

The Scout Leader

April Theme:
CUB HIKES AND RAMBLES
AXEMANSHIP FOR SCOUTS
WOODCRAFT IN THE TROOP
NATURE STUDY IN SCOUTING

VOLUME 25 - No. 7

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

MARCH 1948



HIKING AND PATHFINDING—See Page 104

THE SIGN POST

SCOUTER TRAINING

ARRANGEMENTS are in hand for the opening of the Canadian Scouters' Training Centre near Ottawa on June 1st. The course to be conducted at the Centre this year will be for the training of the professional staff as Deputy Camp Chiefs so that they will be fitted to conduct Gilwell Courses for Group Scouters. In future years the Canadian Scouters' Training Centre will train Commissioners, District Scouters, and members of Training Teams as Deputy Camp Chiefs and Assistant Deputy Camp Chiefs. This summer there will be Gilwell Courses in the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies, and British Columbia for Troop and Pack Scouters. Now is the time to complete your Correspondence Course for your Part I so that you will be ready to attend the Part II Courses in your own areas. You should endeavour to arrange your holidays to fit the dates set for the course in your own region. It is most important that Scouters should take advanced training of the sort made available through Gilwell Courses. If Scouting is to make an increased contribution to the future welfare of Canadian boys it is essential that our leaders receive further training in their duties and responsibilities. What are *you* doing about this matter?

* * * *

OVERSIZED PACKS

There are a great many Wolf Cub Packs of forty, fifty, and sixty boys. Experience shows that this is far too large and results in the leaders' inability to pay individual attention to the lads. This results in lack of interest and the dropping out of boys after short service. This probably accounts to some extent for the large number of Cubs who do not go on to the Troop. It is important, therefore, that Akelas study the strength of their Packs, and consider the establishment of waiting lists rather than the conduct of over-sized Packs.

* * * *

TROOP MEETINGS ALL YEAR ROUND

Most people agree that the summer is the best camping and hiking period of the year, yet many Troops close down at this season. I do hope that Scouters will give serious consideration to the conduct of Troop meetings, hikes, and week-end camps throughout the summer season of 1948. This is the time of the year for hiking, camping, cruising, explorations and the hundred and one other activities which you have always hoped you would find time to conduct. We must Scout out-of-doors the year round. We must not disappoint the lads.

D. C. Spry

Chief Executive Commissioner.

THE SCOUT LEADER

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by

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THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

Chief Scout for Canada

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Editorial

New Canadians

CANADA'S immigration policy is offering opportunities to many thousands of people from abroad who are anxious to start a new life in the new world. Some of these newcomers will eventually settle in communities where there are Scouts. Many of them will speak a different language and recognize different customs, and the speed with which they are assimilated into the Canadian way of life may depend upon the welcome they get and the friendly interest taken in them.

Scouts should extend the hand of fellowship to the sons of immigrants coming to their communities. Every effort should be made to meet these boys, to offer them a welcome to Pack or Troop, and to help them find their places in the country of their adoption. Other organizations will also be making efforts to win the interest of these boys; but Scouting, with its declared purpose of training boys in the fundamentals of good citizenship, has a special opportunity for offering the hand of friendship to the newcomers, whether they come from former allied countries or from former enemy countries. Scouting is an international brotherhood which seeks to bring peace through understanding, and the movement in Canada can make a contribution to this cause by giving these new Canadians an opportunity, through Scouting, to learn the democratic way of life.

Training for Camp

THE 1947 census disclosed that about 24,000 Scouts and Cubs were in camp for varying periods during that year. This represented about one-quarter of the Scout population. With an increasing interest now being taken by Scouters in Wood Badge training, this number is likely to increase substantially during 1948.

Reports from Dominion and Provincial Field Commissioners also revealed that some camps were not of a very high standard. No doubt this was due in part to the inexperience of leaders, but it may also have been due to a lack of pre-camp training given to the boys themselves. Camping is an art that has to be acquired, and good camping depends upon many things. Enthusiasm and the right spirit are among the essentials, but they have to be reinforced by many practical matters, such as good campsites, good cooking, a knowledge of outdoor living, and attention to sanitation.

The Scouter who wants to be reasonably sure of a successful summer camp must give much attention to the training of his boys in campcraft. The key to this training is through the Patrol Leader. A Scoutmaster with a very small Troop may be able to give individual boys the benefit of his expert knowledge, but his task can be greatly lightened if he sees that his Patrol Leaders are well trained for camp life.

One wise Scouter has recorded his ideas on this subject in this way: "The first step: Go away by yourself and become proficient in the elementary things required of a woodsman: making a fire, building a shelter, keeping direc-

tion, developing enthusiasm. Step two: Take a few boys, preferably your Patrol Leaders, teach them how to light a fire, where to find the material, the best kind of wood to use. Later, extend these activities to Patrol groups under P.L. leadership, and your guidance. Extend afternoon hikes to overnight hikes and finally to camps of several days duration—not camps complete with fancy tents and a hired cooking staff, but camps of Scouts, small groups with their self-made shelters, field kitchens, and gadgets made on the spot with axe and knife".

This Scouter is right. Comfortable camping depends on the ability of the Scouts to make themselves at home in the open, and they can do this only when they have acquired the necessary knowledge and the ability to apply it. Thus, start with the Patrol Leaders. Teach them the essentials of a good campsite, by discussing sites discovered while hiking; teach them cooking, and enlist the aid of parents for this purpose; teach them to make shelters and comfortable beds; teach them how to make useful camp gadgets. Do these things first on half-day hikes, then on all-day hikes, then at overnight and weekend camps, and the standards of camp life will rise steadily.

Nature in Scouting

SCOUTING as an outdoor game brings boys close to Nature, and Nature study is an integral part of Scouting activities. Lord Baden-Powell once observed that the enjoyment of nature was one of the finest means of inducing a better realization of God in the boy. "I am sure", he wrote on one occasion, "that the boy imbibes personally and directly a clearer impression of God where the wonders and beauties of Nature are pointed out to him, and eventually he gains a better conception of his duty to God and his neighbour."

Many of the Proficiency Badges in Scouting are linked with a study of Nature. But, as the recent census figures showed, the average Scout is not making the fullest use of the opportunities which Scouting offers for the enjoyment of Nature. In 1947 only 175 Canadian Scouts gained their Naturalist Badge, 307 their Starman Badge, 40 their Tracker Badge, and 1,926 their Stalker Badge. These are but a few of the badges related to the study of Nature—badges whose possession by Scouts would do more than anything else to emphasize the value of outdoor Scouting.

Every hike, every weekend camp, every outing in the open, should bring the Scout back to his own fireside richer in his knowledge of Nature in her many and varied forms. Every boy should return from a hike with some new knowledge of the plants, the animals, the birds, and the rocks in his neighbourhood. Even in regions where Nature's gifts seem less abundant there is ample scope for study—in the stars, the clouds, and in the general scene. "If we want our boys to gain happiness in life", wrote B.-P. in his wisdom, "we must put into them the practice of doing good to their neighbours and, also, the appreciation of the beautiful. The shortest step to this is through Nature lore:

"Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

"We want to teach our boys not merely how to get a living, but how to live."—B.-P.

CUB HIKING AND NATURE RAMBLES

By Harvard P. Collins, Cubmaster, 13th Vancouver Troop

"OOOH", came the breathless exclamation from Jimmy "Bubbly".

Akela held in his hand a newly emerged butterfly. Still glistening and gently testing its brilliant wings, it was a wonderful creation that left even the "bubbly" Cub of the Pack breathless with wonderment.

Akela was very wise and he knew that Cubs were curious. In his wisdom, Akela had brought the undeveloped cocoon to a meeting sometime previously. Each week the Cubs had watched the brown, dry and apparently lifeless pod. Fortunately the butterfly had chosen a Pack meeting night to emerge into the world and so Akela had a ready made jumping off place from which to awaken the interest of his Pack in the wonders of nature. If he hadn't found the cocoon, he might have brought a branch from a tree before the spring sun brought out the leaves and flowers. This would have been an equally excellent interest getter as the Pack watched the buds unfold under the stimulus of the warm room and water.

The First Spring Hike

From this first lesson in nature, Akela didn't find it hard to launch into a story about birds and trees and many other wonderful and exciting things to be found in the great out-of-doors. Of course the Pack just simply had to go for a hike as soon as the weather made it feasible.

And so the plans were laid with high glee. A week before the adventure, Akela sent home a note with each Cub so that Mother would know about the plans in detail. Also she was asked to pack a hearty lunch and make sure that her son was warmly dressed, but not too warm, for the outing. Akela even remembered to tell her what time to expect her son home so that she wouldn't be worried about him.

At last the great day came. You could hardly hear yourself think in the Jungle for the chattering. "Pack". Silence reigned instantly, and each Cub listened to instructions carefully. Everybody must keep together—within sound of Akela's voice, and they were to be very careful not to harm anybody's lawns or gardens or fences while in the city. And of course it was unthinkable for a Cub to break down branches, and such things as that. Each

Six had a special job to do. The Reds were to look for the new shoots of flowers and grasses. The Blues were to listen carefully for the songs and chirps of birds that had returned after the winter months. The Whites were to see if they could find all the letters of the alphabet in the still bare branches of the trees and shrubs. The Browns were to investigate the old logs and stumps and make a collection of "bugs".

Noses were counted. (Akela said he didn't want to lose anybody). The big adventure was on.

A Huge Success

Of course the day was a huge success. Akela pointed out so many things that nobody had noticed before. How the hemlock tree always had its head bowed. How the maples were so big and stout and the elms were so tall and slender.

"Just like the church steeple", exploded Jimmy "Bubbly".

It kept Akela on the hop to "Come and see what I've found, Akela", but Akela didn't mind a bit and was as enthusiastic as the Cubs about each new discovery.

Such an adventure might come to any Pack. Akela doesn't have to be a graduate naturalist to do it either. What does it matter if that flower or frog has a latin name as long as a curious Cub's nose. Jimmy "Bubbly" doesn't care, but he does love to watch the tadpoes swimming in a pond or hear how the trillium is a real Easter lily because it has white petals that turn to red to remind us that Jesus died on a Cross. All Akela needs is a little imagination. He can lead his Pack into a new world that the Cub will revel in and learn or feel an awesome reverence for all created things.

Cub Hikes Too

Of course all the Pack outings don't need to be strictly Nature Rambles.

Once Jimmy "Bubbly" has had a taste of a Pack outing he will most likely come out with, "Akela, can't we go on a hike, just like the Scouts do?"

Of course Akela can't think of any good reason why they shouldn't, so again the Pack can plan to go adventuring in a real Jungle. Although all the Cubs will be thinking in terms of going "at least ten miles", Akela must lay his pans with extreme care. In fact



Nature rambles are always a big feature of Cub camping. Here interested Cubs ask: "What tree is this leaf from Akela?"

the same things apply to Nature Rambles too. If Akela is wise, he will have been over the ground of the proposed hike beforehand so that he knows what there is to see and also any things to be avoided on the way. He will have picked a good spot to stop and have lunch and inquired about water that is pure. He will also provide himself with a small first aid kit, and a supply of cookies for rewards, or just to munch on while we sit around for a breather. Naturally the same note as before will go out to Mother explaining the details.

The Big Day

Comes the big day and the Pack assembles. Excitement knows no bounds, but Akela calmly tells the Cubs about staying together and such like. Then—we're off. Of course we can be pirates, or Scouts or anything you have a fancy to be. There are lots of things to see and notice. A bird here, a tree with a crooked trunk there, and so on. We play a game on the way. When Akela calls "storm" every Cub must get under cover and be hidden so that Akela can't see him. My what a scramble. Akela picks the most surprising times to catch the Cubs off guard. We sit down for a rest and while Akela's cookie supply is depleted, there is a story to listen to.

When we arrive at our destination ten minutes are allowed to explore. Maybe there's a cave nearby, or an old house, or some historical spot. Then we have a Six competition to see who

can get the most and best wood. Akela shows the Cubs how the Scouts light a fire and soon the water is bubbling. The luscious aroma of cocoa makes everybody feel hungry. After lunch we play "Indians and Settlers". And how those wool arm band "Scalps" get taken off. We tally up and the Reds have the most scalps so they are made "braves" of the tribe and for the rest of the day wear a feather in their hair.

Get Home on Time

We start home in plenty of time or if perhaps it is a long way, some of the Group Committee "just happened" to turn up with their cars and we get a ride.

If the Pack is very large, Akela could take one or two Sixes at a time and with the smaller group do more individual work.

There are limitless possibilities of making these hikes and rambles interesting for Cubs. Some have been mentioned. We could start a collection for our Collector's Badge. The tests for the Guide's Badge could lead on explorations of our community. A Treasure Trail of blood (red wool strands) is most exciting, especially when we find "Pieces of Ate" hidden along the trail or a big box of cookies or candy at the end. Akela will have lots of other ideas too.

If you plan a Sunday afternoon ramble, be sure to clear with your Cubs' Sunday School teacher or minister. A Sunday afternoon ramble is a heaven sent opportunity for Akela to gather his Cubs around him in God's own cathedral, high on a hill or in the solitude of the forest, and spend a few minutes in a simple Cubs' Own worship. It may be a simple thought that you sow, but who knows what lasting impressions will be made.

Secret of Success

Whatever the object of the outing, the secret for success is to PLAN, PLAN, PLAN. Don't just start out and hope. It won't work any better than if you went to a Pack meeting with lots of hope and no plan.

There are some cautions that every Akela will know, but we'll put them down anyway. Cubs usually have short legs and for all their boundless energy, tire easily. Stop for a rest often and insist that every Cub sit down and rest. Don't go too far. One or two miles is plenty. It's much longer coming home than going. If you have to



—National Film Board Photo.

His Excellency the Governor-General, Chief Scout for Canada, graciously received a group of visiting Sea Scouts from Colombia, at Rideau Hall recently. With the visitors at left is District Commissioner Alvin Schryer of Ottawa.



Some Outs in Scouting

HERE is a new book, just arrived in the Stores Department from England. It comes at an opportune time, when greater emphasis is being placed on the "out" in Scouting. It is a book of outdoor Scouting, a book which will provide Scouters with a lot of ideas for outdoor meetings, and plenty of material for gaining outdoor badges.

Its 173 pages deals mainly with three engrossing subjects, *Weather Lore*, *Forestry* and *Signs and Tracks*, and it is well illustrated with line drawings.

The section on *Weather Lore* deals with these subject headings, The Barometer, Clouds and What They Portend, Air Temperature and Thermometers, The Causes of Dew, Fog, Mist, Snow, etc., Rain and How to Gauge its Fall, The Wind, Cyclones and Anti-Cyclones, Keeping Your

go some distance have the Group Committee arrange for transportation back. Whatever you do—come home early, preferably before dark. Mothers have imagination as well as Cubs.

Well there it is. It's even easier than it sounds, and the Cubs will love it. Good Hunting.

Weather Log, Weather Rhymes, How Birds, Animals and Insects Predict the Weather.

Under Forestry the eight chapters include those on leaf printing, Axeman'ship, and the Life and Growth of Trees.

Signs and Tracks is covered in seven chapters with such intriguing headings as Trail Signs, Smoke Signals, Indian Sign Language, Plaster Casts, etc.

This is the sort of book a good many Scouters have been looking for to help them plan hikes and outdoor meetings. We understand from the Quartermaster that the quantity is limited, so we suggest you order your copy right away. The price is \$1.00.

The Cubmaster's First Year

For a long time we have been promising Cubmasters a new edition of that indispensable volume *The Cubmaster's First Year*. After long months of waiting due to labour and paper shortages, 2,000 copies have finally been delivered and are now available through your Provincial Office or the Stores Department.

While *The Cubmaster's First Year* was designed primarily for the new

(Continued on page 102)

"The ideal Cub outing is more of a picnic, with a short walk to and from a definite destination."

—The Cubmaster's First Year.

Scout Leader's Bookshelf . . .

(Continued from page 101)

Cubmaster, most Cubmasters of long experience use it regularly as a guide on the many problems with which they are confronted. The new edition features a number of minor changes and corrections which have been brought to our attention since the first edition was printed in 1943.

Hundreds of back orders on this book have now been filled, and the Stores Department is prepared now to fill all orders for immediate shipment. Despite increased printing costs the book still sells for 75 cents.

Aids to Scoutmastership

By Lord Rowallan in *The Scouter*

I wish we could assure a wider distribution of *Aids to Scoutmastership* which has been republished in *The World Brotherhood* edition by the Boy Scouts of America. This edition eliminates the purely British references, and has been supremely well done by Mr. Hillcourt, who is a first rate Scout and who lives at their main training centre, which I visited last year. It is extraordinary on re-reading this book, to find how B.-P. had the answer to all the problems and criticisms that crop up again and again in Scouting. I often think we do not realise, either in our training or in our writing, how much repetition there has to be if the succeeding generations are to be kept in touch with the fundamentals. How often have we been told that Scouting is getting far too complicated? How often have we been told that no man can possibly find the time to do all the things that a Scoutmaster is expected to do? How often, too, have we been told that it is quite impossible for the modern boy with all the other claims on his leisure and on his work and school time to do First Class, and how more often have we been told that there isn't time on Troop nights to take a boy through his First Class? Let's go back to B.-P. and see what he had to say:—

"As a preliminary word of comfort to intending Scoutmasters, I should like to contradict the usual misconception that to be a successful Scoutmaster, a man must be an Admirable Crichton—a know-all. Not a bit of it.

"The Scoutmaster has to be neither a schoolmaster, nor commanding officer, nor pastor, nor instructor. All that is needed is a capacity to enjoy the out-of-doors, to enter into the boys' ambitions, and to find other men who will give them instruction in the desired directions, whether it be signalling or drawing, nature study or pioneering."

HOW TO DEVELOP WOODCRAFT IN THE TROOP

Culled from a Leader's Correspondence Course

I BELIEVE that the 'germ of woodcraft' is present in most Canadian lads bequeathed us by the history of our country, all that is required to develop it is a bit of guidance, encouragement and enthusiasm.

The first step: go away by yourself and become proficient in the elementary things required of a woodsman, making a fire, making a shelter, keeping his direction—develop an enthusiasm for it—if the enthusiasm won't come you have no place as a Scoutmaster.

Step two: Take a few boys, two or three, preferably your leaders, teach them how to light a fire, where to find the material and which is the best wood. Introduce nature lore into these outings, unobtrusively of course. When they can make a fire, teach them how to choose a campsite, how to make a

Surely nothing could be clearer than this, and yet how often does a Scoutmaster talk about "My Troop" and nobody else is going to have anything to do with it.

We talk about team spirit among the boys, but a Scouter must also recognize the necessity for a team, not only a team of Troop Leaders and Patrol Leaders, but also the team of assistants and instructors, whom he must gather around him, if he is to do his duty to the boys.

No man can possibly know all the Badges himself, such a person does not exist, and B.-P. would have been first to admit that too many of us are unwilling to admit for fear, lest it should lower our prestige with the boys, that we don't know this or that. It is not our job to know, it is our job to help the boys find out for themselves, to show them where to go, how to set about it; and that is one more reason why Scouters should be in touch with the community, and have a wide circle of friends outside or on the fringes of Scouting.

NOTE—*The World Brotherhood* edition of *Aids to Scoutmastership* is available from your Provincial Headquarters or the Stores Dept. at the special low price of 25c, made possible by the gift of plates by the Boy Scouts of America.



comfortable shelter and how to cook up a meal without wasting time. At this stage, enlarge your group, if you have gone about it properly there will be four enthusiasts in your Troop, yourself and your first three disciples—there will also be a dozen others eager to learn, for the word will get around quickly and enthusiasm is infectious. Let the first three 'experts' teach one or two other lads each (depending on their abilities) under your general supervision. You can add a bit here and there by showing them how to make camp gadgets, and introducing a bit more nature lore. Extend your activities to Patrol groups under P.L.'s leadership, and your guidance. When a new subject is to be introduced take a small group with you, perhaps only one Patrol, or your leaders. Add tracking games, let one Patrol lay a trail for the others to follow, the campfire and a 'brew up' being at the end of it. Make a definite plan for each hike and brief the whole group on it before hand, i.e. 'Operation twist' (how to make and bake twist) etc. Encourage the lads to look for 'signs', show them how to make casts and start a collection for Troop H.Q. Set stories in sign and practice interpretation. Teach them stalking games while on these hikes, the value of camouflage and how to use it—how the wild animals and birds use it. At this stage a study may be made of some local wild life (i.e.) the beaver, this can be made interesting in story form—then armed with this knowledge a few enthusiasts may stalk the animal with a camera or note book. These activities must go on summer or winter—the latter being an added challenge to our woodsmanship and ability to take care of ourselves under adverse weather conditions.

By now the afternoon hikes have been extended to overnight hikes and finally to camps of several days duration, not camps complete with fancy tents, and a hired cooking staff, but camps of Scouts, small groups with their self made shelters, field kitchens and gadgets made on the spot with axe and knife. By the time this stage has been reached you will find the germ of woodcraft well imbedded and growing

nicely—you will most likely have to look up an Assistant S.M. or two and prepare to expand too.

Scouting is essentially a game for boys under the leadership of other boys and in teams of boys.

The very name 'Scouting' brings to the mind a picture of the early days of our country not so long ago when the plainsmen, pioneers, fur traders and explorers were roaming this very country-side. Here is the game then—in our imagination we can put ourselves in the place of those early pioneers and become expert woodsmen, skilful trackers or whatever the imagination will lead us too—we have the very countryside they roamed right outside the door so it's no great stretch for the imagination. From this game and the various organized games we play the elements of leadership, courage, team work, fair play, ability to stick at a job, obedience of rules and many others appear, and can be developed, not to mention physical growth and stamina.

Working Woodcraft in Troop

Second class work is under way with accent on firelighting and cooking—the aim is to have all the present Troop qualified as Second Class Scouts at least, by summer.

Regular instructive hikes are held with emphasis on woodcraft, pioneering, tracking.

Model building encouraged at Troop H.Q. so that when camp time arrives the Troop will know how to make their shelters, bridges, towers, etc.

Patrols encouraged to make portable 'gadgets' for summer camp i.e. pot hooks, tripods, tent pegs, wash stands.

Plans are being made to secure suitable material for the construction of one or more small tents.

A spirit of cheerful and willing obedience is fostered in order to make camp discipline easier, instruction will be given in camp routine and a demonstration put on by one Patrol when the necessary equipment has been made.

Don't cry over spilt milk—four-fifths of it is water anyway.

The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.



Working in conjunction with the Fish and Game Society, Boy Scouts of Woodstock, Ont., helped with the new County Forest at Blandford. The Scouts planted several thousand trees. In the picture they may be seen planting in the plowed furrows.

THE ROLE OF THE

D.S.M., D.C.M., D.R.S.L.

THERE is provision in Policy, Organization and Rules for the annual appointment of the above officials. The appointment is made by the District Commissioner with the approval of the Local Association. It should be thoroughly understood that the appointment rests primarily with the District Commissioner. It should also be understood that the appointment is not a prize for the veteran or most successful Scouter. It carries with it very definite responsibilities and the fitness of the appointee to undertake these responsibilities should be the main consideration in making the appointment.

If A.D.C.s are appointed in addition to District Scouters, it should be remembered that the A.D.C.s are the personal representatives of the Commissioner. The District Scouters should be given some definite and specific duties, for example, helping weak groups to strengthen their work, assisting new groups in their initial stages, giving a helping hand to inexperienced Scouters, etc. They can also take charge of combined parades, competitions, field days, rallies, etc., although the District Commissioner might do

so himself or delegate an A.D.C. to do so.

Policy, Organization and Rules says that the appointment is made for any duties compatible with these rules with which the District Commissioner may invest the appointment. This clearly leaves it up to the District Commissioner to outline the duties he wishes the District Scouters to undertake and it would be well for the D.C. to set out these duties in writing in order that no confusion might arise. This is particularly desirable in large districts where the D.C. may have three A.D.C.s.

In smaller districts it is not desirable to have both A.D.C.s and District Scouters and the D.C. should consider which to have. It should be kept in mind that there are many practical Scouters quite capable of doing District Scouters work but who lack the qualifications required for D.C. or A.D.C. It should not be considered necessary that these positions be filled just for the sake of having District Scouters and unless the D.C. has someone in view who can do the job properly, it is much better to leave the appointment vacant.

"Any ass can be a commander, and a trained man may often make an Instructor; but a leader is more like a poet—born, not manufactured."—B.-P.



HIKING AND PATHFINDING

"YONDER THE BLUE HORIZON LIES"

By
George H.
Burnham,
Scoutmaster,
Norwood,
Man.

A CYNIC once said: "The only thing boys ever remember of their youthful associations are the free feeds." Of course he could have been speaking of any boys' organization, but if he referred to Scouting at all, it could never apply to a Troop that had Hiking and Pathfinding as a regular part of their programme.

Barber shops and doctor's offices have two things in common, waiting and old magazines. During a visit to the barber's one afternoon, while I was waiting to hear that welcome phrase, "You're next", I picked up a magazine and came across an article entitled "Rub two Boy Scouts Together." The title had an instant appeal, as I, during my experience as a Scouter had tried just about everything but that.

The writer attacked the Scout Movement in no uncertain terms about the failure of Scouters to provide the things the boys had joined Scouting for. Unfortunately the magic word "next" was called as I was getting nicely into the article, so I never did find out just what happens when two Boy Scouts are rubbed together. Someday I'm going out there again for another haircut and finish that article.

The Great Appeal of Scouting

The boys' natural love for the out of doors is the main reason for the great appeal of Scouting in its forty years existence. One dictionary describes the pathfinder as "one who traverses unexplored or unknown regions—a pioneer." That is what boys join Scouting for: It is also by far the great reason why boys leave Scouting—because they do not get this desire catered to. One only has to go back to the beginning of the Scout Movement to see why it caught on—without halls, without adult leaders, without shops and without rules. Boys took it up because it emphasized two words—hiking and pathfinding. In other words—manly adventure.

Hiking and pathfinding as well as being two of the most romantic words of our language, are at the same time the keys that open doorways to man's great challenge—Life.

The learning as boys of the basic skills to qualify as hikers and pathfinders will stand them in good stead in the "Hike of Life" as men.

Planning There Must Be

Camping, hiking and pathfinding must be a definite part of the Troop programme, planned ahead to foster the boys' desire to get out of doors. Details can be filled in as the season advances, but planning there must be.

Hiking must always have a purpose. It could be the study of nature—what magic is unfolded!—the thrill of seeing the first robin of spring, the song of the meadowlark, or the sight of the first crocus, blossoming before the snow has gone. Every season, every month, every day of the year offers something marvellous to be seen or heard in the vast realm of nature.

Romance of Nature

Have you ever seen the sunrise over a lake or river? On a still morning the early mists rise from the water's edge, seemingly inch by inch until lo!—the sun is over the ridge and daybreak is upon us. Have you watched the mountains change into every shade imaginable as the sun first strikes the peaks and then pours down the mountainside bathing it in its rays? What more fitting or solemn a place for an Investiture than on a rise of ground, or in an open glade at sunrise. Far, far

better than in the (usually) dusty indoors hall with the caretaker watching from his corner, fervently wishing you'd cut it short and get the little darlings out, so he could be getting home.

Pathfinding

The purpose of hiking could entail a study of your own community. Here again a grand vista opens. Main Street in Winnipeg is as crooked as the hind leg of the proverbial dog. Why?—because the Indian trails followed the buffalo trails and rivers, and when the White Man came, he followed the Indian trails, the white man's road became the city's streets, and here we are today.

For several years there has raged a controversy in historical circles around Winnipeg regarding the true site of La Verandré's Fort Maurepas. The argument still waxes and wanes. A few years ago a local Rover Scout Crew went down the Winnipeg River by canoes in an attempt to find some trace of the old fort, but without success. The main thing is they TRIED and I for one am willing to wager that great adventure will live forever in their memories. They were in the full sense of the dictionary "Pathfinders—traversing unknown regions". All the arguing in the world about the location of the old fort, and humans



To attend the National Jamboree at Ottawa next year Scouts must have reached First Class standing. This Troop has little to worry about having a good representation. It is the 21st Vancouver, St. Mary's, Troop B, under S.M. Rex Retallack, and boasts five King's Scouts, four Bushman's Thongs, and three First Class Scouts. Ten of these boys act as Cub instructors in six Packs in their district.

love to argue, would never provide the satisfaction and thrill an explanation like that would.

As you are no doubt aware, Winnipeg is located on the prairies, and the only things in the area that can by any stretch of the imagination, be called hills are (1) the city refuse dump, all of forty feet high and (2) Bird's Hill, twelve miles out and about fifty feet high. The latter is of particular interest to me for obvious reasons. First of all, it's not really a hill, as hills go, but it passes for one. Secondly, the birds had nothing to do with it. It was formed, long before the first Scout Troop met hereabouts, by glaciers that pushed all the gravel they could scrape up and dumped it conveniently near Winnipeg, providing great opportunities for boys to climb, map, climb, sketch, climb, explore and climb. Climbing to a boy is just about as natural as breathing. Climbing is adventure. That's why I like Bird's Hill. Shades of Shangri-La, the Rockies or the Alps, I know some boys that think Bird's Hill is the real thing.

Hiking with a Purpose

The point is that the Scouter felt enthusiastic about hiking and climbing and so did the boys. Whatever stirs the Scouter's imagination and enthusiasm, stirs also in the boys a responsive chord. By the same token, if the Scouter considers hikes a necessary evil how will he hold his boys, let alone enthuse them? I have given three local instances of how the "taken for granted" things of life could become a quest, a search, in other words a hike with a purpose.

Have your boys ever baked a bannock or twist or do they prefer sandwiches and "pop"? If they do you've never really tried to teach them cooking. Can you flip a pancake and have it land t'other side up IN the pan, the way you intended? You'd be surprised how many ladies cannot do it. It is still definitely one of the "manly" arts.

Whilst speaking of hiking purposes; what purpose must the Scouter keep in mind? Getting the kids out for the odd afternoon, lighting a few fires, searing some steaks and wasting some potatoes? Getting the boys out because it seems the thing one *should* do? Meet at two pip emma Saturday afternoon and have everyone safely checked in at home by six, so that the Scouter



—Photo by Richard D. R. Cowan, Ottawa.

At a joint gathering of Ottawa Sea Scouts, a group of visiting Sea Scouts from Colombia, South America, were presented with a Canadian flag. Here is the scene at the presentation. In khaki uniform and beret is Sr. Julio Tobon of Bogota, Colombia, who was in charge of the visiting group. Sr. Tobon visited Canada some years ago with another group of South American Scouts.

and the Scouts can erase all the smoky smells, etc., etc., pack in a GOOD meal and get off to a show? If so, perhaps we should ask—Why Scouters?

It's a Boys' Movement

Well, we have Scouters merely to organize the things a boy joins Scouting for. After all, it is the BOY Scout movement and it is for boys, so, why not provide what he expects,—games, adventure, tracking, hiking, camping, pathfinding — right back where we started with the dictionary.

What the Scouter Needs

Now a Scouter does not have to be a full-blooded sourdough to do all this. He needs just three things: (1) A group of normal boys. (That covers every Troop in the country, coast to coast). (2) An honest interest in boys. (If he hasn't what's he doing in the Movement?) (3) Imagination. Don't be bound by too many rules or books or ifs or buts. The Patrol Leaders, and the Scouters, and by this I imply ALL the Scouters, can lay out several months programmes of hiking at one sitting. Whatever responsibilities are thrown at the boys, no matter how big, have no fear, they will shoulder them. The thing to watch is that Scouters don't get faint-hearted.

I would like to conclude with a piece of poetry that expresses far better than I could hope to do, the magic that hiking and pathfinding holds for all

who are boys at heart. With spring almost here, what fine opportunities there are to get out of doors in this great Canada of ours.

Wander Thirst

Yonder the blue horizon lies,
And there by night and day
The old ships come to port again,
The young ones sail away.

I know not where the white road bends,
Nor what the blue hills are
But a man can have the sun for a friend
And for his guide a star.

And there's no end of wandering,
When once the voice is heard,
The River calls, the road calls
And oh! the call of a bird.

And if you should ask me
I could not tell you why,
But you can blame it on
The white road, the blue hills and the sky.

Religion and Life Award

NINE members of Toronto's 101st Troop at Windermere United Church were presented with Religion and Life Awards on the opening Sunday of Boy Scout-Girl Guide Week, February 15th. The presentation was made at a special Scout-Guide Week service at the church.

"In Scouting for Boys, the Chief Scout tells us that, among the Indians, the man who was good at finding his way in strange country was termed 'A Pathfinder'. The name was considered a great honour by the Indians. A Scout who cannot find his way is of very little use."—Gilcraft.

NATURE STUDY IN SCOUTING

HOW TO PUT IT ACROSS IN YOUR TROOP

AT THE beginning let us emphasize one thing. The Scoutmaster need not have an intimate knowledge of Nature to be able to put across a successful programme. He should strive to stimulate interest and should afford ample opportunity, but it is not necessary that he act as instructor. Give the boy the incentive and the chance and he will do the rest. Most Scouts who earn their Bird Warden Badge do so on their own initiative.

Just recently we heard of a Patrol Leader who was keenly interested in birds. He asked permission of his Scoutmaster to form an Audubon Club in the Troop, and today several members of the Troop are working to earn their Bird Warden Badge.

The Troop nature programme, to be effective, must be continuous and progressive. Inject some small activities of this character into every Troop meeting and every hike. Start with the Tenderfoot and keep the idea alive all through his career as a Scout. The passing of tests related to nature is the basic Scout method of gaining a boy's interest in nature.

Handicraft: Encourage the Scout to make himself a leaf press or display board featuring the leaves of trees he must be able to recognize to gain Test 11, Second Class.

Signalling: Spelling the names of trees, flowers, birds, etc., in either morse or semaphore. With sentences like, "The common quail or partridge is also known as the bob-white," use most of the letters of the alphabet and at the same time impress a fact.

Map Making: In addition to the usual roads, bridges, buildings, etc., the map should be used to call the boys' attention to large trees, rocks, or other conspicuous natural objects.

The Hike: In writing the report of his First Class or any other hike, the Scout should be encouraged to note as many things in nature as he sees. This is one of the best opportunities we have for creating interest in the things of the out-of-doors.

Judging and Observation: This test may better be passed with the use of natural objects, out-of-doors, if possible. It is much better to judge the height of an elm or pine tree, than a flag pole. It is better to judge distance between that "cedar tree to the south, and that maple tree to the north" than between two non-natural objects.

Fire Building and Cooking: These tests can and should carry with them some regard for the selection of materials used, the direction of the wind, etc. In connection with fire building, do not neglect to call the Scouts' attention to the danger that may occur to surrounding plant life.

Star Study: This project may be started by the Scout learning to find the north by the stars. This requires his knowledge of two constellations and the Pole Star. On this basic knowledge have each Patrol start a map of the heavens, placing these constellations in place, and gradually adding others. The work should be done originally in pencil, and verified before inking in.

Some of your nature programme will be intimately associated with regular Scouting activities, but you will find it desirable to plan special activities for the purpose of teaching nature. In

such cases do not lose sight of the fact that the nature study idea must be kept in the foreground. For instance, plaster casts are made to teach nature, not to teach plaster work. The products of the Scouts' work may be disappointing sometimes, but the impression will be lasting.

The Scouter's greatest concern should be to create an interest in nature and direct curiosity toward the things out-of-doors, not to teach identification of species. This comes later, and with a little encouragement the boy will manage somehow to get detailed information for himself. Most Troops have at least one Scout who shows a marked tendency toward nature study. Encourage him in every way possible to become the Troop's nature expert, and thus your main source of instruction and enthusiasm.

(Continued on page 107)



Photo by Stanley G. Metcalfe, Ottawa.

Nature study not only gives a boy an appreciation of the great out-of-doors, but prepares him to avoid those things which cause discomfort. This is a mounted collection of several of the varieties of poison ivy, the bane of many a camping and hiking experience. All Scouts should be taught to recognize poison ivy and to avoid contact with it.



AXEMANSHIP

HOW TO TEACH IT TO SCOUTS



By J. F. Spittlehouse,
District Commissioner,
Port Arthur, Ont.

Two of the most important utensils required in our outing or camping kit, are a good knife and a good axe. I have yet to meet the boy who does not want to be the possessor of a good knife. It is something he is really proud of and, if properly instructed, will learn to respect and care for.

Now the same boy, if he is going to become a real Scout and an honest to goodness camper, should be taught equal pride in his axe. We must bear in mind that both of these articles are cutting instruments and are only assets when they are sharp and in first class condition. Therefore the first duty of the Scouter, is to teach the boy what kind of an axe to buy, and how to care for it.

Nature Study in Scouting . . .

(Continued from page 106)

Nature Study Books

BIRDS:

Birds of Canada, by Taverner, Musson Book Co.

Birds of the Pacific Coast, Eliot General Publishing Co.

Land Birds, by Chester A. Reed, and Water and Game Birds by the same author. These are small pocket editions and may be purchased at most book stores.

TREES:

Trees We Should Know. By Alexander Galbraith. Published by A. W. Galbraith Co. Ltd., Toronto.

Native Trees of Canada. Bulletin 61, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

INSECTS:

Field Book of Insects. By Frank E. Lutz. Published by Putnam's.

FLOWERS:

Western Wild Flowers, by Armstrong. American Wild Flowers, by Matthews. Wild Flowers in Homes and Gardens, by Durand.

These three are published by the General Publishing Company.

A GOOD SERIES:

Our Insect Friends and Foes; Our Plant Friends and Foes; Our Bird Friends and Foes; all by Dupuy, and published by J. C. Winston & Co., Toronto.

Size of the Axe

The wise Scouter will suggest to his Scouts what kind of an axe to purchase. Too big an axe is a hindrance. It causes strain and destroys aim. One gets more work out of an axe that fits, one that fits him and fits the job he is doing.

There are, generally speaking, three types of axe. The splitting axe, the cutting axe, and the double-bitted axe. Scouts will have little use for the latter and it is not recommended for their use. There is also the hand-axe which many Scouts own, but which has limited uses.

Many Scouts, and many Troops purchase axes which have the fault of being too big and too heavy for the average Scout. Bernard S. Mason, in *The Book for Junior Woodsmen*, says that the ideal axe for a boy is the *pulpwood* axe, which weighs $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds and has a 28 inch handle. The standard cutting axe, with the thin blade, weighing usually $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 pounds is a bit large for boys. The *pulpwood* axe by the way, is often referred to as a *three-quarter* axe.

Choosing an Axe

Once the size of the axe has been determined boys should be taught to look for certain characteristics. The handle should be straight in grain. The head should be snug, and may be set slightly off centre, although never more than a quarter inch. Boys should be warned not to buy an axe with a painted handle which may hide flaws in the wood.

Sharpening the Axe

It should be realized in teaching axemanship that it cannot be done by lecturing—it must be done by practice. This is true in teaching the sharpening of an axe.

Whether you use a grindstone or a file and axe stone the boys should be shown rather than told how to do the job. Bernard Mason suggests using an 8-inch mill file and a round axe stone, and this method. Always use a glove when filing an axe.

1. File down the flat surface of the blade: place the file flat on the blade at a point half an inch from the edge and push it directly away from the edge. Lift the file after each stroke, filing only on the forward motion. The file should always be kept at right angles to the cutting edge.

2. File back for three inches from the cutting edge to the middle point, and aim to attain a fan-shaped effect.

3. Now file the edge; place the file on the very edge and make rounded strokes away from the edge to a point half inch back from it.

4. Next hone the axe with a round axe stone. Grip the axe, first with the blade upright before you, hand on the handle, and rub the edge of the axe with the stone using a circular motion from the toe to the heel. Start with the rough side of the stone and finish with the smooth side. Wet the stone.

5. Repeat this process holding the blade in your hand and honing the other side.

In using a grindstone for sharpening an axe, which is a method to be preferred in Scouting to filing, it is better for boys to turn the stone away from them. Only real experts turn the stone towards them.

Using the Axe

While most Scouts will want to chop down a tree as the first lesson in axemanship, Scoutmasters should not permit this until the boy has had considerable practice in handling an axe.

The Scout can get his best practice on a log, a small six inch log first, then larger logs. He should be instructed first that to be a good axeman he must have sure footing, and one important fact to remember is to wear leather boots or shoes when indulging in axemanship. This is both a safety precaution, and a help to sure footing. His feet should be firmly on solid ground and slightly apart.

When chopping a log it is best for the learner to stand behind the log. The expert axeman stands on the log, but it takes time to become an expert.

Be particularly careful in wet weather—axe handles get wet and slip easily in the hands. Wet logs have to be approached with some caution for the same reason. Beginners should not attempt work with wet logs.

Holding the Axe. The axe should be grasped with the left hand just above the knob at the end of the handle, and supported with the right hand about three-fourths of the way up the handle. With the axe held this way, crosswise to the front of the body, we are ready to start chopping.

(Continued on page 108)

Axemanship

(Continued from page 107)

The Forehand Swing. This is to cut the right side of the notch. Raise the axe behind the right shoulder with the hands still in the same position as the start. Bring it down with a natural easy swinging motion, sliding the right hand down the handle as you do so, so that both hands are together at the end of the stroke. Raise it again, sliding the right hand up the handle as before, and start the next swing. The right hand thus slides up and down while the left remains stationary.

The Backhand Swing. This is to cut the left side of the notch. Raise the axe over the right shoulder as before, but lean the body well to the left, so that the axe can be brought down in line with the left face of the notch.

Take it easy. Never drive the axe or force it. The weight of the axe is sufficient to do the chopping. Force simply destroys your aim and accuracy is what counts in doing a neat chopping job.

The best position for chopping a large log is standing on top of it. Peter MacLaren, one of North America's greatest axemen, says that chopping technique is explained in the motto "high, low and in the middle."

Standing on the log first make three forehand strokes, first toward the top, next on the lower part of the log, and third in the middle. Then carry through the same operation with the backhand stroke, finally driving the "V" through the log.

When Scouts have mastered the art of chopping a log (and this will only be after considerable practice) the attempt may be made to cut down a tree. Keeping in mind that all twigs and bushes should be cleared away, and that there is ample room to swing the axe, the Scout proceeds by the method explained on Page 67 of *Tenderfoot to King's Scout*.

We who respect our axes, and also the property of others, sometimes shudder at the way some boys use their axes, not only in felling but in wilful destruction. Joyce Kilmer wrote: "Only God can make a Tree." It is well to stress this fact with your boys. Impress upon them to help in the great conservation programme by protecting our forest wealth from wilful destruction. Remind them again and again that an axe is not a toy or plaything. It can be a most useful instrument on hikes and at camp, but it should never be used for purposes other than intended.

In all axemanship activities it is of supreme importance that safety measures be observed. Don't be afraid of the axe, but treat it with the same respect afforded a loaded gun.

Somebody sent me some days ago a set of rules set down by the Windsor, Ont., Local Association. I quote them because I think every Scouter should observe them.

That no boy be allowed the use of an axe or knife unless he has passed Test No. 15 and the use of the felling axe be prohibited until Test 19 has been passed.

Cub leaders are requested to observe the following rules for Cubs. Axes, sheath knives or similar long bladed tools are not to be carried by Wolf Cubs, for the following reasons:

(a) Possible danger to the boy himself and to others.

(b) The temptation for Cubs to hack at trees and buildings when carrying an axe or knife.

(c) The Cub programme does not require the use of such tools. Only Cub leaders may carry these tools if they thoroughly understand their use and the dangers of their misuse.

I believe such a set of rules to be a step in the right direction, and if these rules are followed by our leaders and boys, we shall soon have in the movement a wholesome respect for the tools themselves, and for the trees and property of others. Thus we would be making a stride toward attaining the goal that B.-P. set before us.

NEWS FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

From *The Scouter*, February, 1948

JUST before Christmas we had twelve German Youth Leaders at I.H.Q. for a few days. They had come over to this country for a month by arrangement with the Education Branch of the Control Commission in Germany to receive some training in our methods and to study Scouting generally.

Their programme began with a day or two at Roland House to enable them to get to know one another—they were drawn from different parts of the British Zone—and to get acclimatized. After this they split up into parties of four and spent ten days as guests of three Scout Groups. This enabled them to experience at first hand the life and programme of a Group and, from reports received, the visitors found these days most valuable and the Group concerned admit that they themselves benefited to no small extent from the arrangement. The Group visits over, the party reassembled for a week's training at Gilwell Park in the fundamental principles of Scouting and the Scout methods of training. The Gilwell staff was reinforced by Josh Reynolds, now Editor of *Jamboree*, and Bob Herbert, the Field Commissioner for British Scouts in Germany. At the end of the course the party split up again, this time into pairs, and each couple spent ten days with a Field Commissioner when they had splendid opportunities for seeing every phase of Scouting in this country. The visitors spoke in most appreciative terms of the welcome given to them by the Counties, Districts and Groups they visited during this period.

The programme ended with an official visit to 25 B.P. Road where they were given an opportunity to exchange views with various members of the staff and to seek enlightenment on matters which were still a bit obscure to them. Some of their comments were illuminating. Several thought that in some Troops the Scouters were so busy imparting technical information to their Scouts that they appeared to have no time left to do their jobs as Scoutmasters, and was this thought to be a good thing? This enabled them to receive a further homily on the proper application of the Patrol System which was so obviously missing from those Troops they had mentioned; they were left in no doubt that the Scouter trains the P.L.s and the P.L.s train the Scouts. Another point which interested me very much was that, while they found many Scouters prepared programmes before Troop meetings, some of the programmes were so rigid that the mood of the Scouts on a particular evening was completely ignored—elastic may be in short supply, but surely not to that extent! It was most interesting to hear these observations from people who, clearly, were not only intelligent observers but anxious to do the job properly.

Suggested Good Turn

A GOOD Turn idea: Provide a number of umbrellas which would be kept in the church porch, and which Scouts could use to help parishioners from the church to their cars on rainy Sundays.

Training in Zero Weather

THE Training Department has just received a report from New Brunswick sent in by Percy Ross in connection with a Preliminary Training Course for Scoutmasters.

Eighteen Leaders from six different points attended. The Course has been conducted outside of Sussex at the Sussex Boy Scout Camp. Percy Ross reports that although they had zero weather and some snow, the Course went along splendidly. There were French Leaders from St. Joseph's University mixed with Anglicans, Baptists, and other denominations. The Course finished up with a week-end in camp which included a council fire on Saturday evening during which the French Scouters gave instructions in folk dancing. At midnight a group left for a two hour ski hike and on Sunday morning, the Roman Catholic Scouters went to Sussex to attend the Mass and the Protestant Scouters held a Scouts Own Service at the camp. It is intended to follow this up with a week-end in camp for Cubmasters.

It would appear that the Sussex camp site is being used to its full extent as on January 19th, Percy Ross reports that twenty-four Patrol Leaders completed a rugged week-end spent in the woods, five miles from Sussex. He states that the boys were excellent leadership material and demonstrated that they could take it under very severe winter conditions. Before reaching the camp, the boys had to break a trail for a quarter of a mile in deep snow, hauling their supplies on toboggan. A complication arose when a stream had to be crossed which was still open but the Scouts constructed a rock bridge and continued on to camp. The trip from Sussex to the camp covers about five miles.

Name Troop After Prime Minister

AN NETHERLANDS Boy Scout Troop will hereafter be known as the William Lyon Mackenzie King Troop. The Troop, desiring to memorialize the important part played by the Canadians in the liberation of the Netherlands, wrote the Prime Minister, making the request. The Troop will also wear the Union Flag on the shirt sleeves of its members.



—Photos by St. Catharines Standard.

Here are the winners of the Good Camping Trophies offered each year by the St. Catharines, Ont., Local Association. Top picture shows the 16th St. Catharines Pack, winners of the Cub camping trophy, and below, the 1st St. Catharines Troop, winners of the Scout camping trophy.

ON REPASSING

King's Scout Qualifying Badges

RECENTLY, a Scouter who is in a position to talk with some authority on the subject, made the statement that only about fifty per cent of our King's Scouts re-pass their King's Scout qualifying badges annually. We don't want to bring down a storm of protest around our ears, we merely quote one man's opinion but there must be a reason for his statement and if only partly correct, it means that there is a number of King's Scouts wearing an honourable badge to which they are not really entitled.

This is not a situation that can readily be corrected by a lot of directives or a mass of paper work. The most direct, effective, and certainly the most honest check ought to be made by Scouters. It is clearly their personal

responsibility. It should be an easy matter to make periodical checks on the "annual" badges and arrange for re-examinations without relying on some District official to do it.

There is a perfectly sound reason for these annual re-examinations. The badges concerned are public service badges and it is of utmost importance that a Scout who is wearing one should at all times be competent to render the service the badge implies. An annual re-examination (perhaps a better term would be re-fitting) is therefore necessary to ensure that every King's Scout is completely prepared to justify the rank.

King's Scouts have a definite responsibility to the public, let's make sure that they meet it creditably.

"A King's Scout must be re-examined annually for his qualifying badges and must cease to wear his King's Scout Badge should he fail in any of them."—P.O.R., Sec. 64.

A page of helpful ideas
from anyone, anywhere.

THE DUFFEL BAG

If you have a good one,
tested, please send it in.

Learn Use of Small Arms

SCOUTS of the 45th Ottawa (Rockcliffe Park) and the 6th Ottawa (All Saints) Troops received instruction in the use of small arms at the R.C.M.P. barracks at Rockcliffe through the kind permission of Superintendent Michelson, officer commanding N Division of the R.C.M.P.

Troop Gets Award of Merit

THE Second Preston, Ont. (St. Clement's) Troop, has been presented with the Award of Merit by the Young Canada Club for outstanding service in its community. The Troop, for eight years, has provided toys for the orphanage home in St. Agatha, and prior to its closing the Children's Aid Shelter in Hespeler.

There's Money in Waste Paper

THE 1st Fergus, Ont., Troop in 1947 enriched its funds by the collection of no less than 37 tons of waste paper. Similar stories continue to come from all parts of Canada. Thousands of dollars are waiting to be picked up by Scout Troops which adequately organize and carry out waste paper collection.

Dad and Son Pioneering

PIONEERING was the main theme of a Dad and Son model contest staged by the 12th Saskatoon Troop. Many very excellent models were submitted, and it was quite apparent that a great deal of time and interest had been given to the project. The first three models were awarded prizes. Larry Rose, who with his dad won first place, produced a model log cabin complete in every detail.

Good Turn in Reverse

AN elderly lady was standing on South Drive, west of Glen Road, in Toronto. A Boy Scout popped up to help pilot her across the road. However, as the traffic thundered through there was very little he could do to get either himself or the elderly lady to the other side of the street. Finally the lady took over. She took the Boy Scout with her on a bus. They rode to Bloor and Sherbourne Streets, crossed with the lights, then took the bus back, getting off safely at South Drive and Glen Road, on the other side.

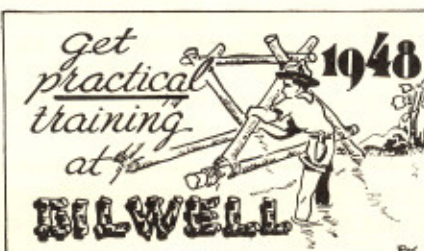
—Toronto Telegram.



An outstanding achievement for a small community was the building of this fine Scout-Guide Hall at Whycocomagh, N.S. Driving force behind the building was Scoutmaster George E. Puddicombe. The total cost to date is \$1,689.67 with very little more to be expended. The Scouts and Guides raised sufficient money to cover the cost of installing the lights and the wallboard, to pay for insurance on the building, and to purchase a new kitchen range. Those Scouters who remember the old First Class test book, will be interested to know that George Puddicombe was the Scout whose photograph was used as a model for the cover picture of that book.

What Are You Doing About It?

IN February in one day 45 new subscribers were added to *The Scout Leader* mailing list from Windsor, Ont. Thirty-seven of these were sponsored by the Local Association for Chaplains of the Windsor Groups, while eight others were from Pack and Troop assistants. Yearly subscriptions to *The Scout Leader* may be obtained by sending 50c for each to the Publications Department, Boy Scouts Association, 306 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa. All Assistant Leaders, Group Committee Chairmen, and others closely associated with Scouting should receive this magazine each month.



Yes—Waste Paper Again

FOR over two years the Boy Scouts of Cobourg, Ont., have conducted a monthly paper salvage collection, through which they have financed many activities. Paper collections are still a patriotic necessity due to Canada's paper shortage, as well as a means of raising Troop funds.

Raffles Are Illegal in Scouting

FROM time to time complaints are received from Field Commissioners that various Groups are using raffles and draws as a means of raising money for Scout purposes. This is contrary to the rules laid down in Policy, Organization and Rules of the Boy Scouts Association. This ruling not only applies to Packs, Troops and Crews, but likewise to Group Committees and Ladies' Auxiliaries. Such methods of raising money are not in keeping with the principles and ideals of the Association.

Don't Teach the Hangman's Knot

FROM Long Beach, California, came the story a few days ago of a 14 year old Boy Scout, Walter Dunn, Jr., who died as a result of practicing the hangman's knot. He is said to have stood on the edge of a bed to test the knot, slipped and became entangled in the drape, strangling himself. The hangman's knot is useless to Scouts. It is not a requirement of any test or badge in Scouting. It should not be taught and no Scout should be permitted to practice it.

Combined Operations

THE Boy Scouts Association and Girl Guides Association share office space in Edmonton, Alta., and co-operate in many other ways. A recent instance was the joint publication of the magazines of the organizations the Girl Guide *Woodsmoke* and the Boy Scout *The Lookout*. This week messages from Mrs. S. H. Gandier, Provincial Commissioner of the Girl Guides, and Hon. N. E. Tanner, Provincial Commissioner of the Boy Scouts, together with a number of useful articles for both Scout and Guide leaders.

BOY SURVEY - 1948

In accordance with the requirements of *Plan Opportunity* and in order to assist those engaged in Troop work, it has been decided to conduct a survey among boys of two classes:

- (a) Those who are now members of Scout Troops,
- (b) Those who were members, but who are no longer.

With assistance from the Gallup Poll, and other persons and organizations experienced in this type of work, a questionnaire has been prepared which will shortly go forward to all Provincial Headquarters.

The Provincial Headquarters will be asked to select approximately 25% of Troops and forward four copies of the material to each of them. Scoutmasters of Troops so chosen, are asked to hand two forms to members of the Troop and two to boys who were members but who are not now. Included with each questionnaire will be a prepaid self-addressed envelope so that all the boy has to do is answer the questions to the best of his ability, put it in the envelope and drop it in the mail.

You, as Scoutmasters, are asked, if chosen, to help the Survey along by issuing the the questionnaire promptly and by making a follow-up to see that they have been completed and mailed.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

(Continued from page 112)

James Wright, Jr., Assistant District Commissioner, Hamilton, Ont.
Miss Muriel J. Wright, Assistant Area Commissioner, Hamilton.

Bar to Medal of Merit

For Additional Good Service to Scouting

J. A. Stewart Keay, District Scoutmaster, Toronto, Ont.
Harry K. Newton, District Cubmaster, Toronto, Ont.
Kenneth T. Northover, Assistant Scoutmaster, Toronto, Ont.
Edgar C. Reason, Chairman Scout Group Committee (59th, 159th and 259th) Toronto, Ont.
Mrs. A. E. Standing, Honorary Field Commissioner for Toronto Ladies' Auxiliaries, Toronto, Ont.
Leonard Wheeler, Executive Commissioner, Galt, Ont.
Harry Woodard, Scoutmaster, Toronto, Ont.

WOOD BADGE COURSES

Akela Part II Courses

British Columbia—Camp Byng, August 23-28.
Saskatchewan-Manitoba combined—Gimli, August 9-14.
Ontario—Blue Springs, July 17-24.
Sudbury, July 12-18.

Part II Wood Badge

British Columbia—Lake Osprey, July 1-10.
Saskatchewan-Manitoba combined—Gimli, July 24-Aug. 2.
Quebec—Tamaracouta, August 7-15.
Ontario—Blue Springs, July 24-Aug. 2.
Blue Springs, Sept. 18-27.
North Bay, July 24-Aug. 2.
Maritimes—Camp Buchan, P.E.I., July 13-23.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Films are being used by more and more Scout Groups—in fact the demand of late has been so great that the National Film Society reports that every Scout film is booked to the end of March.

A second print of the 1947 Jamboree film, "Canada's Flaming Flamingos", has been ordered. Delivery of this second print has been promised for early March.

ALL LEADERS—PLEASE NOTE

Scout films should be ordered direct from the National Film Society, 172 Wellington Street, Ottawa, and not from Dominion Headquarters.

Herewith is a list of Scout film titles, together with a list of other films of interest to Scouts, all available from the National Film Society. Cash for rental should accompany orders for the

films which will be shipped to you express collect, and which you are asked to return, not rewound, express prepaid.

Details of the films listed here may be obtained in lists from your Provincial Headquarters. Damage to films is the responsibility of the person renting them.

FILMS AVAILABLE

Jamboree Film, 1947. Canada's Flaming Flamingos: Rental, \$1.00; silent, 25 mins.; coloured.
Australian Jamboree, 1935: Rental, 25c; 14 mins.; black and white; silent.
Companions: Rental, 50c; 10 mins.; sound; black and white.
Cubs Courageous: Rental, 50c; 25 mins.; silent; black and white.
Day in a Saskatchewan Patrol Leaders' Camp: Service charge, 25c; silent; black and white.
Girl Guide Gift Week: Rental, 50c; silent; colour.
Holland Jamboree, 1937: Rental, \$1.00; 50 mins.; silent; b. & w.
Indoor Troop Meeting: Rental, 25c; 14 mins.; silent; b. & w.
Men of Tomorrow: Rental, 50c; 10 mins.; sound; black and white.
Scout Trail to Citizenship: Rental, \$2.00; sound; black and white.
Tenderfoot Tim: Rental, 50c; 20 mins.; silent; black and white.

Films of Interest to Scouts

Supplementary List Recommended by the Training Department
Building of Boys: Rental, \$1.00; 10 mins.; sound; black and white.
Camp Manatoc: Rental, 50c; 10 mins.; sound; black and white.
Camping Education: Rental, \$2.00; 21 mins.; sound; b. & w.
Early Start: Rental, \$1.00; 19 mins.; sound; black and white; English and French.
Road of Tomorrow: Rental, 50c; 10 mins.; sound; black and white.
Sea Scouts: Rental, 50c; 11 mins.; sound; black and white; English and French.
Winter Camping: Rental, \$1.00; 22 mins.; sound; black and white.
Young Farmers: Rental, \$1.00; 15 mins.; sound; black and white.
Youth in Camps: Rental, \$2.00; 15 mins.; sound; black and white.
Clouds: Rental, 50c; 11 mins.; sound; black and white.
Clouds and Weather: Rental, 50c; 6 mins.; sound; black and white.
The Romance of Stone: Rental, 25c; 15 mins.; silent; b. & w.
The House Fly: Rental, 50c; 10 mins.; sound; black and white.
Bird Neighbours in Winter: Rental, 25c; 10 mins.; sound; b. & w.
Leatherwork: Rental, 50c; 10 mins.; sound; black and white.
How to Ski: Rental, \$1.00; 10 mins.; sound; black and white.
Heads Up: Rental, \$1.00; 34 mins.; sound; black and white.
Swimming: Rental, \$1.00; 18 mins.; sound; black and white.
Portage: Rental, b. & w., \$1.00; coloured, \$2.00; 20 mins.; sound.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

Warrants Issued

The following Warrants of Appointment have been approved by His Excellency the Governor-General, Chief Scout for Canada:

District Commissioner

C. W. Golding, Hagersville, Ont.

Assistant District Commissioner

Frederick H. Kent, Simcoe, Ont.

Scouter

William Roy Mills, West Saint John, N.B.; Harold Cydney Flewelling, Saint John, N.B.; Mrs. Claire Abbis, Edmundston, N.B.; J. C. VanHorne, Campbellton, N.B.; Eric Lawrence Teed, Saint John, N.B.; Henri A. Albert, Fredericton, N.B.

District Scoutmaster

Fred Roy Bryce, Toronto, Ont.

Scoutmaster

Donald H. Chapman, Toronto, Ont.; Edward Eugene Green, Toronto, Ont.; Vincent J. J. Gallant, Toronto, Ont.; Wilfred J. Clemenson, Toronto, Ont.; Earl John Shrumm, New Westminster, B.C.; Rev. Raphael Lessard, McLennan, Alta.; Jacques J. Baril, Bonnyville, Alta.

Assistant Scoutmaster

Allen Ross Keele, Jr., Windsor, Ont.; Paul S. Sanders, Toronto, Ont.; Robert J. C. Buchanan, Toronto, Ont.; Lorne F. LeBar, Toronto, Ont.; Desmond Oswell, Kelowna, B.C.; John E. Burrows, Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Gerald Patrick McIlroy, Camrose, Alta.

District Cubmaster

June E. Hodgins, London, Ont.

Cubmaster

Ruth Evelyn Phillips, New Westminster, B.C.; James R. Hood, Toronto, Ont.; Jackelene V. Hemstead, Toronto, Ont.; John L. Turner, Toronto, Ont.; Dorothy Louise Back, Toronto, Ont.; Melba Evelyn Baird, Toronto, Ont.; William V. Bilton, Toronto, Ont.; Marjorie Thompson, Stratford, Ont.

Assistant Cubmaster

Lois E. McGuire, London, Ont.; Marjorie N. Hood, Toronto, Ont.

B.-P. Birthday Honours List

His Excellency Field Marshal the Right Hon. Viscount Alexander of Tunis, K.G., Governor-General of Canada, in his capacity as Chief Scout for Canada is pleased to announce the following Honours and Awards on the occasion of the anniversary of the birthday of Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Founder of The Boy Scout Movement. February 22nd.

Silver Wolf

For Services of Exceptional Character

Harry J. Carmichael, St. Catharines, Ont.
W. H. Miner, Granby, Que.

Silver Acorn

For Distinguished Service

R. D. F. Bourne, Hamilton, Ont.
W. T. Kergin, Vancouver, B.C.
Richard T. Stanley, Toronto, Ont.

Gilt Cross

Granted to those who do exceptionally well in case of emergency though without special risk to themselves

Scout J. McBride, 13, 4th Port Arthur Presbyterian Troop, Port Arthur, Ont.—For his quick thinking and immediate action in rescuing a young girl who was in danger of drowning.
Scout Austin Munroe, 16, 2nd Dartmouth Troop, Dartmouth, N.S.—For his quick action in recovering a young girl's body from a car which had plunged into the muddy water of Red Bridge Pond.

Scout Jack Palmer, 13, 9th Toronto Troop, Toronto, Ont.—For his quick thinking and immediate action in rescuing a young girl who was in danger of drowning.

Certificate of Merit

For Gallantry

Scout James Claydon, 13, 37th Winnipeg Troop, West Kildonan, Man.—For his presence of mind in keeping passers-by away from a high tension cable which was endangering their lives.

Letter of Commendation

For Gallantry

Scout Gordon Anderson, 16; Scout Lyl Brown, 17; Scout Lyle Ford, 15, all of the Brant-Ensign Troop, Brant, Alta.—For the manner in which they went to the assistance of a companion who had slipped into the swift water of Pass Creek and was in danger of serious injury or death.

Scout Harold Hampson, 16, St. Laurent Troop, St. Laurent, Que.—For the manner in which he went to the assistance of his father when he had cornered a burglar in his back yard.

Letter of Commendation

For Meritorious Acts

Cub Robert Bradley, 10, 31st St. Phillips (Vancouver) Troop, Vancouver, B.C.—For the manner in which he assisted in finding a little girl who had wandered into heavily wooded bushland.

Scout Earl Carter, 13, 33rd Vancouver (Grace United) Troop, Vancouver, B.C.—For the manner in which he comforted and cared for four small children who were lost from their homes.
14th Vancouver Troop, Vancouver, B.C.—For their prompt action in extinguishing the fire which was endangering the home of a resident of Coquitlam, B.C.

Medals of Merit

For Good Services to Scouting

George Audley, Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs, Edmonton, Alta.
Edward W. Brayden, District Scoutmaster, Montreal, Que.
W. R. Conibear, Scoutmaster, London, Ont.
W. B. Corrance, Assistant Area Commissioner, Hamilton, Ont.
Herbert Darling, District Commissioner, Edmonton, Alta.
James Fazackerley, Cubmaster, Toronto, Ont.
Gilbert L. Gibson, District Cubmaster, Toronto, Ont.
Alfred Peskett Harrold, Cubmaster, Lloydminster, Sask.
David R. Henderson, Cubmaster, Galt, Ont.
Mrs. E. E. Hunt, President of the Executive Board of the Toronto Ladies' Auxiliaries, Toronto, Ont.
Frederick C. Hurst, Executive Committee of Toronto Local Association, Toronto, Ont.
Mrs. John Judge, Cub Commissioner, Toronto, Ont.
J. Gordon Keele, District Scoutmaster, Toronto, Ont.
John H. Kerr, Assistant Scoutmaster, Toronto, Ont.
Bernard J. Mahler, Assistant District Commissioner, Galt, Ont.
James C. Moore, Field Commissioner, Toronto, Ont.
Bert O'Neill, District Scoutmaster, Toronto, Ont.
T. C. Peacocke, Assistant District Commissioner, Turner Valley, Alta.
L. F. C. Pilcher, Scoutmaster, Edmonton, Alta.
C. D. Porter, Assistant District Commissioner, Granby, Que.
Rex Retallack, Scoutmaster, Vancouver, B.C.
D. M. Seggie, Sr., Executive Committee of the Windsor District, Windsor, Ont.
John L. Shearson, Cubmaster, Toronto, Ont.
Burrell G. Stevens, District Scoutmaster, Toronto, Ont.
Mrs. R. T. Tustin, District Cubmaster, London, Ont.
A. C. G. Wood, District Scoutmaster, Toronto, Ont.

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