



Green Star requirement #5 deals with receiving and sending messages using a code. Morse Code is one of the methods; however, it is not used because of its complexity in learning. I recently came across an article in the July/August issue of *Outdoor Canada* written by Barlow Patten which gives an easy way of learning Morse Code.

To start, it helps to remember that "Eavesdropping Is Simple To Morse Operators." List the first letter of each word. The code configurations are 1, 2, and 3 dots, and 1, 2, and 3 dashes respectively, so E is • , I, • • , S, • • • ; T, — ; M,——; and O,——. (A dash is held down, or on, three times as long as a dot.)

\_A is for APPLE. Tap out the syllables, and you get a — ple (more or less).

A is \_ \_\_\_

B is for BALL. Throw a ball and it goes bounce, bounce, bounce,

C is two CAMELS in a CARAVAN. There is a hump and a head and a hump and a head.
C looks like \_\_\_\_\_

D is for DOG. A dog barks "r-r-r-uf-uf."

E is . ; and you have already learned it, so let's review the 10 letters so far.

F is for FASTEST. There are two runners together but the fastest one speeds ahead to here.

Flooks like .... Lah-h

G is for GOALIE. Two shots are whizzing toward the goalie.

H is four dots. HELP is urgently needed so we have no time for long dashes. There is one more dot than is in the S for S-O-S too, so HELP is really needed. H is ••••

I is •• We have already learned I too, so let's review all we have learned so far.

J is for JEEP. It has one round and three flat tires so it won't go far!

J is . \_\_\_\_\_

K is --- There is a KINK in the wire. It runs along,

there is a kink in it, then it continues on.

F, L, Q, and Y are a family of letters because F backwards is L; then to get Q we exchange the dots and dashes in F, and Y is Q backwards. Take a minute here. That can be confusing. We'll come back to it later too.

Lis. \_\_. the same as F backwards.

M is \_ \_ We already know that.

N is for NUT. It takes a long time to get through the shell but there's a little kernel inside.

O is \_\_\_ We already know O too.

P is.\_\_. It stands for PROTECTION. The two animals are standing with their bodies together and heads facing out for protection.

Remember that for Q we exchange dots and dashes in F from the F-L-Q-Y family.

That means that F is ..... so

R is for ROPE. There is a man pulling each end of the rope.

S is ... We <u>already know this because "Eavesdrop-</u> ping is Simple To Morse Operators" so there are really only seven more to go.

T is \_\_ and we already know that too. Six left.

U is..—See the two boys trying to upset the raft by both sitting on the one edge.

V is....That is the same as the first four beats in Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, and V is the Roman numeral for five.

W is for WINGS. A bird has one body and two WINGS.

X is \_\_\_\_The anonymous Mr. "X" wears dark glasses like this: (----)

We have already learned Y too, because it is in the F-L-Q-Y family. Y is Q backwards. Q is\_\_\_\_so Y looks like\_\_\_\_Take a minute with this one too!

Z is \_\_... 'A zebra has stripes, not dots! A

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R.C. BUTCHER Editor

BETTY RAPKINS Assistant Editor

KAY HOTHAM. Editorial and Advertising



#### COVER

For those of you who have not been conducting outdoor programs already this year, there will soon be no excuse not to get out in the sunshine and fresh air! Our cover this month suggests that you ought to try a camp or hike soon. For some hike ideas turn to page 6.

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# by Bill Johnson

A year ago we introduced a new Cub windbreaker which has proved to be a most popular garment. Now we are getting ready to bring out a

new Scout and leader windbreaker. The sharp new style and excellent quality will be welcomed everywhere. Watch next month's Leader for a full page spread on this new

jacket.

During the summer and fall we will be presenting a brand new concept in catalogue advertising. Three catalogues will replace our present 20-page edition. The first will be a full colour, 12-page youth edition aimed right at Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers. The second will be an 8-page leaders' edition, also in full colour and zeroing in on items of interest to leaders only. Finally an 8-page book catalogue. The three pages of books in our present catalogue will be expanded to present a complete library of program support material and good reading. To ensure that every leader receives the two smaller catalogues we hope to insert them in The Leader. The youth catalogue will be distributed to all members through the same channels as presently used.

For all you Scouters in the Mississauga area, if you haven't already found it, a brand new Scout Shop is in full swing at 3121 Hurontario Street. Charlotte Allen, Scout Shop manager, is anxious to meet you all and assures you of the best possible service for all your Scouting needs.

In April, Scout Shop personnel from across Canada will join together in Ottawa to undergo an intensive training program designed to improve the service to our members. Retail selling, customer service, product knowledge, inventory control and other related subjects make up this workshop. We are grateful to Simpsons-Sears who are sending along a team of professional retail sales trainers to assist us with this project. X



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# MISSISSAUGA EMERGENCY

by John Pettifer

The explosion was heard and felt up to 30 miles away! A fireball rose hundreds of feet into the air! And the largest peacetime evacuation of a Canadian community began!

Mississauga, midnight, Saturday November 10, 1979. Rumbling through the night, a freight train suddenly ran off the tracks as an axle seized. Six tank cars containing propane began to explode, and a tanker filled with over 90 tons of chlorine was ruptured.

The fear of chlorine gas escaping and drifting over the city of Mississauga prompted an initial evacuation of 10,000 residents to hastily set up evacuation centres in local schools and shopping centres. Within hours, further evacuations saw over a quarter of a million residents fleeing the potential danger and even the evacuation of evacuation centres! During the following five days, countless volunteers worked around the clock to care for and assist the thousands of residents who were forced to live in schools, recreation centres and other make-shift reception centres. Amongst these volunteers, over 500 members of Scouting were involved from the Mississauga, Malton and Brampton Districts.

On Sunday, Mike Sharples, the District Commissioner for Malton-Thunderbird District (located north of Mississauga) with his S.D.C., Keith Wells, was monitoring the activity on "ham" radio when news came that the big International Conference Centre in Malton was to be used as an evacuation centre. Immediately Keith packed his radio and Mike began phoning other leaders. They then proceeded straight to the Centre and began to organize for the anticipated evacuees. Keith set up his "ham" radio and established an instant communication link. Mike, along with leaders and boys who quickly appeared, began to lay out a sleeping area and a catering area.

From that moment on, the boys and leaders found themselves engaged in a multitude of tasks that seemed never ending as the initial evacuees were joined by others. At the peak of the emergency, over 2;500 were being sheltered at this centre.

Help in the form of the Red Cross and the Salvation Army soon appeared and took over much of the organiza-

tion. This allowed the Scouters and boys to concentrate on essential needs. The distribution of nearly 3,000 blankets, the moving of hundreds of tables, the cleaning (and re-cleaning) of the washroom facilities, the distribution of hundreds of cups of coffee and truck-loads of food that began to appear. The constant removal of garbage generated by the situation, the location of lost individuals (especially children) and the care and attention of individuals who, in some instances, were quite unable to care for themselves.

These and many other jobs were to test the training and preparedness of the boys and leaders. The boys involved quickly realized that this was no game but the real opportunity to put into practice their Scout training.

The scene and work at the International Centre was not confined to that one location. When the evacuation call went out, leaders and boys quickly opened evacuation centres in other schools and Scout halls in the communities adjacent to Mississauga. Sheridan College, Erindale High School, Brampton Centennial School and the Brampton Scout hall were all centres where Scouting could be found helping side by side with other agencies.

Within hours, further evacuations saw over a quarter of a million residents fleeing the potential danger and even the evacuation of evacuation centres!

Typical of these was the Streetsville Secondary School. Here, amongst others, the 2nd Streetsville Venturers were busy unloading trucks, cleaning tables and pitching in with almost every need expressed and anticipated. Of special note were two boys who constantly attended to an evacuated paraplegic. Every half hour, he was turned by the boys who also attended to his toilet and clothing needs throughout his stay.

There were no individual Scout heroes in this emergency. Everyone involved gave his and her (-the Cub and Beaver leaders were well represented!) all. By Thursday, those at the International Centre were getting to the point of exhaustion. Many had been working there since Sunday, sleeping on the job just where and when they could. A call from the Mississauga District Commissioner for some further help was relayed to the Greater Toronto Region and to the York Summit District. Within hours, leaders and boys were responding to take over and give needed relief. But the worst was over. Late Thursday evening most of the evacuees who were unable to return home were taken to hotels and by Friday all that remained was the final clean-up.

The work undertaken by the Scouts and their leaders did not go unnoticed. Major Ken Holbrook of the Salvation Army, who was given the responsibility for the overall co-ordination of the work at the International Centre, had nothing but praise for the leaders and boys. The media covering the event gave considerable attention to the role played by Scouting, and typical of the thanks expressed was this letter from one of those directly affected:

To all Commissioners, Leaders and Boy Scouts of Malton District, Mississauga:

Just a great big thank you for a job well done at the Malton International Centre for the Mississauga evacuation.

The leaders showed what Scouting was all about, but the boys were certainly terrific in their response to anyone who would ask them to do or go for anything: going for baby needs, blankets, food, looking after pets or get-

ting a newspaper; gathering garbage around the building and taking it outside to the garbage bins. They pushed

The boys involved quickly realized that this was no game but the real opportunity to put into practice their Scout training.

baby carriages around, rounded up the children, played games, led singsongs and showed movies.

A lot of these jobs would not have been done if the Scouts had not been Johnny-on-the-spot with a big smile and neat uniforms.

Being a past Guider, I certainly thought they looked, and did, a superb job and they certainly showed everyone what Boy Scouting was all about with a community spirit.

Another letter exemplifies the thanks directed to individuals involved in the smaller centres:

I wish to bring to your attention the excellent care and consideration given to my two sons and myself by the very capable Scout leaders of Peel North during our two-night "stay" at the Steele's Avenue Scout Hall, Brampton, during the recent evacuation. Their 24 hour presence (despite their obligations to their own jobs and families) during which we were provided with refreshments, excellent hot meals (courtesy of the local Legion), comfortable and warm sleeping provisions (and even films from the local library!) was most reassuring. I have only the highest praise for each and every one of them.

Yes, when needed, Scouting was prepared and ready to meet the community need. To the Commissioners of Mississauga, Malton and Brampton Districts along with their leaders and boys, Scouting joins the community in saying "Thank You!" for a job well done!

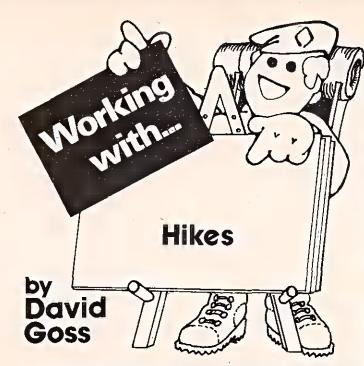
John C. Pettifer is the Director of Relationships, Ontario Provincial Council.

#### "BE PREPARED"

The events of Mississauga point up the need for Scouting to be prepared to respond when called upon to meet the unexpected. Had this emergency happened in your area, would you have been able to move into action quickly?

Training for emergencies should be a part of every Troop, Company and Crew program. This should include a review of the resources available to the Group (or Council) as well as some practical exercises in emergency procedures.

Ideally, each Scout Council should have some form of emergency plan including a communication procedure between leaders. This should also include some liaison with key individuals in other agencies such as the Red Cross, the St. John's Ambulance Brigade and the Salvation Army. In a community emergency, fast communication between agencies and an understanding of the role that each could and would play can make the difference between organization and confusion. Let's live up to our sometimes overlooked motto and "Be Prepared". X



I'm not at all sure boys enjoy going on hikes. They enjoy rambles, outings, trips, camps and walks, but somehow the work "hike" has a connotation of being a rather lengthy walk where little or nothing happens.

If you find that is the case with your boys, then next time you plan a hike change the name to something a bit more mystifying and let the boys know some pretty exciting or interesting things will happen on your outing.

Good hikes, like all good programs, rarely just happen. They require planning. The wise Scouter will use hiking regularly in his program, and not just on weekends. There is no reason why mini hikes can't be part of the regular troop night fare.

Here are some examples of troop night hikes that have worked for various groups.

Message following — A message wrapped around a rock is tossed into the troop room just as prayers are completed. The boys are told to report to a well known landmark a half kilometre away where a second message is found, which leads them to a third message point, etc., until they rendezvous somewhere where a treasure is found or a cup of chocolate is warming over a fire.

Progressive Supper Hike — Each patrol arranges to visit all the patrol members' homes, with each home visited having agreed to provide one part of the supper meal. For example, John provides the juice; Tom provides the celery stalks; Dave provides the soup and crackers; Peter provides the french fries; George the hamburgers and Mac the dessert. Each host feeds the patrol before they move on.

Cinnamon Heart Hike — The Scouter visits the candy store before Valentines' Day and purchases a couple of pounds of those little red cinnamon hearts. As soon as flag break is over, the boys are told a little old lady has been kidnapped nearby, but has managed to leave a trail of cinnamon hearts on the street, and if followed they will lead to her abductors. The Scouter has arranged all this, of course, and tells the troop that when the abductors and the "little old lady", are found they should be watched by the troop until such time as they can see their way clear to free the little old lady and return her to the safety of the troop meeting hall. What they do with the abductors, I'll leave to you!

Heads or Tails Hike — This is especially good for heart of the city troops. Provide each patrol with a map of the streets surrounding your meeting hall, a pencil and a quarter. Take them to the first intersection and have them flip the coin for direction — heads they go left, tails they go right. When they come to the next intersection they again flip the coin to decide direction. At each flip they mark their direction on the street map. (This is checked later to verify their route.) After one half hour of flipping at each intersection the patrol is to take the quickest route from wherever they are to the troop room, with the first patrol back being the loser - as they obviously covered the least distance. Alternately, you might ask the patrol to make their way to some distant point by flipping at each intersection and following the direction of the coin, thus preventing them from a straight line attack on their quarry. In this instance, the first patrol to reach the point would be declared the winner.

Land of Strange Plants Hike — For this event you need access to a city park or waste piece of ground with various types of vegetation. Among the vegetation you plant various strange plants, i.e., cedar twigs on burdock bushes, acorns growing on alder trees, pine cones hanging from fir trees, birch bark on willow shoots, etc. You might even get some plastic flowers and plant these to see if your lads can spot them. Hike your boys to the area and set them out with pencil and pad to draw all the strange species they can find. You'll be surprised if they get 15 out of 20.

Photo Hike — This can be done two ways. First, you could provide (or have the boys bring) an instant picture camera with black and white film and send them out to capture pictures of certain people or places in your community. Make some of them difficult, like a picture of the assistant troop Scouter kissing his wife, which the boys will have to arrange. Alternately, you might provide pictures of people or places, with clues as to their whereabouts, which the boys have to find in some specific order. Again, don't make it too easy. Get the co-operation of your local shopkeeper and have his picture among those you give the boys. But, on the night of the event, have him well disguised. Another way to interest the boys would be to have a photo of one of the members of the Guide company or of their school class, who is particularly popular and which the boys have to get autographed.

Judging Distances Hike — A good training hike which must be preceded by an indoor session on distance judging, Scouts' pace, pacing and estimation. Then, the next week, the boys are sent out to find out how long, how tall, how wide and how thick certain things are around the troop headquarters.

Hike and Listen — The patrol takes out one of their members who has been carefully blindfolded by the troop Scouter. His job is to listen to all that is audible and to report on the journey he took when he is returned. The Scouters should previously have arranged for some exciting events to happen as the boys pass along the streets. For example, the blindfolded boy might hear a violent argument taking place in an alley, a near miss of the walkers by an irate driver could be arranged, a car which won't start, someone setting out their garbage, plus all the usual sounds of the neighbourhood. On his return to the troop room, the blindfolded boy must describe all he heard while being led about by his patrol.

Of course, there are many other troop night "Diver-

As for those longer hikes, all day events, where lunch is cooked at midday and everyone thinks they've walked 20 km, when it's really been only six or eight, the follow-

ing suggestions are offered.

Almost all of the ideas previously suggested can be expanded, modified, rearranged, combined or otherwise improved to form the basis of all or part of a hike program. In addition to those, you might try:

Beehive Hike - Whereby all members of the patrol try to go from point "A" to "B" in a straight line, always, of course, respecting property lines, and taking full recognition of dangers such as deep ravines, uncrossable lakes, man-eating alligators and other lesser feared hazardš.

Nature Walks - Provincial authorities in all provinces maintain nature reserves, many of which are scenic, and have the added attraction of guide booklets, and if you're lucky, even a naturalist. Should your areas not have such a trail, why not consider developing one?

and is picked up late in the day and driven back to town, possibly to have supper at one of the popular pizza parlours. Bicycle Hikes - Which were adequately covered in the May 1979 issue of The Leader.

Hike Out - Ride Back - Wherein the troop agrees to

hike to some point of interest some distance from the city

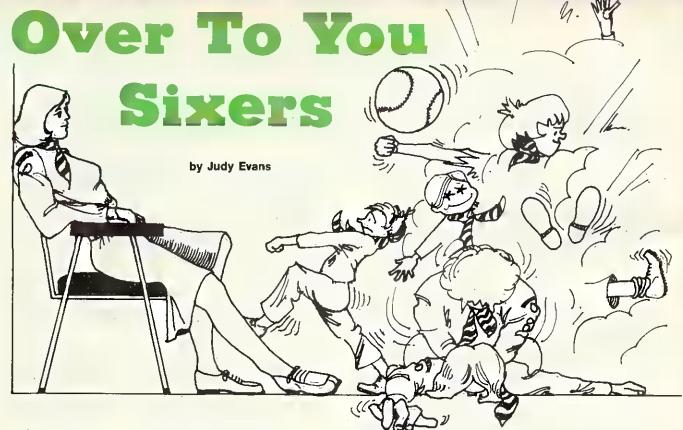
Challenge Hikes - Again, these were fully explained in the February 1977 issue of The Leader.

Geological Historical Hikes - In which the Scouter has arranged a resident expert from the local university or society in town who will lead the boys in a search for some of their area's geological or historical treasures.

Beanhole Bean Hike - Where the Scouter has hidden. a cache of beanhole beans, which are simmering all day in the ground awaiting discovery by the hungry patrol who are following various messages, trail signs, codes, etc. in their quest for their edible treasure.

I should hope by now, if you've read this far, that you will agree with my opening statement that hikes don't happen, they require planning. Further, I hope you'll agree that they are worth planning, for the outdoor program is the key to keen Scouting. I think I'll just sign off here and try a little of it myself. X





The idea came from the Part Two Wood Badge Course. We were on the subject of variations to the regular pack nights when the instructor suggested letting the sixers run a meeting.

"I'had a friend who tried that one" responded a Scouter with a shake of his head. "He's never been the same since!"

"Well maybe he didn't approach it right" said another. "You can't just throw them in and retreat you know."

"Why not? That's what they did to me" muttered a girl

The idea was batted back and forth for a while before we moved on but for some reason it stuck in my mind as one I would particularly like to try. Echoes of the last Sixers' Council kept coming back when the boys had been particularly vocal about doing something different. A couple of them were nearly ready for Scouts too and were long overdue for something challenging. What better than this?

I broached the subject at the next leaders' meeting and met with more than a little skepticism but, as usual, a willingness to try it out.

"Well, if nothing else, the sixers should sympathise with us after an evening spent in our shoes" commented Baloo.

Reaction at the Sixers Council was predictably more positive.

"Terrific! I've got a great idea! Why don't we have a contest to find the worst Cub?"

"No, I've got a better one. What about an ugly face contest? Then Harry can win."

"Hey, watch it! He's my cousin, you know, and you're no picture yourself."

"Who says so?"

"I says so." . . . etc., etc.

So, having given them the idea, we let it ferment in their active minds for a couple of weeks and then called another Sixers Council. In the meantime, we discussed it further among ourselves. It was unanimously agreed not to go too far out on a limb. The regular format of our program would be the same with the opening and clos-

ing ceremonies remaining the prerogative of the leaders. The seconds would become sixers for the evening and we leaders would sit with our feet up and observe. (I knew there was something wrong with that part as soon as we agreed on it!)

At the second meeting, it was clear the boys had done some thinking for each one had something to contribute, even though it was not quite what we expected.

"Dodge Ball" said one emphatically. "We should be able to fit at least twenty games into that amount of time."

"No way" argued his buddy. "I want 'British Bulldog.' We haven't played that since Peter and Tim bled all over the floor that time."

"Let's make it a surprise, like not tell any of the guys. Then they won't have time to think up any dirty tricks to play on us" suggested a third who, only the week before, had locked half the pack out in the snow.

"What about 'Sleeping Pirate'?" suggested Randy, our newest sixer, an undersized youngster who was not yet comfortable with his new position.

"Naaa . . . that's not hard enough" responded his senior. "You have to have games that leave them all pooped out. I heard Akela tell Kaa that last week."

"Hold it a minute" I stepped in hastily. "You said you were tired of the same old games and here you are coming right back with them. How about something different?"

"Can we have a book of games to look at?"

"No you can't. The best games come right out of your head so get thinking. In the meantime let's get on with the rest of the program. Do you want a campfire?"

The rest of the meeting passed in comparative harmony. It was unanimously agreed that fingernails would be the target for inspection. The leaders were trying hard to keep their input at a minimum but something had to be said here.

"You will keep in mind that your own nails have to be

"Well mine are always O.K." said one, displaying ten dubious looking digits with the day's dirt firmly packed under the fingernails.

"You'd get zero from me" said his neighbour, unsympathetically.

All too soon we could hear parents shuffling outside the door.

'Well we are just about done anyway" I said. "I don't think we need another meeting. All we have left is for each of you to think up one game and at least one song for campfire. I will type up the program and let you each have a copy. Any other questions?"

'What happens if they won't listen to us?" asked

Randy nervously.

"Thump 'em one" responded his neighbour.

"What, all of them?" His eyes were round with fright. "No, none of them" I cut in firmly. "And we'll deal with

that problem when it happens."

The evening arrived. It had been preceded by numerous phone calls from the sixers asking for various pieces of equipment or the correct words for a song they had chosen, a good sign as far as I was concerned that things

were going according to plan.

I won't describe the whole meeting. Suffice it to say it was not exactly an unqualified success. Inspection went fairly well. The sixers had agreed to each inspect the other three sixes, marking every Cub out of three points. The one with the questionable fingernails had obviously spent some time in the bathroom as his nails were now clean. Unfortunately he had let this achievement go to his head as his inspection sheet looked something like this: "-3, -7, -5". "One point off for each dirty fingernail" he explained.

The games they thought up were certainly different but then that was what we asked for. The two worst were a race against time to see how quickly the boys could tie all our knotting ropes together using reef knots, followed by a tug of war using the whole length. (If anyone has a method of untying grannie knots that measure two centimetres across I would appreciate hearing from them.) The other — and perhaps the worst — was a long drawn out and very complicated game of basketball with the lights out that nobody, apparently not even the sixer in charge, could get straight.

Randy's fears of not being listened to were well founded. His voice during the evening became progressively more falsetto until, by campfire, his rendering of The Bumble Bee Song was no more than an intermittent

squeak.

The pack responded badly, there was no other way to put it. The seconds were, of course, delighted to suddenly be in charge for the night but the other Cubs simply saw it as a chance to do their own thing. Eight o'clock saw four very frustrated sixers with the leaders not far

Luckily we had planned on holding a post mortem directly after the meeting. They slumped into the chairs looking thoroughly dejected.

"What a drag" said one. "No-one took us seriously." "And that second of mine is dumb" piped up another.

"He didn't even know how to line them up for inspection." "My voice has gone" croaked Randy "and I have to sing in the school concert tomorrow."

"O.K. fellows" I interrupted. "Enough of the sob stuff.

Let's talk about what went wrong."

"Well for one thing they just wouldn't listen. And half the time they couldn't hear us anyway, they were making so much din."

"What about a whistle?" suggested Baloo. "Would that help?"

"Oh yes" said Randy emphatically.

"And about this discipline bit" I added, "I don't think it was a very good idea to make it a surprise. Why don't we tell the pack in advance what we are going to do, sort of sell them on the idea, and then ask for their cooperation? After all, most of them will be sixers themselves one day and then their turn will come."

Everyone nodded in agreement. "What about each leader being responsible for one six?" suggested Bagheera. "I don't mean interfere with the second, just step

in if things get out of control."

More nods. Everyone was beginning to feel a little better about the whole thing.

"I think we should have another one in about a month" I suggested. "It's better that way."

"Like going straight back after falling off the tightwire"

muttered Baloo. So we held the second one and what a difference!

Our plans were explained to the pack the week before and, with the memory of the last attempt which no-one had really enjoyed, still firmly in their minds, they were at their most co-operative.

The sixers were reasonable about their inspections and the games they thought up, and no-one - not even Randy, - had to use the whistle we gave them. We had spent an evening the week before running over the games they had picked so, not only were they more confident leading them, but we had eliminated any bugs they contained. We found their ideas generally good, a little above what they could handle at times but a few adaptations here and there were all that was needed.

They still wanted a campfire but this time opted to each do something as well as sing Oscar's Dream, The Captain's Shirt, etc. Even more surprising, they asked for more badge and star work. They wanted to do this themselves and picked an exercise on codes, some knotting and a game of "Hot Potato" with questions on Lord Baden-Powell.

As planned, the leaders each took responsibility for one six. We carefully explained to the seconds that they were in complete charge but we would be there as a backup if needed. There was no resentment there and we were called in only a couple of times to sort things out.

Our approach as leaders towards the second meeting changed as well. Rather than stand back and observe, we joined in where possible and this not only had a more stabilizing effect but, of course, the boys loved it.

We plan-to run a sixers meeting twice a year and, as the boys now know what to expect, we hope it will continue to run smoothly. Need I say we will avoid such times as the week before Christmas, April Fool's Day or the month before school holidays start?

Our input at the planning stage will be more than we had originally planned. Our idea had been to just give them a broad outline and then let them go to it. No good. They were too young to recognize their limits and some of the suggestions we went along with originally were well beyond their capabilities. There is nothing to be gained by letting a youngster fall flat on his face in front of his friends.

As leaders, we benefitted in several ways. We received some very welcome fresh input, as well as a clear idea of what the boys do and don't like. The sixers too, are more aware of what we are trying to accomplish during a meeting, and respond far better than previously.

Maybe at some future date we will have it so streamlined that we will be able to just sit with our feet up and watch. After all, there's no harm in dreaming! A

# ADD A DASH OF

Why not add a dash of magic to your next party or banquet with the aid of the following tricks, reprinted from Canyouth's now inactive "Canadian Boy"?

The Magic Circle is an effective card trick which can be performed anywhere, instantly, without preparation. All you need is a pack of cards. It makes a good impression if you can use a borrowed pack.

Hand out the cards to be shuffled. When the pack is returned, idly fan it open and glance at the cards. Secretly make a mental note of the card which is third from the top of the pack. Let's say this is the seven of

This secret movement takes only a second or two. You should be talking all the time, explaining that the trick you are going to perform is called "The Magic Circle". You promise to explain why, in a few moments.

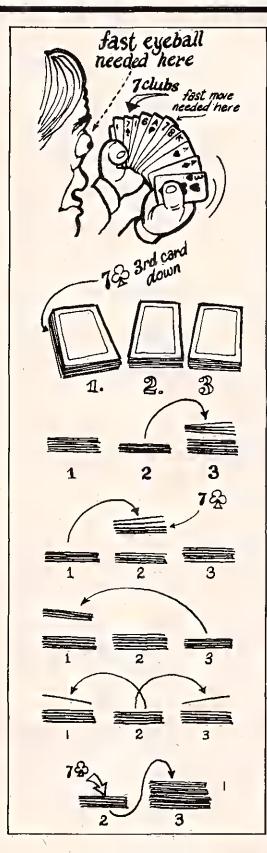
Meanwhile, place the pack face downwards on the table and ask a spectator to cut it into three heaps. The top part of the pack will comprise one heap, the middle portion a second heap and the bottom part of the pack will be the third heap. The first (top) heap is the one which has your secretly-noted seven of clubs lying third from the top. You now proceed to interchange cards on each of the three heaps before you. You casually mention that you are going to "mix them up a bit".

Take a few cards from the top of heap No. 2 and place them on No. 3 heap. Lift not less than four or five cards from heap No. 1 (that is the one containing the seven of clubs); and place them on heap No. 2. Take a few more cards from No. 3 heap and

put them on No. 1.

You can make as many card movements as 'you wish, so long as you always remember where you have placed the bundle of cards containing the seven of clubs. Say it is on top of No. 2 heap. The last card change you make is very important. Take the top card from No. 2 heap and place it on heap No. 3. Take another card from the top of heap No. 2 and place it on heap No. 1. This leaves the seven of clubs on top of heap No. 2. Now take the whole of No. 1 heap and place it on No. 3. Place No. 2 heap on top of the pack, so that you have all the cards in one heap. The seven of clubs is now on top of the pack, but no one knows this, except you.

Slide the pack over the table to any spectator and say "You can see



the cards have been pretty well shuffled and cut by now. Would you please take the top card and look at it? But don't let me see it. Show it to your neighbour if you wish and remember the card. Now shuffle your chosen card well into the pack. Cut and shuffle as much as you like, so that your card is thoroughly mixed up among the others".

When this is completed, take the pack and start dealing the cards, face upwards, in the form of a rough circle. Explain that you are making a magic circle of cards. Tell your audience that you do not know which one is the chosen card and therefore if you happen to deal the card and pass it by, they must not tell you. Keep on dealing the cards in a circle as you talk.

When you come to the seven of clubs, continue to deal. It is most important that you make no sign of recognizing the chosen card.

Now deal the cards very slowly. Begin to weigh each card in your hand, as if testing its weight. Try to look as if you are thinking hard. Say you can usually tell the name of a card by its weight. ("Some cards have more ink on them than others!") Finally hold one of the cards face downwards and say boldly "The next card I turn over will be the chosen card!"

Your audience will probably grin and laugh at you and challenge you, because they know that you have already dealt the chosen card. Slowly, replace the card in your hand back onto the pack. Pick up the seven of clubs from the magic circle of cards and turn it over.

This is a surprise move, because your audience did not expect you to turn over a card which you had already dealt. It is more surprising when they realize that you have turned over the chosen card.

They will never guess how you did it, unless you tell them, and that is something the wise magician never does.

Five Pennies Make Six? The performer shows five pennies. Except for these, his hands are empty. He lays the five pennies on the table, counting them out one at a time. Repeating the count, one at a time,



he slides the coins off the table into his open palm. Immediately, without any suspicious movements, he pours the coins from his hand back on to the table and there, for all to see, are six pennies. Before commencing the trick, while sitting around the table chatting, the magician secretly sticks a penny underneath the edge of the table before him. The coin can be prepared with a dab of rubber cement or even a tiny piece of chewing gum.

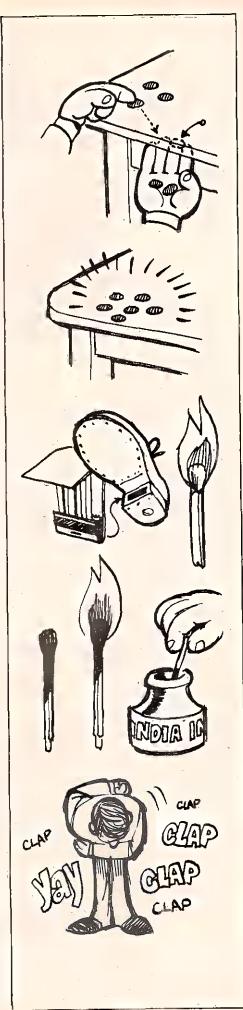
After placing the five coins on the table, he prepares to count them again. He places the forefinger of the left hand on each coin in turn and slowly slides it off the table into the upturned palm of his right hand.

The right hand is held, palm upwards, with the fingertips under the edge of the table, as if to steady the hand. As the fifth penny is slid onto his palm, he removes his hand and at the same time slips off the extra penny from under the table. (See tig.). Immediately and mysteriously, he pours six pennies back onto the table.

Finally, here are two "quickle" match tricks to puzzle and amuse your friends. Hand out a few wooden safety matches and see if they can strike them, without using a matchbox. Safety matches usually will not strike on anything but the specially prepared striking surface on the matchbox. However, you are a magician! You take one of the matches, strike it on the sole of your shoe and it lights! It's fun to watch them trying to light matches on their shoes. They just can't figure out how you do it. (And you just don't tell them that you cut off the striking surface from a safety matchbox and glued it to the instep of the heel of your shoe!)

It's fun too, to offer someone a match, but when they open the box they find it full of dead, burnt matches. When they complain, you express surprise. Take back the box, remove one of the burnt matches and casually strike it on the edge of the box in the usual manner. To their amazement, it will strike and light up like an ordinary match. Use a regular box of wood matches. Dip the matches head first into a bottle of black India ink; about one third of the length is sufficient. When thoroughly dry, they look exactly like used, burnt matches. Carry them in an ordinary matchbox, for any suitable occasion.

It is a good idea to go over these tricks before you show them in public. The more you practise, the better your presentation will be the small effort needed will be well worthwhile.



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# Vengue By Phil Newsome

I found the following program idea in the August 1979 issue of Scouting in New South Wales and thought I would pass it along at this time because many companies will soon be planning the last portion of their program year.

Ideas for unit activities are where you find them. Many times, an idea will simply spring out of a book or newspaper and hit you. Of course, there are times when sources appear to run dry. Or do they?

What about "Venturing with the yellow pages" and letting your fingers do a bit of walking for you and the unit? The classified heading index of the yellow pages directory service, has thousands of subjects listed. What opportunities exist for unit exploration in this area?

Let's look at a sample of the subjects available:

Advice — (Legal)

This section covers Barristers, Solicitors, Legal Advice Bureaux and Legal Aid Offices. What roles do they perform? What services can, for example, the Legal Aid Office provide or offer to working Venturers in time of need? Various pamphlets are available on given subjects.

**Burglary Protection Systems** 

An interesting and fascinating subject to explore for the den, Group HQ's or even the home. You could set up a visit to a firm dealing with the equipment — electronic eyes, photosensitive cells, pressure mats, shock recorders and so on.

Camping Equipment

Exploration here could take the form of a visit to a major camping equipment manufacturer or distributor to investigate specific gear. Alternatively, groups of Venturers could be encouraged to visit or write manufacturers/distributors requesting illustrated literature and product specifications which can form the subject of a meeting/discussion of camping gear.

#### Detectors — Metal/Electronic

What kind of detectors are available? How do they work? What metals may be detected? Would it be possible to have demonstrations? What about the unit going on a gold detection expedition to some of the old mining areas?

Just selecting appropriate subjects from the yellow pages can be a thoughtful and absorbing process. Try it — bring a copy to the next unit meeting.

Many Venturer companies use the Venturer Interest Questionnaire as a tool for planning. Using the yellow pages along with the questionnaire will provide a good start to an exciting and interesting program for the company. Using the yellow pages a company can easily find resources within the community, to cover the six activity areas of exploration, fitness, personal interest, service, social and cultural, and vocational.

If your patrol leaders are in the mood for a little light research at their next Council meeting, perhaps you could find a log of wood or other fairly weighty object (as, for instance, a discarded oil drum part-filled with water or sand), wrap two lengths of rope round it, one at each end, and, working from a fixed baseline, get them to roll it along a straight course simply by hauling in the slack. The idea will be to build up such momentum that the object will continue along the course for some distance after it is free of the rope. The pair to shoot it farthest are the winners.

If the activity goes well, the patrol leaders can try it on their own mob later. If it doesn't, they can forget it.

One of the big headaches in designing 20th century, manually-operated swing-limb Roman ballistae is the age-old problem of overcoming initial inertia.

Some years ago, when I was serving a short sentence as a stand-in trainer at Gilwell Park, our place in Essex, I tried to persuade a visiting Rover Crew to try out the excellent idea you see in the illustration. Unfortunately they were led by a Cambridge don whose subject was engineering. He took one look at the diagram and the battered old bicycle wheel I had been hoarding for just such an experiment as this, coughed delicately behind a crooked forefinger and changed the subject. A clear case of intellectual pedantry and poverty of imagination.

These theorists are all the same, of course. Just because an idea is wrong in principle they jump to the conclusion that it won't work. Such nonsense. What about the humble bumble bee which is so heavily upholstered and so poorly provided for aerodynamically that, in theory, it can't possibly fly. Well, what about it?

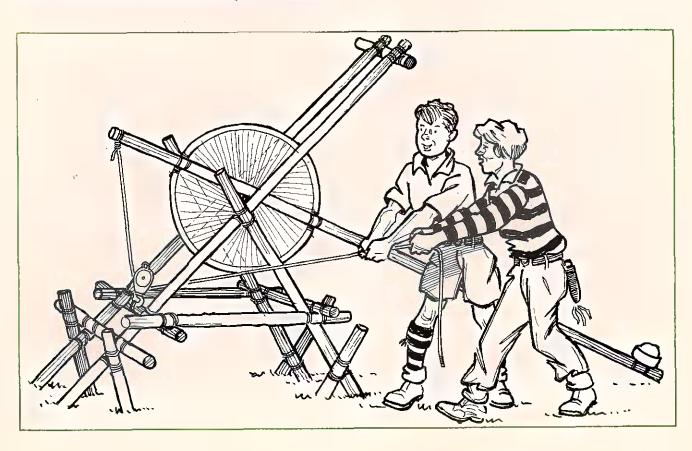
Anyhow, here is my suggestion for minimizing the effect of initial inertia in L.F. type Scout pioneering. All you have to do is to lash a light spar across your wheel and then mount the whole unit in a housing of some sort so

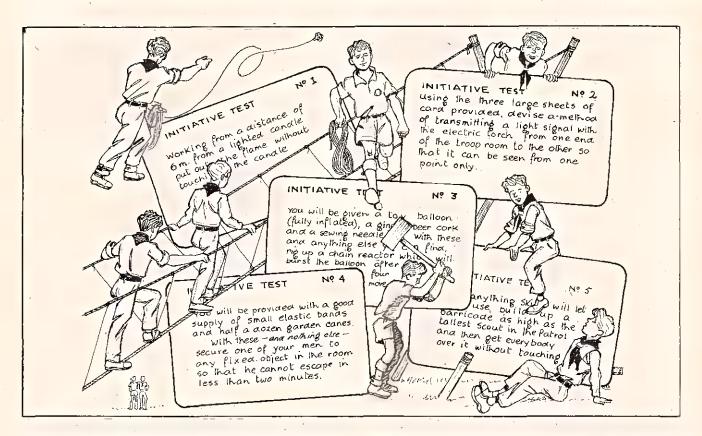


that it will turn freely in its bearings. Nothing could be simpler. Just imagine! As the firing bar whips over and is arrested at an angle of 45° when it smacks against the checkbars at top and bottom, the missile will be precipitated — no other word for it — into the blue and in that instant your membership of the Lunatic Fringe will be assured.

Do not delay. It is later than you think. And please do not forget to enclose the customary stamped-addressed label with your application.

We shall look forward to hearing from you.





When it comes to troop room games, I think we will all agree that simplicity is everything. Hence the over-popularity of that splendid, though underliably moronic game, "British Bulldog".

As a trainee Scouter with the 17th Whitley Bay long, long ago, I soon found that trying to persuade the Court of Honour (Patrol Leaders' Council to you, mate) that we should lay off B.B. for a few months was like asking a basketful of basset puppies to give over. Anyhow, my patrol leaders refused to support me and when, in accordance with official training policy as laid down by Gilwell, I tried to impose a moratorium on the game myself, I found that my personal popularity, always delicately poised, slumped to an all time low — almost to the point where the troop sent me to Coventry. A shattering experience from which I have never fully recovered. Don't say you haven't noticed.

Never mind. Let me remind you of another once-popular game which is probably due for a comeback. It has much in common wih "British Bulldog" because it is essentially "physical", makes no demands on the intelligence of the players, is mildly sadistic and has a most attractive name — "Bumbang". I picked it up years ago in a nice little hill town called Ruthin (pronouced "Rithin") on the road to Llangollen in North Wales.

Scouts at one end of the room. At the other, propped upright against the wall to form a protective screen, a line of trestle tables (or equal). The Scouter walks in to the middle of the room with a large cardboard carton containing as many old tennis balls as there are Scouts, less one. He decants the balls over the floor and immediately the boys dash out to grab one ball each and return to the baseline. The one poor wretch who has failed to grab a ball, walks disconsolately to the head of the room and

stands facing the table tops with head lowered and face protected by forearms and hands. The order "Fire!" is given and the boys let fly.

Absolutely marvellous. Do add it to your repertoire.

#### ODD OBSERVATIONS

- Never take your patrol leaders completely by surprise.
   A Scouter is known by the craftiness with which he primes his p.l.s for a forthcoming activity without giving the game away.
- A patrol leader who habitually takes his patrol out of the troop room during patrol time is a man worth watching — if only to find out where he takes 'em and what they do when they get there.

I really must apologize for inflicting this ancient photograph upon you, but apart from the fact that it was taken in the year 1920 and features your reporter, among other talented members of the 2nd Wallsend Scout Troop (including, for those who are interested, that legendary character, Freddie Mellidew) it contains one or two other items of historical interest.

You will notice, for instance, that despite the obvious formality of the occasion, a line of somebody's washing is hanging out to dry on the clothes line to the left of the group, while a couple of the boys are sporting two not very convincing black eyes. Note, too, a certain dissimilarity in the wearing of uniform. That bit is easily explained. All those with bare knees and forearms have already fallen under the influence of Gilwell. The others

have not yet been liberated.

The scene is St. Paul's Hall, Willington Quay-on-Tyne in the county of Northumberland. The occasion is the presentation of an early Wood Badge to our then Assistant Scoutmaster by our then County Secretary, Among those present a strong contingent from our great friends and rivals, the 7th Wallsend, St. Luke's (still going strong, I trust) and, (not shown in the photograph) a tidy gathering of parents and other admirers.

Earlier in the evening, the patrols had been seen in their patrol corners, doing "typical" troop night activities. Hence the line of washing, and those two ersatz black eyes. I don't want to appear puffed-up so long after the event, but just before this photograph was taken, my own patrol, the Woodpigeons, had scored a notable success by promoting a bout of blindfold boxing (refereed by myself) and an excellent display of Scouting versatility called "Washing Day" in which my boys had with total abandon scattered soapsuds over the spectators and charmed their eves with a line of whiter-than-white linen, years in advance of any t.v. commercial.

How interesting that, long after the event (more than half a century, if truth be told), I should remember this occasion and suggest in these very pages that it might add a touch of spice to the monotony of ritual "inspection" on troop night if, when the boys arrive one evening, they should find a bevy of hand-picked Girl Guides in charge of an improvised launderette in one corner of the troop room, ready to service any neckerchiefs which they considered sub-standard by the Inspecting Officer! Several readers of both sexes on both sides of the North Atlantic regarded this well-intentioned proposalias an affront to female dignity or something, and wrote stinging letters of complaint to my two Editors. Why shouldn't boys launder their own neckers? they demanded. No reason at all that I could see, except that it wouldn't be such fun. Anyhow, what's special about female dignity? Seems to me that if anybody's "dignity" suffered in this situation, it must have been the boys' and I can't imagine any of them complaining. Can you?

Returning briefly to the photograph, you may be wondering where you will find mugshots of the aforementioned J. Sweet and his unwilling protégé, F. Mellidew. Freddie, bless his heart, is squatting on the deck in the front row, extreme left, but as for the other character, all I am prepared to tell you is that, apart from a slight difference in hairstyle, he hasn't changed a bit in the last half century and, unlike his three brothers, who as usual have got themselves positioned right in the eye of the camera, is standing modestly in the back row among his three buddies, Stan Terry, John Harrison and Joe ("Rusty") Muckle. Autographed copies of this hysterical photograph, suitable for display in the smallest room of the most refined Scout headquarters will be awarded to the first three readers of Scouting Magazine (U.K.) and The Leader to identify Freddie and me correctly. A





Some time ago I received an article from Joe Mior, a Scouter with considerable service in Toronto and who now lives in Bobcaygeon, Ontario. It was a much longer article so I have taken the liberty of shortening it somewhat — the message however, is still important especially for trainers and service team members.

During the last several years Scouting has undergone some dramatic changes, changes that affect each of us as individuals and in the roles we play in the organization. As a result, in deciding what we can do as individuals there are several essential things we might remember. How many times have we heard that we are in Scouting for the benefit of "the boy"? This is true but it's only one side of the coin. The other side is that we are in Scouting because we as adults have fun. We get a sense of personal satisfaction and achievement. We learn new things and we form many lasting friendships with other people we meet in Scouting. So let's start by expanding our horizons, by freely and openly admitting that we are in Scouting because we want to help young people (our main objective) and also because we have fun in learning new things and making new friends.

The second essential item to remember is that we should be positive in our personal outlook as well as our feelings towards the organization. A positive attitude, like a smile, is contagious and doesn't cost us anything but a little effort. Yet it brings us a multitude of rewards. If you are reading this article you are interested enough in Scouting to be considered a "leader". And as a leader you have a responsibility to the organization to set an example and live by it. So adopt a positive attitude in your relationship to Scouting and pass it on! Next time you run into a problem or something you could have done in a better way, consider the whole picture, look for something right in the situation and work towards a quick solution. It may take a little effort but it's worth it.

The third essential item to remember in Scouting is that quality leadership counts. Although it is possible to get quality through quantity the price of this process is sometimes too great to pay. While there is always a concern about increasing our membership figures, our long term goals can also be realized by seeking quality. If we take the time and energy to select and train good leaders we will be building a strong foundation upon which to grow. In plain language, let's just not accept anyone who volunteers because we have a pair of shoes to fill. We must still be selective in our approach. In my view, it may be better not to expose a boy to Scouting at all than to expose him to a very poorly run group and have him

turned off completely. The boy who has had a poor experience in Scouting may carry this negative attitude into his adult life. One who has had no experience at all is still "up for grabs" in his later years or as an adult.

Let's start by looking at what I consider to be a most important part of the Scouting family — the group/section committee. The group/section committee is the head of the group household and as such has a responsibility to look after it's welfare. To do this, the people in the group/section must,understand their function. There is literature available, as well as courses, for committee members. Also, the service team must make the servicing of the group/section committee a top item on its priority list.

Within the general guideline of Boy Scouts of Canada as outlined in B.P. & P., the group/section committee has the responsibility for the functioning of their group. They must find and select the leaders for each section. Once this is done they must ensure that the leaders receive the proper training and provide good quality programs for the members. If it is unhappy with the quality of the leadership, it is up to the committee to take corrective action as seems appropriate. The service Scouter is there to assist and advise in every possible way but the committee should not simply wait until the service Scouter takes action.

How many committees ask for regular reports from the section leaders? How many ask for a general program outline from each section leader at the beginning of the Scouting year? How many make it a point to visit the sections on a regular basis to ensure that the members are receiving the kind of program expected in Scouting? The answer unfortunately, is that not enough group/section committees do this. In some cases this may be due to a lack of knowledge. In other cases it is a matter of not fulfilling their duties. In either case, it is partly the responsibility of the service Scouter to help the group/section committee carry out these duties. It is also the responsibility of the section leaders to insist on this kind of support both for his own welfare and that of his boys.

The sponsor must not shrink from its duty in this regard, either. It must work hand in hand with the group/section committee to ensure that the committee is fulfilling its role. If the sponsor feels that the committee is failing in some way it must take steps to point this out and take whatever action it finds necessary to correct the situation.

The group/section committee must also concern itself with the membership within its own sections. When a boy drops out does someone ask why? Does the committee simply accept the leader's explanation that "Johnny just wasn't interested" or "Johnny just didn't fit in"? Do they make an effort to find out? What about boys in their local area who aren't members? Sure it takes time but the net result is certainly worth the effort expended, especially if you handle it in such a way that you have fun doing it.

Let's move on to Beavers — the newest member of the Scouting family. Beavers can be seen as new blood being injected into the organization — it gives new life. But if we don't make sure that the other parts of the organization, especially the Cub section, are prepared to accept this new life its growth may be stifled.

We must also remember than because of the age and impressionability of Beavers, extra care must be taken in the selection of their leaders. We must ensure that the leaders chosen to look after them are particularly suited

for the task. There should be no room in this part of the program to accept a leader because "he/she was the only one who would take it on".

Beavers present a special challenge to the service team. A new kind of understanding is required for established service team members to tackle this new responsibility. The people responsible for Beavers as well as the council training teams must not neglect this vital aspect of Scouting.

The Cub and Scout sections of the Scouting movement have long been the mainstay of our organization. This presents us with a special challenge. We must all work diligently to learn and understand the makeup of today's young people. Today's Cub and Scout is basically the same as those of prior ages but is perhaps more sophisticated because of the more rapid and extensive exposure he has to the world around him through his school, television and travel with his parents and friends.

The tendency of today's Cubs and Scouts is to react less positively to a very authoritarian figure. For many of us, especially those of us who have been in Scouting for a long time, the adjustment may be more difficult than we would like. However, it is critical that this adjustment be made. A word of caution! Being less authoritarian does not mean that we let the boys do what they want. Far from it. It simply means that we must be more alert to what they want and have to say. We must learn to guide and counsel them as they have their say in what they would like to see done. Beware of the person who translates this to mean "Let the boys do whatever they want". By sharpening our communication skills, especially listening to what is being expressed, plus our ability to organize and plan and be innovative, we can make the Cub and Scout programs as vital as they should be.

Venturers and Rovers are at an age when strong sensitive leadership and guidance is required. The program reflects the search for identity that these young men are seeking. Without a well developed sense of direction the success of these two sections could be limited. The sense

**PROVINCIAL BADGES** 

DISTRICT **BADGES** 

**EVENT BADGES** 

SAMPLES TOURIST AND

IN STOCK

CAMPOREE **CRESTS** 

FREE DESIGNS

of direction must come from within the young men, tempered by the advice of their leaders, the service team and the local council.

Programming skills are critical here and unless Venturer companies and Rover crews become more active we cannot expect a bright future. However, remembering the positive approach we are advocating, we must realize that the competition for these young men's time is fierce. Demands are placed on them scholastically, socially and from the work force. Recognizing this aspect of life, the program must be geared to work with and through these aspects.

Scouting is here to stay and is as vital as always. Like many other segments of today's society it is experiencing an adaptation to a changing environment. Recognizing and accepting this will help instill a new sense of life in our organization. As a result we can continue to have Scouting as a vital part of the community in Canada.

Remember! Keep a positive outlook, examine your own particular situation, take action and have fun!

#### Three B's For Trainers

Remember these three B's when delivering your next training session:

- 1. Base your instruction at the level of the audience, Do your homework so you have some information on the trainees and can speak to them intelligently and with relevance to their needs. In some cases, a pre-test will help the trainer determine the background of the group.
- 2. Blend your training effort and content with the group's experiences. Learning is not a spectator sport; the bestlearning happens when the individual becomes involved. Retention is enhanced when the trainee can attach new information to material he or she already knows.
- 3. Brighten your training with case studies, role play, games and discussion — anything to change the pace. Chances are, if you've been giving the same session over and over, you need the variety just as much as the trainees. Get out of the rut. X



### A Six Garden who might their land.



Now that the signs of spring are infiltrating many parts of the country, it is time for the less hardy to begin spending more time outdoors. This doesn't mean that we all must rush off hiking or camping every weekend to commune with nature. Granted, hiking and camping do have their place but there are other pursuits that can give one an appreciation of nature right in one's own backyard.

One pastime that I have discovered and grown to love, is gardening. Gardening, as a hobby, has swept the country in recent years. Any good bookstore has a whole section devoted to gardens, ranging from hobby farming to growing vegetables in containers on your apartment balcony. I was surprised to learn recently, that in spite of this growing trend, the Black Star is one of the least sought after of the five stars and the Gardener Badge is one of the least popular of the badges.

Assuming that Cub leaders are reluctant to encourage pursuit of these awards due to lack of knowledge on their part or out of fear that their boys may not have the time to complete the requirements, I have decided to devote these pages to some helpful suggestions.

Why not try a six garden? Surely, through the cooperation and sharing of responsibility of six boys, together with a little imagination and guidance from the leaders, all will be able to earn the Gardener Badge and complete most of the requirements for the Black Star.

First, there are several issues to contend with:

#### Space

Not all boys live in a home where there is suitable space to make a garden but with six boys cooperating, the chances increase. Don't rule out the possibility of an understanding neighbour or sponsor who might be willing to let six boys use a piece of their land.

For those living in high density areas where asphalt and concrete leave little space to spade, things might prove more difficult. Cubs might have to resort to gardening in containers on balconies unless other alternatives can be found.

While six boys working together will presumably want to take care of more than the required 16 sq. ft. for the Gardener Badge, a large space is not necessary. Many gardeners make the mistake of starting a garden larger than they can manage. Any plot in the 100 sq. ft. range will produce fantastic yields with proper care and great success can be achieved with one much smaller.

#### Time

While the Black Star requirements suggest taking care of a garden for one month, the Gardener Badge requirements of three months is more realistic. Starting now means that the requirements can be met shortly past the end of June.

If you are living in a region where climatic conditions prevent outside work this early in the year, then requirements could be met by starting seedlings indoors. This could also help meet one of the Black Star requirements. On the other hand, there is nothing to prevent a six from continuing the care of their garden throughout the summer months, as they probably should do, if they want to enjoy the variety of experience and produce a garden offers.

In any event, a decision on the duration of the garden project should be made at the very outset as this will strongly influence the selection of what can be grown.

#### Selection

The selection of what is to be grown in the garden is limited by both the space and time available. Looking at the time factor, there are only certain seeds that can be planted early in the spring when the danger of frost is still present. Some seeds should not be planted until the beginning of June, so unless your boys are going to continue their garden throughout the summer, forget about these crops. Other seeds planted early still take a long time to mature and these too, should be avoided if time is limited. If space is limited, then crops which ramble extensively and require wide spaces between rows should be avoided.

The information on any seed packet will tell you all you need to know about planting dates, time for plants to reach maturity and space required. The following chart lists some plants that I recommend because they can be planted early, mature quickly and require minimum of space. I have included a few long season suggestions for those who may continue the project into the summer.

Plant	Date	Distance Apart	Matures	
Radish	soon as ground thaws	rows 6" apart	22 days	
Beets	April	rows 12" apart	34:48 days	
Leaf Lettuce	April	rows 12" apart	40-45 days	
Spinach	soon as ground thaws	rows 12" apart	48-50 days	
Peas	soon as ground thaws	rows 2' - 3' apart	55-65 days	
Green Onions	late April	rows 18" apart	60 days	
Green Beans Bush	May 20	rows 2' - 3' apart	40-50 days	

Soil Preparation

If there is sod on top, it is best that it be removed and set aside. The soil should then be turned and broken up to a depth of at least eight inches to create air spaces and allow ease of drainage. It would be advantageous to work in some organic matter such as peat moss, manure or compost. This phase, and later ones, require only a few tools such as a shovel, rake and hoe.

Fertilizing

To promote plant growth and increase yields, it is advisable to add fertilizer to the soil during the preparation stage. Ecology-minded individuals prefer to add a natural or organic fertilizer rather than one of the chemical varieties. Whatever type is used, it is important to follow instructions carefully and avoid overdoing it. Too much fertilizer can be more harmful than none at all.

Planting

Seeds should be planted according to instructions on the packet. Care should be taken not to plant seeds too early, too deep or too close together. Garden books and seed catalogues will give tips on transplanting purchased seedlings or plants started indoors.

Watering

As soon as seeds are planted they should be gently watered to aid germination. If the weather becomes dry for any length of time, seedlings should be watered to prevent them from drying out. Older plants with established root systems can survive longer periods without rain. Avoid harmful overwatering which can drive out the air needed by the roots.

Weeding

Weeds can be chopped off at ground level with a hoe, but pulling them out by hand is more successful.

Six pairs of hands should make short work of this task. Weeds should be removed since their roots crowd your plants and compete with them for nutrients.

#### Pest Control

If insects begin to cause damage, have your boys remove them by hand. (They can be used for a bug collection and fill another Black Star requirement.) Many can be ignored as they probably won't get too much of the crop anyway. If it becomes imperative to use an insecticide, insist on looking after this operation yourself. Choose one of the less drastic natural pesticides, when dealing with edible crops, keeping in mind that the harvests must be washed before eating.

Harvesting

If all the preceding steps are carried out properly and if nature cooperates, your Cubs should be able to pick their first radishes within three weeks after planting. Then, as other crops mature there will be repeated delights in store for them. Long before that, however, they will have gained many of the other benefits of this pastime: the joy of sharing in a cooperative effort, the fresh air and sunshine of the outdoors, and the excitement of watching rows of seedlings break through the soil. They will have shared in a creation of their own hands within the larger creation around them.

The preceding steps are an outline which you, as a leader, can elaborate upon in many ways. Such a project can be related to: the study of weather (Green Star), the study of good nutrition (Red Star), the water cycle (Black Star), some requirements for the Collectors Badge, Handyman Badge, Observer

Badge and Readers Badge.

I suggest you read one or two gardening books

if you feel you need more information.

If you try such a project with your boys, share your successes and failures with us.

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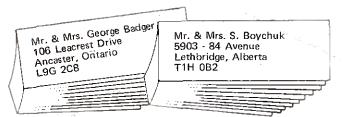
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# PATROL CORNER Dy Phil Newsome

Patrol Meetings — any patrol that is a good patrol has them, that is the reason they are successful. How can we expect a strong patrol spirit to develop without the patrol getting together on a regular basis? All Scouting is done by patrols . . . if you are not sure you may want to go back to Scouting For Boys and the Scout Leaders' Handbook.

Each Scout troop has one or more patrols led by a patrol leader. His one big job is to speak for the patrol at Court of Honour meetings or when the troop program items are being discussed. To get the information needed, the p.l. will have to meet and get to know the fellows in his patrol. Patrol meetings become a necessity for both the patrol leader as well as the individual patrol members and they ensure that the patrol leader speaks for the whole patrol at Court of Honour meetings.

Here are some tips that you may want to pass on to your patrol leaders to help them organize their next patrol meeting.

- The meeting should be of interest to the whole patrol.
- 2. There should be a definite project or reason for the meeting.
  - 3. Everyone in the patrol should learn something new.
- 4. The meeting should be short, but full of action rather than sitting around with someone doing all the talking.

There are hundreds of projects a patrol can tackle and here are just a few:

- Each member of the patrol can make a neckerchief slide with his own personal design or with the patrol insignia on the front.
- 2. The patrol can make a knotting board with each member of the patrol responsible for whipping the ends of the small pieces of rope that will be required.
- 3. The patrol can begin to make their own two man tents using hylon or plastic. This may be a good project to begin now for the upcoming camping season. (Editor's Note: See page 28 of this issue.)

One item that I came across while looking through back issues of The Leader was how to make a first aid kit.

Personal Kits

When teaching first aid, it is a good idea to have each boy make his own personal first aid kit. In this way he will be prepared for any minor mishap that may occur, even on the way to the meeting. It also stresses the importance of having first aid material readily available and familiarizes the boys with the materials, their uses and limitations.

One suggestion from Powlett District published in The Victorian Scout is a Match Box First Aid Kit. You will need:

- one match box (each)

- a needle
- a small bandage and safety pin
- several adhesive bandages
- a cotton ball
- a cotton ball dipped in an antiseptic solution and wrapped in plastic food wrap.

The match box is covered with plain, coloured paper with emergency phone numbers clearly written on the box and money for pay phones taped to the other side of the box. This kit is compact and would do in an emergency.

Another idea is to carry materials flat in a wallet or pocket. Here you would need:

- two or three adhesive bandage strips
- one 2" x 2" sterile gauze compress
- one small bar of soap (the size found in hotels) or an antiseptic pre-moistened towelette.
  - one clean handkerchief (carried in pocket).

These items are all flat and would fit easily into a wallet or pocket.

#### A Hiker's Kit

A hiker or camper's first aid kit is usually larger than a personal kit but compact enough to be carried about in a knapsack. The container should be watertight to keep dampness and water from seeping in. This kit would include:

- matches in a waterproof container
- a card with the boy's name, address and a number to call in case of emergency
  - other emergency phone numbers
- small blunt scissors and razor blade (safely packaged or wrapped)
  - assorted sizes of adhesive bandages
  - a patch bandage
  - adhesive tape
  - sterile gauze
  - table salt (for sunstroke or an antiseptic)
- aspirin (if a boy is allergic to aspirin substitute a non-aspirin type of pain reliever)
- safety pins.

The ideas included here are only a start and Scout leaders may want to begin sharing some of the articles and projects from past **Leader** magazines.

For many troops, badge work may be the only reason for the patrol getting together and I am sure there are some troops that don't use the patrol even for badge work. For many boys there is a strong need to belong to a group of their own age. Through Scouting and the patrol system we can fill this need and provide an opportunity to teach boys about team work and to experience the challenges of leadership. X



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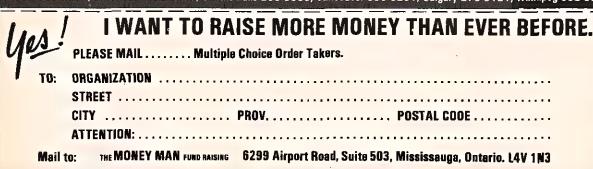
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#### PAPER MAGIC

You will need: a. a sheet of newspaper

b. a ruler

c a pencil

d. scissors

e. gumstrip or sticky tape

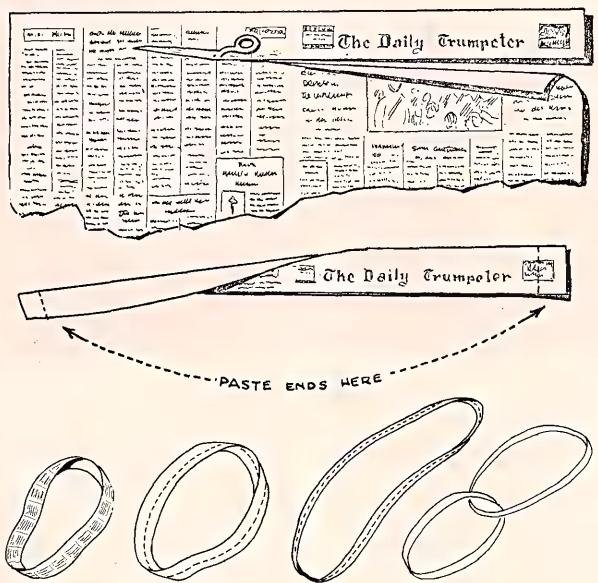
Lay a sheet of newspaper on the table and mark off a strip 10 cm wide right across the double sheet.

Cut across.

Make a half-twist in the strip and stick the two ends together to make a ring.

Cut along the dotted line and you will find that you have made a ring twice the diameter of the original one.

Cut again on the dotted line of this larger ring and, to your astonishment — and the even greater astonishment of your audience — you have made two small rings linked together. X



### The American Robin



The American Robin (Turdus migratorius), one of the best known birds in North America, was so named by the early colonists because, although much larger (about 10 inches) it reminded them of the English Robin. The male has a cinnamon-rufous to brick-red breast — by which it is most commonly recognized — a black head, white eyerings, yellow bill, black and white streaked throat and grey back. The female is duller and paler.

Newly hatched young robins are red-skinned and nearly naked, but soon assume a mouse-grey natal down. Later they grow feathers and resemble their mother, except for black spots on their breasts and pale streaks on their bodies. Between early August and mid October, these immature birds replace their feathers (post-juvenal moult), except those on the wings and tail. This first winter plumage is similar to that of the adults but colours

are duller, more veiled and browner above. By spring, the plumage is brighter: breast redder, head blacker, throat more clearly black and white. The brightening of the feathers is caused not by moulting, but by wearing of the duller edges of the feathers. After breeding these young birds undergo their first post-breeding moult, between late July and early October, and at this stage they cannot be told apart from their elders.

#### Distribution

The robin breeds north to the limit of trees in Alaska, across Canada, and southward into southern Mexico and the Gulf Coast of the United States. Northern populations are migratory, spending the winter mainly from southwest British Columbia down the Pacific coast, through the central United States, up the east coast as far as Mas-

VFB Phototheque - photo by R. Robinson

sachusetts, and southward to northern Mexico, southern Texas and the tip of Florida. The southern races in the eastern United States and in Mexico are non-migratory. In Canada, robins range from the northern Yukon and Mackenzie through southern Keewatin, northern Manitoba, northern Quebec, to upper Labrador, and southward. Some birds winter as far north as central Ontario and Newfoundland

#### **Environment**

The robin was originally a forest species, but has advanced into residential areas where we see it regularly on our lawns and nesting in our gardens and city parks. This bird prefers semi-open areas, but still frequents fairly deep woods. It also ascends mountain forests to 12,000 feet, often to meadows above the timber line. It has invaded the prairies, as trees have been planted, so that there is scarcely any type of habitat, except typical marshes, where it will not nest. It prefers to winter in open areas, but does frequent pinewoods and orange groves.

#### Food and feeding habits

Most of us have seen robins on our lawns, digging for and pulling up worms. However, earthworms provide only a small part of the robin's diet. The robin eats many kinds of soft foods. Although insects — such as earthworms, beetles and caterpillars — provide about 40 percent of its diet, the robin is chiefly a fruit-eating species with choke cherries, barberries and rowan berries high on its list. Other favourites are sweet and sour cherries, wine grapes and tomatoes. Robins also eat small snakes, they comb the seashore at low tide for molluscs and will go belly deep in water to pick up fish fry. Although robins chiefly glean their food on the ground when hunting insects, or perch in trees while stripping fruit, they can also catch flying insects in mid air.

Young birds in the nest are fed mostly on earthworms and cutworms. Each bird eats approximately three pounds of food in a two-week period.

#### Life history and breeding habits

The robin is a day migrant, beginning its northward movement in late February and not arriving in any numbers in Canada until early March. The temperature rise in spring is a key factor, for the bird needs thawing ground so that it can dig up earthworms. It is known that they follow closely an average daily temperature of 37°F

Usually, flocks of up to a dozen males arrive first as the snow recedes; females sometimes arrive the same day but are usually a week, or even more, behind their mates. Spring arrival may occur from early March through late April in southern areas of Canada and up to mid May in northern localities.

Males often select their territories before the females arrive and carolling may suggest advertisement, though no authority is sure of this. Birds return to the same general area each year, but young birds may move up to a mile away.

The size of territory ranges from about 2,000 square feet to one-third of an acre. The population density is highest in the dense vegetation of semi-rural areas. Males frequently fight over territory in the early nesting season. Some females also defend the territory but more particularly the nest itself. Birds occasionally exchange mates with each clutch, and may have more than one mate during a breeding season.

Courtship is hard to define in the robin and usually takes place on the ground. Numerous fights occur during

this period. Courtship includes courtship feeding and three types of singing. These are the carol song, the territory song and the mating song.

Singing from song perches is done by the male, mostly in the morning and most frequently during the period of courtship. Males will also sing when the young are in the nest and at night, but carolling generally decreases after pair formation. The familiar "cheer-up" or "cheerily" is the carol song. The territory or whisper song is similar to carolling but is soft and ventriloquistic. The mating song is similar and is accompanied by the male displaying and lifting his tail higher than his head. Robins have a variety of notes from the well-known alarm "cheep" and disturbed "tuk-tuk" to a scolding chirp accompanied by tail jerking. In social groups they make a "ha-ha-he-hi-hi-ha-ha" noise; and in flight, especially on migration, give a "tseup" note. Singing continues into late July, infrequently to September and occasionally into winter. Female robins do not sing, but give alarm notes during the breeding season. Whether they call in social groups or on migration is not known.

The breeding season is from early April to as late as September. Either or both birds may choose the nest site: in a typical tree crotch, on a post, a building ledge or a fish flake (rack for drying fish), or such unlikely places as an iron beam of a railway trestle, a railway flatcar, a rail-crossing gate, or trolley wires. They have used 56 species of trees, though they prefer spruce and maple, 21 species of shrubs and vines, and over 21 man-made sites. They have often used nests of other species - such as the Eastern Phoebe, the Catbird, the Common Grackle and the Baltimore Oriole — nests on the ground and nests from the previous year. Robins also build one nest on another; two- and three-storey nests are fairly common and one six-storey nest has been recorded. In such cases, the lower nest, or nests, serves as a structural base and the eggs are laid in the new nest at the top.

The female makes the cup-shaped nest of mud (clay, sand-muck or muck) mixed with grasses or small twigs and also, frequently, with string, rope, and scraps of cloth and tissue paper. She works mud into place with her feet and bill, moulds it with her body and lines the nest with fine grass. She takes from two to six days to build the nest, making an average of 180 trips a day, with mud or grass, during the peak building period. If the weather is bad, she may not occupy the nest for as many as 20 days. The nest measures 3 to 6½ inches on the outside and 2½ to 4 inches on the inside, weighs about 8½ ounces and is usually placed about 10 feet above ground, though the height may range from 14 inches to 62 feet.

In southern Canada, the first clutch is laid in late April or early May. This is commonly followed by a second clutch and, when conditions are favourable, a third clutch is not unusual. Nests may still contain eggs in early August. A clutch of three or four eggs is common, of two or five not unusual, of six rare. Seven or eight eggs are exceptional and are likely to be the work of two females.

The eggs are the familiar robin's-egg blue; though white ones, rarely brown spotted, do occur. Incubation usually takes 11 to 14 days. The female generally begins sitting after the last egg is laid. The male frequently stands guard when he is not in the feeding area and may occasionally sit on the eggs.

The nestling period is from 13 to 16 days, so the next clutch may be started about 40 days after the first egg of the year. The young are fed an average of 100 meals a day mostly before noon. Feeding may continue all day or well after dusk. The parents keep the nests clean by carrying away or eating the fecal sacs.

Fledglings will move up to 50 yards on the first day of leaving the nest. They may remain in the parents' territory for three weeks and may be fed by the male while his mate is on the next clutch.

Where territories are close together, a nearby feeding and loafing site is shared, or birds may travel up to one-quarter of a mile to feed. Young birds disperse from mid May to late September. Earlier broods follow the parents to the feeding areas and also join the roosting group. Three types of roosts are used. Spring roosts are used from the end of April to mid July. These are primarily domains with much chorus singing but no territorial behaviour. Females may join the spring roosts before and after the breeding season. Autumn roosts are used by migrating birds until the leaves fall. Winter roosts may be as large as one square mile. They are noisy places filled with thousands of birds, often in full carol. The feeding area may spread out over a 12-mile radius from the winter roost.

Autumn departure begins in early September, but the main movement is in October, with a noticeable peak in southern Canadian areas in November. A few birds pass through southern Canada as late as the second week of December. The birds usually migrate in small flocks but may sometimes do so in flocks of several hundreds, frequently with Blue Jays. In winter, robins share the edge of huge Red-winged Blackbird roosts with Common Grackles and starlings and feed with Cedar Waxwings.

#### **Enemies**

Robins have many enemies. The chief one in residential areas is the domestic cat. Man used to be an enemy, shooting birds in the fall for the pot. Farmers still shoot them in orchards or in tomato or blueberry fields to prevent damage to the crops, but must obtain a federal Damage-Kill Permit to do so, as these birds are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. In winter roosting areas, bobcats and Great Horned and Barred Owls take a toll. Other enemies include the raccoon, grey and red squirrels, chipmunks, hawks (especially the Sharp-shinned), crows, jays, grackles and snakes.

Robins are evicted from their homes by House Sparrows, who build roofs over the nests, and by Mourning Doves. Shrikes sometimes attack robins but whether they

are successful in killing them is not known. Robins will not tolerate Cowbirds laying eggs in their nests, and such parasitism occurs very rarely. External parasites include lice, flies, ticks and mites.

#### Management problems

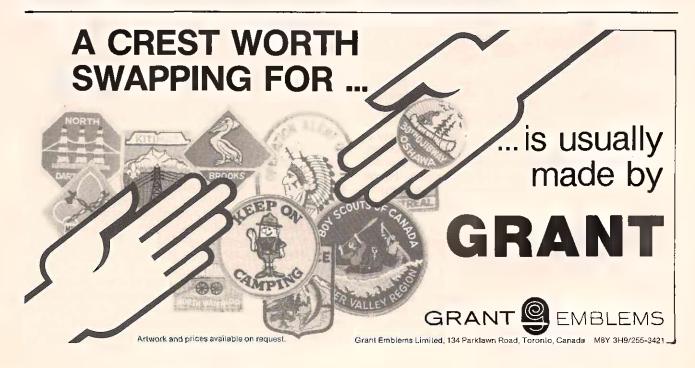
Robins do considerable damage to cherry and grape crops, and to olive orchards and tomato fields while on their wintering grounds. A Canadian Wildlife Service biologist has studied methods of scaring birds away from fruit crops. He has found no effective and economical method. Acoustic bird-scaring devices — such as Av-Alarm — shooting, and netting of grape vines are effective, but these cost far more than the damaged crop. Robins also spread poison ivy seeds.

On the other hand, robins play an important part in controlling insects — for example, during outbreaks of alfalfa weevils — by eating them in large quantities and feeding them almost exclusively to their nestlings.

Despite some detrimental characteristics, the robin is still the best loved bird in North America and the harbinger of spring to most communities in Canada.



From the Canadian Wildlife Service's HINTERLAND WHO'S WHO. Reproduced by permission of the Minister of Supply Services Canada.



#### 27

## Outdoors Carl Lemieux

The sun is a source of energy that is supplied amply but seldom used on a camp. Solar energy is an increasingly popular method of heating. Scouting magazine from the United Kingdom has introduced methods of solar water heating that can, with some preparation, be used in a camp setting. The idea comes from Ray Williamson, Director of Solar Research, National Scout Research Laboratories.

Solar Pig Trough

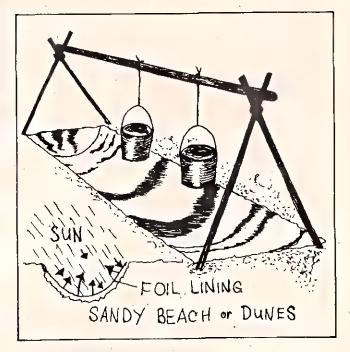
Scoop out a trough or curved channel in the ground.
 A sandy beach or sand dune is the best. Save the dirt to refill the trough when finished using it.

Line it with aluminum foil, shiny side out.

 Suspend your water cans (painted matt black) at the focal point of the curve, as shown.

Note: The trough should be dug pointing east/west for maximum effect and away from wind, but not in a position where it will be in shadow at any time during the day. Remember to fill in the trough after you have finished.

Have you tried any alternative means of heating water using — whatever? Please send them in so we can pass them along for others to try.  $\bigwedge$ 



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by John H. Lindsay

Here's a simple, inexpensive, useful and constructive project for a troop or patrol — make your own 3-man or spacious 2-man tents for approximately \$18 to \$23 each. The project could also be done by supervized and assisted older Cubs. The resulting tents are waterproof, need no poles, are easy to fold up and can be made an appropriate size for any camper, but lack a floor and require the use of a separate ground sheet.

Required materials include a sheet of 4 mil polyethylene plastic (see below for sizes), a big roll of 2.5 cm wide nylon or fibreglass reinforced packaging or banding tape, a box of 1 cm or 3/8" diameter grommets, and some very heavy galvanized iron wire to make the pins to hold the tent down. Tools required include a tape measure, utility knife or scissors, a grommet tool (usually comes with an initial purchase of grommets), and cutters or punches for making the washers for the grommets and holes in the plastic for the grommets. These can be made by taking 10 cm lengths of 12 mm and 21 mm i.d. galvanized iron (plumber's) pipe and grinding one end of each as shown in Figure 1. A twisting motion of the cutter into the inner tube or plastic against an old bit of wood produces the easiest, cleanest cut. A fine round or half-round file can be used on the inside of the cutter and a fine flat file on the outside of the cutting edge to keep it sharp. A handy gadget to remove the rubber washers or "holes" from the cutters can be made by taking a very large (20 cm or "railroad") spike, driving it through a hole drilled in a piece of wood, cutting off the point and filing off the rough edge. See Figure 2. The cutter is slipped, unsharpened end first, over the upturned spike to pop out the circles of rubber.

Now to the plastic. It can usually be bought in approximately 3 m wide rolls at hardware stores, in various thicknesses; the 4 mil thickness is recommended. The width of the plastic will extend from one edge of the tent to the ridge and to the other edge, so that the size of a side (the "s" in Figure 3) is half the 3 m width or 1.5 m. Let "b" be the height of the camper (taken as 2 m, a very tall leader's height, in the diagrams). The required length of plastic is b + 2s metres per tent, or 5 m as we have drawn it. This leaves a big place for supplies at each end

of the tent.

The purpose of the banding tape is to provide strength and distribute the tearing force on the grommets. It goes along the dotted line in Figure 4. One strip goes all around and right at the edge of the plastic, the ridge is triple

taped with the tape overlapping and running past the end of the ridge 10 cm or so, and the diagonal tapes run from the corners through the ends of the ridge and about 10 cm beyond. Complete all the taping first, with the tape overlapping wherever the dotted lines meet in the diagram. The tape side is the inside of the tent. The size shown takes 45 m of banding tape; the tape also makes a fast tent repair.

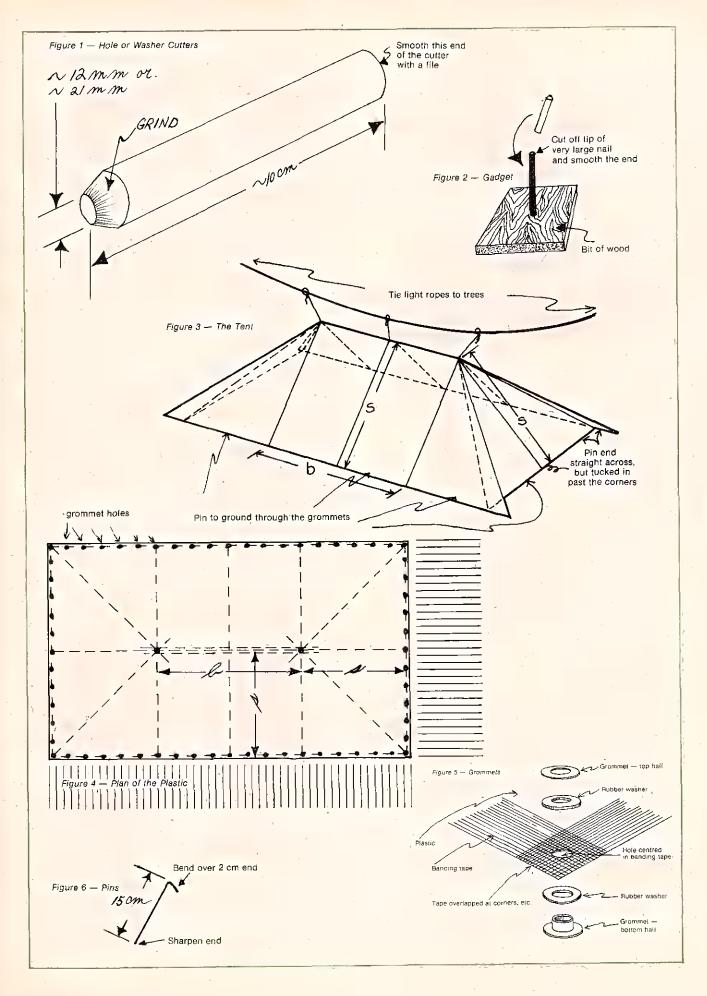
The grommets go every 25 cm or so around the edge, and 3 on the ridge. The tent size shown requires 67 at that spacing plus a few to ruin. Using the cutters, cut 2 washers per grommet from the old inner tube, and a hole through the banding tape. Assemble as shown in Figure 5. The assembled grommet sits on one part of the tool on a scrap block of wood and the other part is placed over the top half. A couple of well-placed blows with a heavy hammer on the tool seal the grommet into a unit with a firm grip on the plastic via the rubber washers. Make sure that the grommet is firmly cinched together or the plastic may tear. If the grommet has to pass through several layers of banding tape (as at the ridge of the tent), it may be necessary to omit the rubber washer on the side with the banding tape.

To finish the tent, cast stopper knots on the ends of two pieces of light rope 1.5 m long (for the ends of the ridge) and one piece 1 m long for the centre of the ridge. Pass these through the tent from the tape side (the inside).

See Figure 6 for the way to make pins from the heavy galvanized iron clothes wire.

To erect the tent, cast two loops (e.g. a bowline on a bight) about 3 m apart on a length of light rope and let it hang loosely between two trees. Tie the three lengths of rope from the tent ridge to the loops on this, as shown in Figure 3. Pin the entire length of the two sides to the ground, each in a straight line. The ends now fall into place as shown in Figure 3; one can be pinned down straight across, and the other can be tied up during the day to form a sheltered entrance way, by means of a length of rope attached to a grommet hole. There is some flexibility in the tent size as erected; height can be gained at the expense of width and vice versa. The only thing that changes is the position of the folds at the ends. Good camping!

John Lindsay is Cubmaster of the 10th B Pack, Kingston, Ontario.





#### **Brotherhood Fund Donations**

Scout Brotherhood Fund Donations (Operation Amigo)
\* denotes Trees for Canada donations. Fifteen percent of
Trees for Canada proceeds designated for World Scouting Development Project.

Standard-Hussar-Rockyford Summer Camp,	
Alta.	\$ 23.95
*1st Dryden Group, Ont.	360.00
*Tar Sands District, Alta.	163.22
Labrador Region, Labrador	35.00
New Brunswick 6th Gilwell Reunion, N.B.	47.00
*Milton District, Ont.	576.62
*Stormont-Glengarry District (formerly	
Cornwall District), Ont.	1,540.52
*Sudbury District, Ont.	905.70
South Shore District — Two Bead Reunion,	
Que.	25.00
*Kingston District, Ont.	696.03
Vancouver-Coast Region Pack Basic, B.C.	7.20
*Moira Valley District, Ont.	297.01
*3rd Orangeville Group, Ont.	247.03
*Northern Lights District, Ont.	163.59
*Sarnia District, Ont.	925.08
*Trent Valley District, Ont.	237.51
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	161.72
*1st Sebringville Group, Ont.	76.00
*Champlain District, Ont.	722.84
*Welland District, Ont.	266.77
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*York Summit District, Ont.	1,188.23
*Wallaceburg District, Ont.	290.27
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*Sydenham District, Ont.	28.45
TTO Conde District Alte	76.35
*Tar Sands District, Alta.	25.42
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	1,132,70
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26th Oshawa Scout Group, Ont. 8th St. Thomas Beaver Colony, Cub Pack & Group Committee (In Memory of Mr. Douglas Edwards)	75.00
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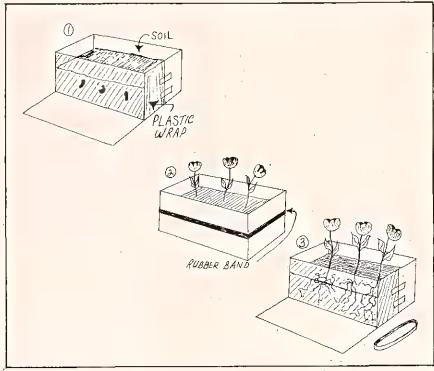
With spring just around the corner and the thought of things beginning to grow and turn green again, an interesting way to show Beavers how things grow was found in an early edition of the Wood Pile from the Kootenay Boundary Region.

- 1. Get a milk carton. Cut off the top to make a square box.
- 2. Cut two corners down as far as the bottom of the box. Leave it hooked at the bottom. This is the window.
- 3. Lay the window flat. Pull a piece of plastic wrap tightly across the opening. Tape it to the standing sides of the box.
- 4. Close the window. Put a rubber band around the whole carton to keep the window shut.
- 5. Fill the box almost to the top with

soil. Put three or four bean or pea seeds in it. Lay them next to the plastic wrap.

**6.** Cover the seeds with a small handful of soil. Keep it moist all the time.

Open the window of your small world to watch the seeds germinate and grow. From beginning to end you are there.



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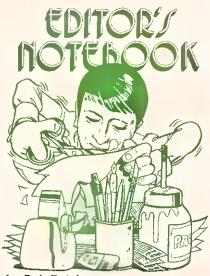
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by Bob Butcher

The following letter composed by Ottawa Scouter Tim Ray is reprinted with the permission of the editor of the National Capital Region's Scouting bulletin The Courier. We thank Tim for the value he places on The Leader and we promise to do our best to remain one of the important tools available to Scouters.

Dear Scouter:

I don't know if you remember me or not, but five years ago I went up from Cubs into your troop and after four months I quit. I didn't really quit, I just stopped going to Scouts. You didn't ask me why I hadn't come back and I guess I didn't bother telling you. I happened to come across a copy of **The Leader** magazine a little while ago, and after reading through it and seeing some of the things that Scouts are doing, I decided maybe you should know why I stopped going to Scouts.

I started Cubs when I was 7½, and thoroughly enjoyed all three years. Particularly the last year of Cubs, I found it kind of exciting because of the idea of becoming a Scout. I had heard about the exciting things that Scouts do, like camping, hiking, canoeing and taking trips. I thought that would really suit me down to the ground.

The going-up ceremony was really thrilling for me. My parents were there, and although I was sort of sad to leave the Cub Pack, and particularly Akela, I was so proud to finally become a Scout.

The first couple of meetings were kind of scarey for me. You put me in a patrol of boys who wouldn't talk to me. Most of them were a lot older than me. I would have liked to have been with my friends who came up

from Cubs with me. But you said no, that we divide up amongst the Patrols.

The next month was a bit boring. We didn't seem to do much, except play British Bulldog. The older boys seemed to really enjoy it, but I would rather have played different games. Perhaps some not quite so rough. The rest of the time we sat around and did badge work. The other boys in my patrol all seemed to be working on other things, and I really didn't know what I was supposed to be doing. I knew my knots from Cubs and tried to learn a few more. I read through some of the badge requirements. Whenever I tried to talk to any of my friends in the other patrols about what badge requirements they were looking at, you always shouted at us to get back into our patrols.

One night, one of the boys took my hat, and when I got home, my parents were kind of angry at me for losing it. At the next meeting, you didn't seem very interested about my losing my hat.

Things stayed pretty well the same for the next month following, and then we went away to fall camp. This is what I had really been waiting for. I was really excited and quickly read through my Scout book to see if I could learn as much as possible before the camp. At the camp we played baseball. When we weren't playing baseball, you were shouting at us. I didn't enjoy camp.

I stopped going to Scouts shortly after the camp.

Having just read **The Leader** magazine, and having seen what Scouting should have been, I want to tell you what I think should have been happening in the Troop.

First of all, you should have let me stay with my friends in a Patrol of our own. We could have worked together on badge requirements and we could have helped each other. None of us would have been quite so scared, and since we're in the same class at school, we could have talked about Scouts even when we weren't at the meeting.

Secondly, you should have had some different games. It can sometimes be pretty frightening for a 10½ year old, who has just come up from Cubs, to play rough games with fourteen year olds.

You may have thought I was being pretty silly about my hat having been taken. I was a Sixer and I had all my stars plus ten of the proficiency badges. The boys in my six looked up to me and thought I was pretty important. I felt pretty small and insignificant when my hat got taken

by the bigger boys in the Troop and nobody seemed to care. It was a pretty big change for me and I don't think you understood.

That camp we went to could have been really exciting. When I read through the Scout book, I saw all kinds of fun things to do and challenging ideas. We didn't do any of them at the camp, except play baseball. It was almost as if you never read *The Scout Handbook*.

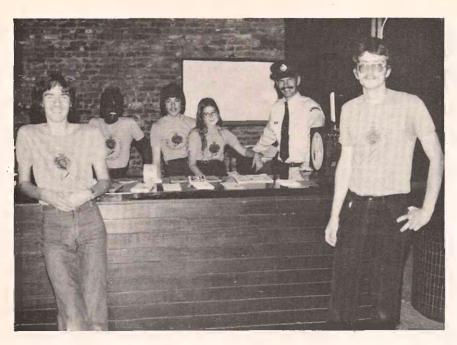
I hope this letter hasn't sounded like just a lot of complaining. I know you have given up a lot of your own time to be a Scouter, but I thought you should know why I stopped coming to Scouts.

#### If the shoe fits.....



The accompanying photo was shared with us by Constable Irwin Earle of the Edmonton Police Department. Constable Earle is also the advisor of the 189th Edmonton Venturer Company. What is unique about this arrangement is that the company is also sponsored by the Police Department. As well as the usual Venturer things the company will be doing some police related activities such as mall displays and delivering crime prevention pamphlets in high crime areas.

A Venturer Police Academy is in the planning stage where members will be taught various aspects of law enforcement such as criminal law, juvenile law, accident investigation, traffic laws, drug laws, foot drill, etc. As of November the company numbered 24 members. We



wish them success and look forward to hearing more about their activities.

A few months ago we received a letter from Josephine Podlubny of the Girl Guides of Canada with a report on her experiences at Witan '79. Not knowing what Witan was I did a bit of research in our files and discovered that it is an international-camp for Scouts, Guides and young leaders between the ages of 18 and 30.

Witan is an Anglo-Saxon word which means "the meeting of the wise". Witan has been arranged every other year since 1969 — previously in England, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Austria and Italy. The 1979 event that Josephine and five other girls in Guiding attended was held in Norway. I'm sharing Josephine's report here because it sounds as if Witan would be an enjoyable experience for any young leader wanting to visit a European country for a Scouting adventure.

Josephine tells us that the next Witan is to be held in Switzerland in the summer of 1981.

This year Witan was held in Norway, in the small village of Grindaheim, surrounded by mountains alongside an emerald green lake. There were 176 Guides and Scouts in attendance from Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, Germany, Holland, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania,

United States and Wales. Half of the camp braved chilly evenings in tents, while others used the school which was provided. The camp was excellently planned with lots of activities to choose from.

Three days were planned for workshops. These were photography, folk dancing, rose painting, primitive cooking, botany and canoeing.

One day was planned for the Witan games competition between the patrols in X-country skiing on grass, making human pyramids, five legged races, tug of war and a surprise activity.

Two mountain hikes were planned. One was easy for everyone, while the second, you could choose from an easy, moderate or difficult climb. I chose the moderate where one of the Norwegians took us high up over the valley of our camp and after a long hike we returned to a terrific meal of barbequed-lamb.

A two day bus tour took us through majestic mountains down to Norway's largest fjord, Sognefjorden Fjord. We travelled down the fjord by ferry to a hillside town where we spent the night. The best part of the tour was Nigard Glacier where we donned crampons and roped ourselves together to hike up the toe of Europe's largest glacier. On the return trip by bus we visited a stave church and a private fish ladder made to bypass a 10 metre waterfall.

The camp lasted two weeks and was far too short for all of us from Canada. We had an absolutely terrific time and our new friendships will remain with us forever.

Who said Cubs are too young for adventure? The accompanying photo shows Cubs Jason Pronyk and Darrell Fredericks learning about the controls of a Piper Cherokee. The 45 Cubs and leaders at the 38th Winnipeg pack were treated to airplane rides over the city of Winnipeg in October, courtesy of Winnipeg Aviation. For many of the boys it was their first plane trip ever. We are sure that for all it will be one of their most memorable moments in Cubbing.



to by Peter Levick, Winnipag Tribune

# Beaver Campout by Linda Basarab

Being brave and adventurous, the leaders from Stone-wall, Winnipeg Beach and Heritage Park Temple, Winnipeg, set out to take the Beavers from their colonies for a weekend camp-out. The Beaver camp took place during the first weekend of June and in order to have a successful camp, planning procedures began in early April. All the leaders involved took an active part in all planning sessions.

Fortunately, the leaders from Heritage Park Temple, which belongs to the Salvation Army, were able to arrange for the facilities at the Salvation Army Camp to be available. This camp is located at Woodlands, Manitoba, which is approximately thirty-five miles north west of Winnipeg.

After considerable preparation the camp got off to a good start. Included in the group were twenty Cubs who had swum up prior to the camp-out, and one Keeo. Extra parents and staff included a cook, an assistant cook, a cook's helper and a registered nurse. Although the program for the weekend was set up and run by the leaders themselves, the directors of the camp were Major and Mrs. King.

#### Friday night — June 1st.

Upon arrival on Friday evening, the excited campers were sent to their assigned cabins.

With bunking-in completed, the camp was assembled and the boys were divided into day-time groups. Each group consisted of the same ratio; however the groups themselves were mixed, with boys from the three different colonies making up one group. Identification was simplified by the use of coloured name tags. The boys were the same coloured name tag as their leader.

After registration, camp got off to a rousing start with films on nature and the prevention of forest fires. When the films were over, our friend Smokey the Bear arrived. When the excitement died down he handed out Forest Fire Prevention stickers to all the Beavers. With Smokey's departure, the Beavers then went to the dining hall where they were served a late meal by the efficient cook and his helpers. With excitement still running high, the boys filled their tummies. Some were beginning to show signs of weariness so they were then taken to their cabins and tucked in for the night.

#### Saturday - June 2nd

Rise and shine came much too soon (for some of the leaders) at 7.00 a.m. With eyes half opened, the day began with flag raising, accompanied by the singing of O Canada. This was followed by the Tailslap Ceremony. Then came the exercises — jumping jacks, toe touching and knee bends. The Beavers did the exercises with smil-

ing faces — were they really that happy or were they laughing at the leaders who were doing a lot of groaning? We then returned to the cabins, hands and faces were washed in preparation for breakfast and, to encourage table manners, a "golden bone" was presented to the best behaved table.

After the good, nourishing breakfast was over, the Beavers returned to their cabins for cabin clean-up. This was very well done as the boys knew that whoever did the best job would receive, for their cabin, the Camp Broom Award.

To begin the activities of the day, five groups of boys were sent to do crafts. The crafts, which had been decided upon earlier, were a Snoopy dog made from styrofoam cups decorated with felt and fun fur. Also, popsicle sticks were used to make several varieties of wall plaques.

The remaining six groups were taken to the sports area where they took part in an obstacle course. This consisted of two large tractor tires, stacked one over the other (for the boys to climb into and out of); six small tires (for the boys to step in and out of); six bales of hay (for the boys to climb over); a balance beam (a 4" x 4" post mounted four inches off the ground, which the boys had to walk); a tunnel made from a large metal duct (the boys crawled



through this); ring toss (a small bicycle tire thrown over a stick approximately ten feet away), etc.

When the obstacle course was completed by all the boys, teams were chosen for a soccer game.

At 10:30 a.m. two of the colonies gave a presentation of skits. Heritage Park Temple did the Beaver story, *Friends of the Forest*, with the use of hand puppets. The Winnipeg Beach Colony presented a skit entitled *March Winds*. This was done using faces made out of paper plates representing Mr. Wind, Mr. Sun, The Lamb and The Lion. The skits were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



A short free time was arranged prior to dinner and the boys used this time to get better acquainted with each other. A delicious dinner was then served, followed by a half hour rest period. (Needed mainly by the adults.)

The afternoon sports and crafts were the same as the morning session with the groups reversed, and were followed by the highlight of the camp — canteen time. To keep everyone happy, each boy had the same amount of money to spend.

Although the day was wearing on, the boys' enthusiasm was still running high. At this time a T-ball tournament was held. Each boy was presented with a small prize.

Wash up and supper followed. Supper completed, a quiet, relaxed period was provided for the boys. Nature stories were read to them and they were able to observe nature around them, and compare their own environment to that shown in pictures.

The day's activities ended with the Lodging ceremony and the flag lowering. When these ceremonies were over, the Beavers proceeded to the location where the campfire was held. To start our campfire off, one leader representing each colony participated in lighting the fire.

Skits performed by the leaders had the boys rolling about with laughter — especially those skits which did not go according to plan.



No campfire is complete without food and no food graces a campfire more than hot dogs and hot chocolate, which the boys thoroughly enjoyed. With dirty faces and tired bodies after a long, full day, they headed back to their cabins. After wash up they were tucked into bed without any complaints.

#### Sunday — June 3rd

Rise and shine — again at 7.00 a.m. — arrived much too soon for many of the Beavers and all of the adults.

Once again the day started off with the flag raising and the Tailslap ceremony. Morning exercises followed, accompanied by many grunts and groans. After wash up, the boys went to the dining hall for breakfast. When the meal was finished, they went back to their cabins for cabin clean up, which included packing and preparing to go home.

At 9.00 a.m. each leader took his or her group on a nature walk. It was interesting to see the faces of the little Beavers light up when they saw such things as a nest of baby birds and a nest of baby squirrels. These, and many other sights and sounds of nature, made us all appreciate the handiwork of God, and put our minds in the right perspective for chapel service.

Chapel service was prepared and carried out for us by Major and Mrs. King and their daughter Allison. This was done in the form of a puppet show which modernized the parable of the good Samaritan. Cowboy and Indian puppets were used for the demonstration. Magic was used to illustrate Bible truths. The Kings had everyone's full attention and, as usual, the time passed all too quickly.

At 12 o'clock a turkey dinner with all the trimmings was a huge success, with excellent compliments to the cook and his efficient helpers. After our last meal at camp was over, each leader was presented with a small token as a remembrance of the camp. Major and Mrs. King were presented with a beaver statuette as a thank-you for all their time and work, and for the use of the campgrounds.



After dinner, our final Lodging ceremony took place. As the Beaver flag and the Canadian flag were lowered it was with sadness that we realized our camp was drawing to a close.

Before departure, a final canteen time was held, where the boys bought goodies to snack on during their journey home. With our goodbyes said, we all headed for home, tired but looking forward to next year's camp-out.



by Pat Horan

#### ... About the Annual Charter Renewal (A.C.R.)

Dear Murray

A quick reply to your query about the annual charter renewal. A partnership implies a sharing. As you may remember by the chart at the front of the pamphlet *Sponsoring and Administering Scouting*, both the sponsor/partner and Scouting are committed to certain responsibilities. Once presented, the Scout group charter is subject to an annual renewal. This provides an opportunity for each partner to review its respective responsibilities, to identify and determine areas to be strengthened, to discuss untapped areas or new ways of implementing old areas and, in general, to share in the good feeling of having accomplished goals of mutual interest.

The renewal can be simply a meeting between your sponsor representative, the person who signed the application for the charter or renewal of charter, pos-

sibly yourself as the sort of active agent for the sponsor and one or more representatives of your local Scout Council.

The meeting could precede or follow a group committee meeting or a Scout meeting or a special group event such as a parents' night — at which the local council personnel may be introduced and say a few words of support to the parents in attendance.

Before the appointment, I suggest you prepare with your sponsor and Scouters a sort of check-list of items based on the responsibilities listed in the pamphlet Sponsoring and Administering Scouting, plus other more detailed items. The local council personnel visitors will likely have their own check-list. Using such a list will streamline the process, keep the discussion on track and clearly identify areas of accomplishment and areas of concern requiring combined action or individual attention.

The immediate results of a successful A.C.R. are: you and your people will have another opportunity to meet face-to-face with members of your local supporting Scout council; both groups will have taken stock of their current situation as partners; areas of concern will be identified and action outlined and "batteries will be recharged" for another year of service to the leaders, boys and families of your Scout group.

Murray, the next time you have your A.C.R., drop me a note about the result and any related ideas of interest you may want to share with others.

Yours sincerely,

Pat

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#### 1st New Zealand National Venture — 1981

Canadian Scouting has accepted an invitation to send a Venturer contingent to the 1st National Venture — one of three separate but related events being held by the New Zealand Scout Association.

#### The 1st National Venture for Venturers Location — Tomoana, near Hastings.

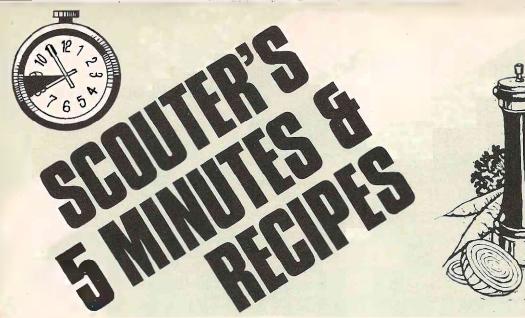
Dates — January 2 (arrival at site) to January 11 (departure from site) 1981. Total time required for Canadian participation including travel and tours is being worked out by the Fraser Valley Region. See below.

Eligibility — Venturers must be registered members of a Venturer Company and not had 19th birthday as at January 3, 1981.

Fee — approximately NZ \$75 (to be confirmed) covers food, most activities, official scarf and Jamboree badge.

The Fraser Valley Region has undertaken to coordinate arrangements for a Canadian Venturer contingent. Those seriously interested should send a fully completed "Application to Attend An International Event" form (available from local Scout offices) to Boy Scouts of Canada, Fraser Valley Region, 620 Queens Avenue, New Westminster, British Columbia V3M 1L2.

Venturers choosing to travel independently must also send a completed form, and will be expected to join the contingent on arrivat. Canadian Scouters may apply to serve on the International Jamboree Staff.





Some good "Join-in" ideas from that excel-

Add ½ pint milk to 4oz flour and mix until

smooth. Beat two egg yolks and 3oz sugar to-

gether. Add to the flour mixture with 11/20z

melted butter or margarine, and mix

thoroughly. Beat two egg whites until stiff and fold them into the mixture. Heat a little

fat in a frying pan and when it is hot drop the

mixture into it by the tablespoonful to make

ient South African Scout newspaper "Veld

#### A PRAYER FOR A SCOUT CAMP AT TAMARACOUTA

- O God of this chapel, Surrounded by pine, O God of the tamaracks, Let us be Thine.
- To love and to serve Thee,
  Our country obey,
  To our very last breath,
  At the end of our day.
- To remember our Promise,
  As Scouts and as men,
  To be trusted and loyal,
  To our fellowmen.

To live by our Law, And to others be known, As kind and considerate, In all actions shown

O Lord of the lakes, And God of the skies, Make us unspoiling, In resources wise.

- May our virtues be many, May our sins be but few, We pray and we ask You, Our strengths to renew.
  - O God of us all,
    In heaven above,
    We humbly do ask You,
    For wisdom, and love.
     our thanks to John E. Udd of Montreal.
    - If a person does nothing for the first ten minutes after he admits he's lost, he may be saving his life.

— from Boy's Life.

small pancakes. Put a thin slice of apple into each pancake as it is cooking.

Lore".

Finnish Pancakes

#### French Toast

Beat one egg slightly and mix with ¼ litre (¼ pint) of milk. Dip, but do not soak, thin slices of bread in the mixture, and fry in hot fat.

#### **Greek Tomatoes**

Cut the tops off 16 large tomatoes. Scoop out the flesh and mix with 6oz cooked rice and 2oz chopped onions. Stuff the tomatoes with the mixture, and brown in your camp oven.

#### **English Bun Specials**

Cut eight currant buns in half, and sandwich them with jam. Dip in milk, and then drain. Fry in hot fat until crisp. Serve hot, sprinkled with sugar.

This, and all the above recipes make enough for one patrol.

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**Spudkoekies** 

A good substitute for camp bread. In camp, and on the hike, bread is sometimes a problem. Potatoes provide a good substitute, and potato "Spudkoekies" can take the place of bread.

First wash the potatoes well. Then, in lightly salted water, boil them in their skins—this keeps the goodness in. When cooked, peel off the skins, and mash the potatoes.

Press the mashed potato into flattish cakes, and fry in a little fat, to make plain Spudkoekies. Variations: 1. Before pressing into cakes, mash in a little grated cheese, and then fry. 2. Or mash in some flaked bullybeef or other meat. 3. Or mix in a beaten egg. 4. Or mix in any cooked/canned vegetables such as peas. 5. Or mix in a little condensed milk, adding a little powdered cinnamon and some sugar. 6. Or mix in chopped seedless raisins and a little sugar.

And here's a camp cooking suggestion we picked up from the *The Pathfinder*, Sarnia District's own Scouting publication. It was tried out when their Venturer Company was just starting and should feed 5 or 6.

2 large cans of Irish Stew

2 large cans of canned potatoes

2 large cans of meatballs.

Place the stew and meatballs in a large pot. Open the potatoes and drain the water, then place in pot. Bring the mixture to a boil and serve. Be sure to stir occasionally to keep from sticking to the bottom. Their dessert usually consisted of fruit cocktail and the drink was juice.

Why not send us your group's camping special?

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#### **COMMUNITY BETTERMENT AIDS**

Here are some thought-provoking one-liners from Jack Dalton of Montreal.

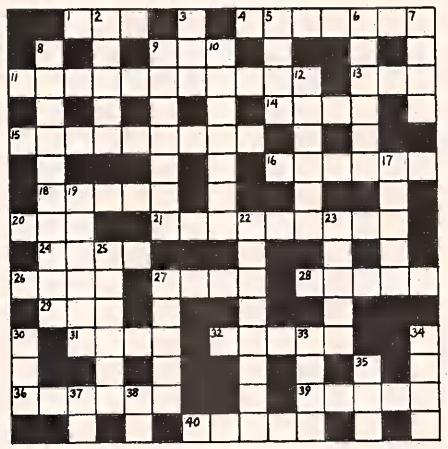
- \* If all our crosses were evenly divided, I'd have difficulty carrying my share.
- \* Seldom can a heart be lonely if it seeks one lonelier still.
- \* If you are blessed with a sympathetic disposition, don't waste it on yourself.
- \* If you can't be thankful for what you receive, be thankful for what you escape.
- \* Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.
- \* When you dig another out of trouble, you find a place to bury your own.
- \* Forget injuries; never forget kindness.
- \* There are no hopeless situations, only people who think hopelessly.
- \* Religion is meant to be bread for daily use.
- \* The greatest temptation that can obscure the purity of love is the appearance of holiness.
- \*Rare is the person who can weigh the faults of others without putting his thumb on the scales.
- \* Without religion, character is like an unsupported house. The least whiff of wind will tumble it to destruction.

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### CROSSWORD FOR CUB LEADERS

by David Lawton



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Here's a fairly difficult crossword for a rare, quiet half hour. Most of the clues can be tracked down in "The Cub Book" or you could make it a shared wet weather activity with your boys. Answer to puzzle in next month's issue.

#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One of Mowgli's friends.(3)
- Award for personal development. (3,4)
- 9. Constructive role for a boy. (3)
- 11. Part of the swimming knowledge required to earn a 4 across. (6,5)
- 13. A Cub should do this for exercise. (3)
- 14. An act performed in pursuit of a Tawny Star. (4)
- 15. Cubs learn this trick with a bottle. (5,4)
- One of Nature's opportunities to learn about marine life and water activities. (6)
- Flying insects that Cubs are cautioned against collecting because some are becoming rare.
- Useful material for Cubs to make such things as telephones, vases, holders, walkers, etc. (3)
- 21. Pre-Cub. (9)
- 24. One of the Green Star requirements is to prepare one. (4)

- 26. An item of the Cub uniform. (4)
- 27. Cubs are encouraged to lead the group in one. (4)
- 28. Arrangement used for such games as Talk Fest and Partner Tag. (5)
- 29. It's impossible for one to do this blindfolded! (3)
- 31. A basic component of Wolf Cub activities. (4)
- 32. and 17 down. A type of badge for helping. (5,5)
- 36. A game which just takes a minute! (4,2)
- 39. One of the stars. (5)
- 40. Triangular display of the six colour. (5)

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 2. Leader. (5)
- 3. Animal coat. (3)
- 5. Taking personal care of these is a 4 across requirement. (4)
- To satisfy a Black Star requirement, this type of 35 down could be kept and studied. (6)
- 7. A place for winter exercising. (4)

- Acting or miming activities for Cubs. (10)
- A badge earned for road safety skills. (7)
- 10. What Bobo is! (7)
- A badge earned for physical fitness that can be practised on a 7 down. (6)
- 17. See 32 across.
- 19. and 34 down. An individual physical stunt for a Cub. (3,3,4)
- A tug-of-war type of contest for two Cubs. (3-5)
- 23. Grow one for a Black Star. (5)
- 25. A pack call: (2,4)
- 27. An important part of good health. (5)
- 30, 37 and 38 down. A stunt for a back-to-back pair. (3-2-2)
- 33. Slowly let out breath. (4)
- 34. See 19 down.
- 35. Take care of one for three months to earn a badge. (3)
- 37. See 30 down:
- 38. See 30 down.

See next issue for answers.



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