



Fire Salvage Work for Boy Scouts

MANY towns, and even cities, do not realize the need of a Fire Salvage Corps or the valuable work which such a corps can perform in a community. The average business man has little or no knowledge of fire salvage work, and his stock and fixtures usually are arranged without regard to possible water damage in the event of fire.

It should be the duty of fire department officials to include in their instructions to the public not only fire prevention, but control of water damage at fires. Where this has not been done there is a real opportunity for Scout service.

How Can Scouts Help?

First, get in touch with your Fire Chief, and interest him in your troop, and in your desire to be of service to him when possible. This first step may require some diplomacy, or your suggestions may be regarded as an attempted interference with his department, or at least as a "vote of lack of confidence."

We will assume that you have overcome the difficulty. You will next want to instruct or arrange for the instruction of your Scout Salvage Corps. This of course would be done with the close co-operation of the Fire Chief.

Equipment

Salvage Corps today are not satisfied with merely covering stock and allowing the water to run through from floor to floor. They endeavor to confine the water to the floors concerned by using canvas or rubber sheets, and nailing or otherwise securing these so as to form bags which will hold hundreds of gallons of water. The water thus caught is later baled or pumped out.

Rubber sheets and canvas covers are expensive, and it is often difficult to persuade municipal councils that such an equipment may easily pay for itself on the first occasion used.

Here is where Scouts may do really important work for their community,—by themselves procuring canvas, sewing and water-proofing it, and making salvage sheets. The local firemen will be found very ready to co-operate in the raising of the funds for the purchase of the canvas and other material.

Using the Sheets

The majority of shelf stock in stores is damaged by water running down the walls. If there is a space between the walls and shelves (which there should be), the sheets are dropped down this space as well as over the

front of the shelves. Other stock, furniture and fixtures are covered as effectively as possible in the ordinary way. In some buildings it is almost impossible to cover shelves or tables filled with crockery, glassware, lamps, statuary and other fragile merchandise, unless provision has been made for this, such as a pipe rack above the center of the table or counter. This rack need not present an unattractive appearance; it may be used for the display of certain articles.

Valuable Articles First

Scouts can be trained to do valuable work in carrying out stock from stores and the contents of dwelling houses. Very often more damage is done to articles carried out of a burning building than would have occurred had they been left within. In one instance untrained and excited "salvagers" picked up typewriters and threw them from the windows to the cement sidewalk below. Quite frequently kitchen chairs, pots and pans are carried from houses while valuable pictures, silver, cut glass, rugs, etc. are left in the burning building.

Ask your boys what they would first carry from a burning home. Put such questions as, "Would you take out a table bearing framed photographs, valuable books and a cut glass

vase filled with flowers?" Of course they should not attempt this. They would very likely upset and break the vase, which probably would mark the table; and the wet flowers and water would spoil the photographs and damage the books, and if not at once wiped off, probably would spoil the finish of the table top. Correctly, the vase and other valuable articles would be carried out first. If there was a cover on the table, the less valuable articles would be tied up in this, and taken out separately, or on the table, if the width of the door permitted.

Guarding Salvaged Property

The duty of the Salvage Corps does not end when it has removed all possible contents from the building. The property saved must be protected from weather and from possible theft. Scouts of all ages can help here. In any available space a circle can be formed, and the salvage placed in the center. If it cannot later be removed to a vacant building, it should be protected with covers. Where salvage sheets are not available, Scout ground-sheets or tents will serve. Tents erected on a vacant lot would be excellent.

Cleaning Up

After the fire has been extinguished, and assuming that the building has not been completely gutted, there is still salvage work to be done which

(Continued on page 46)



SOME of the New Canadian Scouts (of Rumanian and Ruthenian parentage) who hiked 50 miles in order to attend the recent Alberta P.L.'s Conference, where they made an excellent impression. A year ago the boy in the mackinaw hiked most of the way to Edmonton to learn about Scouting. The instructor is Field Secretary Solway of Alberta.



The Scout Leader

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Chief Scout for Canada
His Excellency Lord Byng of Vimy,
Governor-General of Canada.

Chief Commissioner

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F. E. L. Coombs - - - - - Editor

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Application for TROOP CHARTERS
should in all cases be made to Provin-
cial Headquarters.

Troop Registration

DON'T forget that Troop Registra-
tion has as one of its chief objects
the providing of funds for the getting
of Scouting to other boys in your pro-
vince, especially in the outlying dis-
tricts where there are so few safely
regulated boy activities.

For your Scouts themselves the
card may some day make the differ-
ence between securing and not secur-
ing a position and a promising start
in life.

Physical Fitness

ANY constructive programme aimed
at the physical welfare of the boy
must have as its cornerstone an abun-
dant of outdoor work. This is the
feature of the programme which does
most to build the health of the boy.
Next in importance come frequent,
vigorous games and contests, both at
the troop meeting and during hikes
and camps. Active games are much
to be preferred to the best physical
or military drills, for investigation has
shown very clearly that 20 minutes of
such a lively game as basketball is of
more value to the participant than
several hours of calisthenics.

Another thing that may be done to
help the boys to think seriously about
personal health is to give instruction
during the troop meeting along these
lines. This may take the form of
complete training in the requirements
of the Healthyman badge, or it may
consist of a brief talk by a physician
on the fundamentals of personal hy-
giene. Such instruction may be made
practical by having the physician give
a number of the boys an examination
to demonstrate whether or not they
have some unsuspected physical de-
fect.

Still another possibility is the secur-
ing from each Scout of a pledge that
he will take a certain definite amount
of exercise every day, perhaps setting-
up exercises every morning.

One or another combination of the
various methods suggested above, al-
ways focussed on the outdoor work
as the prime factor, will make a
worthwhile contribution to the health
of your Scouts.

—Scoutmastership Notes.

Making Scout Firemen

FIRE Chief Miterlla of St. Thomas
holds periodic examinations of
Scouts and Guides at his fire station.
His ambition is to see every Scout
and Guide in St. Thomas qualify for
the Fireman's badge.

Fire Chief Churchill of the Halifax
Fire Department assigned two of his
firemen to give a fire prevention and
fire fighting talk to the boys of the
17th Halifax. As a result the interest
of the troop in this important badge
has been greatly increased.

Again illustrating that the instruc-
tion counts:—

While grown-up members of the
household hurried out to send in a fire
alarm, Scout James Ogilvy, aged 13,
of the 14th Ottawa Troop, tackled a
fire and put it out. When the firemen
arrived they found nothing to do.

Scouts Wm. Murray and Sydney
Rowell of the Salvation Army Troop
were awarded medals for the best
essay on fire prevention written by
Scouts and Girl Guides of St. Thomas.
Scout Murray was one of those recent-
ly awarded a Salvation Army medal
for bravery in saving life following the
swan boat tragedy at Pinafore Park
last summer.

*I would like to suggest that every
time a Scout dons his full uniform,
he stand for a final moment before
his bedroom mirror, salute, and say,
"I am a Scout. My honour is to
be trusted."*

—The Chief Commissioner,
at the Ontario Conference.

"Observation Night" was the name
given a meeting of the 2nd Sherbrooke.
The contents of their clubroom were
re-arranged, and points awarded to
Scouts identifying the changes.

The western section of the 1st All
Canada Akela course, held at the Royal
Alexandra hotel, Winnipeg, January
25 to 30, was the anticipated fine suc-
cess under Akela Frank W. Thompson.
Assistant Provincial Commissioner for
Wolf Cubs. Mr. Thompson was assist-
ed by Mr. Wm. A. Bayley, as Baloo,
and Mrs. Wood as Baghera. The
course pack numbered 26, and included
Cub leaders from British Columbia,
Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and
Western Ontario.

A unique demonstration of inter-
national Scouting was recently provid-
ed in a joint entertainment given by
the Scout troops of Coutts, Alberta,
and Sweet Grass, Montana, twin towns,
divided only by the international
boundary line. The two troops occa-
sionally meet at the imaginary line,
cross flags, and sing the national an-
them of both countries. This good
fellowship of the Scouts is reflected
in the general good feeling between
the two communities. The entertain-
ment was given in the Sweet Grass
High School, under the auspices of
the K. of P. Lodge.

ALONG the TRAIL



Keep the OUT
in Scouting

Don't overlook Troop Registration.

The usual banquets on B.P.'s birth-
day. Several troops entertained Girl
Guide companies.

Scouts, Guides and Cubs of Yar-
mouth, N.S., held a joint Mothers' and
Fathers' night.

As a patrol competition feature
Moose Jaw troops are reviewed from
time to time on their Tenderfoot tests.

Yorkton, Sask., Scouts gave an en-
tertainment at a local theatre which
included moving pictures and a Scout
playlet, "A Good Turn."

The report presented at the Ontario
Annual Meeting showed a membership
of 17,931. Two hundred camps were
held in 1925, with an attendance of
some 6,000 Scouts and Cubs.

King's Scouts Emslie and Murray
McFarlane, of the 1st Cranbrook, B.C.,
organized a new troop at Camp Lister,
Creston. They have been invited to
organize a troop at Canyon City.

The 1926 Wallace Nesbitt Junior for
Manitoba was won by the 47th Winni-
peg, with 87 out of a possible 100
points. The 47th boys will represent
Manitoba in the new Dominion-wide
competition.

Presentation of the Gilt Cross for
life saving to Cub Albert Carey of the
9th Brant Pack was made by Judge
Hardy in the King Edward School hall
in the presence of 450 children and
teachers.

Clippings report Scout winter sports
everywhere,—and more the farther
north you go. North Bay Scouts held
their own Dog Derby. Four West End
Winnipeg troops held a field day of
ski-ing, snowshoe and skating races,
hockey, and a cross-cut sawing race.

Interesting speakers at the Ontario
Conference banquet were Mr. J. D.
Makgill and American Scout Executive
A. D. Jamieson, just returned from
their joint scouting tour of South
America as representatives of the In-
ternational Bureau of the Boy Scouts
Association.

Presentation of a gold wrist watch
and addresses by representatives of
Tuxis and several other local boys'
organizations marked a farewell din-
ner to Scoutmaster S. R. Robinson of
the 1st Pembroke, Ont., Troop. The
Pembroke Patrol System camp of last
summer was declared one of the best
in Ontario.

700 junior and older Scout leaders
attended the annual Montreal district
Patrol Leader's banquet. "You, Ten
Years From Now," was the subject of
the evening's address, by Assistant
Chief Commissioner John A. Stiles.
The big event of the programme was
the presentation to Assistant District
Commissioner Claude S. Allen of the
Silver Wolf, in recognition of long
and exceptional service to Scouting in
Montreal.

Said By the Chief Commissioner At the Ontario Conference

HE who breathes into a boy the breath of honour and courage becomes a co-worker with the Almighty.

Our young people are among the most poorly nourished of civilized nations,—because of unwise eating, and because we are staying up too late at night. Scouting could make a vital contribution to Canadian life by encouraging the following of the old precept, "Early to bed and early to rise."

I would like to see all Scout meetings closed at 9 o'clock and everyone abed and asleep by 10.

According to our charter, our first duty is to instruct boys in the principles of discipline,—for the boy's own good. We should not let ourselves become too soft; we should train and be trained to endure hardness as good soldiers of life, through discipline. Discipline begins in obedience and leads to self-control.

Neither treaties nor legislation make for world understanding as effectively as does working together in a similar way for the well-being of humanity.

Scouting is becoming much better understood. I am not keen for endorsement, but am anxious that the aims and methods of Scouting should be understood. When a man understands Scout work in Canada, he begins to orient himself in support of our movement as a whole.

The Scout should belong to some church. The Scoutmaster should see that this is the case; as opportunity offers he should confer with the boy's minister.

Scoutmasters should be encouraged to consult with the clergy. There must be no alienation between the Church and Scouting. The clergy sometimes do not know that we are anxious to cooperate in impressing upon the boys the importance of religion in life. Clergymen should be shown and asked to read P. O. & R.

We want smartness of appearance,—as an outward manifestation of inward grace; Scouting promotes intelligence, honour, goodwill in action—not in passive contemplation.

The personnel of the gathering, the broadened experience and clearer thinking reflected in the papers, discussions and demonstrations, marked a further advance, and was encouraging.

Ontario Conference Notes

A NEW record in attendance, including some 120 delegates from outside points as far away as Elsas and North Bay; a splendid spirit of Scout cordiality; the best homes of the city opened to receive delegates; presentation of the freedom of the city by Mayor F. J. Mitchell; a full programme of very practical papers, dis-

cussions and demonstrations; a memorable banquet, with exceptional singing, addresses and the presentation of a Silver Wolf, followed by a huge Council Fire; an excellent and diverse Jamboree of Scout demonstrations and fun; visits to the Ford assembling plant, to American Scout Headquarters in Detroit and other points of interest—these were some of the features of the 15th Annual Meeting and Provincial Conference for Ontario, held at Windsor, February 11 and 12.

The get-together once more demonstrated the practical and inspirational value of the combined annual meeting and conference. Also that Scouting is a programme in which representatives of all faiths can meet in a spirit

Two Programmes That Went Well

- 7.30 Horseshoe. Flag Break. Prayers. Roll Call. Inspection.
- 7.35 Patrol Corners—Dues; announcements by P.L.
- 7.40 Games, A.S.M. in charge—Leap Frog Three Deep. Rope Pull.
- 7.50 Corners — Instruction by P.L.'s. Crows, Review of Knots. Owls, Fractures. Bobwhites, Signals. Pigeons, Lashings.
- 8.05 Inter-patrol Knot-tying Contest. Knot-tying Relay.
- 8.15 Rescue from contact with electric wire, A.S.M.
- 8.25 P.L.'s instruct on above.
- 8.35 Charades—Law No. 6.
- 9.00 Council Fire. Announcements. Lower Flag. Silence. Dismiss.
- Opening—Same as above.
- 7.40 Game, Bear in the Pit.
- 7.45 Corners — Instruction by P.L.'s. Crows, Lashings. Owls, Mapping. Bobwhites, First Aid. Pigeons, Compass.
- During this period tests for boys ready to try them.
- 8.00 Scout Law Baseball.
- 8.10 Derrick building, by S.M.
- 8.25 Inter-patrol—Uses of Scout staff.
- 8.35 Game, Centipede Relay.
- 8.40 Contest, Nature Quizz.
- 9.10 Council Fire.

of understanding brotherhood. Practically every religious denomination in Ontario was represented, in a number of cases by clergymen.

The effectiveness of a well constructed artificial indoor council fire was demonstrated in the main Sunday-school room at St. Andrew's church following the conference dinner in the church basement. The crowding circle of faces picked out of the gloom by the dancing flames (of colored tissue paper) presented a realistic, "campy" picture. Artificial camp fires used in camp scenes of the Jamboree in St. Alphonsus Hall also were most realistic. A concealed fan that kept the tissue flames in motion provided the final touch of realism.

The all-boy programmes put on by

the several Border Cities troops participating in the big Council Fire at St. Andrew's church and the Jamboree at St. Alphonsus Hall were greatly enjoyed. There is nothing more entertaining than the well designed and well prepared entertainment of a troop of live Boy Scouts.

A novel feature of the Council Fire programme was a judicial Court of Honour. This, it was later explained, reproduced an actual camp court held last summer, following a prank which resulted in the damaging of a Scout hat by using it for mixing plaster of paris. The evidence developed the fact that the culprit supposed he was using flour, so that the hat would not blow off its owner's head, and that the incident was the final outcome of efforts to make a somewhat slack boy a better Scout. The Solomon-like verdict of the court was that each boy should pay half the cost of a new hat.

An innovation was the organization of the entire conference on the Patrol System. As they registered, delegates were assigned to patrols, and given the patrol colors. Probably never before in Canada has there been such a gathering of Kangaroos, Elephants, Hippos, Cougars, Cobras, Seagulls, and other birds and animals not usually found in the Dominion.

Very generous daily mention was given the conference by the **Border Cities Star**, and the sympathetic and understanding reports of the various sessions were greatly appreciated.

An addition to the usual conference programme and notebook was a "Pathfinder Map" of the business section of Windsor, showing the location of the buildings in which the various conference sessions were to be held. The map was printed on the back cover.

As a publicity stunt in connection with the conference, shop window displays of scoutcraft provided by troops and packs of the district appeared in no less than 26 stores scattered throughout the various communities of the Border Cities.

Presentation by the Chief Commissioner, Dr. James W. Robertson, of the Silver Wolf to District Commissioner E. S. Wile, K.C., provided an outstanding incident at the conference dinner. An equally popular incident of the Council Fire was the presentation by the Chief Commissioner of a Medal of Merit to Mr. Donald Ross, father of Scouting in Windsor, and for many years local secretary. In acknowledgment, Mr. Ross, who is principal of one of Windsor's largest schools, declared that Scouting had given him much more than he had given, and paid the tribute that its coming had brought improved discipline amongst the boys of his school.

The success of such a conference is only secured by much planning and hard work. The appreciation of the visiting delegates was expressed in a very heartily applauded vote of thanks which included every member of the Local Association and the boys of every Border Cities Scout troop and Cub pack.

For their usual "round-up" luncheon, Gillwellians attending the conference were entertained by Gillwellian John

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THE CAMP CHIEF'S PAGE

OUTDOORS IN MARCH

Note the departure of winter birds and the coming of spring migrants. Note the birds preparing nests, and what birds, if any, have already nested. In bird observation have the boys answer at least four questions:

- Where did you see it?
- How did it compare in size with a crow, a robin, a sparrow?
- What was its gait in the air? that is: How did it fly—straight and swift, dart about, up and down, wave-like, flap the wings constantly, sail or soar with wings steady, or flap the wings and then sail?
- What was its song or call note?

Watch for the appearance of animals that hibernate.

Watch for indications of the migration of mammals. It is often said that squirrels travel considerable distances, and at times in quite large numbers. Is this true?

As the snow melts, watch for signs of bird and mammal tragedies of the winter. Try to learn what mice have been doing under the snow during the winter months. Upon the bark of what trees did they feed? and did they girdle them? How did they meet the change of conditions resulting from the melting of the snow drifts that harbored them?

Additions to the district's camping equipment reported at the annual meeting of the Boy Scouts Association of Quebec City included a power lifeboat, the gift of Mr. Frank Ross; a canoe, given by Lt.-Col. R. M. Beckett, a punt and sculls by Mr. B. A. Neale and camp tables and folding forms by Sir Richard Turner. President William Wood was re-elected.

Telling Time by the Stars

LAST month we promised a word about "Pa's Star Clock." Ebor Park Gillwellians need not be told that this was the name given the target-like contraption that adorned the campus there, and that it was so named after its inventor, "Pa" Mitchell, Camp Quartermaster and Astronomer. At present the clock is set up on the grounds of the High School at Markdale, Ont.

Your boys will already have noticed that the stars in the southern heavens appear to move across the sky from east to west; and looking northward, they will have discovered that certain stars there appear to move in a circle around the North Star.

For the sake of simplicity let us assume that the stars do actually move around our earth. Well then, they completely circle our planet every 24 hours; and consequently, if we know where a star is at midnight we can easily estimate the time by this star's position at any moment of the night. But the stars gain 4 minutes on our clock time each 24 hours, so that tomorrow night a star will be

4 minutes ahead of its position in the heavens at the same hour tonight. In other words, star time is fast time, and sun time is slow time.

Now the constellation of the Queen's Chair (Cassiopea), or "the W group," is immediately opposite the Great Bear, or Dipper. If we draw an imaginary straight line from the leading star of Cassiopea (Beta) through the Pole Star we will come to the little star Pheoda, where the handle joins the Dipper. The idea then is to consider this line as the hour hand of a clock. We are giving this now because on March 22nd this line will be perpendicular at midnight, making it a good time at which to start the boys on the subject. (Of course six months later its position will be exactly reversed. In March the Dipper will be south, i.e., appear below the Pole Star, and on September 20th it will appear above or north of the Pole Star.)

Now then, imagine a clock face drawn on the sky with the Pole Star as the center, and the clock face divided into 24 hours; or better still, twice 12 hours; and numbered the reverse way of our everyday clocks. We shall find that at 6 a.m. on March 23rd the Dipper will be to the left, and at right angles to the perpendicular, and at 6 p.m. on March 21st it

night on the face of our sky clock moves 2 hours every month. If your boys then will calculate where the stars will be at midnight during any month, they will find it easy to estimate clock time at any hour of the night by the relative position of the Dipper or Cassiopea.

Pa's Star Clock was invented in order to illustrate this movement. It was made of scrap, and actually cost 35 cents. It consists of two metal drum heads, the one larger than the other. The larger disc is divided on the edge into 12 months commencing at March 22, April 21, May 21, June 20, July 20, Aug. 19, Sept. 20, Oct. 20, Nov. 20, Dec. 20, Jan. 20, Feb. 19.

The larger disc has two cleats at the back through which a Scout staff is passed. These are placed so that "March 22nd" being at the top, the staff is horizontal and slightly above the center, where a hole is made to take a one-inch iron pipe. This pipe is about 15 inches long, and is threaded at one end for some 3 inches. The threaded end of the pipe is passed through the center of the disc from the back, and fixed in place by the use on either side of the disc of a jamb nut.

The smaller disc, whose comparative size is shown in the picture, is bisected, and each half circle divided into 12 hours. It is placed over the end of the tube, against the face of the larger disc, and secured by a nut; this being screwed just tight enough to permit the smaller disc to turn stiffly. A hand or pointer is added.

Completed, the clock is suspended from a Scout staff, which is supported by two forked stakes about 8 feet in height. The frame is placed in such a position that the Pole Star can be sighted through the tube. In order to "set" the frame when the North Star is found there are two additional cleats at the back of the large disc, at right angles to the others and below the center. A longer staff inserted in these makes a leg or strut which fixes the large disc at the necessary angle.

Now to use the clock. Turn the smaller disc until "12" is at the proper month as marked on the outer disc. Standing so that you can sight the Pole Star through the tube, swing the "hand" round until it points either at Beta, or Pheoda. The pointer then will mark the time on the smaller disc.

A simple feature added to the clock by Deputy Camp Chief Irwin made it an excellent Sun Dial. This addition is a stick of about 3 feet long inserted in the end of the tube on the reverse side of the disc.

Of course we cannot expect our boys to make a star clock whenever they require to know the time, when out at night. But once having grasped the principle of the star clock they will readily learn to substitute themselves and their scout staff,—held in front of the body as the clock "hand."

—A.S.M.
The "Planisphere," a chart showing the principal stars visible at every hour of the year, is listed in the Stores Department Catalogue at 75c. —Ed.

"Pa"
Mitchell's
Star
Clock
at
Ebor Park.



will be at right angles to the right side of our sky clock. Half way between 6 and 12 on the right would be 6 p.m. and half way on the left side would be 6 a.m., and the other hours would evenly divide the face. One month later, on April 21st, the stars will have gained 4 minutes multiplied by 30 days, or 120 minutes; so that at midnight on April 21st the stars will appear as they did at 2 a.m. on March 22nd. In other words, mid-

Nature's Compasses

By Dan Beard.

(By kind permission of the Author and BOYS' LIFE.)

TO THOSE who know them, the woods are full of things marking the points of the compass, useful when the sky is obliterated by gray clouds; but I had been lost in the woods where the trees were so thick and so tall that none of the ordinary wood signs could be depended upon. On that occasion I got out by following a water course; such thick woods, however, are very rare to-day. Forest-bred men all claim that the pileated woodpecker, Fig. 2, the great, big, red-headed cock-of-the-woods, makes its elongated nest-hole, Fig. 1, on the east side of the trees, so that it will get the first glimpse of the morning sun.

To the old woodsman, the old plainsman, the old mountainman, the trapper, and the pathfinder, a compass was an unnecessary incumbrance, the stars in the sky at night, the sun and the moon by day not only told them which way was North, South, East or West, but also answered as a clock to tell time. If the sky was overcast they still had ways of their own of finding the cardinal points. Ofttimes the dirt and stones under their very feet gave them valuable hints as to directions; stones that are bare on the southern edge or end frequently have moss growing on them on the north end. In a moist, shady swale the stones and sticks may be completely covered with moss but even in shady places there is often only a thin covering of dry moss on the south side of stones and logs.

In using these signs you must use your head; I remember one old fellow in Pike County, Pennsylvania, who could tell direction without fail when the sky was overcast with heavy gray clouds. On such occasions when asked which way was the North, he would look around on the ground, look up among the trees, then turn to us and say, "North about right thar," at the same time pointing his finger in the proper direction. When asked how he decided which was North the old fellow was either unable or unwilling to tell us; but evidently what he did was, consciously or unconsciously, to use cumulative evidence, that is little bits of evidence here and there, which, put together, convinced him that North was in the direction to which he pointed. Now what I want to do to-day is to call attention



to some of those bits of evidence, and at the same time to caution you not to rely upon any one sign alone, if you can help it, because they are not infallible.

The prevailing winds, such winds as most frequently and continuously blow, are certain to leave unmistakable marks showing the points of the compass. In English sportsman books you will learn that in South Africa, on the road from Cape Town, the trees lean toward the North-west, while Australia and Africa, and in some places on the Western American prairies, the prevailing winds lay the long grass and thus mark direction.

The limbs of the trees are apt to be heavier on the south side and thicker in diameter. The oak, the ash, the mesquite, the hickory and the elms are inclined to have moss and mold on the north side. On the same side the leaves are longer, of darker green and with lighter veins, while on the south the leaves are smaller, tougher and lighter of color with darker veins. Down South I have seen ferns growing all the way up the trunks of trees to where the branches began on the north side.

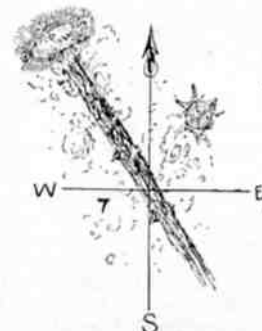
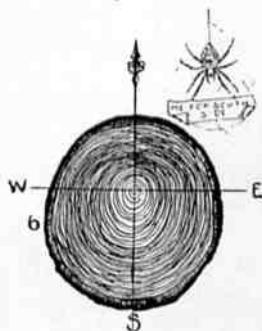
If it is night you may see some of those beautiful little nocturnal animals, the flying squirrels, sailing like shadows from their nest-hole in the dead trees. Take notice and see if the holes do not favor the east side of the trees. Note and see whether or no the water-fowl are not breeding on the west shore of the stream or lake. If there are no wild geese or no wild ducks, and it is not nesting season, inspect the water and see if the minnows are not more plentiful on the west side and the frogs more numerous. If you are fishing it may be that the bass bite best on the west side.

Of course, you now that all flowers are inclined to turn their dainty backs

on the cold North and smilingly face the South, and this is as true of the wild flowers as it is of the garden plants. But, bless your soul don't jump at conclusions for I have seen a sun-flower facing the North when according to rules it ought to be facing the sun; but this particular sun-flower was a perverse old fellow, a Bolshevik, he did not believe in any rules but the ones he made for himself, or may be there were conditions not noted by me which caused the apparent law-breaking habit of this stiff-necked old flower, and I still insist that the land is full of compass points.

There is a rather tall plant with yellow blossoms that reminds me of a small sun-flower to be found growing on the open prairies and often on the railroad fills in Indiana, Illinois and the Western prairies. You may notice it, and that it has large divided leaves which stand vertically, Fig. 3. This is the famous compass-plant, made famous to my boyhood by Captain Mayne Reid and other early writers of adventures of the West.

In order to make certain that my memory was right about this green-growing compass I asked my old Campfire friend, Dr. C. C. Curtis of Columbia University, Department of



Botany, and he promptly replied that the compass-plant, or rosin plant that I have in mind, is the *Silphium laciniatum*—that does not help us much in pathfinding; but what is more to the purpose he says that "the leaves co show a marked polarity, being sensitive to light and turning so that they only get the less intense light of morning and evening directly upon their broad surfaces"; therefore, THE EDGES OF THE LEAVES POINT NEARLY NORTH AND SOUTH, while the broad blades face East and West.

If you hold your hands together in front of you when facing the sun, the back of your hands will face the West and the front of your hands will face the East, and the edges will be toward the North and the South; like the leaves of the compass-plant. These plants, however, will not be a reliable guide unless they are growing in the open, the shade of other plants may, and probably do, interfere with their accuracy. Dr. Curtis also adds the information that our widely distributed prickly lettuce (*Lactuca virosa*) is a good compass too, even the common garden lettuce, in the flowering and seeding time, has the compass habit, but in the case of the lettuce plants referred to, it is not the edges, but the leaves themselves which point North and South.

On the coniferous trees which bear cones, like pine, hemlock, the sap, pitch or gum which oozes from wounds on the north side of the trunk of the tree is usually soft, dusty and of a dirty gray color; while on the south side the ooze from the same tree may be a clear amber color and hard. That is what the gummers of the North woods say, and they should know because their business is to collect spruce gum.

The north side of a hill is apt to be damp, mossy with ferns growing upon it while the south side will be noisy, as hunters call it, that is, it will be dry and one cannot walk through the dried leaves and branches without making noise enough to frighten away the game.

Now then, take an observation hike with notebook and pencil and unless you want moss to grow on your own back, use your eyes and head and make careful notes.

FIRE SALVAGE FOR BOY SCOUTS

(Continued from page 41)

may result in saving considerable money. Scouts could help here, under the direction of the firemen left to "clean up." Tools will be required, and the Scouts shown how to use them. Drains in the basement should be located and cleared as soon as possible. It is a good practice for owners to have the location of drains designated by metal placards.

The squeegee is a very important tool in a salvage corps. With this as much water as possible is squeezed out of rugs and carpets, and these are hung up to dry. Carpets should not be left to dry on the floor, as they will rot. The squeegee is also used for removing water from floors, particularly hardwood floors.

When a fork is used in removing debris, care should be taken that the prongs are not driven into good flooring. Many floors have been ruined in this way. A potato fork or a wooden shovel are preferable for the purpose.

Debris removed from buildings, particularly from a dwelling, should not be scattered about, but placed in one pile. Ask the boys why. The reason is that otherwise valuable jewellery and sometimes important papers dropped by persons carrying out trays or drawers may be lost. The piled up debris can be carefully gone over in a search for such valuables.

Making Weather-Tight

In winter or in wet weather Scouts could render valuable service to the owners or occupants of damaged buildings by helping to make the buildings again weather-proof. During the fire, door panels may have been broken, or the entire door removed, numerous windows broken, and holes chopped in the roof. Unless attended to at once these openings will permit of further damage from rain, snow or frost. While older Scouts assist in the actual work, younger boys might be rendering valuable assistance by running errands, bringing material for repair work, etc.

Co-operation With Fire Chief

All the above suggestions would be discussed and their possibilities worked out with the local Fire Chief. Needless to say only those boys who have been trained would be allowed to assist in actual fire salvage work. And these would be the older and bigger boys. Your Rover Patrol, if you have one, would provide the logical candidates.

A Fire-Line Badge

In order that the firemen may distinguish between trained Scouts and boys without training, who would only be in the way, some means of identifying the members of the Scout Salvage Corps should be devised. This may be a red or yellow cloth band about 2 inches wide, secured around the upper left arm. It would always be carried by the Scout so that he might always be prepared to pin it on for service.

The training of Scouts in First Aid, including treatment for electric shock and suffocation, would contribute materially to their usefulness as a Fire Salvage Corps.

—By LIONEL J. BISHOP,

Honorary Field Secretary,
Boy Scouts Association,
Inspector Fire Prevention,
Ontario.

THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

57th TORONTO TROOP

WEEKLY PATROL REPORT

Present	Dues	Absent, and Reason
P.L. George Ward	5 ⁰⁰	Chas. Faulkner—
Sec. Chas. Harris	5 ⁰⁰	visiting sick friend
Sgt. Tom Hawkins	5 ⁰⁰	in hospital (NOW-SCOUT)
" Fred Faulkner	5 ⁰⁰	
" Bert Gilbert	5 ⁰⁰	
" Sam Garmham	5 ⁰⁰	
com.	30 ⁰⁰	

Taken on strength since last meeting Bert Gilbert, 479 Queen St. W. 12/11/25

Struck off strength since last meeting Fred Morley (Removed from district)

Boys sick, and if visited Nil

Absentees visited, and results of such Nil

Suggestions to Court of Honour by Patrol in Council Any boy not wearing uniform is to lose one point in Patrol competition

Programme for this week

7⁵⁵ to 8⁰⁰ Tenderfoot as shown

8⁰⁰ to 8¹⁵ Ambulance Second class

Instruction given by

Tom Hawkins (KNOTS)

Chas. Harris (KNOTS)

George Ward (AMBULANCE)

Tests passed since last report Tom Hawkins, Tenderfoot, compass
Fred Faulkner, compass. Bert Gilbert, Knots

P.L. George Ward 52⁵⁰
Charlie P. Munro 52⁵⁰
Scouter

October 7, 1925

ONTARIO CONFERENCE NOTES

(Continued from page 43)

Lee, the Chinese Scoutmaster of a Windsor Chinese troop. Provincial Commissioner Laurence was the luncheon guest of honor. Those present included several lady Cubmasters who had taken the Part II Akela course.

The delegates gathering for the conference dinner in the basement of St. Andrew's church were treated to a moment of excitement when a motor fire truck came clanging down the street and pulled up at the rear of the church. Instead of blue-coated firemen, however, there tumbled off a crew of Scouts, who within a few minutes had an extension ladder raised against the rear of the building, and a line of hose playing a hefty stream of water down the laneway. The delegates were much impressed by the rapid and efficient manner in which the boys went about their work. With other Scouts, they had been training for various fire services under the direction of the local fire chief, who is a strong advocate of fire instruction for Scouts.

The Cub charade of "Goldilocks," put on during the Wolf Cub session of District Cub Commissioner Jockel of Montreal, was voted one of the most effective and amusing demonstrations of the conference. It was the general opinion that District Secretary Hill of Hamilton, improvised into "Goldilocks" qualified as a new comedy movie star.

An interesting group among the delegates was the team of the 1st Huntsville Troop which last year won the Globe Shield and first place in the Provincial Wallace Nesbitt Junior competition.

Paragraphs From Conference Papers

Accident Prevention for Scouts

MOST accidents are the result of selfish disregard for others or failure of observation. Accident prevention is based on service to others. If trained to be of service in accident prevention, the boy is himself more careful. First teach the habit of observation, and how to know and do certain things. For instance, that a fallen wire is dangerous, and how to deal with it; that it is dangerous to use electrical appliances while in the bath, etc.

Water is the greatest hazard. There were 308 drownings in Ontario in 1924. Boys should be taught observation of water conditions. They should know safe swimming water, safe and unsafe bottoms, etc. They should know how to swim with their clothes on. Many swimmers consider themselves safe when they can swim 100 yards. Unexpectedly in the water fully dressed, they find an entirely new problem, become excited, and in some cases drown. The only way to learn to swim safely is with the clothes on.

Schafer resuscitation should be practised twice a month—the rule for employees of the Ontario Hydro Commission. Without this practice, it is questionable whether a boy would be effective with an actual case.

After revival, do not permit the patient to get up, or even sit up.

These New Cuts Will Attract Attention to Your Weekly News Column



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SCOUT NEWS



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STORES DEPARTMENT

The Boy Scouts Association

203-205 WELLINGTON STREET

OTTAWA

::

CANADA.

Remove to his home or a hospital in a lying down position, and put to bed at once. Revived drowning cases have died seated in an ambulance, from heart failure.

Pulmotors and lungmotors have been discarded by all practical experts. No case of their successful use has been recorded. Cases of haemorrhage of the lungs have resulted from their use.

Accidents are caused,—they don't just happen. Accident prevention does not mean merely the development of safety devices. The most effective prevention is observation and caution. —Wills MacLachlan, Consulting Engineer, Ontario Hydro Commission.

Mid-Winter Thoughts on Summer

If you plan using a new site, visit it, personally, in October.

A site may suit certain activities, but not others.

You'll not expect sickness; but make sure that there is a doctor near. An example case of a camp 11 miles from a doctor, and a severe case of appendicitis.

Camp programmes should vary according to age and experience of Scouts. Particularly should the new Scoutmaster work out a complete programme well ahead of time. The discussion will provide an interesting subject for many winter and spring Courts of Honour.

Details to be worked out should include: Number of boys going. Quantity of luggage. Camp equipment to be required. Supplies. Transportation.

Use you Troop Committee. Arrange that certain committeemen shall handle certain details. Turn over to one the list of equipment required; to another the list of groceries; to another the transportation. Keep in touch with them but let them do the work.

Keep to plain food. Illustration story of a generous butcher, an extra quantity of "hot dogs," warm weather, boys eating as much as desired, "to save them," hot water bottles and salts.

Don't eat at a separate table.

Be a boy with the boys,—the liveliest toad in the puddle."

Finally, plan to go yourself. There is no camp substitute for the troop's own Scoutmaster.

—Harold L. Baker, 2nd Windsor Troop.

Discussion emphasized that the Patrol System is "the only system" for Scout camping, although it does cost a little more; that it teaches responsibility, leadership and self-dependence.

Regarding patrol cooking, simple menus can be cooked easily and quickly.

"No Scout camp should require canned goods. We last summer took ten live fowl. The boys readily learned to pluck and prepare them."

If patrols include a large percentage of new boys, however, patrol cooking should not be attempted.

No oil lanterns in camp. If a candle falls over, it goes out. If you must have a lantern, fill it with absorbent cotton.

A cup will be awarded the patrol of the 6th Edmonton having the best attendance record during the year. A book will be given the most regular Scout.

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.

Some "Breather" Games

BRIEF outdoor games for use during the winter indoor season.—

Reversing Circle.—Boys hold hands, form circle, drop hands; given "Right turn—Walk—Run!" At short intervals given "Reverse," when runners are expected to turn and run in the opposite direction without losing stride. Original intervals to be maintained. Scout's Pace may be used, with ten steps walking and ten running.

Patrol Walking Match.—At minute intervals patrols, in Indian file, started on a walk around the block. Speed competition.

Patrol Scout's Pace.—Correct time for Scout's pace circle of the block first established. Patrols sent out at minute intervals. First place to patrol finishing nearest perfect time. (See Scout's Pace, "Starting to Scout.")

Hare and Hounds.—Each patrol selects one of their number as Hare; remainder are the Hounds. Hares are given one minute's start, and must be back in ten minutes. Hounds may capture only their own Hare. Game must be played in silence, the Hounds if necessary communicating with one another by their secret patrol signs. In the case of city and town troops the game boundaries should be limited to safe streets.

Another Deduction Game

Strange Scout.—The Scout designated stands on a chair, or for two minutes strolls about within a circle while the patrols study him, and note their observations and deductions. They retire to Corners, and the P.L. writes a report. Preferably this is presented and read by the Scoutmaster at the evening's council fire. Patrol Competition points in order of completeness.

A Cub Game Talk

THIS is a tale about the Bunderlog; the monkey people of the jungle. One day they were out snooping around, and they found lots and lots of cocoanuts piled up in a plantation for the bullock carts to come and haul away. And by each pile there was a native sitting with a big stick, to stop the Bunderlogs from sneaking them. So they all sat down and chattered, and finally one wise old monkey said: "Let's go home, and the natives will think we are not going to take them, and then when it is dark we will come and each of us grab a big cocoanut and carry it back to the jungle."

So they all trooped off home, and after supper just before it was dark they started back for the cocoanuts.

Now there was a great big chasm that they had to cross, with a rushing torrent down below, and the only bridge was a tree trunk that had fallen across the chasm. Of course it was easy to cross in the day time, when they had their hands free.

Well, they got to the pile of nuts, and each monkey grabbed the biggest

he could find, and away they went back to the jungle with the cocoanuts hugged up in their arms. It was quite dark when they came to the log across the chasm, and they had to balance pretty well, because if they had fallen off they would have been drowned in the rushing water below. But they all got over safely.

Now we'll play the game of Crossing the Chasm. This is what you do. (Use a piece of two-by-four, or a log, with a cross-piece at each end to keep it upright. Failing this, simply use a bench.) Hug your arms across your chest as if you had a great big cocoanut, and run once around the room, single file. Away in the distance you can hear the water rushing through the chasm. It gets nearer, and you come to the log. Instead of turning out the lights when nobody would see

Ye Scout Almanack March

- 1st—St. David's Day. St. David is the Patron Saint of Wales.
- 7th—Last quarter of the moon.
- 13th—New moon and Saturday. Hold a moonlight hike.
- 17th—St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland.
- 20th—Last day of the winter of 1925-26, and Saturday—Hike day.
- 21st—Passion Sunday. First day of Spring. Watch for the Equinoctial Storm. First quarter of the moon.
- 28th—Palm Sunday.
- 29th—Full moon.
- 30th—Passover.

During March—Hikes and all outdoor winter sports as long as the snow and ice and cold weather last.

Also—Begin talking Scout gardens, particularly the raising of flowers for hospitals, church and school decorations, etc.

the fun, you either close your eyes tight — no peeping! — or pull your scarves over them. Then you feel your way across the log with your feet, —hugging the cocoanut all the time.

You've got to balance pretty well, because if you fall into the water you'll be a pretty dead monkey. Try it and see! —Akela S.

Toy Shop Results

TODAY I was accosted by a stranger, who said something like this: "I am awfully glad to hear you are forming a troop of Boy Scouts. We've got them in Owen Sound; and you should have seen what they did with the toy collection this Christmas. It was my first insight into Scouting. It certainly 'got me.' Scouts are making this a better world, and some of us Rotarians are learning lessons from them." —An Ontario S.M.

Keep Scouting a Game

HERE are some excellent suggestions on the subject contributed by Mr. C. S. Frampton, of Victoria, B.C.—

- (1) Straight competition and contests are not necessarily a game. The test of a game is that it can be spelt with three letters—FUN.
- (2) Scout Laws are easiest learned in the same way as the rules of football, i.e., a gradual understanding by the player through experience. Play into efficiency.
- (3) Score points on everything at anything, ALWAYS VARYING to some degree.
- (4) Let points be earned frequently enough for the tail-enders to have a real chance of becoming the winners in a meeting or two.
- (5) Keep the subjects covered extremely varied so that EVERYONE can have a real chance.
- (6) If you have four patrols, give points for first, second and third.
- (7) Give consolation points when deserved.
- (8) Let your P.L.'s and if possible Scouts invent your games, if necessary you giving them the educational aim or 'test' to underlie them. They are far more likely to follow natural channels than you can, and for this reason their inventions will go off much better.
- (9) Foster the spirit of concentrating on success, giving points to the winners in preference to deducting from the losers.—"Nothing Succeeds like Success."
- (10) Have everything so simple that the dullest boy CAN UNDERSTAND WITH EASE.

Get your Scouts to realize that—

- (1) In a game there is a considerable element of luck. In a close game this is very often the deciding factor.
- (2) Every team has "off days."
- (3) Every player has "off days."
- (4) That "after all it is only a game."
- (5) That the losing team is very often the "winner."
- (6) Sportsmanship is the only real test of a team.

"Track the Scoutmaster"

THE Scoutmaster and Patrol Leader Purkiss left the troop at headquarters and ten minutes later the remainder set out to track them. It proved to be a merry old chase, the trail led over fences, up and down the gravel pit and up and down the steep embankment along the Grand River at East Preston. At several places the boys were forced to slide down the embankment, as the snow and ice made it impossible to get a foothold in the bank. Eight boys passed fire lighting, Second or First Class cooking tests. —1st Galt, Ont.

Have you started your Troop Camp Bank? The CAMP BANK CARD, a deposit record card supplied each boy, will help. Per. doz. 25c.—The Stores Department.