



THE
Scout Leader

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March, 1957

THE SCOUT LEADER

THE IDEA MAGAZINE FOR
CANADIAN SCOUTERS

VOLUME XXXIV, NO. 6

MARCH, 1957

Chief Scout for Canada
HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
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Chief Executive Commissioner
FRED J. FINLAY

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G. N. BEERS

Secretary
KATHLEEN BLACKLEDGE



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Canadian Headquarters 306 Metcalfe St., Ottawa 4

Scoutmaster Jack Young,
2nd Shale Falls Troop,
St. Matthew's Church,
Shale Falls, Ontario.

Dear Jack:

Thank you very much for your last letter, enclosing your Troop's Conservation Report for 1956. This makes very good reading indeed, and I am glad to note that you have worked a good deal of variety into your conservation activities.

Not only have you assisted in planting trees for the local Conservation Authority, but your help to Farmer MacDonald in building his farm pond must have been a most interesting project. Your Good Turn to the Town, by keeping the Falls Park clean during the tourist season, was I am sure keenly appreciated by all and, of course, there was your continuing conservation activity in the collection of waste paper.

I was most interested in your comment that you feel your boys now have a much better appreciation of the need for conservation and of the fact that the practice of conservation is nothing more than Scouting in action.

Yesterday I received a most interesting and attractive booklet published by the Etobicoke-Mimico Conservation Authority, which supervises the conservation of two watersheds flowing into Lake Ontario. On the first page of the booklet, I read: "Good housekeeping of our land and its resources is a part of good citizenship." This is certainly apropos of your comment.

It was very reassuring to hear that your Court of Honour is making plans for the present year, not only to con-

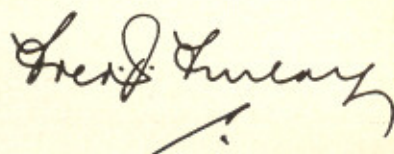
tinue your projects of last year but to add some new ones. If you have any interesting thoughts for new projects, I do hope you will send them on to me so that I, in turn, may pass them on to others.

I have read many encouraging and interesting reports of the conservation work which was accomplished last year but I know, from the large number of press clippings which cross my desk, that only a fraction of the conservation effort accomplished by the Movement in this country has been reported to Canadian Headquarters. This is a pity because I feel it is important that the report of the Conservation Good Turn, which must be submitted to the Chief Scout, should be as complete as possible. I know that many Leaders are reluctant to commit to paper the work that their Packs, Troops, and Crews have accomplished but, in this instance, I am urging all Leaders to complete the Conservation Good Turn Report so that a worthwhile report may be presented to the Chief Scout.

Good to hear that Bobby now has his First Star and that he is working hard on his First Aider and House Orderly Badges. Betty will certainly be pleased about the latter. I suppose Mary will be flying up to Guides one of these days. How Time marches on!

Warmest greetings to all.

With very best regards,



Chief Executive Commissioner

COVER PICTURE

It should be a great and happy moment when a Wolf Cub advances to the Troop. This young fellow from Watford, Ont. looks very happy and you can bet he is looking forward to all the adventures he feels sure he will find in the Troop. We also like the expression on the faces of some of the other boys in the Cub circle who still have this thrill to look forward to in their Scouting.

The picture was so good and everyone looked so happy that we felt our readers would not mind seeing the wrong hand used in the handshake. As a matter of fact, it would be a good Patrol quiz at Inspection some night in the Troop or Pack.



SCOUTING Digest

Pen Pal Wanted

We have just received a very interesting letter from Mr. Donald Keith McBride, of Independence, Missouri, who would like to correspond and exchange stamps with Canadian Scouts and Scouters. If you are interested in contacting Mr. McBride, please write to the Editor for a complete address.

Souvenir Stamp Folders

The Souvenir Stamp Company of St. Catharines, Ontario, is offering a number of Souvenir Stamp Folders of sets of Canadian Stamps, each set neatly mounted in plastic folders. For example, one set contains the Coronation Series consisting of a 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, and 5c stamp issued on May 1st, 1953 and one stamp issued on June 1st, 1953, of 4c value, to commemorate the Coronation. These folders regularly retail at \$1.00 per folder, but the Souvenir Stamp Company is prepared to sell them to Scouts at 75c, plus a free Mint copy of the Canadian 5c Boy Scout Stamp issued to commemorate the 8th World Jamboree in 1955.

If you are interested in these Stamp Folders please write direct to the Souvenir Stamp Company, 90 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines, Ontario.

Magazines for Sailors

The 1st Chester, N.S., Wolf Cubs did a GOOD TURN by collecting approximately 2,000 pocket books, magazines, and periodicals for H.M.C.S. Magnificent, scheduled to sail to the Middle East for United Nations duty.

Sixer Evan Petley-Jones, Second Murray (Chic) Allen, whose father is serving in "Magnificent", and Jackie Chandler drove to Halifax with Assistant Cubmaster Lt. Cdr. Petley-Jones, and delivered the books to the Officer-of-the-Watch. One of the Ship's Chaplains thanked the boys for their effort and assured them that these books would be greatly appreciated by the sailors and soldiers.

Sportsmen's Clubs

Since the announcement of our theme of Conservation for 1956, members of Sportsmen's Clubs throughout Canada have made a wonderful effort to help Scouters in putting across Conservation to their boys. They have expended large sums of money and, what is more important, have devoted time and talents to the teaching of good conservation practices.

For example, the Essex County Sportsmen's Club, and in particular Mr. Bryce McDonald, have given boys instruction in fly casting, tree conservation, the proper use of firearms, wild life conservation and provided copies of an American Conservation Handbook to key Commissioners in the Essex and Windsor, Ontario, Districts of the Association.

If you have a Sportsmen's Club in your area, turn to them for assistance and you can be sure of a warm welcome and an active assistance in the promotion of Conservation from the members of the Club.

Badges to Exchange

We have recently received a letter from Scoutmaster B. V. Greenham, "Ashcroft", Grove Avenue, Harpenden, Herts, England, who asks that we advise our Scouters that he has British County Badges which he would be interested in exchanging for Canadian, Provincial, District and other Emblems.

Troop Camps

We have received many very interesting reports on Troop camps throughout Canada and, much as we would like to print all the thrilling stories they tell, our readers and contributors will understand that this is quite impossible. However, you can be sure that many of the ideas contained in these reports will appear in future issues of the magazines. For example, from the 1st Rutland, B.C., Troop we hear that, although the Troop carried canvas, very few boys slept in tents throughout their camping period. They preferred to sleep out under the stars.

One thing stands out in all of these Troop Reports and that is that all the boys had a thrilling and wonderful time and enjoyed real Scouting in the wide open spaces and beautiful countryside close to their homes. This is the kind of things boys join Scouting to find and we congratulate all these Scouters on the fine work they are doing in taking boys out where they can put into practice the skills they learn throughout their stay in the Movement.

800 Miles to Camp

When Doug MacMillan of Gillam, Man., decided to attend Troop Camp last summer he had to travel 800 miles to do it. Gillam is on the Hudson Bay Railroad between The Pas and Churchill and Doug was one of a dozen boys attending the 1st Manitoba Lone Scout Camp at St. Vital Memorial Campsite. The boys enjoyed daily tours of Winnipeg and campfires each night on the bank of the historic Red River. These were firsts for many of them.

Honour Patrol

From Halifax, N.S. we have heard of an idea on how to mark the Honour Patrol. When the Honour Patrol is selected, each member of the Patrol receives a special neckerchief slide with the words "Honour Patrol" marked on the plain leather slide. When a new Honour Patrol is selected, the slides are transferred.

Safety on Ice

It will soon be time for the Spring break-up and now is the time to start training your Cubs and Scouts in what to do in the event of an ice accident. More important, remind them of the need for common sense precautions when near unknown bodies of water.

Good Turns

A regular check on Good Turns being performed by Cubs, Scouts and Rovers is important. The Editor would like to hear of some of the ideas developed.



Dear Sir:

When Federation of the Toronto and Suburban Districts came into effect, it brought "United Appeal" with it and cut out the main source of income to Group Committees. In previous years we conducted a door-to-door canvass, paid the York Central Assessment from the proceeds, and retained the balance. This usually amounted to over \$200.00 which was sufficient to carry our Group for a year. United Appeal means that we no longer pay an Assessment or Registration Fee, but we also lose the surplus on which we previously operated.

Being of the opinion that both Federation and United Appeal are a step in the right direction, we have no objection. The change has forced us to look for other sources of income. The proceeds from Apple Day are not sufficient and while we did collect six quart baskets, the returns were negligible.

One of our members suggested that we take on the sale of Christmas Cards, and we started this venture in October. A special committee was formed within the Group Committee for this purpose. Each Cub and Scout was given a catalogue and asked to obtain orders from his family, relatives, and friends. The boys were *not* to wear uniforms when on this project and *not* to accept cash when writing an order. As each boy obtained an order he turned particulars over to one of the "Committee". When sufficient orders were on hand, we purchased from the Manufacturer using Group Committee Funds. The orders were then delivered by members of the *Group Committee* direct to the individual purchaser and payment received. By conducting the project in this manner, the boys did not have either merchandise or money to handle or account for at any time. The entire plan worked very smoothly. As of December 15th, we had made a profit of over \$250.00 and orders are still being received.

The Group Committee instructed me to put these facts on record because other Groups while moaning over the loss of income are doing nothing about it. We feel that a Group Committee should be guided by the basic principles of Scouting and should show a certain amount of

initiative rather than always waiting for a District, Area, or Higher Formation to tell them what to do. We are also of the opinion that our method of accepting and filling orders is very good, and you might consider it advisable to publish extracts from this letter as a suggestion to other Groups across Canada.

Cameron E. Fraser,
Secretary,
5th Willowdale, Ont.,
Boy Scouts Association

■ **Other Scout Groups will be grateful to Mr. Fraser for his fund-raising suggestions.**

Dear Sir:

The writer has a number of bound annuals of the English boy's paper THE SCOUT, dating back to 1906 and extending intermittently by dates to 1955.

Some of these annuals are well bound; others, especially the early editions, are a little the worse for wear. However, the contents of the books are in excellent condition.

There is a wealth of historical background in these volumes that may be of interest to Scout Leaders who would consider them as a reference record of the early years of the Boy Scout Movement.

The weekly yarns by the late Chief Scout would be invaluable, and the news of Scouting from all parts of the world would be of particular interest to leaders wishing to review the progress of the Movement since its inception.

If you know of Scout Leaders anywhere in Canada who would be interested in these Scout annuals I would be pleased to hear from them.

Yours very truly,
Alex S. Arnott,
15 Simpson Avenue,
Toronto 6, Ont.

■ **Scout Leaders who are interested in this early Scouting material should write to Mr. Arnott at his Toronto address.**

Dear Sir:

In reading your monthly magazine I found some very useful ideas sent in from other Leaders. Wanting to donate some-

thing from our Pack, we came up with a very good scheme.

From our Pack circle our tallest Cub, "Tall Pine", was brought to the centre. Then it was explained to the Pack that we were going to measure "Tall Pine's" height and scotch tape dimes together to equal his height. With these dimes the whole Pack will be helping to beat Polio and also will be helping the unfortunate children to get back into games etc. To my satisfaction, three Cubs came forward with dimes, to start our scheme rolling to success.

If all Packs and Troops were to adopt such a scheme, once a year, we would all be rewarded for our efforts more than can be said.

Yours in Cubbing,
Fred Ferns
Cubmaster,
Scarborough West, Ont.

■ **Readers will welcome this original plan for raising money for a good cause.**

Dear Sir:

Mr. John Thurman certainly wrote an interesting and provocative article in a recent issue of THE SCOUT LEADER which should give us food for thought. The fact that, in Canada, we have approximately twice as many Cubs as Scouts (a higher percentage than anywhere else in the world) is very serious.

Mr. Thurman, of course, is not quite right when he states that an *increasing* birth rate (not increased, but increasing) does not play a role, because it has been with us for ten years. However, the increasing birth rate can only explain a very small portion of this huge discrepancy. If all eleven-year-old Cubs were to become Scouts, (a big 'if'), the Scout/Cub figures would be almost in balance. This might be the logical and best solution. However, we should not forget that when accepting these Cubs into our Troops, we are creating another problem: our older boys. In other countries, and in our school system, it has become obvious that if you make a split at eleven years, you will be forced, sooner or later (probably sooner), into a three-plateau system, for the eight to seventeen year group, (four plateaus if you include the Rover age group).

The experience with Senior Scouts in the U.K. does not seem to have been universally successful, and we should not forget that by letting Cubs of eleven years of age come up, we will have to face this problem. Of course, we have very few fifteen and sixteen-year-old Scouts in comparison to the many "lost" and ex-Cubs.

The other question raised by John Thurman relates to inter-group collaboration. No doubt lack of knowledge in the group is an important factor in our loss ratio. Mr. Thurman very diplomatically does not refer to the one person who, in the U.K., correlates the various units in one group: the Group Scoutmaster. Here in Canada

the correlating functions of the Group Scoutmaster are supposedly carried out by the Group Committee and the Group Council. Can a Committee function as effectively as a good man? Isn't there a place for Group Scoutmasters in our group system? If a good Group Committee, selected by the sponsoring institution, has an executive officer (the Group Scoutmaster), would it not be able to perform its duties better and more effectively? What are the pros and cons of the question: Should we have Group Scoutmasters here? The answers to these questions are certainly of interest to us all.

Yours very truly,
Robbert Hartog, S.S.M.,
81st Toronto, Ont.,
Sea Scout Troop.

Mr. John Thurman's suggestion in the November "Scout Leader" that Canadian Cubs should go up to Scouts upon reaching their eleventh birthday will be heartily endorsed by many Scouters and equally opposed by many others. The writer is among those who will agree with Mr. Thurman. This was not always the case, but his opinion was changed by an incident that occurred when he was Scoutmaster of the 2nd Chatham (New Brunswick) Troop in 1953. At that time the Troop was small, about 12 Scouts, while the Pack had over 40 members. This condition was not caused by boys not joining the Troop; the reason was there were simply very few boys of Scout age, but a large number of Cub age. In fact, the number of boys who were almost Cub age was causing the Group Committee some concern. It was obvious that the Pack would soon become too large for its accommodation. The only obvious solution, and one that was adopted with some misgivings, was to send all 11 year old Cubs up to the Troop.

The result exceeded our most optimistic expectations. Whether it was because the younger boys were very keen or for other reasons, I will not try to guess, but the older Scouts began to show a much greater interest in the Troop. Every aspect of Scout activities showed improvement; badge work progressed rapidly, uniforms were worn smartly, hikes were well attended, the Christmas toy collection was very successful. It was without a doubt, the best Troop that I have had the pleasure of being associated with. One of my pleasantest memories is the March night in 1954, when the entire Troop was present and all were in full uniform, including shorts.

The foregoing does not necessarily prove that bringing 11 year olds into the Troop will improve it. The 2nd Chatham was a young Troop; in December 1953, the average age of its members was 12 years and 4 months. Where a Troop has a large proportion of 15 and 16 year olds, difficulties will arise. However, those difficulties would not arise, if the older boys were not present, and it is my considered opinion that the maximum age for Boy Scouts should be 15 years. A boy of 16 should be in Rovers.

This suggestion, and some that I am going to make later are quite contradictory to the opinions of many Canadian Rovers and Rover Scout Leaders, and I hope that they will forgive me for saying that their opinions are wrong. Rovering in Canada, at present, is generally operating in the European fashion, and that is the reason for the small number of Canadian Rovers. The conditions of late teen-age boys in Europe where there is a different educational system and compulsory military service are so different from those of Canadian boys that what is successful in Europe will scarcely work in Canada.

What is needed is Rovering modified to suit Canadian conditions. The choice of 16 as the going up age is logical because a Canadian boy attains a new status on his 16th birthday. He may drive a car; he may leave school; he may obtain full time summer employment, and this last factor alone will have considerable bearing on his Scout activities.

Rovers should be allowed to earn and wear proficiency badges; at least the Queen's Scout and Bushman's Thong qualifying badges.

Motorized activities have a definite place in Rovering. We are beating our heads against a stone wall when we try to encourage walking in a country where there is one car for every five persons. Some Crews, the Campbellford, Ontario, Crew and another in the Toronto suburb of Scarborough to name a couple, have successful motor activities. Perhaps they could be induced to write about them.

A different style of uniform should be made optional for Rovers.

In summary, the present Scout program is suitable for boys of 11 years, but the mixing of boys of 11 with those of 16 and 17 is undesirable. To make room for the 11 year olds we must provide an attractive Rover program for 16 year olds.

J. L. Barrett,
S.M.,
Greenwood, N.S.

read

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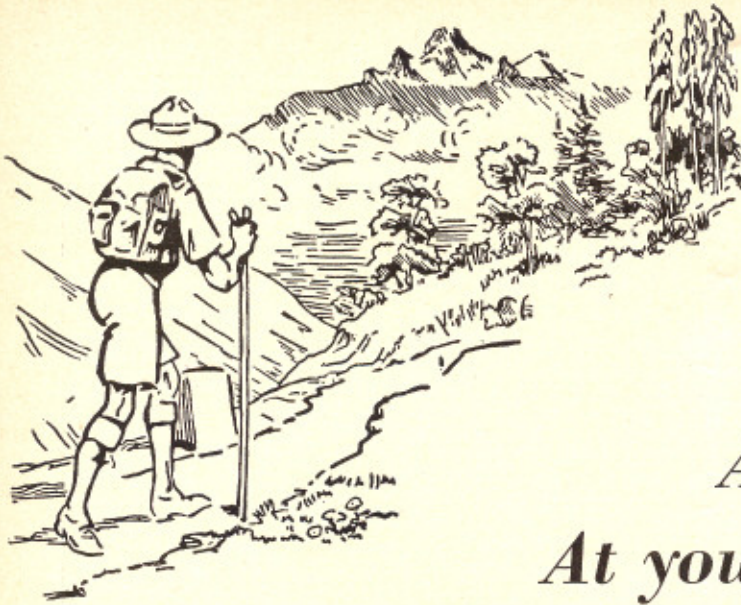
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■ We are most interested in these comments on the questions raised in Mr. Thurman's article. As many of these questions are now under study by committees of the Canadian General Council, the opinion of other Scouters would be very welcome. In particular, we would like to know what our readers think of the Group Scoutmaster idea raised in Mr. Hartog's letter. We do hope that more readers will take the opportunity to write to the Editor as your letters are always very welcome even if they are not published.



YOU CAN BE A **TRAINED SCOUTER!**

*At your leisure —
At your home —*

The Scout Movement was founded through the inspiration that boys and adults found in the basic writings of Lord Baden-Powell. Since the inception of the various sections of the Movement "Scouting for Boys", "The Wolf Cub's Handbook" and "Rovering to Success" have been the books upon which our character forming programme has been built. More than ever we must read and re-read these books, so that more and more boys may benefit from the leadership that only well informed Scouters can give.

To assist you with the study and understanding of these books, Canadian Headquarters offers you the

PART I—WOOD BADGE TRAINING COURSE

Fill out the application form below and mail it to your Provincial Headquarters today and start on the Trail of Training to become a Wood Badge Scouter.

Successful Trainees are awarded a Certificate for this Course.

(CUB AND SCOUT APPLICANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 20 YEARS OF AGE)
(ROVER APPLICANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 25 YEARS OF AGE)

To the TRAINING DEPARTMENT,
The Boy Scouts Association,
Provincial Headquarters.

Enclosed herewith find Fifty Cents for which please enter my name for the Part I Wood Badge Course checked.

Name _____
(PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS) (MR., MRS., MISS)

Address _____
(NO. AND STREET) (TOWN OR CITY) (PROVINCE)

Rank _____ Group _____

District _____ Date of Birth _____

The applicant has had at least six months' practical experience with a Section.

I approve of this Scouter taking this course.

Check Course Wanted:

- for Pack Scouters
 for Troop Scouters
 for Crew Scouters

(Signed) _____

D.C. _____ District

BACK TO GILWELL

WOOD BADGE TRAINING—Why B.-P. Started It

“One of the purposes of Wood Badge Training is to get men to think about the practice of Scouting, to meet together, to exchange experiences, and to live together in the spirit of the Scout Promise.”

Lord Baden-Powell

All courses are open to Scouters in any part of Canada. Applications must be submitted through District or Provincial Commissioners.

WOOD BADGE PART II COURSES — Pack Scouters

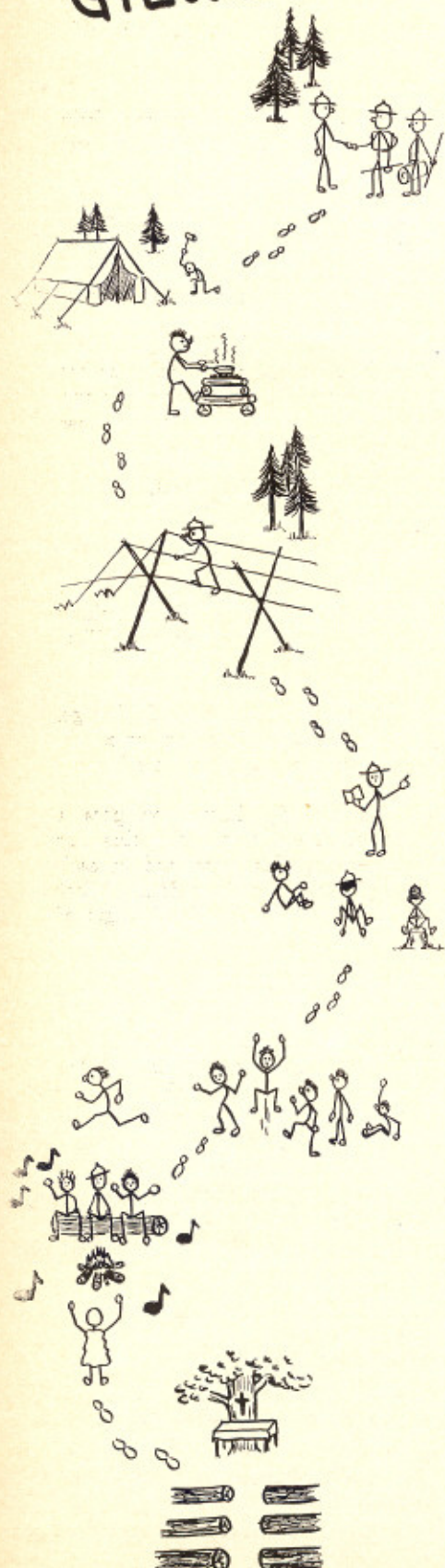
	DATE	PLACE
British Columbia and Yukon	June 15th-23rd	Camp Barnard near Sooke, Vancouver Island
	August 17th-24th	Sorrento, on Shuswap Lake
Alberta and N.W. Territories	May 4th-3 week-ends	Winterburn, near Edmonton
Saskatchewan (Prairie Course)	June 24th-30th	Mission Lake
Ontario	June 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23	Camp of the Crooked Creek
	July 7th-13th	Blue Springs
	Sept. 8th-14th	Blue Springs
Quebec	June 17th-22nd	Camp Jackson Dodds, Lac Cloutier
Nova Scotia (Maritime Course)	June 22nd-27th	Millers' Lake near Halifax
La Federation des Scouts Catholiques de la Province de Quebec.	August 24th-31st (2 camps)	

WOOD BADGE PART II COURSES — Troop Scouters

	DATE	PLACE
British Columbia and Yukon	July 6th-14th	Cultus Lake
Alberta and N.W. Territories	April 27th-4 week-ends	Winterburn, near Edmonton
Manitoba and N.W. Ontario	August 17th-25th	Trout Lake, Port Arthur, N.W. Ontario
Saskatchewan (Prairie Course)	July 3rd-12th	Mission Lake
Ontario	May 4-5, 11-12, 18-19-20, 25-26	Camp of the Crooked Creek
	June 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23	Ernwigle Camp
	July 13th-21st	Blue Springs
	Sept. 14th-22nd	Blue Springs
Quebec	July 20th-27th	Camp Tamaracouta
Nova Scotia (Maritime Course)	August 3rd-11th	
La Federation des Scouts Catholiques de la Province de Quebec	August 23rd-Sept. 2nd	

WOOD BADGE PART II COURSES — Crew Scouters

	DATE	PLACE
British Columbia and Yukon	June 26th-July 1st	Camp Byng
La Federation des Scout Catholiques de la Province de Quebec	August 25th-Sept. 2nd	



PROFICIENCY BADGE AIDS FOR SCOUTS



There are available small booklets dealing with many of the requirements of the following Proficiency Badges:

RESCUER

WEATHERMAN

PUBLIC HEALTHMAN

PHOTOGRAPHER

MISSIONER

The booklets do not provide all the information required to qualify for the badges but are designed to help Scouts working on these subjects.

The cost is only 10¢ per booklet.

We would suggest that you have a look at them and recommend them to your Scouts. They may be ordered direct from your nearest Headquarters or from The Publications Department, The Boy Scouts Association, 306 Metcalfe St., Ottawa 4, Ont.

FIRST CLASS JOURNEY QUIZ

One of the worst mistakes a Scoutmaster can make is to send a Scout out for his First Class Journey without taking time to make sure that the boy is properly prepared. Here is an idea you might try with Scouts about to take their journey, or with the entire Troop.

You are on a hike. You meet a man wearing a Scout Badge. He tells you he was with B.-P. at the first Scout Camp in 1910. Is the year right, and where was the camp held?

You are going down a road and come to a bridge. It is made of steel. How would this be shown on a map?

You come across a youngster who has fallen into a river. You throw him a rope with a Scout knot tied in the end. What knot should you have tied?

You arrive at a farm and giving the farmer a salute, you ask permission to camp? The farmer wants to know why you saluted with three fingers? Why did you?

You go out to gather kindling wood for your fire. What would you look for? Draw its leaf.

You are not sure that the water in the farmer's pump is quite pure. Name two things you can do to ensure its safe use.

You'll notice that there are many Basswood trees in the woods around you. Draw a basswood leaf.

You have gone to bed, and in the middle of the night the tent collapses. One of the ropes has broken. What hitch would you use to repair it?

And so back to bed murmuring the 8th Scout Law. What is the 8th Scout Law?

You forgot to put in a stock of kindling wood, and it is raining when you rise

in the morning. Where are you likely to find dry kindling wood in wet weather?

After breakfast, a man passing the camp asks you the time. You have broken your watch, but the sun is in a S.S.E. direction. Approximately what time is it?

After the man leaves you realise he has dropped his wallet. You look inside and find his address in code. You decipher the code.

NS. KBDL WFOUPO,
LFNQUWJMMF
POUBSJP.

During the morning programme you build a trestle bridge. When making the trestle you use two lashings. What are they?

While you are working on the bridge, one of the Scouts is stung by a bee. What would you put on the sting?

As you hike for home you pass a house which is flying a sky blue flag with a white plus cross, and in each blue quarter is a fleur-de-lis. What would be the probable racial origin of the people living there?

As you near home, one of the Scouts trips over a rock on the road, and you think he has broken his knee cap. Apply the proper bandage and display for the Scouters when these papers are collected.

You are back home and have written the report of your hike. You will of course sign it with your Patrol Signature. O.K., let's have your Patrol Signature.

B.-P. CENTENARY FUND

Plan to talk to your boys about this fund which is being developed to help less fortunate countries to give their boys the thrills and adventures of Scouting.

The object should be for every member of every section to make a contribution no matter how small. Contributions should be sent to your nearest Headquarters, clearly marked, "For the B.-P. Centenary Fund."

All contributions will be announced in *The Scout Leader* starting next month.

GAMES FOR THE TROOP

If you have a game that your boys have enjoyed, why not write it down and send it along to the Editor so that we may share our experiences.

Judging

What Weight. A number of previously weighed articles are given to the Patrols which then have to estimate their weights.

Kim's Game What Is It?

Equipment 10-20 miscellaneous items such as piece of string, marble, shoe, etc.

Method: Players line up in single line and are blindfolded or put their hands behind their backs. Items are passed down the line and players attempt to identify each item by feeling it for a short time. When all items have been felt players go to Patrol Corners and make up list in the order that items were passed down the line.

Scoring One point for each item correctly identified, and 25 points for each list containing all items and in correct order.

Variation—What Do I smell? Make up a half dozen or so containers with vanilla, turpentine, vinegar, ammonia, etc. to be identified by smell. Run game in same manner as above, without blindfolds.

Kim's Game

Blindfold Kim's. Scouts are joined in a circle and are blindfolded. Assorted articles are passed around. When all have felt each article, the boys make a list of them from memory.

Knots Knots In Use

Equipment: Paper and pencil for each Patrol. Various uses of knots scattered throughout meeting room.

Method: Patrols move around the Troop room to see what knots are being used for various purposes. There will be the knot used on the neckerchief, in shoe laces, in tying Patrol flags to staffs, in hanging pictures—to mention a few. Knot boards do not count. Each Patrol makes a list of as many different knots and uses as its Scouts can find.

Scoring: One point for each different knot in use. Patrol with most points wins.

Variation: In advance, arrange to have some of the knots that are scattered throughout the room incorrectly tied or incorrectly used. Award 1 point for each error listed, and 1 point if Patrol names the knot that should have been used.

"Save 'im Quick"

Equipment: Six 6' ropes and a target (or separate targets for each Patrol) made up of 5' piece of board (to represent outstretched arms), and a tin can (for a head).

Method: Patrols line up in relay formation, facing the target. At a signal, the Scouts tie their rope pieces into one long rope, using sheetbend, or other specified knot. First Scout then coils rope, as for a life line, and hurls it to the target.

Scoring: 5 points for hitting target, 5 points if all knots are tied correctly (1 point off for each incorrect knot), and for speed, 5 points for first, 4 points for second, etc.

Variation: "Adrift." A leader in front of each Patrol. Leader holds on to end of first rope, starts to move slowly toward other end of room. Scouts are to tie on their ropes, one to the next, without stepping into the "water" as "boat" drifts away.

"Champ-Nit" Contest

Equipment: One knotting rope for each Scout.

Method: Patrols in corners in charge of Patrol Leader. Under his directions members race to tie a sheetbend, for instance, pull it taut, and drop it to the floor. Winner steps out and rest of Patrol repeats contest. Winner steps out each time, so that last one is the Patrol "Champ-nit". Patrol "Champ-nits" compete to find the "Grand Champ-nit".

Scoring: None.

Variation: Personal First Aid "Champ-nit". Patrol Leader announces a knee bandage or a head bandage, for example. Patrol members try to tie bandage on themselves and drop out in same manner as knotting "Champ-nit" Contest. Use "Champ-nit" for training in other Scout skills—Morse code, etc.

Knotting Plays

Each Patrol makes up and acts a play bringing in the uses of the various knots.

Tug-O-War

Equipment: One rope at least 25 ft. long.

Method: Two teams in single lines facing each other. Players take hold of rope, and at signal start pulling. Rope may not be tied around waist of players, nor can players hold onto posts, trees, or any stationary objects.

Scoring: First team pulling or dragging their opponents across a given line wins.

Variation: Teams are given pieces of rope 3-4 ft. long. Players tie ropes together with sheetbends. Leader ties opposing team's ropes together and says "go". This method is not only a test of strength but also becomes a fine test of the Patrol's knot-tying ability. If rope is unobtainable, a grape vine can be used. If team captain gets his players to "heave" together, team will have success even against superior strength.

What's the Sign?

Equipment: For each Patrol a pencil and a large sheet of paper with the names of twenty conventional map signs.

Method: Patrols line up in relay formation, facing a list lying on floor or tacked to opposite wall. On signal, first Scout runs up, draws a conventional sign he knows next to its name. (Or start at top and go down the list in proper order). Boy runs back to touch off next player who then runs up, and so on, until all signs are drawn in.

Scoring: Two points for each correct sign, plus ten points to Patrol finishing first.

Variation: Make it a Patrol corner project: Give each boy a mimeographed or carbon-copied list of signs. Allow 8 minutes to complete, without consultation between boys. To get Patrol score, add correct signs, divided by number of boys.

Conventional Signs Relay

Patrol form up as for relay; in front of each is a sheet of paper and pencil. As the boys run up they have to draw the conventional sign of a given object on the paper.

CONSERVATION Good Turn IN NEWFOUNDLAND

The following is a list of possible projects for the Conservation Good Turn Theme.

These are not necessarily the only ones that might successfully be carried out. You may have ideas of your own that would work very well.

(1) A frog trapping program within the Avalon Peninsula, and the captured frogs shipped to Scouts in other parts of the country for distribution.

"It would be desirable to more widely distribute our small population of frogs. They are an important link in the food chain for some of our fur bearers. Frogs are not only interesting creatures by themselves but consume enormous amounts of insect life during the summer months." Would this not be a fine co-operative program between the various Scout Troops?

Most of the remaining suggestions might possibly be programs more suitable to individual Troops or as summer camp programs.

(2) A stream be selected and used to illustrate beaver census taking techniques. This may entail the use of a boat in some situations.

(3) In the Avalon Peninsula, Scouts might be engaged in a program of publicizing the need for protecting the Avalon caribou population.

(4) That summer camps in districts assist in Wildlife projects that are underway, e.g. ptarmigan nest or brood survey, scat collection etc.

(5) To determine the utilization of tree species by beaver, Scouts could mark trees with paint, to be later checked to see what the beaver had selected and eaten.

(6) Nature walks might be conducted with small groups.

(7) Nature trails might be constructed with identification markers on trees, etc.

Some mimeographed materials that the Wildlife Division will provide upon request.

"A Way of Life Series" on Newfoundland Wildlife. A series of six talks that were given as radio addresses as part of a 4-H Club program.

Information on Plant collecting.

Techniques on trapping and correctly handling small animals (e.g. frogs).

Notes for Your Programme Notebook



Every boy should have the opportunity to play a definite part in putting across our theme of CONSERVATION in 1957. Why not discuss it with your boys' parents and ask them for ideas and assistance.



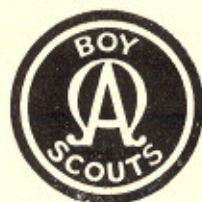
Civil Defence training is simply putting into practice our motto of "Be Prepared". Talk it over with your Civil Defence Authorities and enlist their support in your programme ideas.



The Honourable Mr. Mapledoram, Ontario's Minister of Lands and Forests, is presented with a set of Conservation Badges at the Royal Winter Fair. This event climaxed the Toronto Region's 1956 Conservation Theme programme, when over fifty Boy Scout Winners of Conservation Proficiency Badges had the honour of meeting the Minister.



How many of your fellows can tie all the Wolf Cub or Tenderfoot knots with their eyes closed. Spring it sometime and watch the fun.



Not nearly enough boys are qualifying for the Religion and Life Award. The requirements should be checked with the various religious leaders.

It's Great to Live in a Border Town

By P. S. BRADY, District Executive Commissioner, Windsor, Ontario

There's an imaginary line running down the centre of the Detroit River dividing the cities of Windsor and Detroit, known as an International Boundary. Yet to see the boys moving from Windsor to Detroit practically every day of the week is an example of the great friendships developed across this border, which is typical of the Brotherhood of Scouting.

Take the 43rd Windsor Troop as an example. It all started when their brother Scouts in Detroit asked them to attend a Detroit Camp-Out. That's when they met Joe Grosse, a District Scout Executive from Detroit, who is a tall, good-looking and coloured Scouter. He liked their Community Troop and soon was over to visit their Queen's Scout Ceremony. Then the 43rd were invited back to take part in another Detroit District event. It was the beginning of a fine tradition in the 43rd and today there isn't an event on either side of the river in which they won't be participating.

Let's think of the Wolf Cub Section. A Cubmaster phoned from Detroit, and spoke to Art Ziraldo, Cubmaster of the 33rd Windsor, and invited his Pack over to Detroit. They in their turn invited the American Cub Scouts to their Cub meeting. There was quite a difference in their programme, terminology, and practice, and the Cubs from Windsor soon learned what a "Den" means and the Cub Scouts from Detroit learned the meaning of a "Six." And then they realized that although some words might be different, both programmes meant the same thing.

Yes, it's only a few minutes across the bridge or the tunnel where you are usually greeted by a pleasant Immigration man who enquires "Where were you born?" and "Where are you going?" The International flavour is so well known in Windsor-Detroit Scouting fraternity that we don't consider it "International" any more.

Detroit Scouts are our closest friends and most co-operative neighbours and boys from Windsor never pay to go to Detroit events, nor do Detroit boys coming to Windsor. It's simply a matter of "being guests".

At the 1955 International Camp-Out held at the D-Bar-A Scout Ranch near Metamora, Michigan, there were some

223 Windsor Scouts and 162 Detroit Scouts. Far above the normal swapping was the evidence of new friendships being formed and skills being exchanged. The camp was divided into four sub-camps named after famous American and Canadian Generals: General D. C. Spry, General McNaughton, General Eisenhower and General MacArthur. Each Scout had to learn something about that General when they went into the respective Sub-Camps and each Sub-Camp participated in wide games, tug-of-war and campfires, etc.

The tug-of-war was possibly one of the outstanding events. Each team was comprised of thirty Scouts and the contest was held across a river with the losing team going for an unexpected trip!

As the Canadian Scouts returned from the camp many an American Scout Jacket could be seen on their

backs, all of which received only the smiles of the Custom and Immigration men who themselves could remember back to the days when they had done the same sort of thing.

These events are only typical of the way of thinking between the two Border Towns. Frequently at Detroit events you will hear the Chairman speak of District 6, Detroit Area Council meaning the Windsor District and on the other side, the Windsor Chairman referring to Detroit as Zone 7 of Windsor.

By the time you read this article another International Camp-Out, this time held on Canadian soil, will have been added to the already long list of Scouting friendships created between these two cities.

There may be an International border but the Brotherhood of Scouting extends far beyond the borderlines of countries.



Lord Baden-Powell, Chief Scout of the World, chatting with Lord Somers, Chief Scout of the Commonwealth and Empire, 1941-1944. This was one of the last pictures taken of the founder before his death in 1941.

ACROSS NO MAN'S LAND

The theory is simple and straightforward enough: the eleven-year-old Wolf Cub will be anxious and avid to leave behind the tender vines of the Cub jungle and to enter boldly into the adventure that the Scout Troop offers him. The practice does not always work out in that way. Not all Cubs want to go up; the figures show conclusively that many Cubs when they get up do not like it.

Now I am not one of the ostrich-like people who feel that we should keep all boys in Scouting all the time; I am concerned only that we keep more boys for a little longer. I believe that one of the things we need to look at personally and as a Movement is this transition period from Cub to Scout, which is what I propose to deal with now, and, indeed, all those periods of transition between one section and another.

Suppose we try to look at it from the boy's point of view.

A high proportion of the Cubs who go up, will be Sixers and Seconds. If they have been Cubs in a lively, well-run Pack they probably have two Stars and anything between four and eight Proficiency Badges, and that is really quite a deal of display material for a 4 ft. 8 in. boy and he is naturally very proud of it. Additional to the outward display he is also something of a fellow; he knows that Akela places some reliance on him; he probably has some responsibilities, collecting the subs., marking the progress board; he has attended Sixers' Council Meetings, and he has been allowed to go to the District Sixers' fandangoes or Two-Star-Cub-Only outings. He is something of a privileged person. What is more, he knows Akela, Baloo and Bagheera; he is used to them and he likes them and, in fact, he is quite comfortable in the Pack. Suddenly, for no real reason that he can follow, he ceases to be no end of a fellow and finds himself No. 8 in the Rattlesnake Patrol. It is all very well to tell him that it is better to be the tail of a lion than the head of a mouse, but his unspoken reply will be "It's me that is having to make the change, not you."

If the boy really feels out of it, discarded by the Pack and not really welcomed into the Scout Troop, then it is small wonder that he leaves and, in fact, great wonder that any stay. Yet the truth is that if we can teach him to go from the top to the bottom and

start again we are giving him one of the finest pieces of training for life that he is likely to get anywhere.

Let us begin by considering the going-up ceremony which, to my certain knowledge, varies from Group to Group between not happening at all and happening in such an elaborate fashion that it is terrifying to the small boy concerned.

I think the going-up ceremony should be a sort of family party, an occasion for rejoicing, never one for weeping. If Akela must weep then let her do it privately in the small hours of the morning, and if the Scoutmaster must weep at having to take in yet another ex-Cub then he, too, must choose a time and place where it will not be noticed. Of course there would be nothing to weep about if our Scout Groups really acted as families instead of, as sometimes happens, disconnected units joined together by P.O.R. Yes, this going-up ceremony should be an occasion for rejoicing, the Pack proud of the achievements of the Cub who is about to become a Scout and the Troop eager to receive another worthwhile recruit from the Pack.

It is my hope that one day every Cub will be invested as a Scout on the *same night* that he goes into the Troop, and only then shall we have done away with "No Man's Land" that horrible, daunting piece of human country in which so many boys get lost.

Before you pick up your pens and write to me wrathfully I will say at once that I have no use at all for the Cub learning to pass his Tenderfoot Tests through the instruction of the Old Wolves. What I do suggest is that during the last couple of months of his time as a Cub the Scoutmaster should visit the Pack once or twice and have with him the Cub's prospective Patrol Leader. That Patrol Leader will train the Cub in the Tenderfoot Test. Truth to tell, it is not going to take very long for if the boy is any sort of Cub he will know four of the six knots and I cannot believe that a Two Star Cub will take more than a minute and a half to learn the woodcraft signs. The Scout Law is going to take a little longer, but not all that long. The important thing surely is that the Cub and his future Patrol Leader are getting to know each other and weighing each other up in the way boys do. Just before the going-up ceremony is fixed, the Cub will be tested by one of the

Scouters and, I hope, will pass with flying colours.

If this has been done then it opens the door for the investiture to be held on the same night as the going-up ceremony. Very briefly I suggest that the ceremony should be carried out in this way:—

The leave-taking ceremony of the Pack with the Troop drawn up quietly at the other end of the meeting place. Personally I would cut down tremendously on the hand-shaking farewells; my observation tells me that small boys do not like shaking hands and their normal method of greeting is either vocal or consists of a dig in the ribs or kidneys. The important thing is that the Cub takes part in the Grand Howl for the last time, makes his Cub Promise to Akela and that everybody realizes that he is "going-up" not going down, out or away. The Cub is then taken forward by Akela and I hope is presented first to the Group Scoutmaster, the fellow who is so often overlooked and whose real function as I see it in relation to the boy is to provide the continuing link between the various stages of Scouting. The Cub will receive a friendly word from the G.S.M. who was probably there when the Cub made his first Promise, and then on to the Scoutmaster who by this time is no stranger but someone the Cub is anxious to get to know even better. At this point the Pack should be taken into another room and this is an opportunity for Akela to give a yarn which will keep the Pack quiet whilst their ex-member is invested. The Pack should certainly not be present during the Scout investiture for this is a secret ceremony reserved for those who are Scouts. As soon as the Pack is away then the boy should make his Scout Promise, and it does not require very much ingenuity to arrange for his uniform to be there or, at any rate, his shirt with the Scout Badge, his hat or beret, and his Patrol shoulder knot. He is welcomed into the Patrol and then the Pack comes back to see not a Cub looking strangely wrong and apparently standing in the wrong place because he is dressed differently from his neighbours, but a new Scout, No. 8 in the Rattlesnake Patrol and mighty proud to be there.

One small point of detail: In the boy's investiture as a Scout his Group scarf should *not* be presented; he earned the right to wear that when he

made his Promise as a Cub and no one has any right to take it away from him; a not unimportant distinction which should always be made between the investiture of an ex-Cub and the investiture of a recruit from outside the Movement.

Well, there he is, our ex-Cub, now a Scout, but we must not stop there; this has to be *his* evening; perhaps with a sing-song, a few games in which the Pack and the Troop can join and, with most boys, the wise Scouter will give him a small part in the sing-song so that he can remind the Pack of his erstwhile brilliance and astonish the Troop with his heretofore unknown talent; a cup of cocoa if you drink the stuff or whatever else is appropriate, and No. 8 of the Rattlesnake Patrol goes home, proud of his new uniform, with his Cub uniform in a neat parcel, an illuminated copy of the Scout Law to hang over his bed, and the feeling that being a Rattlesnake is just about the best thing that ever happened to him.

That is as far as I can carry the matter in this article in direct relation to the boy, but there are other problems in "No Man's Land" which are often overlooked. First and foremost there are the parents.

Have the boy's parents been prepared with the startling fact that Willie, who up to now with great regularity has attended a Pack Meeting on Tuesday nights, will now be attending a Troop Meeting on Friday nights? A simple fact like that may change the whole of the domestic situation in Willie's home and unless somebody has had the courtesy—and I use the word deliberately—to prepare Willie's parents for the change they may not take very kindly to it. After all, Tuesday has always been father's "Pools night" and his success (?) has been largely due to the absence of Willie, and Friday may be the night on which they have relied on Willie to be at home to look after young Julie whilst they visited mother-in-law down the road. (It is possible in this connection that father will be delighted that the visit will no longer be possible, but that we need not go into.) A change in the meeting day may be of great significance in the life of the family and, likewise, a change in time. Up to now Willie has gone to Pack Meeting at 6.30 and has been

home at 8.30 or 8.45 p.m. but suddenly, without any warning, he does not go out until 7.30 and arrives back at 10.00 p.m. with a black eye and a torn shirt. Is it any wonder that mother thinks Cubbing is a genteel pastime wholly suitable for little Willie, but this rough Scouting which she has always feared, is not for her son? Certainly her reaction, if she has not been warned, is bound to be "anti," and I am convinced that we lose a lot of boys merely through lack of the simple courtesies of letting the parents know how the various stages in Scouting are going to affect the boy and, through the boy, the family.

Additionally, unless the way has been carefully prepared, father may take a dim view of Willie announcing that he is now a Scout and will require X pounds for a uniform, a down sleeping-bag, a framed rucksack, a light-weight tent, and thirty pounds to enable him to camp in Austria. Boys of eleven years of age are not noted for their finesse; they will naturally demand the utmost in the hope that they can settle for a minimum of their requirements. I wonder how many boys we lose through a failure on the part of the Scouters to explain what is needed and, particularly, what is not needed. If we have prepared the ground and warned the parents some months previously they will have had time to save for the uniform and, additionally, it will be easy to have it available on the evening of the going-up ceremony and, in any case, they will have been invited to go along and see the whole thing in action for themselves.

To sum up, then, I am not suggesting that we bridge the gap between the Pack and the Troop; I am asking that *we do away with it*. I believe it is vital that at every stage a boy feels that he "belongs" and that he is never allowed to be a misfit, wearing the uniform of one section when he is in another. I want us to be more courteous and thoughtful in regard to parents and the family and, finally, I want the boy to tell us that it is better to be the tail of a lion, rather than the head of a mouse, for if he tells us he will believe it, but if we tell him he will make his own decision.

JOHN THURMAN
from *The Scouter*, August 1955

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YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS ARTICLE ARE INVITED. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF INTERESTING POINTS RAISED AND THEY REPRESENT THE OPINION OF THE AUTHOR ONLY.

The Group Library

There are a number of books published by the Association and others which should be in the library of every Group. A look through the current edition of the Stores Department catalogue will give you a more complete list, but we would like to draw your attention to a few of these valuable reference books.

The Sea Scout Manual 35c

This book is useful not only to Sea Scouts but to all Scouts who enjoy working and playing in and around boats. It would make an excellent award to an Honour Patrol.

Outdoor Picture Cook Book \$3.00

This is one of the best illustrated how-to-do-it books on cooking that is available anywhere. We would suggest that every member of the Court of Honour should have the opportunity of reading this book.

Patrol Leaders' Handbook \$1.25 Handbook for Patrol Leaders \$1.00

We would suggest that every Scoutmaster and Assistant would find it extremely useful to read both of these books. The first is an English publication and the latter is American. Of course it goes without saying that one of them should be in every Patrol box.

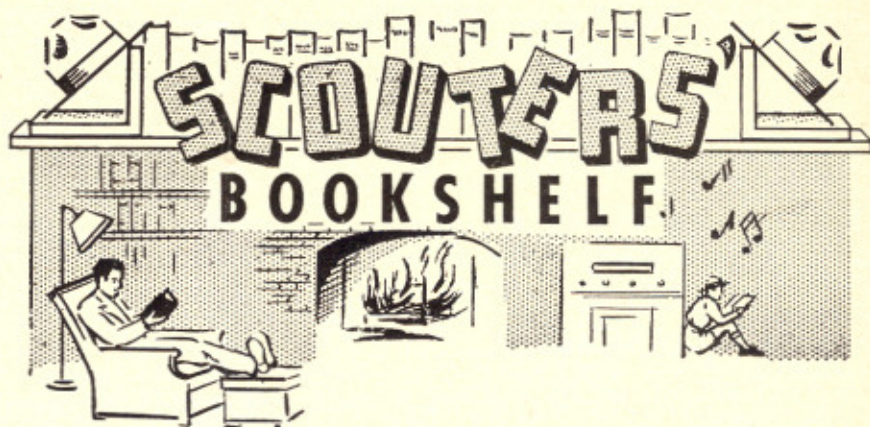
Fun Around the Campfire 75c

This excellent little American book contains a wealth of material for Scouters who are planning campfire programmes. If you are looking for ideas on campfires, this is a must.

Outdoor Games for Scouts \$1.00

Scouting is essentially a game to be played outdoors and here is a book crammed full of game ideas which will prove extremely useful for every Troop Scouter. This book is a must for every really active Troop.

All of the books referred to above and many more useful publications of a similar nature may be ordered through your local Stores Department distributor, your nearest Headquarters, or direct from The Stores Department, 306 Metcalfe St., Ottawa 4, Ont.



The Sound of White Water. By Hugh Fosburgh. Published by S. J. Reginald Saunders and Company Limited. Price \$3.75.

The Sound of White Water is the story of a canoe and fishing trip down a river, over hazardous rapids, along calm, easy stretches, through deep, quiet pools. The setting is in the big woods north country of Upper New York State in the month of June.

The three most important characters are Pete Gay, a seasoned trapper and guide, Ben Pierson, who spends his annual vacation with Pete on a fishing trip, and Tony Farr, an old college chum of Ben's, who, in the ways of the woods, is a tenderfoot. How each of these men responds to the call of the forest and stream makes such enticing reading one does not wish to put the book down.

Added to the adventure is a novel with such wonderful first-hand knowledge of the beauty and marvel of the woods and its wild-life it defies description. Hugh Fosburgh writes of something he knows and loves most intimately. A rare treat is in store for all readers in the Leader bracket, and especially those who this time of year are checking flies, and rod and reel.

The Singing Wilderness. By Sigurd Olson. Published by McClelland and Stewart Ltd. Price \$4.50.

The author dedicates this enthralling book 'to those who know and love that rugged wilderness of rivers and lakes known as the Quetico-Superior Country, but even to those of us who are not familiar with this country the story is a revelation of the depth and timeless values of nature.

He has divided the book into four sections, each depicting a season, and each of the thirty-eight chapters tells a separate nature story. We are treated to the exciting smell of spring in the

March winds, the ways of a canoe, the flashing speckled trout in the pools of the Isabella, the strange and wonderful powers of a campfire, the virtues of pine knots as fuel, the flight of wild geese, and read of the habits of timber wolves, of tamarack bogs, of caribou moss, of the safe cosiness of a trapper's cabin with winter storms outside, and so many more exciting facets of nature's adventures. Sigurd Olson, a famous woodsman, writes with such perception and feeling one almost lives each experience with him.

Beautifully illustrated with black and white drawings by Frances Lee Jaques, no nature lover should be without this book. Indeed, it is a must for every Scouter's bookshelf, and a book to be read and savoured again and again.



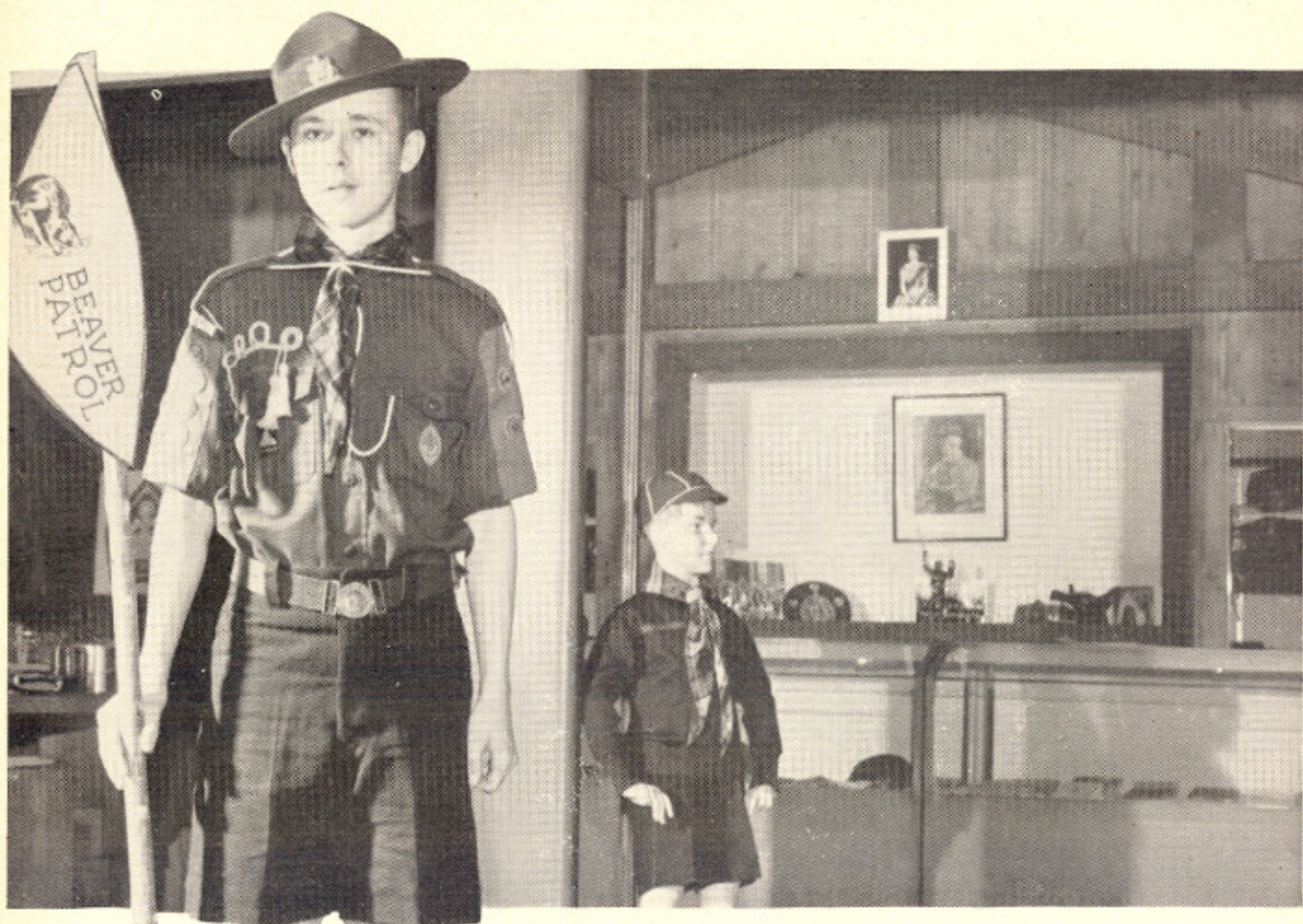
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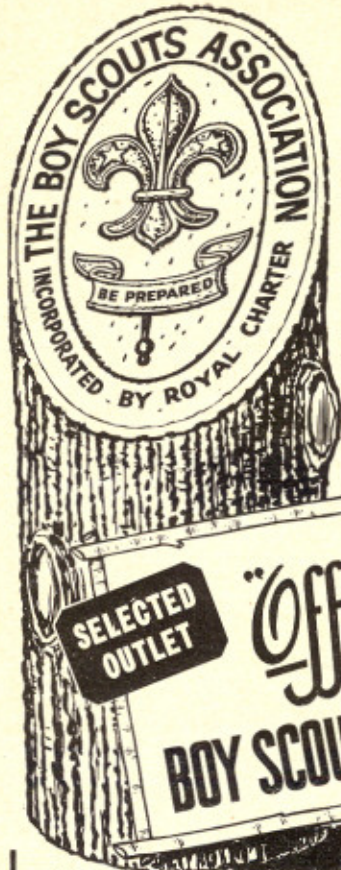
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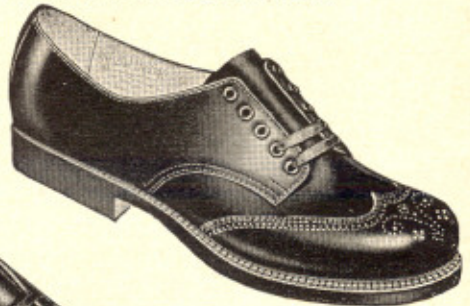


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