or in Scout terms, a Bird Observation Hike. The hikes are made by parties of naturalists and bird lovers in all parts of Canada and the United States, and the reports of birds seen are sent in and published for Canada in the **CANADIAN FIELD NATURALIST** and for the United States in **BIRD LORE**, the official organ of the National Association of Audubon Societies. While this Christmas census has been taken for some twenty-five years, Canada is still very insufficiently covered, and the participation of Scouts throughout the Dominion is invited. Troops planning to participate should write, at once, to Mr. Hoyes Lloyd, Dominion Parks Branch, Ottawa.

Discuss the matter with your Court of Honour. Most of your boys will ask nothing better for Christmas morning—timed to bring a fellow back home with a six-cylinder appetite just in time for dinner! Um-yum!

THE WINTER COURSES

Part III (a) Winter Courses now running: Saint John, N. B. under Assistant District Commissioner Fred Choppin; Montreal, District Commissioner Claude S. Allen; Peterboro, Ont., Clarence Corbett; Oshawa, R. J. McConnell; University of Toronto, Assistant Provincial Commissioner F. C. Irwin; London and St. Thomas, Brother Silvin; Western University, London, H. B. Tindall; Winnipeg, Deputy Camp Chief C. A. Hill.

Akela Course: Montreal, under Cub Commissioner H. M. Jockel; Hamilton, Miss E. F. Glover.

THE STUDY CIRCLES

Akela Study Circles now running: Victoria, B.C., (2), under Provincial Secretary J. C. Anthony and Assistant District Commissioner H. T. Ravenhill; Vancouver, District Secretary N. H. Saunders; South Vancouver, Mr. E. Worthington.

Scouting: Red Deer, Alta., James Gall; Hamilton, Ont., Dr. Murray Fraser.

TRY THESE GAMES

Spies.—One patrol in line blindfolded, feet widely spread, toes touching. Opposing patrol endeavours to go under or pass between without touching or being heard. Defending patrol keep hands to sides except when they hear or feel a spy. Then touch with hand. Spies touched are out. Those getting through score a patrol point.

Deer and Stalker.—Two Scouts, one the Deer, the other the Stalker, blindfolded, and placed at either end of a table. Stalker endeavours to find and grasp the Deer. Both must always have one hand on the table; otherwise may crawl under, vault over, etc.

The Sleeping Pirate.—One patrol chooses a Pirate. He is seated cross-legged, blindfolded, in the centre of an 18 foot circle. In front of him, stuck in the floor, is his "pirate's knife." One by one the members of another patrol enter the circle and endeavour to reach and secure the knife without being heard. The pirate endeavours to locate the attacker by sound, and when he hears him, points an imaginary pistol at him and "fires." If he has correctly located the attacker, the latter is out. The pirate must only shoot when he thinks he hears a noise. No sound should be made by the onlookers.

As a variation the entire opposed patrol may enter the circle at the same time. In place of the knife, a "treasure" of any kind may be used, including such genuine valuables as a piece of candy, cake, apple, etc.

In turn the second patrol names a Pirate, and the first patrol endeavours to capture his treasure.

This Will Interest Your Boys

THE National Parks Branch of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, has announced that it will present a valuable book to the first 25 Scouts sending in 1926 Canadian Scout Diaries with the Bird Identification section filled—that is, a list of eighty birds identified by them, with dates and places, duly vouched for by the Scoutmaster. So far as possible boys will be given a choice of that splendid work, "Conservation of the Wild Life of Canada," by Dr. Hewlitt, "Birds of Eastern Canada," by P. A. Taverner, or the recently published "Birds of Western Canada."

Patrol Competition Notes

THE 1st Chatham, Ont., Troop has been presented with a new Patrol Competition trophy, the "Charles Thompson Shield."

A Patrol First Aid Competition in which the contesting patrols judge each others work was devised by the 18th Brantford.

The 10th Calgary have a "cock patrol" totem which is held by the patrol leading in the always-running Patrol Competition.

"The Inter-Patrol Competition is now working fine, and each patrol is determined that its name shall be first on the shield."—6th Edmonton.

The keeping of the Shivlock Patrol Cup is awarded every two months to the patrol leading in the Patrol Competition of the 5th Vancouver Mountaineers.

A lively Patrol Competition of the 16th Hamilton has for its incidental aim the winning of a plaster Indian head for the patrol, and a book for the P. L.

"How many makes of automobiles can you name?" was a recent Patrol Competition game of the 8th Vancouver. The names were written and a

time limit set. This will suggest numerous other surprise tests of observation and memory.

At the first meeting of the 19th Calgary Hebrew School Troop for the Jewish New Year a Patrol Competition quizz was made up of the questions: "Why do you like Scouting?" "What benefits do you derive from Scouting?" and "Which Scout Law do you consider the most important?"

"The patrol competition for October has started with a bang, and the Scoutmaster is certainly having his work cut out to award points," writes the Scribe of the 32nd Winnipeg. The Bulldogs are decorating their corner with everything imaginable. A notice board for the patrol is one of the features. . . . The Foxes are working hard to get their tests thoroughly learned, and are beginning Second and First Class badge work. One of the most interesting things of the troop last meeting night was the Scout Law charades, acted by each patrol in turn. . . . Today the troop plans to accompany the 27th Troop on a hike."

An Adventure Council Fire

IN place of the regular meeting, the 1st Midland Troop, Ont., was hiked half way to Penetang, where they met the Penetang Troop. The two troops were then informed that three convicts had escaped from the Ontario Hospital, and were believed to be hiding in the nearby woods. The Scouts were to round them up. In the dark the boys spread out, and began the search. Presently a flashlight was seen. The stalking Scouts converged, and discovered a camp fire. A final rush, and the three convicts were surrounded. They proved to be three Penetang Scouts seated before a duly prepared council fire. A jolly evening wound up with troop yells, good nights, and a hike home by the stars. Three of the Penetangs remained behind to make sure that the fire was out.

Montreal Scouts Endow

a Hospital Cot

A notable community Good Turn which achieved its culmination at the end of October was the presentation by Montreal district Scouts and Cubs of the last cheque of the \$2,000 necessary to endow a cot in the Montreal Children's Memorial Hospital. The money was raised over a period of two years by the setting aside of a portion of the proceeds of annual displays, and the offerings received at church parades.

For the presentation three Patrol Leaders and Sixers from each troop and pack visited the hospital, "filling its corridors, talking cheerily to the patients, distributing oranges to all who could make use of them," according to the *Montreal Gazette*. "Their interest centered in one cot in the boys' ward, whose occupant was too young to appreciate his popularity, but over which there was a brass tablet stating that the cot had been 'Endowed by The Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs of Montreal.'" The 53rd (Vickers) Troop band was present and provided a programme of music.

Scouty Remembrances

Make a Scouty Xmas

SAYS Old Santa: Have you ordered your Scout or Cub Christmas cards? Or your Scout Calendars? If not, better hurry, or you may be disappointed—as some were last year.

"First, let me tell you of the Scout Calendar for 1926. We hadn't room for its picture—but its $10\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in size, with a large colored figure of a Scout in full uniform. Just the calendar you will be wanting for your Troop Headquarters. Also very attractive and scouty for any Scout's room at home.

"And the price—25 cents."

MR. CUBMASTER!

ME—BELOW—Yes, I'm the Wolf Cub Christmas and New Year's card. I haven't much breath to say more—except that I'm in five colors. But I'll bet every one of your Cubs will be tickled to see me Christmas morning.

I cost, complete with envelopes:—

In lots of 1 dozen	-----	\$.75
" 2 "	-----	1.25
" 3 "	-----	1.75
" 4 "	-----	2.25
" 5 "	-----	2.75



And I, MR. SCOUTMASTER, am the 1925 Christmas card for Scouts.

I think you will agree that a more suitable subject for a Scout Christmas greeting, beautifully reproduced in its original colors, could not have been chosen. Let me carry the message to every one of your boys on Christmas morning.

I am $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$ in. in size, and come complete with envelopes

In lots of 1 dozen	-----	\$1.00
" 2 "	-----	1.75
" 3 "	-----	2.50
" 4 "	-----	3.00
" 5 "	-----	3.50

THE STORES DEPARTMENT

The Boy Scouts Association
DOMINION HEADQUARTERS
203-205 WELLINGTON STREET
OTTAWA :: CANADA.

If short of time, telegraph, and we'll come C.O.D.



DON'T forget me when making out your Christmas list.

I am without a doubt the most useful little gift you can give to a boy, no matter whether a Scout, a Wolf Cub or one of a thousand other boys who will eventually become Scouts or Cubs.

I always find a ready welcome. And no wonder! For I consist of 200 pages brimful of the interesting and instructive matter that every boy is just craving for. Remember I am good for 365 days; and if I were to count the number of times per day that I am referred to you would not wonder why they put me in such a strong pliable linen cover.

I really am a combination of a Scout's Handbook, a Record Book and a Note-book, but my official title is:—

THE CANADIAN BOY SCOUT AND WOLF CUB DIARY FOR 1926

I can be purchased for a very small sum, and the more copies you buy of me the cheaper I get—that's fair enough, isn't it?

So whatever else you decide upon as a gift, be sure and include me. I am **INDISPENSABLE**.

PRICES

Single copy	-----	\$.25
12 copies	-----	2.88
24 "	-----	5.52
36 "	-----	7.92
48 "	-----	10.08
60 "	-----	12.00

And for yourself, or Scoutmaster, Cubmaster and Rover friends, I also come this year in a handsome leather binding, with gold Scout crest and lettering, at 50 cents per copy.

A page of helpful ideas from wherever and whomsoever we can obtain them

THE DUFFEL BAG

If you have a good one worked out with your own Troop, please send it in.

Community Good Turns

(Continued from page 21)

"The instructional courses which the Rovers are putting on for the various patrols are being much appreciated. The Troop is specializing on badge work that will tend to more efficient public service."—10th Calgary.

Scouts of the 1st Port McNichol Troop were reported in the *Owen Sound Sun-Times* as doing excellent work in fighting a bush fire that threatened a summer cottage colony at Triple Bay, Ont.

Fire Chief Gimblett of Peterborough through the local papers expressed his appreciation of the assistance rendered at a fire during the summer by an unknown Scout. The lad had come in on an errand from a Scout camp in the vicinity.

During Fire Prevention Week Chatham Scouts aided the local fire department by inspecting alleyways and reporting fire hazards. St. Thomas Scouts distributed circulars and other literature, and gave a fire prevention demonstration that attracted considerable attention.

Through the *Aylmer Express*, Scouts of that Ontario town offered to assist citizens who were unable to put their premises in a safe condition against fire for the winter months, "particularly aged people, and those with sickness in the home." They also offered to dig potatoes and take care of other garden produce for people unable to look after it themselves.

"Straight Home" for Cubs

"It is important that Pack meetings be closed exactly on time each meeting night. It is suggested that Cubmasters notify the parents of Cubs at what hour the meetings close, so that they will know when the boys should reach home."

—Montreal Scout News.

Election Night Scout

Messenger Service

ACCORDING to newspaper mention, Nova Scotian Scouts again set the pace in election return service on the evening of October 29th last. Officials of the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company published a flattering appreciation, stating that it was largely due to the Scouts that returns from the Scout towns of the province were so promptly made available to the public. The messenger service was provided at Halifax, Dartmouth, Sydney, New Glasgow, Antigonish, Canso, Truro, Glace Bay, Lunenburg, Parrsboro, Bridgewater, Wolfville and Yarmouth.

A similar messenger service was furnished by Scouts of the Border Cities, Ontario. A prominent two-column announcement in the *Border Cities Star* called for uniformed Scouts with bicycles. They were requested to report to the City Editor of the *Star*,

where the returns were put on the wire for the Canadian Press.

This form of public service might well be rendered more widely,—and doubtless will be. Briefly, it involves the conveying of official returns from polling places to the office of the local Deputy Returning Officer, or to the local newspaper representative of the Canadian Press, or to the local telephone companies, or to all or combinations of these, as arranged.

In all cases Scouts should be in uniform; and in no cases should they carry returns to or from political party headquarters or clubs. In other words, the service should be entirely free from any connection, seeming or otherwise, with any political party; it must be distinctly a non-partisan public service.

Ye Scout Almanack

December

1st—Every Scout and Cub reminded to order his 1926 Canadian Scout and Cub Diary.

12th—Saturday. Open and organize Toy Shop, Collection and Repair Work.

14th-18th—Toy Shop activities afternoons and evenings.

19th, 23rd, 24th—Toy Shop all day.

24th—The Year's Biggest Good Turn Day. In evening Toy Shop Santa Claus makes his rounds.

25th—Christmas. Bird Census Hike in morning.

Christmas Week

Visit boys in hospitals, Old Folks Homes, etc.

Hikes, and maybe a Winter Camp. (See "Winter Hikes," Scout Leader, January, 1924.)

During December

At each pre-Xmas Troop Meeting discuss Toy Shop activities and progress.

Give some special instruction re ice accidents. (See "Scouts and Ice Accidents," Leader, January, 1924.)

Is Your Fire Chief Interested?

LOCAL fire chiefs continue to show a readiness to talk on fire fighting and fire prevention before Scouts and Scout leaders. Recently Captain de Graves of Vancouver spoke on the subject before the local Scoutmasters' Council, and in Winnipeg Superintendent T. J. Henry explained to the boys of the "A" Rovers and 18th Winnipeg Troop the fire alarm and telegraph system at the Rupert Street Police Station. Fire Chief Gamble of Perth, Ont., has a class of 18 Scouts in training for their Fireman's Badge. Unquestionably these talks and demonstrations by professional fire fighters appeal to the boys, and add to their understanding interest in the general subject of fire prevention.

Armistice Day

ARMISTICE Day memorial services were widely participated in by Scout troops,—by attending as a body, by providing guards of honour, by ushering, and by placing wreaths for themselves and for other organizations. In many of the smaller places church services were held, in the larger places there were the usual services before memorial monuments.

Vernon, B. C., the honour of unveiling a beautiful cenotaph was conferred upon Assistant Scoutmaster Ernest Rendell, whose father's name was recorded with those who had made the great sacrifice. A notable incident of the public service at Fredericton, N.B., was the presentation of the Gilt Cross for life saving to Scout Jack Fowler, all other units of the gathering standing at attention or salute.

Scouts were reported as helping in the sale of poppies in a number of places. A patrol of Galt Scouts, under their Patrol Leader, traveled to Hespeler, to aid the local Scouts in this work. For some years picked Scouts have participated in the sale of poppies in Toronto.

Wreaths were in many cases made by the boys themselves, part of the material being gathered on special hikes. An instance was the wreath of poppies and juniper made by the boys of the 10th Calgary. Two Scouts from each Winnipeg troop were on duty at the Provincial Parliament Buildings for the services there. Five hundred Ottawa Scouts and Cubs attended the evening memorial services on Parliament Hill, and placed their own wreath at the foot of the cenotaph.

Can You Duplicate This?

A programme of combined monthly meetings of the 24 local troops, in three-troop groups, for the interchange of games and other troop activity ideas, and also to listen to practical vocational talks on various professions, trades and lines of business, has been planned for the winter by the Scoutmasters' Club of the Border Cities, Ont. The talks will include such subjects as "Engineering as a Profession," and will outline the effort and study first required, the cost of the college course, and how met; the getting of the actual start; the profession's problems, rewards, disappointments, etc., etc. The talks on various trades and businesses will be similarly practical.

For the get-togethers each troop will in turn play host to the other troops in its group.

FOR A CUBMASTER FRIEND

The Jungle Book and The Second Jungle Book, attractively bound and illustrated and in a special Christmas box, with a characteristic Kipling cover, \$4.00 postpaid.—The Stores Department, Ottawa.