

OCTOBER 1991 VOLUME 12 NUMBER 2

the leader



Spring Blooms
in Winter, p.6

pak-sak

by Carl Lemieux.



Here is an idea sent in by Cub Master Dave O'Keefe of the 3rd Burnaby Lake Cub Pak.

P.A.C.S.

Have you ever wondered what to do with your five star Cubs, or with older Cubs who are chomping at the bit to go up to Scouts? Here's an idea that might be of interest to you.

At a time when I was giving a lot of thought to this problem, I had some contact with a Pathfinder Unit. As part

of a security team, I went with them on some camps, and I was greatly impressed by the girls' competence, particularly in camping skills. An idea began to form. Maybe it would be possible to use some of the Pathfinders' knowledge and combine it with my Cubs' enthusiasm to create an enrichment program in which they worked together.

It would be a sharing program in which each member made equal contribution, and everybody would gain something. The Pathfinders would have an opportunity to expand their knowledge and would receive valuable experience as junior leaders. The Cubs would learn a lot of basic Scouting skills, and would have fun in the process.

And so Operation Sharing, or P.A.C.S. (Pathfinders and Cubs Sharing) as it now is known, came into being. It wasn't quite that quick, of course. First there was a lot of talking among Cubs and their parents and Pathfinders and leaders. But on March 24, 1980, the program started with three Cubs and three Pathfinders. From that day onward, it was a great success. Although there was some initial shyness, it soon disappeared to be replaced by an eagerness on both sides to learn and do

things together.

For one of their first projects, they made buddy burners and cooked themselves a meal. This was followed by instruction on using a compass and doing simple bush first aid. Then they were initiated into the secrets of Sterno stoves and shelter-building.

During the first year, P.A.C.S. held two successful camps which enabled the Cubs to put into practice the skills they'd learned from the Pathfinders. Amazingly, the Cubs were able to erect shelters, cook their own meals (on Sterno stoves or in foil), follow and lay a trail in the bush using compass bearings, and do many other things with little or no supervision. They even made a number of camp gadgets, a thing they really enjoyed doing.

We are now into our second year of P.A.C.S. and it is as enjoyable and beneficial as the first. The leaders, who also learned a lot during the first year, are still learning! Everybody gained a lot from this program, but the main thing we learned was how to have fun together and, after all, that is what it's all about.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to know more about our program, you can contact me through the Leader. X



This month I'd like to share with you some activities of colonies from many different parts of the country.

From Burnaby, B.C., Donna Pakulak of the 4th Burnaby Northview colony wrote us about **Hold a Trick Day**.

One week in advance we sent home notices asking parents to remind the Beavers to have a trick ready for the next meeting. We suggested card, magic, acrobatic or string tricks, or whatever else they wanted to prepare.

Each boy had his turn to be front and centre. This gave the extroverts a chance to be in their glory and the quiet ones a chance to pluck up their courage and gain a sense of accomplishment. Quite a lot of family help was involved in the preparations for the event, and there was lots of oppor-

tunity for sharing because many of the boys needed some assistance. And, of course, we all had to give our attention as audience.

We recommend a break for an active game about half way through the program. It's easy and fun to hold a trick day.

Karen Kurylo and Dr. R. McDaniel of the 62nd Immaculate Heart Beaver Colony in Edmonton, Alberta, tell us about a **five week cooking course** taken by their colony.

We divide the weeks as follows:

- Week 1 — make daddy's lunch night (bagged lunches);
- Week 2 — make candy apples;
- Week 3 — homemade soup night (parents eat!);
- Week 4 — cookie baking night;
- Week 5 — cake baking night.

The Girl Guide organization helped us out for this very successful part of our program, and the boys really appreciated the girls' assistance.

From Windsor district in Ontario, Lynn Larose and Shirley Payne of the 66th Beaver colony, Group B, Glenwood United Church, sent us a **community service activity**.

As part of our community service and a means of teaching our Beavers to share, we decided to give a Christ-

mas party for 24 senior citizens. The party was planned with the help of some of the key people at the Senior Citizen's Centre.

Each Beaver had to do chores around the house to help pay for the articles in his *Happiness Bag*. He provided a towel, washcloth, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, and a comb and brush. The leaders made shoe bags and added cologne and shampoo to the bag. Fruit cake, peppermint patties, cards, pens, pencils and notepads were donated by members of the community. Some of the mothers baked cookies and helped out at the centre.

At the party we held our opening ceremony, sang Christmas carols, and performed a much-enjoyed version of *Alice the Camel*. After the closing ceremony, the Beavers gave their *Happiness Bags* to their guests, and the evening wound down with cookies, a drink and a chance for everyone to chat. It was a great way to help the seniors in our community feel part of the developing lives of our young people.

If you have done something that you would like to share with the rest of Canada, please send it in and I will try to use it.

Happy sharing! X

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COVER: The colours and celebrations of autumn inspired a 'crafty' issue this month, but we haven't forgotten how great it is to be outdoors on a crisp fall day. Try a unique gardening project that will give you crocuses for Christmas, and take advantage of ramble weather to gather materials for craft sessions on stormy nights. Learn how your boys can put on homemade faces and create creepy creatures for Halloween. If you still want more, chuckle along with Justin White as you plan next summer's pack holidays. October has it all for fall!

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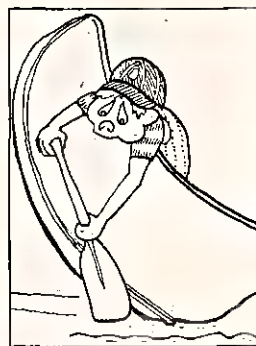
the leader

The Canadian Leader Magazine

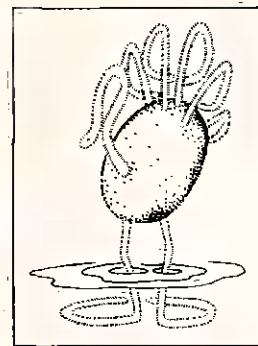
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HOMEMADE FACES AND OTHER CRAFTY IDEAS

by Linda Florence

October offers both the weather and the themes for enjoyable craft projects. It brings brisk sunny days for gathering autumn leaves, nuts and seeds, and blustery meeting nights when you can use your harvest for creative activities. It also brings Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en, two occasions offering so many craft possibilities that the problem becomes one of choice.

HOMEMADE FACES

Boys love a chance to muck about, and there's little doubt that painting a face is much more fun than simply donning a mask.

Because painted faces are also considerably safer than vision-restricting masks on Hallowe'en, it's a good time of year to offer these two recipes for greasepaint mixed from common kitchen ingredients. Highlighted with inexpensive products from the corner drugstore, the basic 'paint' can make a face for any occasion. Whenever a colony, pack or troop plans an entertainment, greasepaint will add to the fun and the effect.

Perhaps this Hallowe'en you can invite Cubs or Scouts to a Beaver colony meeting. Together the boys can mix the greasepaint, before the older boys paint faces on the Beavers, and each other!

What you need:

- basic white greasepaint for the base (recipe follows). The addition of food colouring turns basic white into devilish red, bloodless blue, grisly green or any other colour you might wish to apply;
- basic brown greasepaint for detail (recipe follows);

- a brown eyebrow pencil for sketching a face before painting it;
- a cheap red lipstick for adding special touches like bloody slashes;
- a white under-eye makeup stick to give full coverage for a white ghost or clown face;
- a soft paintbrush for applying greasepaint details;
- peanut butter and shredded coconut to make hairy warts for witches;
- lots of tissue, shortening, cold cream or baby oil. Prepare the face for greasepaint application by smoothing on shortening or cold cream. Tissue off excess until just a slight film remains. When the party's over, remove greasepaint easily with shortening, cold cream or baby oil.

Recipes

(quantities enough for one face)

Basic White

- 2 tsp white shortening
- 5 tsp cornstarch
- 1 tsp white flour
- glycerine
- food colouring

Blend first three ingredients on a plate and add 3 or 4 drops of glycerine to give a creamy consistency. Add and mix food colouring a drop at a time until you have the shade you want. Stroking in one direction, spread greasepaint over the face with your fingers. When the mixture is used to paint highlights such as fangs, apply with a soft paintbrush.

Basic Brown

- 1 tsp white shortening
- 2½ tsp unsweetened cocoa

Mix as with basic white. Apply with a soft brush over the base mixture to bring out details.

Now a few ideas about how to put the greasepaint to work. Try them out and perform the Hallowe'en skit you'll find on page 35. But don't forget that the possibilities are endless: clowns, tin soldiers, puppy dogs, men from Mars. Let the boys experiment. The process will be at least as much fun as the finished product.

GHOUL

1. Cap head with nylon stocking —preferably a piece of white hosiery like that worn by nurses.
2. With eyebrow pencil, sketch a ghastly mouth around natural mouth.
3. Smooth white under-eye makeup over face, except in mouth section.
4. Paint basic brown around eyes, using top of eyebrows as a guide, and on the end of the nose.
5. Paint basic white on the teeth of the ghastly mouth.
6. Outline the ghastly mouth and teeth with basic brown.

WITCH

1. Fashion a one-piece hat and wig. Make the hat from black construction paper and glue in lots of straggly bits of yarn to dangle from the inside of the crown.
2. White out eyebrows with under-eye stick.
3. Sketch fierce brows, scowl lines, and a snarling mouth with eyebrow pencil.
4. Make a batch of basic white. Reserve a small bit and tint the rest greenish. Set aside a small amount of sickly green and add a touch of red to produce a liverish look for the lips.
5. Apply green greasepaint to face, except in mouth area.
6. Paint lips liverish.
7. Paint teeth white.
8. Paint with basic brown: scowl lines and fierce brows; mouth and teeth outline; gaps in teeth.
9. Add a blob of peanut butter bristling with coconut as a wart on nose, chin, or both.

DRACULA

1. Make a black top hat from construction paper.
2. White out eyebrows with under-eye stick.
3. Use eyebrow pencil to sketch in sideburns and hairline, eyebrows, upper lip and fangs, and drops of blood.

4. Mix basic white. Reserve some for fangs. Tint the rest bloodless blue, making a small amount darker for eyelids, under eyes and lips.

5. Smooth bloodless blue over face.

6. Paint hair, sideburns and eyebrows basic brown.

7. Paint darker blue over and under eyes and on upper lip.

8. Paint fangs white.

9. Add drops of blood with lipstick.

10. Outline upper lip, fangs, and drops of blood with basic brown.

BLOTTO MONSTERS

With a sheet of paper, poster paint mixed to a reasonably thick consistency, a large brush and brightly coloured markers, Beavers can easily

create monsters to decorate the pond for Hallowe'en.

Let each boy choose paint the colour he wants for his basic monster shape. Dip the brush into the paint and let a blob of colour fall onto the paper, near the centre. While the paint is wet, fold the paper over. Open it again and let the basic shape dry. Add interesting monstrous details with felt-tipped markers.

AUTUMN LEAF PICTURES

Take the boys on a ramble to collect autumn leaves of different sizes, shapes and colours. To preserve the leaves without destroying their colour dip each into melted paraffin wax. Give each boy a good-sized piece of heavy paper (perhaps bristol board), and ask him to make a picture from the leaves.

Before they glue the leaves into

place, suggest that the artists move their pieces around and try different combinations until they are satisfied with the results. You can effectively "draw" bird and animal designs or woodland and underwater scenes with leaves, and the multi-colours and shapes of these materials are sure to stimulate the boys to better ideas. Of course, the number of possibilities will increase with the number and variety of leaves in your collection.

A BRANCH OF THE FAMILY TREE

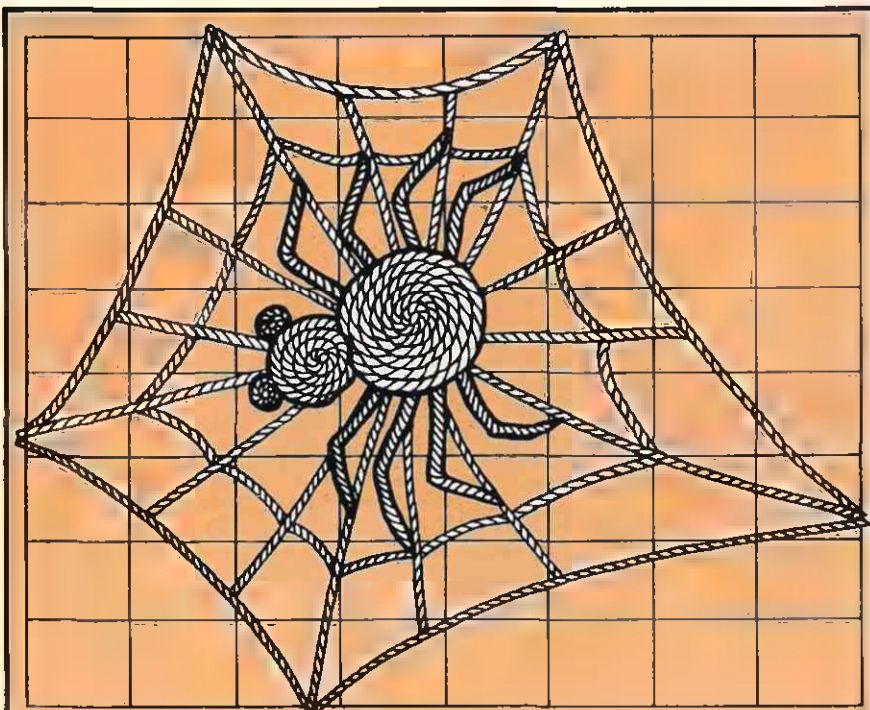
Fun to create with materials gathered in the fall, this idea also produces a great gift for a Cub or Scout to present his family at Christmas.

Make a wooden plaque on which the boy and each member of his immediate family (mom, dad, sisters, brothers, pets) is represented by an appropriately shaped and decorated twig, piece of bark or nutshell. These figures stand on a larger twig which is, of course, a branch of that boy's family tree.

Dried peas and beans (for noses), inexpensive goggle eyes purchased from a hobby shop, bits of coloured yarn or doll hair, bits of felt (for animal ears), and dried grasses and flowers complete the picture.

When all pieces have been glued into place, the boys can either carve in mouths and lettering, or apply them with paint. Although barnboard will make a perfect background, plywood, perhaps painted sky blue, might be less expensive and easier to find.

Describe the concept to the boys and plan a ramble designed so that each boy can look for exactly the materials he needs to make a family tree unique to him. I can just imagine the plaque my own Scout will bring home. The big nut will be his dad, and the peanut his sister. And me? Well, I'll be that scraggly bit of bark from the old crab-apple tree, of course!



STRING ART SPIDERS

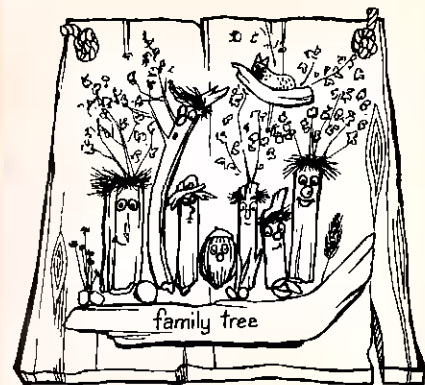
Think of what a creepy Hallowe'en atmosphere your boys will be able to create by hanging spiders in unexpected places. Cubs and Scouts will have a fine time making and placing these string art critters, adapted from a craft idea which appeared in the March '81 issue of *Ranger Rick* magazine.

Each boy should have a spider pattern, a sheet of plastic wrap that will completely cover the pattern, a squeeze bottle of white glue, black string or yarn for the web, heavier weight yarn of a different colour (perhaps green) for the spider, and a bit of yellow or red yarn for the spider's eyes.

Cover the pattern with clear plastic wrap and tape it firmly in place. Then, starting with the web, trace a trail of white glue on the plastic along the lines of the pattern, a small section at a time. Press the black yarn onto the glue tracks.

When the web is complete, move to the spider's head, body and legs. Start the spiral from the centre of the head and body. Finally, give the spider the evil eye with two small coils of coloured yarn.

Let the glue dry after this step, then cover all of the yarn with another layer of glue. Leave the whole thing to dry overnight (or until the next meeting). When dry, peel the finished work of art away from the plastic, and hang.



The greasepaint recipes given in this article were first published in *Woman's Day* magazine, October 18, 1977 issue.

Spring Blooms in Winter

by Alison Overtveld

photos by Malak, Ottawa



The boys proudly show off their work. The pots are ready for cold storage, and in about three months, they will have potsful of colourful tulips to show for their efforts.

Gardeners can't always fool Mother Nature, but they can lend her a helping hand. What could be more uplifting during the long cold days of winter than a colourful pot of spring flowers? The trick? Force spring flowering bulbs to grow indoors. In horticultural circles, "forcing" is the procedure that provides bulbs artificial spring conditions in order to coax flowers like tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and crocuses to early bloom.

As in the case of Holland bulbs destined for outdoor gardens, those you plan to force in the warmth of an indoor climate during winter must be planted in the fall to begin root development.

By following these simple instructions, Cubs and Scouts not only will enjoy an early spring, but also can prepare unique winter gifts for family members or for shut-ins. Imagine, for example, how a group of senior citizens might react if, instead of traditional potted poinsettias, they received sweet-smelling potsful of spring hyacinths for Christmas!

Because different varieties of bulbs come into flower at different times, it's a good idea to stagger plantings to select colours which complement the festive season and other holidays like Easter. Crocus and hyacinths will bloom indoors by late December or early January, and tulips and daffodils follow a short time later. Muscari

and iris reticulata are other minor bulbs considered excellent for winter forcing.

Tulips bloom in shades of red, white, blue, orange and yellow, and many are striped with a second or third colour. Hyacinths, perhaps the easiest bulbs to force, give an indoor winter the outdoor fragrance of spring. Among the daffodils good for forcing are yellow and white trumpets, tazettas, and small-cupped varieties.

Ask your dealer for varieties recommended for forcing, and be certain that the bulbs are large, firm and free from scars.

Containers for planting must be at least twice the depth of the bulb to provide adequate space for root systems to develop, and should have drainage holes in the bottom. You can use metal, ceramic, wood, plastic or clay pots, or even coffee cans, provided they are clean. If you use new clay pots, pre-soak them in water for 24 hours before planting.

Light soil is the key to successful forcing because the bulbs require a free flow of moisture. Have the boys mix together equal parts of weed-free garden soil or commercial potting soil, peat, and sand or vermiculite. Don't use soil in which bulbs have been grown before, and don't worry about fertilizers. The bulb contains its own food supply for the first season of growth.

To prepare the pots, the boys first put a piece of broken clay pot or a few flat stones over the drainage holes to prevent clogging. Then they fill the pots with enough of the soil mixture so that when they place a bulb on top of the soil, the tip of the bulb reaches the rim of the pot. Tell them to place, not press, the bulbs on top of the soil. When they are satisfied with their arrangement, have them pour the remaining soil around the bulbs, leaving the tops visible, and then give the containers a thorough watering.

The boys will get the most from each pot if they plant as many bulbs as will fit without touching each other or the sides of the pot. A 15 cm pot will easily hold six tulip bulbs, or as many as 15 crocus. Dense planting is

especially effective with the small bulbs. Hyacinths can be potted singly or in groups of three, five or seven.

Another tip. If you plant tulip bulbs so that their flat sides face the edge of the container, your display will grow a symmetrical border because the bulb's flat side produces the plant's first broad leaf.

When the potting is done, make sure the boys label each container with indelible ink. Have them note the variety, colour, date of planting and date for removal from the cold.

The pots now need a cold storage period of at least 14 weeks at 5° to 10° C so that the bulbs can develop roots, stem and flower. If a boy or leader has access to a fruit or vegetable cellar, it will provide the most convenient storage place. The editor has had success with pots stored in the bottom of his refrigerator. Pots rooted indoors must be kept in complete darkness and watered regularly.

If indoor facilities aren't available, have the boys dig an outdoor rooting bed in a shady part of someone's garden. Make the bed 3 cm deeper

than the height of the tallest container, and spread a layer of sand or pebbles on the bottom for drainage.

When it's ready, have the boys set the pots as close together as possible in the bed and cover them with 5 cm of sand, vermiculite or shredded styrofoam. Finally, cover the bed with a 15 cm layer of soil.

The next step is to dig a 15 cm trench around the perimeter of the bed, which must be watered regularly. The trench allows excess water to run off and also provides access to the bed when it is time to lift out the pots.

Stop watering when freezing weather arrives and apply a mulch of hay, evergreen branches, or any other material that will permit water to reach the pots. Mulching also helps to maintain an even temperature and prevents deep frost damage.

In 14 weeks the boys can check the pots for root and stem growth. Stems should be 7 to 10 cm tall and roots should be visible through the drainage hole. If they can't see the roots, tell them to turn the pot upside down, tap it gently and remove the contents.

If the roots are circling the inside of the pot, the bulb is ready for forcing. If growth is insufficient, continue the cold storage cycle for another week or two.

If there is enough growth, the boys can transfer the pots to a cool room (11° to 15°C). Tell them to water regularly so that the soil is always moist.

After another few weeks, flower buds will appear. The plants are ready to bloom and can be placed almost anywhere inside. For longest flower life, keep them away from direct heat or drafts, and water regularly because flowers are even thirstier than bulbs.

Forced bulbs prefer cool temperatures; about 15°C for daffodils and crocuses, 18° for tulips and hyacinths. If possible, move the pots to a cool location during the night.

Think of it. Crocuses at Christmas, tulips in February, a rainbow of blossoms in time for Easter; truly a rich reward from a project that not only helps a boy earn stars and badges, but also gives him a chance to have some fun along the way. λ

Sea Scout Scott Florence and Cubs Fred and Alex Koch prepare an ideal soil mixture; equal parts of potting soil, peat moss and vermiculite.

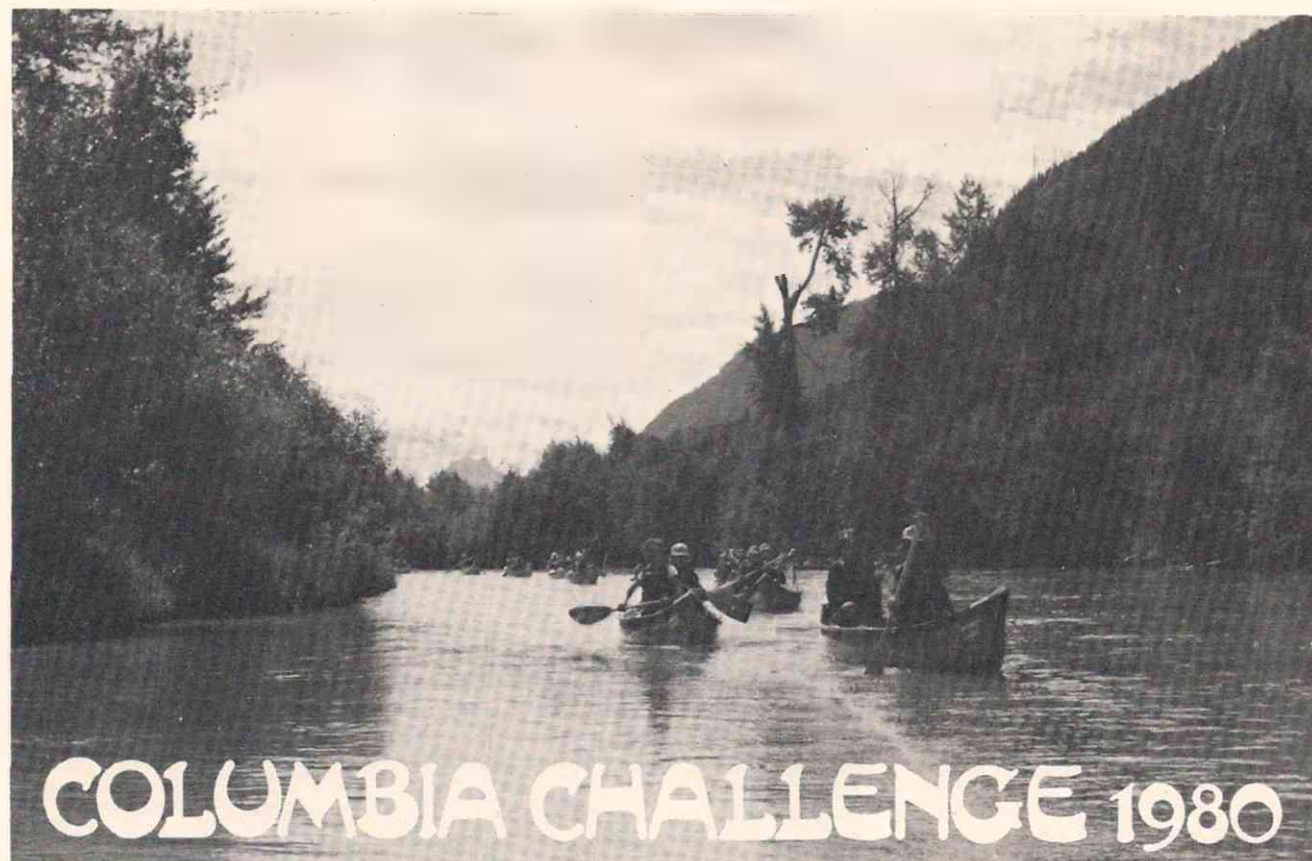


The boys fill the pots about 2/3 full of soil, then place the bulbs, pointed end up and flat side facing out. They press them gently against the soil.

Alex covers his bulbs with soil, but lets the tips show.



Fred and Scott watch as Alex gives his prepared pot a good watering.



by Greg Osborne

Last July, 24 Scouts and six leaders from Port Coquitlam District of the Fraser Valley Region spent five days travelling 150 miles of the upper Columbia River by canoe.

This account of the trip is excerpted from the log of Scout Greg Osborne of the 4th Port Coquitlam Troop.

The 14th was the first day of canoeing. We were up at 5:30. The lake was rather windy, and it was sprinkling, which made it difficult to paddle. When we reached the outlet river of the lake, we beached the canoes, 15 in all, and held a conference. Scouter Herb (Barge) again went carefully over all the procedures for travelling on a river. Stay away from sweepers (trees being swept by the current), put your trailing ropes out and follow the canoe ahead of you.

The section of the river where the highway bridge crossed... was extremely rapid and rough. We reached the chute under the bridge at 3:00. Everyone made it through safely. Unfortunately, a half an hour later, Wayne and Chad's canoe came too close to a sweeper. From what I saw, they did not have enough power to force their way across the river. Consequently the side of the canoe wedged against the tree while the

other side was slowly drawn under, flipping the canoe. Chad and Wayne were thrown into the chilly water, but neither was hurt. They were able to take the canoe ashore with assistance and right it. Because everything was tied into the canoe, they didn't lose anything.

Again, on the 15th we stumbled out of bed at five in the morning. As we passed under a railway bridge on the river leaving Windermere Lake, we came across a huge whirlpool. It was about 12 ft. in diameter and dropped about six inches in the centre.

That day we reached Radium Hot Springs. After a tricky turn out of the main current and many strong strokes across and against the current, we managed to draw up on shore. It was too rocky to set up camp. We had to move upstream on a small side channel and camp on an island. Paddling upstream was not too difficult, but camping on the island was. It was 100 feet in length and 25 feet at its widest. This was the night that the leaders' wives and families were to bring the chicken with them. As a result we ended up barging people back and forth across the channel. Too bad we didn't have feathers!

That night we all hiked up to Radium for a swim. By the time we got back it was midnight and pitch black, and we still had to navigate the water. This was when our two practise days at Deer Lake in Burnaby paid off!

As it had been on the past two days, the weather on the third day was unpredictable. Finding a campsite that night was no easy matter. The leaders eventually had to clear a few logs from a small outlet of a large oxbow lake. We ended up camped on a rather muddy sand bar.

Thursday, again we were up at 5:00 a.m. We had learned that Scouter Ed had a habit of dropping your tent upon you if you tried to snooze an extra 15 minutes.

In lieu of the fact that we could not find a campsite, we covered a grueling 38 miles of meandering river that day. We camped about half way between Parson and Golden on a marshy mosquito-infested island, but who cares after nine hours in a canoe! We slept quite well that night, knowing we had only one more day left.

When we awoke on Friday morning, Trent and I counted over 25 mosquitoes in the foot-square screen at the back of our tent. Packing the canoes lent to us by the Burnaby region Scouts, we were filled with a weird sense of delight. This was the last time we had to pack our canoes.

At Golden, the river's current picked up considerably. At one point, Brian and I were so busy watching the shore whiz by that we narrowly missed a deadhead. As we rounded the last bend and saw the highway bridge and bus, we hollered with joy. We had made it! X

ONTARIO PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP



by John Pettifer

As Jamie Latornell sat down, 400 Scouters attending the Lakeland Regional Conference rose in a standing ovation to acknowledge the sincerity and depth of his address.

When Matthew Hodge finished his speech, the audience broke into enthusiastic applause as participants of the third Ontario Relationships Conference recognized his contribution to their deliberations.

Who are Jamie and Matthew? Both are Venturers, and both are graduates of the Ontario Public Speaking Workshop, an annual training event that helps prepare young people to go out to tell the Scouting story.

Several years ago, the Ontario Provincial Council decided that perhaps the best advertisement for Scouting is the product itself; boys who've moved up through the sections and can exemplify Scouting's aim.

Who could speak for Scouting before a service club better than a young enthusiastic member of the movement? Who could excite a potential sponsor to the value of Scouting better than a living model?

With this in mind, the council set up an experimental weekend to give selected Venturers and young Rovers training in public speaking. The approach emphasized letting the boys 'be themselves' and 'tell their own Scouting story'. The weekend was highly successful, and the workshop has now become an annual part of the Ontario provincial training program.

The workshop is limited to 18 participants who must be selected for the experience. Because the purpose is to take boys who have already demonstrated a good level of personal maturity and experience in the movement, and will be prepared to work after the event by addressing local

audiences, the participants come only by invitation. Names for consideration are requested from district commissioners who must be satisfied that the nominees are mature, have completed grade 11, are a credit to Scouting, and will be prepared to put their skills into practice. Based upon the space available and the relative backgrounds described by the commissioners, a selection is made.

The workshop leader sends an invitation directly to each selected boy. When the boy accepts the invitation, he is given an assignment. He must prepare a 15 minute written address about "What Scouting means to me" to bring to the workshop. One of his first tasks during training will be to read his address to the other participants.

Since the program's inception, the workshop leader has been Mr. Bill Oaker. Although Bill is not a member of the movement, he has volunteered his time and skill for this event. As a public affairs officer with Bell Canada, he presents essentially the same workshop on a weekly basis to Bell Canada executives.

The workshop doesn't stress the technicalities of speech-making; opening, three points, closing, etc. Instead, the emphasis is upon developing the boy to "be himself" — to "strip off the mask".

Initially, each participant is asked to introduce himself in a five minute chat. The boy is kept on his feet for the full five minutes and, in this opening exercise, discovers that the weekend is 'in earnest'.

The 15 minute speeches come next. These are not criticized, and often the boys find it takes but five or ten minutes to read a 15 minute address.

The next step requires each participant to reduce the first quarter of his address to one page of short notes. Then he gives this quarter address

using the prepared notes only. It is expected that this take at least five minutes, and it usually does!

The final exercise is to reduce the entire speech to notes and present it at a 'graduation' ceremony at the end of the workshop.

In between items of this primary flow are inserted opportunities for off-the-cuff speeches of three or five minutes. These are usually tailor-made for each individual, depending upon his weaknesses. Does he need to be given confidence, to be slowed up a little, to be challenged to think more? The subject and timing are chosen accordingly. At each step along the way the boy receives encouragement and a positive critique to increase his self-confidence before the audience.

Finally comes the Sunday 'graduation'. For this, a special audience of parents, friends, past workshop graduates, and provincial council members is gathered. Both the audience and 'graduates' are divided into three groups. Then, in three separate areas, and before the new audience, the boys begin their final addresses. Usually three boys, judged to be of special interest, are kept in reserve. Finally, the whole audience is assembled and these three present their addresses to the total group.

Workshop graduates are encouraged to keep in touch with the provincial office in order that the effectiveness of their 'employment' in the local situation can be assessed. It would appear that this depends upon what opportunities for them to speak locally are established by the local district president and/or commissioner. Sometimes the results are very successful and there are many reports of the enthusiastic reception these boys receive whenever they speak.

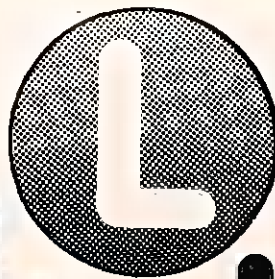
By-products have included increased confidence and grades at school for the boys, especially in debating, and a ready pool of speakers for Father and Son Banquets. But the greatest benefit still remains in the enthusiasm that these speakers generate with outside audiences.

When Matthew sat down, more than one participant at the Relationships Conference asked for a copy of his speech. It was good! But the cold print could not convey the same feeling as listening to that young man present his exciting story, a story he freely admits he can only tell because of his experience with the Public Speaking Workshop.

John Pettifer is director of relationships for the Ontario Provincial Council. A

Scouter's alphabet

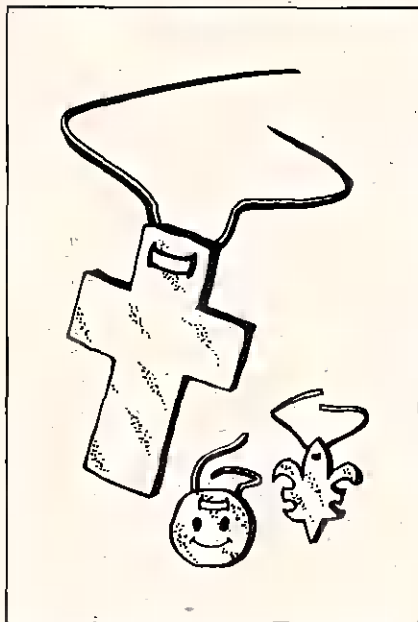
by David Goss



Lashing — Every Scout should know the square lash, the sheer lash and the diagonal lash so well that he can do them with ease. Because lashing will have application all through a boy's life, it is a part of the Scout program that is both unique and useful.

Try these stunts to practise lashing.

- Do it blindfolded.
- Do it blindfolded while another Scout gives instructions.
- Work in pairs. Tie together one boy's left hand and the other boy's right hand and have them do the lashing with their free hands. This takes cooperation and knowledge of the principles of lashing.
- When you can't practise outdoors, you can still do accurate lashing through miniature pioneering done to scale.



Leatherwork — This is as simple a project as you can do with leather. It requires only scrap pieces, which are reasonably priced at craft shops, and is suitable for boys from Beaver to

Rover age. We've made the design shown in the illustration, but you can make any design suitable to your section.

Laughing Hankie — A campfire stunt. The leader holds a handkerchief high over his head. When he lets it go, all must start to laugh and continue as the hankie floats to the ground. When the handkerchief touches the ground, all must stop laughing. The last to do so must pay a forfeit (recite a verse of nursery rhyme, sing a song, do a headstand, etc.).

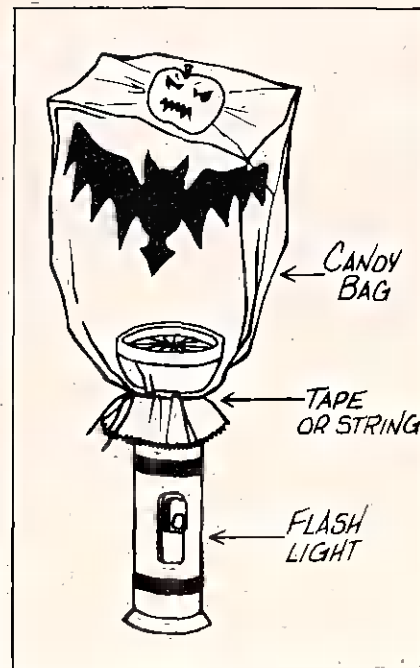
Law — The Ten Commandments, and the Scout law. If you have some older boys, read these to them at a quiet point, perhaps around a campfire or at a mug up after your regular meeting. Try to stimulate discussion about how, for better or worse, these have influenced our lives today.

Lifetime Sports (A Little Lecture) — In the recreation field, the emphasis today is on sports and skills that will last a lifetime, rather than those one will have to drop as age advances. Thus, people prefer tennis, badminton and golf to hockey, baseball or football, sports that most players quit by mid-life, and in which injuries are not uncommon. Scouting is not adequately recognized for the lifetime skills and sports it imparts, because we do the teaching quietly, and because few of us recognize what we're doing.

In the earlier days of Scouting, this was not the case. Educational authorities were quick to recognize Baden-Powell's methods and to adapt them in their own work. Our methods remain as valid today, and still are being widely copied. In New Brunswick recently, a university student based his Master's thesis on a winter weekend scheme in which partici-

pants travelled from station to station to try various winter skills. Sound familiar?

My point here is simply that we undersell the job we're doing. Scouting has offered and continues to offer "lifetime skills". We should be promoting this fact.



Lighted Loot Bag — Although children should carry a light on Halloween, they are reluctant to do so. They might not object to this spooky Halloween light. Draw suitable symbols on a penny candy bag, then fit the bag over a flashlight as shown in the illustration.

Limerick — A five-line verse that is always good for a few minutes diversion. Give the boys a first line and let them fill in the last four, keeping it traditional, and decent, of course. Award small prizes for the best efforts.

How about this first line? "There once was a writer named Sweet". Have your boys try it out, and send the results to the **Leader**. The best three limericks received by December 31, 1981, will be published in *Scouter's Alphabet 'S'*.

Living Statues — Boys either assume the position of an existing statue they know, or simply take a position they can hold for several minutes. One boy is selected to travel from statue to statue, making an inspection of each. During his inspection he tries to make the statue smile or move, but he is not allowed to touch the frozen boy. A statue who moves is eliminated, and the game continues until all are eliminated.

Living Pictures — A group of boys is given a picture that shows three or four people standing, kneeling, playing cards, fishing, or whatever. The object is for the boys to form a living picture of the action in the photo. *Patrons* (the rest of the troop or pack) file by the living picture and try to make posers smile or move. If they succeed, the smiler or mover is eliminated. This continues until all members of that group are eliminated, after which others form a new living picture.



Logs — Would it be too much trouble to start a troop log; that is, a diary of troop activities? Why not assign the job to one of the assistants who, in turn, can assign it weekly to one of the boys. Provide a kit which includes

pens, pencils, magic markers, coloured paper, construction paper, glue, scissors, etc., and a hardbacked book into which items can be glued. Add a sheet of woodcraft symbols or a book containing Scouting or Indian symbols. On some nights perhaps nothing will be recorded, but on other nights the pages will be filled with interesting anecdotes and, in short order, you'll have a LOG worth sharing with everyone.

Luck Cake — A Hallowe'en idea adapted from the turn of the century when 'luck' cakes were a common way to predict the future on All Hallow's Eve. Try one at your meeting or, if the idea appeals to you, try luck cupcakes.

Make up a standard two layer cake and frost the bottom layer. Before putting on the top layer, set various objects in the icing so that when the cake is cut, each boy will find an object to predict his future. Items might include money for good fortune, a line of print for a budding writer, a segment of a map for a traveller, a piece of string for a guy who will string the girls along, etc. Make sure that you think it out well so that each boy is included. Finally, set the top layer in place and decorate the cake in a suitable Hallowe'en manner.

In its simplest form, a luck cake

contained only a ring, a dime and a thimble. It was presented to unmarried girls at Hallowe'en gatherings. The girl who drew the ring would marry; the one who drew the dime would have a wealthy husband, and the poor girl who drew the thimble would remain a spinster.

Lying Gag — A boy enters. He's dressed in tattered clothing all coated with dirt, and has an arm in a sling and bandages on his body. It's obvious to everyone that he's been in a scuffle. His confederate in the skit asks, "What happened?" The poor fellow explains that he and two friends (he names people familiar to the group, perhaps a couple of parents, the church minister, the group committee chairman, etc) ran into a man who had just emerged from a flying saucer. They'd tackled him and there had been a real battle.

The confederate asks him about his companions in this adventure. In reply to a query about the location of the first person named, the tattered fellow answers, "He's in the woods."

To a query about the second person, he replies, "He's lying about 10 feet from the first fellow."

Finally the confederate asks, "Where were you?"

The tattered fellow replies, "Lying just about the way I am now!"

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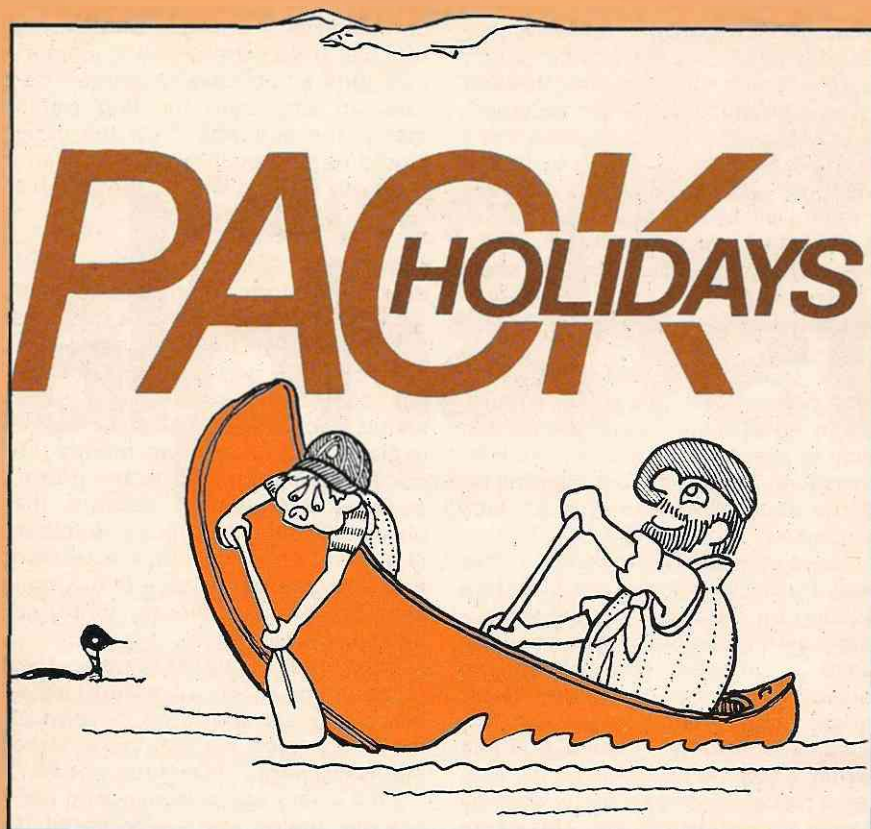
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by Justin White
illustrations: Fred Fishell

As I recall, we began preparations for our 1981 pack holiday sometime in the fall of 1970. At least that's when we started talking with the group committee about the idea of a long term Cub camp.

The first camp, in August 1972, lasted seven days. It was at a regional site close to home, with a ranger nearby and lots of trees. There was also a small pool for cooling off and splashing around in. Our activities centered on theme days (*Sports Day, Mystery Day, and even a Backwards Day*), but were otherwise fairly basic and straight-forward. We stayed close to the badge and star program, and managed to arrange it so that a lot of boys had fun passing many of the requirements without knowing they were doing badge work!

After learning from these simple camps, we moved on to Owen Sound and a more stimulating site on Georgian Bay. The water was the coldest thing this side of Baffin Island, but it sure beat the swimming pool. By this time we'd accumulated leaders with more than the necessary swimming qualifications, and were able to offer swimming programs at all levels.

The area of Owen Sound provided scope for exploration; mysterious caves, sites of shipwrecks, and numerous locations on the Bruce Trail overlooking Georgian Bay where

Indian maidens reportedly leapt from high cliffs to their deaths because of unrequited love. I can only assume that the Cubs are amazed to find that any of our native inhabitants survived to leave descendants! Although the Scouting people of Owen Sound were very good to us, eventually we moved on to Endobanah.

Before I outline a day at Endobanah, I should stress that it took us several years to build to this level of programming. No doubt some packs have on hand the expertise to jump straight into advanced programs. We didn't.

Endobanah is on a point of land where the Gull River enters Shadow Lake. It includes a large main building with a well equipped kitchen; several sleeping cabins and a craft cabin; six tent platforms; canoes, rowboats, a canoeing and a swimming dock; and last, but definitely not least, plenty of toilet facilities, when they all are working! Over the years we've been able to find more than adequate leadership to completely use the site.

The swimming area is graded for three levels of swimming ability, with corresponding depths of water. Our swimming director, once a Cub in the pack, possesses all the necessary qualifications, and is leaning in the direction of the medical profession. His ready willingness to treat wounds for practice results in a remarkably low level of minor injuries reported by both Cubs and leaders.

Red Cross and Royal Lifesaving Awards are matched by a 175th Toronto Wolf Cub Pack Certificate in Canoeing. Of course, this is a preparation for older boy activities either in Scouts or as individuals. But, as I've stressed in other articles, we work on the premise that, apart from their increasing physical and mental abilities, the main difference between boys in the different Scouting sections lies in their varying levels of dependence on leaders; that is, the differing degrees of supervision they require.

We developed a canoeing program based upon close supervision by leaders, strict adherence to safety rules, and very limited time periods to ensure that the boys don't go too far and tire. The results have been a lot of fun, and a delighted Scout leader who now receives boys familiar with everything from feathering, drawing and sweeping to choosing a paddle, landing a canoe, doing the J stroke and, most important, canoeing safely.

Again, we were lucky. Although it was difficult to locate people with knowledge of Cub level canoeing, we were fortunate to find a member of the regional water safety committee who could give us some advice, and we located people who had run junior level canoeing at professional camps. Also, my wife Marjorie had childhood memories of canoeing and an ability to teach. And Cub mother Joan McDonald, who is an Olympic archer for Canada and came to camp only because our country withdrew from the Olympics, ill-advisedly admitted to a lot of canoeing experience. All of our canoeing instructors have obtained the Boy Scouts of Canada Charge Certificate for canoeing, even though it is, at present, aimed at older age levels.

The craft cabin is always popular. This year it was supervised by two mothers who not only provided a variety of crafts, but also were there for those who needed someone to talk to during the course of the nine days.

As you can imagine, nine days and a varied program required a large and mixed number of leaders. We found that teenage leaders were a great addition because they seemed to have strength when others had none (and, after one or two late-evening hamburger raids into town, sometimes had no strength when others had some). We've often felt that the teenagers are the ones who make or break a camp.

How many leaders? Well, it's easy to work out. Just as when you buy toilet rolls or garbage bags for camp, think of a number and double it!

And now for a typical day at camp

(I just wish we could have one!!). Remember, it might rain, the roof might fall in and the plumbing might fail. Or some *real* problem might develop.

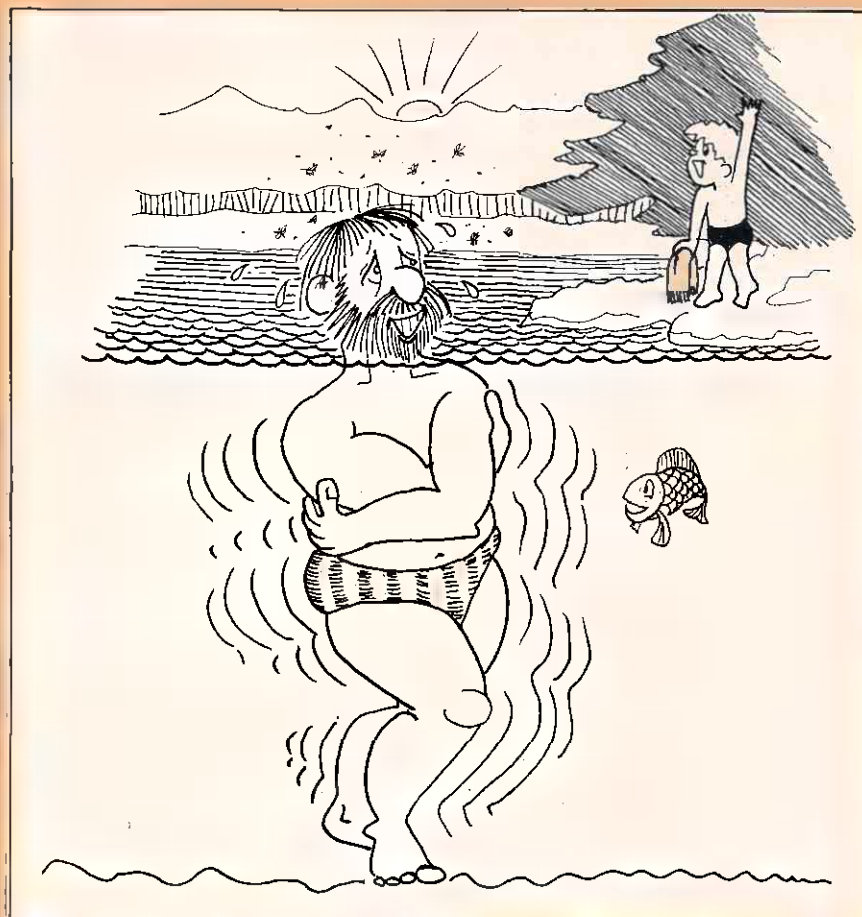
This typical day is based upon fair weather and I haven't given a time schedule. Let's just say that we get up with the first Cub. Actually, on the first day the leaders leap out of bed with a song on their lips. On the last day they stay in bed until the din of Cubs becomes unbearable, then crawl out muttering darkly.

Dinnertime is the one constant. We always set it for 6:00 p.m. because we've found that anything later means unbearably late nights.

Now close your eyes and imagine it is too soon after sunrise, you are half asleep in your cabin and you hear noises from the tents. Depending upon the time of the week you either leap to the floor or roll over and groan, because it is time for...

AKELA'S RUN

This event is optional. (In fact, Akela didn't do it himself in 1980 because he was on a walking stick. Good old Baloo. Akela lay in bed, trying to ignore the loud description of why people should do tendon stretches before exercise). On the first day, we normally have lots of runners. Each day thereafter the run increases in length and the number of runners



decreases. Participants' names are marked on a wall chart which we always promise to display at the February banquet, but which we always seem to lose by Christmas. Not to worry. Also optional is the next masochistic event of the day, the...

EARLY MORNING DIP

It really would be a joy to feel that one had earned one's breakfast, if it weren't for the normally chilly reception in the lake, sarcastic jeers about Akela's 'fatty dipping', and the clouds of mosquitoes who feel that they have already earned breakfast.

We jump out of the lake faster than we entered it, and head for dry clothes (DON'T PUT YOUR SWIMSUIT IN YOUR KIT BAG WITH YOUR DRY CLOTHES) and...

BREAKFAST

We won't dwell on this subject. Just remember that meals should be fun. Ours are normally 'controlled boisterous.' The chant of "Here's to the cook and the way she does the hula-hu" can be a real scream if she was kept awake by noisy teenage leaders the night before. We find that our better cooks have a sense of humour, and the others don't return!

Each year we have a Monk's Breakfast at which there is one utensil per person. We manage to ensure that the

most belligerent Sixer winds up eating corn flakes with an egg whisk.

CLEAN-UP

The 'seconds of food' list is maintained to ensure all have an equal chance at "s'mores". Just as popular is the reading of the list of those who are the next 'volunteers'. These people do the dishes. The edible reward from the cook when chores are done guarantees that we have plenty of bona fide volunteers before camp is over.

Meanwhile, away from the kitchen, tents are given a tidy-up and teeth a brush. When the lost property list becomes unbearable, we hold an inspection; tents bare and all equipment laid out. We don't push for military orderliness, but the request to place dirty clothes at one end of the mattress at least shows who has yet to change!

ROTATIONS

The children (we usually have an abundance of daughters along) are grouped according to swimming ability and rotate every 40 minutes, twice a day through swimming, canoeing, crafts and (sometimes) badges. Early in the camp, sessions tend to be instructional. The later ones allow more in the way of free time with supervision and help from leaders as required. These rotations are core to the camp program and therefore require lots of preparation. You try to plan nine days' worth of crafts!

LUNCH is followed by **FREE TIME** and by more rotations. The free time is monitored, if not strongly supervised, by a leader or two. We normally have a selection of indoor board games available, but we don't put them out until after a day or two when everyone has calmed down and relaxed a little.

After the second rotation there is an activity, often a...

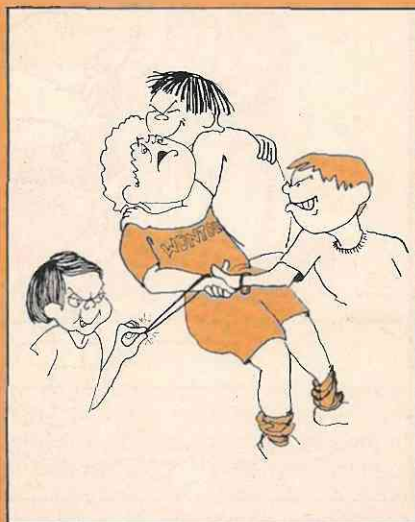
WIDE GAME

Wide games are the subject of whole books. Suffice it to say that any chance to break into teams and hurtle through the woods goes over well. My favourite war game involves a variety of rules, including the wearing of elastic bands on the wrists. The elastic bands are surrendered to captors, and the Cub must obtain a new elastic band from his base before re-entering the game. The game is far more simple than it sounds, and I have always objected to the Cubs' unwillingness to see it as such. *Wontolla*, our intrepid (if sarcastic) waterfront director, remembers the game from

when he was a Cub and always greets any wide game description with a dejected, "...but no rubber bands?"

I never did like *Wontolla*, even as a Cub!

Whether *Capture the Flag*, *Cops and Robbers*, or *Settlers and Bandits*, everyone has fun. Someone trips and cuts himself, there are as many secret imaginings as there are participants, and there are no true winners except the mosquitoes. Isn't it good to know that in these days of 'future shock' there are some things that never change?



TRAIL, HOG OR HIKE

A *Trail* is an innovative way of finding your way around and may involve traditional woodcraft signs, feathers or hidden messages.

Hog is a vicious game our pack plays, boys against leaders (never boys against boys). In the game each side tries to gain and retain possession of the ball, and the only rule is that you stop before Bagheera is hurt. The highlight of this game came once when the Scouts dropped by to stay over in camp on their way home. Our littlest Cub tackled the Scoutmaster

and dislocated the unfortunate's jaw. The subject is still raised when we reminisce cheerfully over pots of coffee. And now that I think of it, that particular Cub transferred away before he was due to become a Scout.

Hikes have to be fun, and not too long. Sometimes we cut the afternoon activities and hike to the local ice cream dispensary.

DINNER

Visitors are always welcome for dinner, but they usually don't expect the DIN part. I suppose there are normal packs which are quiet and couth, but I guess we aren't one of them. However, we do maintain order. In 1980 a cook had the brilliant idea of instituting a serve-yourself salad bar. The idea went over remarkably well, although salad for 50 is no mean feat, nightly or otherwise.

FREE TIME, FISHING or WHATEVER

Free time at this time of night can be chancy if people are tired and nerves frayed. If possible, we arrange to have soft supervision activities, such as independent finishing of crafts, put-your-own-worm-on fishing (unless Marjorie's father shows up — he'll even do the worm bit!), or indoor games. The *Whatever* depends upon the creativity of any leader still moving.

CAMPFIRE, NIGHT GAME, HOT CHOCOLATE, BED

Campfires must be varied if they are to be held most nights, *night games* must be cautious, but are loads of fun, *hot chocolate* may be better received on a hot night if it is cold juice, and *bed* is a real joy, even if some clown asks for a *Yellow Hand Gang* story.

What have we achieved at the end of the day? Tangibly, sore feet, a hoarse throat, 15 more bites where you would prefer to sit, and an increased respect for home plumbing. Intangibly? Well, *safe fun* should have been the rule of the day. As in other sections, Cubbing involves a progression from the known to the unknown. So it is with the program planning. Each day teaches us more for another day. Each camp sees us try a new activity or a new approach. Long term camps should start simply, based on experience gained in short term camps.

One thing we can promise you: put in a day like the one I've outlined, and you will sleep well. But just remember, it'll seem like only seconds before some clown starts yelling, "AKELA'S RUN IN FIVE MINUTES!"

It happens that way at the 175th. A

Venturer Log

by Phil Newsome

The following is an extract from Yukon Gold, the 1980 winning Amory Adventure Award log submitted by the 10th Burnaby Northview Venturer Company. In this segment is Venturer John Pushka's description of how his company began.

The 10th Burnaby Northview Venturer Company was formed in October 1978. Its members came from all over the Capital Hill area of North Burnaby, but they all mostly came from the same school and most of them were non-Scouts; that is, they had never been associated with the Scout movement prior to this time. . .

Two of us ran into Pat (then known as Officer Connell) one late night on a street corner. . . I owned a trail bike. Eric (the other original member) had just gone up the block for a spin on the bike when Pat drove up in a ghost car and started to talk to a group of us gathered under a street light at the corner. At the worst possible moment, Eric drove up on my bike without seeing Pat and he stopped. Then Pat, out the dark said, "Step into the car please."

At that moment I knew we were in 'big trouble'. After talking to us for awhile and explaining all the illegalities of riding a trail bike on the street

and what we could be charged with, he was kind enough to let us go with just a warning, and we assumed that that was the last we would see of him. As we found out, we were wrong.

Pat had asked us in the police car why we hung around the streets on a Saturday night, and we had said we didn't have much to do. He asked if we'd ever been in a club or Scouts or anything, and I said I had been in Scouts with Eric, but as there was no Venturer group to go to, we just quit. Pat said he might be able to help us

and we exchanged phone numbers.

We had a phone conversation the next night and we agreed to try to start a Venturer company. Two more guys joined with myself as the original founder, then two more guys wanted to join. After a few weeks, two more guys joined and we finally had 10 Venturers. Pat recruited a friend of his, Glenn Duxbury, to help out as another advisor.

Most of the guys had never been in the Boy Scout movement before, so we started from scratch. We went on hikes, some winter camps, learned rappelling, and took our St. John standard first aid. We went on several camps in the first spring and summer . . . and everyone soon learned how to camp, to cook and to hike with the proper equipment and clothing.

We helped out the Beavers, the Cubs and the Scouts on various events that they held in the district, as well as many other activities. . . X



A CREST WORTH SWAPPING FOR ...

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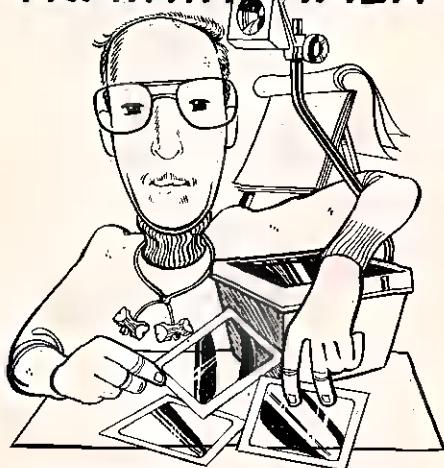
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TRAINING TALK



by Reg Roberts

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

Having written ten articles for this magazine each year for the past several years, as well as numerous handbooks and training guidelines, I've become increasingly conscious of the need to address myself to people in ways that recognize the women as well as the men who make up our adult membership.

At one time it seemed quite appropriate to write as if all our members were male. Not so today when non-sexist language is becoming the rule rather than the exception. Because the English language is not the easiest language to use without appearing to be sexist, it was with great interest that I read a recent magazine article about how to accomplish the task more effectively.

For many years we wrote statements like: *"The leader should be aware of his role in the planning of section programs."* More recently we've moved to *"... his/her role..."* but, in lengthy documents, the constant use of his/her can be cumbersome and distracting.

A more effective way to write the same statement might be: *"You should be aware of your role in program planning."* If "you" is not appropriate, simply switch to the plural: *"Leaders should be aware of their role in program planning."*

Here are some other tips about the use of "he/she". It sounds better to a reader if you write "he or she" instead of "he/she". And if you must use "he or she", avoid repetition of the phrase by combining several statements to make a longer sentence.

Bulletin editors, those who write training material, and anyone who has to make stand-up presentations, can eliminate all of the "man" terms so common in our language. "People

are social animals" is better than "Man is a social animal."

"Since the beginning of mankind..." can easily become, "Since the beginning of civilization..."

In Scouting, as in all areas, titles that identify sex should be avoided. Mailmen have become letter carriers, salesmen are sales representatives and stewardesses now are flight attendants. "Cubmaster" has long been a part of Scouting's vocabulary and "Cubmistress" has always been frowned upon. Today, "Pack Scouter" is much more appropriate and common.

What about the chairman of the meeting who is obviously female? Simply use chairwoman for females and chairman for males. The term "president", if appropriate, may be used, or even presiding officer. Never use the word "girl" when referring to a grown woman, even though women themselves may talk about going out for lunch with "the girls".

I suspect that the situations I've mentioned will require much more consideration in the years ahead. Certainly, the habits of thousands of years of usage will not be easy to change. But the role of trainers is to advise, inform, educate and bring about change, and change in the language used to identify people of one sex or the other is long overdue.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

One of the most controversial issues Canadians have had to deal with over the past few years is the indiscriminate demand for our Social Insurance Numbers. Of major concern is the almost standard request for a SIN number when we carry out normal routine business transactions. But the SIN number requirement also has a way of depersonalizing us in the eyes of others. We become numbers rather than names, and that hurts.

In our training events we should be aware that similar considerations can determine whether people regard the experience as enjoyable enough to do again, or as something they'd never choose to repeat. The deciding factor is how they are treated.

We all want to be treated as persons — not as bodies or numbers on a list. The early use of our names and an indication that we are recognized as individuals is really important to us.

We like people to be interested in us. We've all had the experience where the clerk in a store doesn't appear to care whether or not we buy. Our usual response to that kind of treatment is to take our business to an establishment where we are treated more kindly.

We like to be remembered. Perhaps it's too much to expect a trainer or service team member to remember our names after only one meeting. But how pleasant it is when we are approached some time later by a trainer who recognizes and remembers us from that Part 1 course we attended last March.

We like to have our individual characteristics remembered. I recall that early in my Scouting life I hadn't acquired a taste for coffee. When I attended a meeting in the home of the district commissioner, he mentioned my preference for tea, and had provided some for me. I was impressed and flattered by his consideration.

It's easy to assume that everybody is alike. In reality, we are all very different. The differences we bring to our work as adult leaders of boys, or as trainers and service team members, provide one of the strengths of Scouting. Because we are different from one another, because we are individuals, we really blossom when we are treated as persons. The personal touch. Try it.



DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT...?

From time to time I enjoy watching Johnny Carson on late evening television, or some other stand-up comic, perhaps because making people laugh always seems so rewarding. It's a skill that many of us would like to have, but one that few achieve.

I've also admired trainers who can add a humorous comment to the serious business of presenting a topic in order to send home a new learning in an enjoyable manner.

I'm not suggesting that your training presentations should follow the patterns of Johnny Carson, or that you should always try to leave them rolling in the aisles. I am suggesting that humour is a tool trainers can use to good advantage, but it's one you need to use with care.

Humour is a difficult concept to define, and often the things that some people find funny, others will not.

Certainly some situations I've considered hilarious have left others quite unmoved. Researcher Harvey Goldstein has made an extensive study of humour, and suggests that most amusing situations include three qualities.

First, humour should twist reality just a little. Things are "funny" when they don't quite fit, or they exaggerate a situation unexpectedly.

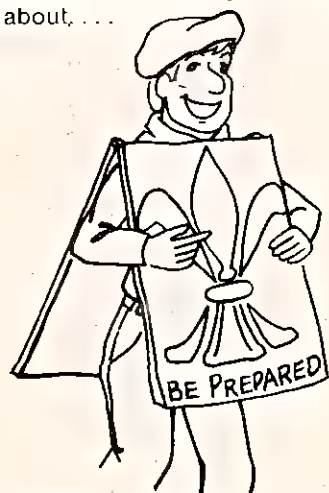
Second, humour should evoke identification. The joke, cartoons or punch line should create a "Hey, I've been there!" feeling.

Third, humour should deliver a message-behind-the-message. After the laugh is over, one should be able to relate the joke to the immediate training situation of the listener. The humour should reinforce the serious message and not detract from it.

Humour should never be malicious. A trainer must never use it either as a deliberate put-down, or at the expense of a participant. I recognize that in almost every training session there is some light banter between a trainer and a participant. But the banter should be brief. Allow both people to "score" a point, then cut it off before it becomes a "you got me so I'll get you" situation.

On a course, the trainer is more aware of overall developments than the participants and is in a better position to spot situations where humour might support a particular point. Some times it's such a good "funny" that it's difficult to keep for the "right" time, and sometimes it's wise to forget it because the "right" moment never comes.

A course spiked with a little humour will probably be much more enjoyable for all concerned. Some of my best learnings are associated with a humorous moment in time. We all need to learn to laugh at ourselves. Which reminds me, did you hear the one about...



IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

As I was driving along the other day,

I noticed a figure striding down the sidewalk with a rather jaunty air. What initially drew my attention was the splash of green and yellow made by his windbreaker and, as I drew closer, I saw the large fleur-de-lys with the words "Be Prepared" emblazoned across the bottom scroll. I waved as I passed and caught a cheerful smile in return.

At choir practice last Thursday I happened to be wearing my blazer with the Scout badge on the pocket. A fellow "singer", whom I've known for about a year, noticed it with surprise. She told me she had once been in Scouting and had often thought about trying to get back into the movement now that her children were grown. I assured her she would be welcomed back, and told her how to make contact.

Recently a friend of mine wrote about an experience she had while on a business trip to Winnipeg. She was to speak to a church group and, when she went into the church, noticed a large Scouting display in the front entrance. She commented on the display and mentioned her own volunteer work in Scouting. After her presentation, she found that others with a Scouting background came up to identify themselves to her.

Advertising our membership by wearing a badge or crest is but one of the many ways in which we can begin a relationship with others and speak out for Scouting.

Practising Scouting's aims and principles is another. It's surprising how many people know the Scout motto or promise. In view of this, it's not surprising that others often look to us as people who set good examples and live our lives in ways designed to be helpful to others.

Other people see us as a group that exerts an extremely positive influence on the lives of young people; as protectors of the environment; and as people who support and promote a belief in God and our queen and country.

Advertising as we do, we are bound to be compared to other organizations, and I believe it's important that we always "measure up". Advertising as we do means that we must live up to the promise we make to provide the service and satisfaction that people expect from us.

And advertising as we do, we must stand ready to answer questions about our organization as openly and honestly as possible so that, at all times, those who want to know more about Scouting or might be encouraged to join us, see that we believe in Scouting and hope others will too. X



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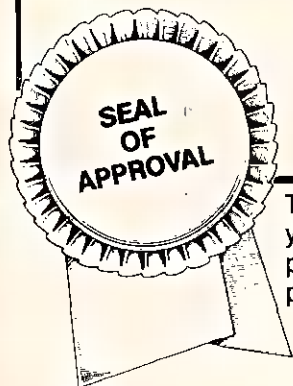
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The FUNNIES

Life without laughter is a pretty grim business. Just imagine your daily newspaper without the funnies! Because everything goes down better with laughter, the **Leader** is initiating its own section of the funnies, and we want original funny stuff from our readers. We invite you to send us anecdotes recounting humorous moments in Scouting, cartoons, or creative flights of nonsense like our first 'funny' by Colin Wallace.

Colin, who gave leaders some interesting firefighting tips in *Scouter's 5 Minutes* (May '81), was a troop Scouter in Toronto for a number of years. At present he is assistant Scoutmaster of a troop in Rochester, Minnesota, where he's completing a three-year work assignment.

CHECKLIST FOR THE PERFECT CAMPSITE by Colin Wallace

According to backwoodsmen, outdoorsmen and sundry other self-appointed authorities on camping, the perfect campsite should be:

- sheltered by trees to the west and north;
- open to avoid the danger of falling branches;
- sheltered from the prevailing winds;
- open to expose tents to the early morning sun;
- sheltered from the prying eyes of nosy neighbours;
- open to afford a pleasant view.

(Obviously, camping enthusiasts are nothing if not ambivalent). The perfect campsite should also be:

- elevated to avoid morning fogs;
- low to avoid harassment by mountain lions;
- sloped for drainage of rainwater;
- level for a comfortable night's sleep;
- abundant in wildlife and nature;
- devoid of insects, snakes, skunks, mushrooms and poison ivy;
- well supplied with water for drinking, swimming, fishing, boating and even washing (not necessarily simultaneously);
- safe from flash floods (not to mention buffalo stampedes);
- grass-covered to absorb rain;
- sparsely vegetated to avoid the risk of grass fires;
- free from clay (which becomes mud which attracts Scouts), and sand (which brings new meaning to the word sandwich);
- stocked with wood for fuel and pioneering projects;
- cleared of all stumps, sticks, logs and brush;
- private (forget highway meridian strips);
- close to home (this eliminates most locations, unless you're a park ranger);
- legal (note that 'No Trespassing' signs will be seen only after you make camp).

Add to this that the perfect campsite should **not** be:

- underneath an overhanging cliff because of the danger of avalanches or rockslides
- in a tinder-dry forest during a drought

All of this might lead you to conclude that, since the local botanical gardens are off-limits, the perfect campsite sounds suspiciously like your own backyard. Keep in mind that the perfect campsite has much in common with the Loch Ness monster:

- there is no substantive proof that such a thing exists;
- one day, if you search diligently enough, you'll find it!

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FUN AT THE POND

by Kay Hotham

October is the time for Hallowe'en parties and trick or treat candies. But it's also harvest time, and that means Thanksgiving.

The tradition of giving thanks after harvest has been part of man's ritual ever since the first crops were planted. This year, why not arrange a party with a Thanksgiving theme for your Beavers and their parents? Throw in a few Hallowe'en games and crafts for good measure and add lots of favourite things to eat.

For more Thanksgiving thoughts, and a Beaver prayer suitable to the occasion, see *Scouters' Five Minutes* on Page 35 of this issue.

Food Sources

Begin your pre-Thanksgiving activities with a look at where food comes from. Bring along food samples or pictures of food from magazines. Have the Beavers match the samples with pictures of food sources. For example: milk and cheese — cows; eggs — hens; cranberries — bushes; hamburger — cattle; apples — orchards.

This is a good time of year to visit a local poultry or dairy farm, or an orchard. If you're feeling particularly adventurous, contact a local supermarket and ask for a tour on a slow night.

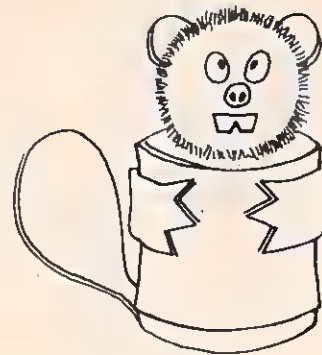
What Is It?

Identification games are always popular with Beavers. This one has a timely food theme.

Spread out some samples of food with distinctive odours, such as: peppermints; bread; cinnamon; mustard; pepper; peanut butter; chocolate; etc. Let everyone have a good look and sniff. Blindfold the Beavers and pass one item at a time, asking them to guess what it is.

A variation on this idea is to blindfold the colony and have the Beavers identify food by taste. Use sugar, lemon juice, salt and unsweetened cocoa to demonstrate the four basic

flavours of sweet, sour, salty and bitter. Add other flavours to make this tasting session interesting.

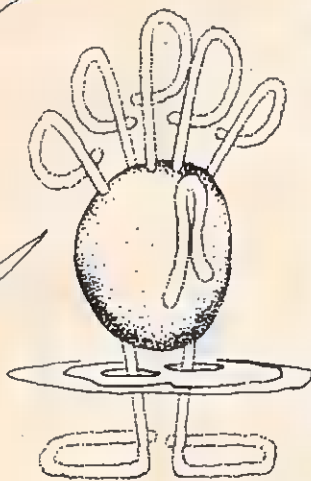
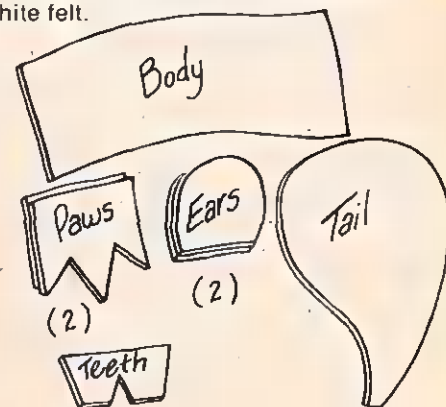


Bucky Beavers

Gloria Manthorne of Lakeside, Nova Scotia, recently wrote to tell us about some crafts which are enjoyed by her Beaver colony. This is one of them. As Gloria points out, Bucky Beavers are very easy to make. They're not too expensive and will be a nice decoration for your Beaver Thanksgiving celebration.

Each Beaver needs:

- 1 hospital medicine cup
- 1½" brown fur (or wool) pom-pom
- 2 plastic beads (eyes)
- 1 large black sequin (nose)
- Odd bits of brown, black and white felt.



From the felt cut two black paws, one set of white teeth, two brown felt ears and a brown tail. Put glue at the bottom of each ear, fold and let dry. Glue the brown felt body around the medicine cup and glue the brown *pompom* onto the seam side of the cup. Place the ears, eyes and nose where they should be on the pompom. Glue a paw on each side of the cup and finish off with a brown felt tail.

Now add some Hallowe'en candies and decorate the table.

Styrofoam Turkeys

It wouldn't be Thanksgiving in Canada without a turkey and all the trimmings. Beavers can easily make these "turkeys" and take them home to decorate Thanksgiving dinner tables.

Each Beaver needs:

- 2½" styrofoam ball (egg-shaped)
- 7 regular, multicoloured pipe-cleaners
- 1 fuzzy, red "chenille" pipe-cleaner.

Twist five pipe-cleaners into loops for tail feathers. Bend the red chenille pipe-cleaner into a head. Shape two matching pipe-cleaners into legs and feet. Stick the head into the narrow end of the styrofoam egg. Line up the feathers along the back of the wide end of the egg. Stick feet in the bottom. The colony will soon have a collection of brightly coloured birds that can run and bend and look around for food.

Herb and Spice Design

For this simple activity you need coloured construction paper, non-toxic glue, brushes and some herbs and spices in separate shakers and dishes.

Have the Beavers make glue designs on the paper using brushes. Then tell them to sprinkle the various herbs and spices over the wet glue designs. Let the Beavers sniff and examine the designs to notice the difference between the herbs and spices.

Dots

Drop a dozen grains of rice on a piece of white paper. Make a dot on the spot where each grain has fallen, then create a picture by joining all the dots.

Pin The Nose On The Jack-O-Lantern

This game may seem like old hat to you, but to a five year old Beaver it might just be something new and exciting. Even if your Beavers have played "Pin The Nose..." before, this old stand-by remains popular because it's fun!

Draw a gigantic picture of an orange jack-o-lantern (minus his nose) and pin it on the wall. Have everyone take turns at pinning the nose on the jack-o-lantern while blindfolded. Don't forget to give each new player a spin before he starts.

Beaver in the Lodge

One Beaver stands in the middle of the room while the others choose a corner or "lodge" and move to that spot. When the leader calls out, "This Beaver needs a lodge", all the Beavers run to a different corner. The Beaver in the middle tries to reach a corner too. Depending on the size of the colony, establish a maximum number of Beavers allowed in one corner, so that one will always be left in the middle.

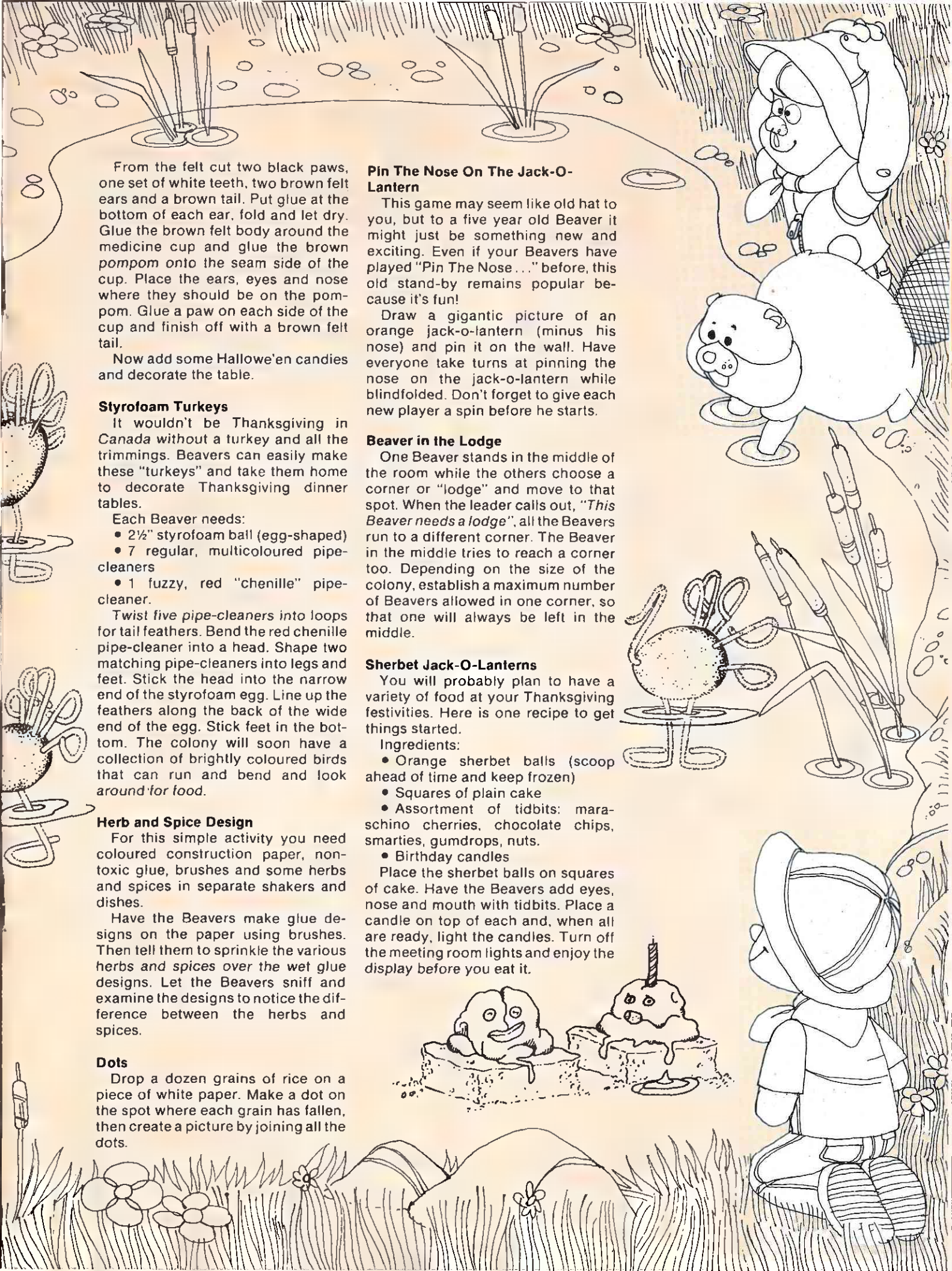
Sherbet Jack-O-Lanterns

You will probably plan to have a variety of food at your Thanksgiving festivities. Here is one recipe to get things started.

Ingredients:

- Orange sherbet balls (scoop ahead of time and keep frozen)
- Squares of plain cake
- Assortment of tidbits: maraschino cherries, chocolate chips, smarties, gumdrops, nuts.
- Birthday candles

Place the sherbet balls on squares of cake. Have the Beavers add eyes, nose and mouth with tidbits. Place a candle on top of each and, when all are ready, light the candles. Turn off the meeting room lights and enjoy the display before you eat it.





We are reliably informed that a large proportion of the personal accident insurance claims lodged come from Scout leaders who make a practice of joining their boys in troop room games. In the age of innocence, of course, games were always an important feature of Scout leader training courses and it may be that Scouters picked up the habit there. No doubt they imagined, poor souls, that having played boisterous games against their peers without mishap, they could safely chance their arm against mere boys.

Such folly!

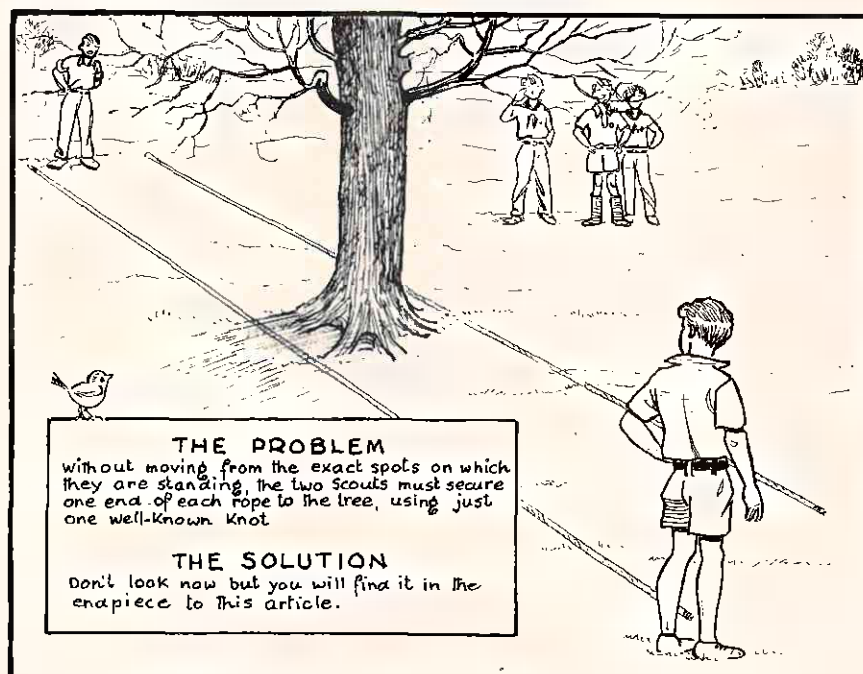
Still, this feature is all in favour of Scouters having their share of fun on troop night. What we really need is a good repertoire of risk-free Scouter-participation games.

A typical example would be *The Whirling Jackstay*. That's the one where the Scouter stands in the middle of the circle and whirls a weighted line at floor-level while the boys jump

over it. It is quite a subtle game, really, because with practice a skilled performer can actually select his victims by varying the speed and elevation of the jackstay so that it mows down the cocky athletic types while sparing the gentle clodhoppers. We ourselves, when young, were pastmasters in this operation. In our hands this crude apparatus, merely an old boxing-glove stuffed with back-numbers of the parish magazine, became an instrument of great delicacy, enabling us to mete out shock-therapy where it was most needed. Many a worthy citizen in the north of England today sits spooning his breakfast cereal in the bosom of his family all unaware of how much he owes to the good old jackstay, and (if I may) to me.

Mind you, there are certain dangers inherent in the playing of this excellent game. One needs to be on one's guard against deriving sadistic satisfaction from the infliction of pain and suffering upon one's youthful followers, while at the same time resisting the temptation to get one's own back on (for instance) such cocky young buck who is currently rocking the boat in the Patrol Leaders Council. Do watch it, Johnathon. You too, Peregrine. It would be ironic indeed if, in our efforts to train the characters of our dear lads, we dealt our own a telling blow.

Leaving that aside, the main purpose of the Scouter-participation game will be to give the adult leader an occasional share of the fun, without upping the cost of the Personal Accident Insurance Policy too disastrously. We shall be glad to have your suggestions for other games in this new category.



'Mobiles' used to be all the rage in suburban households twenty or so ago. These were merely ornaments-in-suspension in which a fine balance was maintained and which were constantly — and, I should have thought, irritatingly — kept on the move by the movement in the air around them. Very charming some of them were no doubt, and it may be a pity they've gone out of fashion; or may be not.

The suggestion now placed before you is that a patrol competition should be promoted this back-end to see which lot can rig up the most ingenious and active 'mobile' from articles which are normally available in any well-appointed troop room.

NOW IS THE TIME —

- to call up your patrol leaders, hand to each a bulky parcel containing everything their patrols will need to cook themselves a nutritious meal by the wayside and banish them from the troop room for the next hour or so;
- to put next year's summer camp on the agenda of the Patrol Leaders Council;
- to make sure that every Scout in the troop knows how to cope with a persistent nose-bleed, a troublesome blister, a fainting fit, or indeed any other common 'first aid' emergency that may occur to you;
- to lay on an impromptu 'Renewal of Promise' (without pontification) by lamplight in some secluded spot within reasonable Scout's Pace distance of the troop room;
- to organize a round-the-houses night game;
- to introduce a snorkelling or scuba diving expert to the troop — with his fascinating gear, of course;
- to warn the troop a week in advance that a party of Guides will be responsible for the ritual of inspection and flagbreak at the next troop meeting;
- to suggest to your district commissioner that a get-together of troop Scouters and patrol leaders should be held at district level with the A.D.C. (Scouts) in the chair, to discuss the possibility of undertaking a joint conservation project;
- to suggest to your patrol leaders that the troop may be getting into a rut without realizing it, and to ask them to think about it and come back to you with a few suggestions.

A COMPLAINT

One matter which so far has escaped the notice of the watchdogs of the Consumers' Association is that, in raising the quality of their products, some manufacturers have only succeeded in making them quite useless for Scouting purposes. Someone ought to complain. Take carbon paper. In a happier age secretaries used to complain that the carbon came off on their fingers. My own young lady, for instance, always wore paper cuffs to protect the sleeves of her immaculate white blouse. On the other hand it was just the job for making carbon leafprints. The stuff they give you now is useless — unless, that is, you follow the advice given in this column some years ago and use your mum's electric iron and ironing board (carefully protected with newspaper) when making your leafprints.

An even better idea is to lay the leaf, vein-side up, on a hard surface, cover it with a sheet of paper and scrub over it with a soft (BB) pencil. The outline of the leaf should then be cut out carefully with one of those excellent craft tools and gummed to a backing sheet.

New pigments, too, undreamt of in our youth, are now available. You will find, for instance, that your wife's or teenage sister's eyeshadow and lipstick make excellent leafprints — in such fetching colours too. Aluminum foil impressions in bas-relief have great charm and you can, of course, encapsulate the leaf itself in transparent fablon. Yes, indeed, we have much to be thankful for. Forget about carbon paper. They can keep it.

It would be idle to deny that the O.T.L. Skybuggy, illustrated here, is so fraught with technical problems that we have little hope of ever getting it off the drawing board.

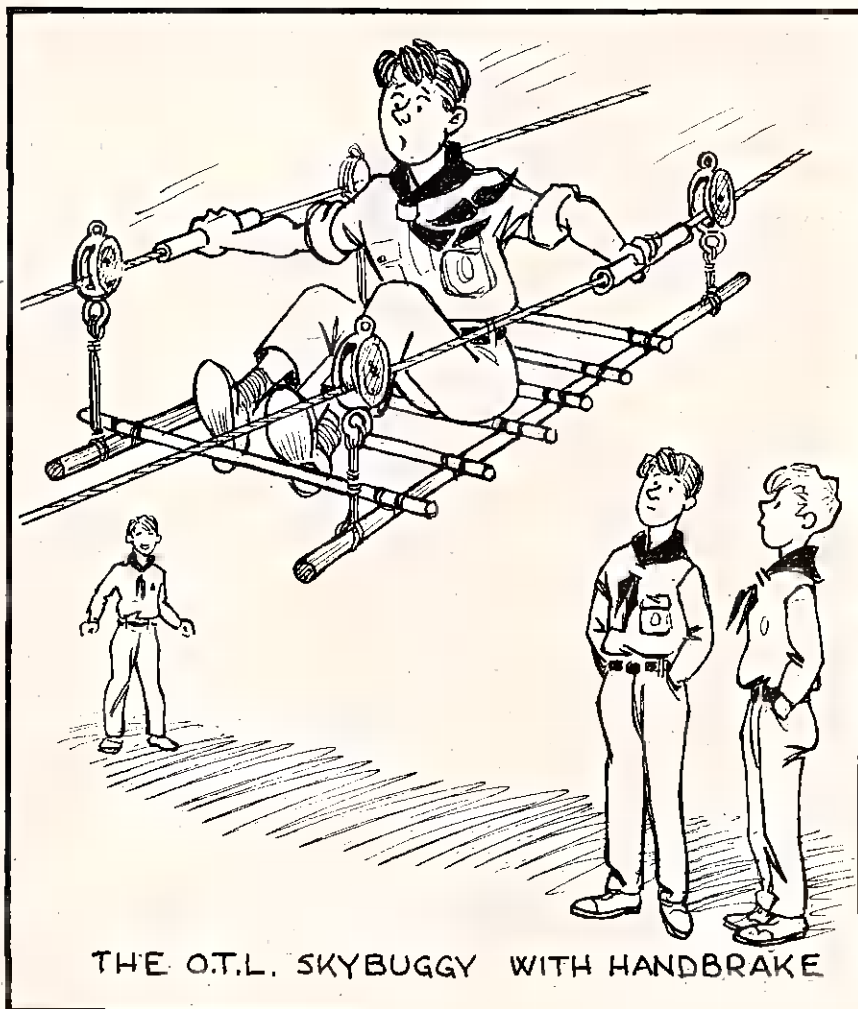
Such, at any rate, was the attitude at Gilwell, England, when we first put forward the idea following a visit to the circus at Harringay, London, in company with our friends long, long ago. What we saw then were strapping young men and shapely young women sliding down from their flying trapeze act on a slack rope slanting down from the tie beams of the roof. The slack in the rope acted to some extent as a brake as they neared terra firma but in addition they held on to

what looked like sections of canvas firehose threaded on to the rope. By squeezing this sleeve tightly they were able to slow down their rate of descent and just tripped off gracefully the moment their feet touched the sanded ground.

As you see, our idea was to dangle our Skybuggy from four pulley blocks running on tramlines of rope stretched like fiddlestrings between the branches of two convenient trees, one slightly lower than the other. Lacking firehoses we thought of borrowing a couple of those cardboard tubes which are used at Gilwell for sending out Wood Badge parchments and stuff like that through the post, but the real problem was to put an equal strain on the two tramlines so that the buggy ran on an even keel. Nor could we be quite sure that the cardboard tubes would be equal to the strain. The theory, of course, was that the rider would simply apply the brake by drawing the tubes together, or better still, by pressing outwards. My own opinion (overruled by the training instructor, my gallant friend and colleague, the late Eric Colley), was that we could easily reinforce the tubes by glueing extra thicknesses of

cardboard around them, but in those days, as now, nobody in a position of authority ever paid the slightest heed to anything I said or wrote and so the chance to pioneer this new development in Fringe technology was lost.

ENDPIECE: The 'well-known knot' which would enable the two Scouts to secure the ropes to the tree by remote control would be (as if you didn't know!) the fisherman's. The boys would each make a single overhand knot round the rope on their own left-hand side with the end of the rope on their right and then draw the two slip knots together in unison so that they both locked round the tree at the same time. Would it be secure? you ask. One way of finding out would be to get your patrol leaders to try it out for themselves. Please don't bother to write. My trained four-year-old assistant, Simon Roy Felton, and I have already done our homework on the linen post in the back garden and are quite satisfied, thank you, quite satisfied. A



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Supply NEWS

by Jim Mackie

B.-P. Petitpoint Kit

Announcing another super 75th Anniversary souvenir, *The Baden-Powell Petitpoint Kit!* Produced in Canada especially for Supply Services, this attractive item includes a design of the famous Jagger portrait of the founder, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, a supply of colourful Aronelle 100% Kodel polyester yarn, and a needle. It's ideal for framing or as a gift or presentation item. The 8" x 10 1/8" design has a generous border, and step-by-step instructions make it a perfect craft project for both boys and leaders. Catalogue #60-378, \$10.50.

Cub Jerseys

Cub jerseys now being delivered to Scout Shops and dealers feature the crew-neck design tested and approved last year by all provinces. The collar and pearl buttons on its predecessor had become a very expensive part of the jersey's manufacture, and to continue with that style would have meant a sizeable price increase this year. Because of the collar change, we have been able to maintain last year's retail price of \$12.95; no easy task in this day and age.

Cub Stockings

Supplies of Wolf Cub stockings now arriving in Supply Services are single-size, stretch style. By changing from a multiple size range, we have been able to reach a better pricing arrangement with our manufacturer. As a result we've been able to reduce the retail price from the '80/'81 level of \$6.35 to **\$3.95 per pair**. When current inventories allow, we hope we will also be able to change to single-size for the navy stockings. This should be possible in the not too distant future.

CJ '81 Souvenirs

Because this column is being prepared in mid-June, we don't yet know what souvenir items will be left over at the end of CJ '81. It's our intention to make any inventory that is returned from Alberta available to the entire membership. Should quantities warrant, we plan to feature an appropriate ad in **the Leader** later this year.

75th Anniversary Souvenirs

By now you should have received copies of both the Youth and Leader editions of the 1981/82 Supply Services catalogues. On page 10 of the Youth Catalogue we have featured a number of 75th Anniversary souvenir items. There are more to come! For example, we have on order a souvenir pin similar to the World Anniversary crest, as well as a crested coffee mug. We urge collectors of Scouting memorabilia, pins and crests to watch for the exciting line of 15th World Jamboree souvenirs that will begin to appear in our ads in **the Leader** in the new year.



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PATROL CORNER

by Phil Newsome

TROOP PLANNING

by Joe Mior, Bobcaygeon, Ontario

We continually hear how much smarter kids are today, how much more knowledge there is around us, and how much better educated we all are.

While I won't argue this premise, what always astounds me is how poorly we use the invaluable mass of knowledge we have.

How often have you wondered if your program has become stale or out-dated? Aren't there meeting nights when you come home feeling you've done this once before? We've all had the feeling at one time or another.

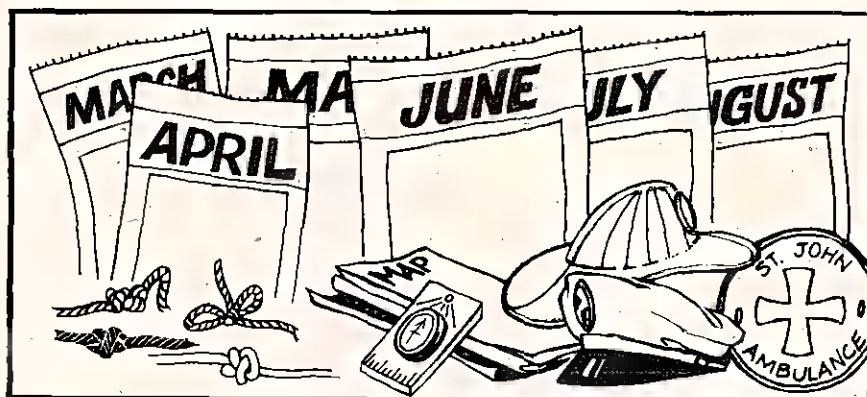
Well, it's time to sit down to re-evaluate. Let your imagination loose,

you have to do to achieve the goals. Some of the skills the boys have to acquire for camping are first aid, knots and lashings, cooking, fire lighting, compass and orienteering, tracking, etc. For community service they should learn about the history of the local community, its ethnic composition, its organizations and their functions, and its needs.

These are only some of the elements. Make up your own list. A close look will show opportunities for much of the badge work found in the *Scout Handbook*.

Once you've set goals and determined required skills, it's time to assess the skill levels of the boys in the troop. The program must be geared to the realities presented by their different ages and abilities.

And when this is done, you have the



because the solution is imaginative planning that involves all your leaders and leaders-in-training.

Though we often talk about it, few of us really do effective, realistic planning on a regular basis. Even fewer of us do imaginative planning.

First we have to ask: What do we want to achieve this Scouting year? The answer should be specific. Generalities are almost worthless. Once we set goals, we can plan a good program for both the short and the long term.

As an example, take a troop program. Perhaps the long range objectives are to develop camping skills for week-end camps and a longer summer camp. Let's say you also want the boys to be more actively involved in community service. These are your long term plans for the year.

The next step is to determine what

basis of a long range plan which you can tie to a time frame. What will the emphasis be in January? First aid? Include a visit to a hospital, a police station, a fire hall, or even the Red Cross or St. John Ambulance, and you have programmed some requirements both for camping skills and for community service knowledge. Go on from there. What do you want to do in February, March, and even into the summer months?

From generalities to specifics. If you decide to concentrate upon knotting and lashing in March, you must schedule training sessions into the weekly program. For example, at one meeting you show the boys how to do the clove hitch and square lashing, and give them 'hands-on' experience. But you must also tell them about the use of these knots by relating them to things they understand.

Since you want the boys to become good campers, you've arranged a camp, and you can tell them how practical the knots will be for making lean-to's, Chippewa tables, etc. But they don't have to wait for a camp before they use the knots in a practical way.

Apply imagination and make one of your games a chariot race. There are three boys to a team. Using newly learned techniques, they lash together four staves in the form of a square to make the chariot. Then run a relay with one Scout from each team the rider and the other two the 'horses'.

Here's another simple idea related to community knowledge and compass and orienteering work. At one of the meetings you train your boys in basic elements of compass and map work. Then have each patrol plan a map route of part of the community near the troop room. The patrols must prepare their maps using compass readings that others can follow.

To cross check that a patrol follows the route, additional information and compass readings must be picked up at pre-determined points along the way. For example: Follow a bearing of 245° from the troop room until you reach the red brick building with the yellow doors. At this point, follow a route of 320° until you reach a large two-storey red brick building with two large doors (the local fire hall). At this location, ask for Mr. Smith, who will give you your next set of instructions.

The instructions, given to the patrol by one of the firemen, will tell the boys to learn specific information about fire safety, and will include their next compass bearing. The route can be as simple or as complicated as you like.

What does the exercise accomplish? First it involves the whole troop. It puts training given at the meeting into a practical format. Each patrol plans a route and has a chance to follow a course planned by fellow Scouts. And ultimately, the troop learns more about the community.

In effect the boys are doing work for several badges at one time, in a practical way. They are putting into practice what they learn, and will take instruction periods more seriously.

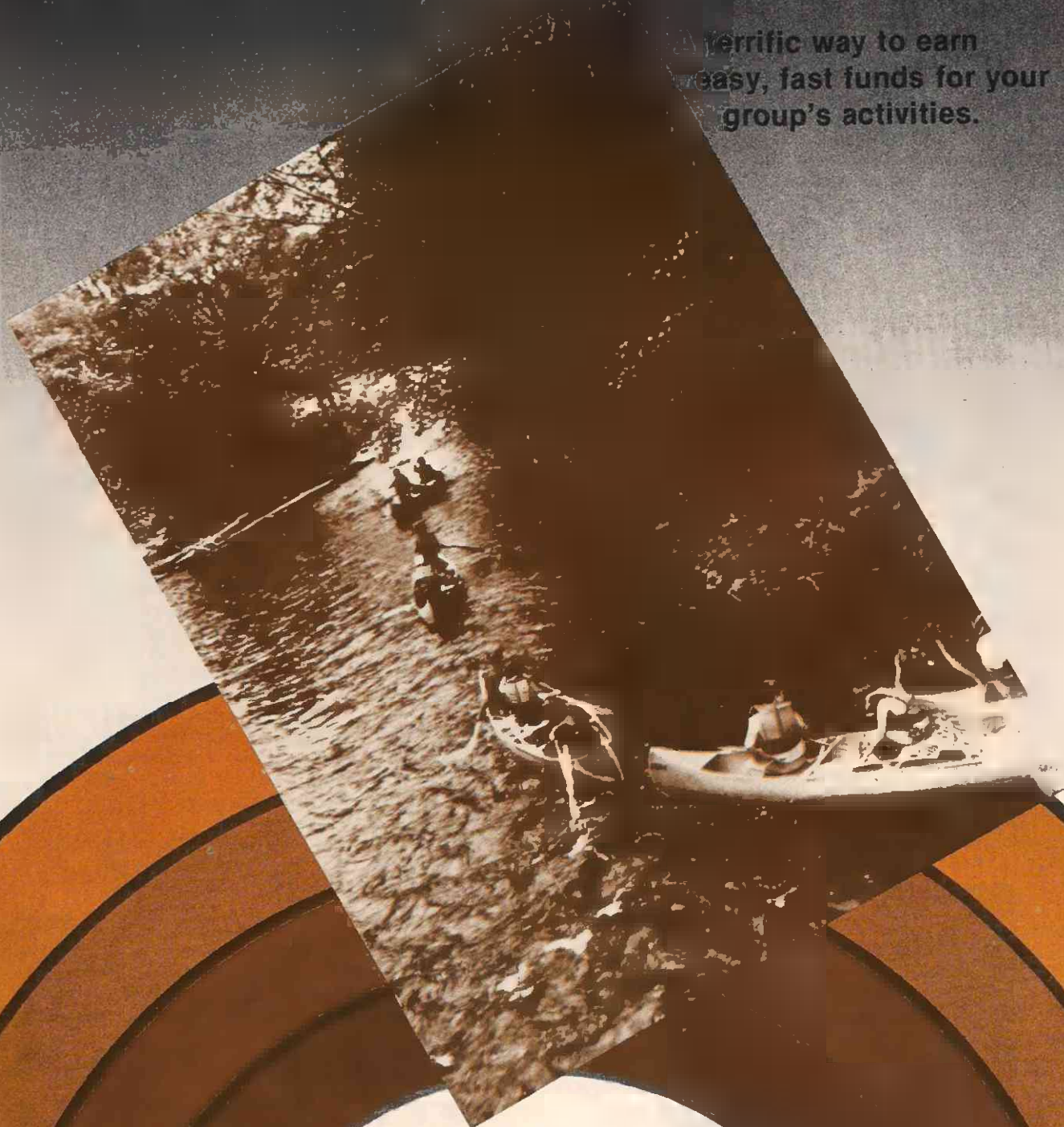
So now you have a long range plan for the troop. You know what you want to accomplish by the end of the year. For each month, you have a basic theme or main area to work on. From there you plan a program for each week based on the theme.

It may sound like a lot of work, but it really isn't. A little planning will save a lot of wasted time and frustration, and will keep your boys in the troop.

Scout Calendar '82

*75th Anniversary
Souvenir Edition*

A terrific way to earn
easy, fast funds for your
group's activities.



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The following material has been adapted from information presented at a recent workshop on retention hosted by the Greater Toronto Region. It outlines the concept of Area Rover Crews and provides a guide to their formation.

An Area-District-Region or composite Rover crew can be a solution to the problem of providing a place for older Venturers from a number of different companies in a geographic area. It avoids the problem of group loyalties and provides a recruiting tool to encourage Venturers to continue in the Scouting movement with a program suited to their needs.

The approach suggested is based upon a successful model used with Venturer companies in the Fort William District.

STEP 1: The Assistant Area Commissioner (A.A.C.)-Rovers secures the support of the area commissioner and co-operation from the A.A.C.-Venturers. This should be done now!

STEP 2: The A.A.C.-Rovers, with possible assistance from the A.A.C.-Venturers, contacts each company

Scouter and prepares a list (name, address and phone number) both of boys who will be eligible for Rovers in the coming fall and of other boys of suitable age who may have dropped out of the company during the previous year. Such a list can be checked against or, in fact, obtained from registration lists at Scout House. This process should be accomplished before May!

STEP 3: The A.A.C.-Rovers contacts each fellow on the list three weeks prior to a planned meeting, and invites him to attend the meeting in order to hear about Rovering and the start-up of a new crew.

At either this stage or the previous one, there may be resistance from company Scouters who want to retain older boys in the company. Regardless of opposition, these boys should be contacted and encouraged to attend.

STEP 4: Several days before the meeting, the A.A.C.-Rovers calls everyone again, even if the initial contact produced a negative response. Word gets around and a friend can change another's mind.

The meeting can be held in May or September but, if you have the opportunity, plant the seed in May, before the fellows take up new commitments in the new school year.

STEP 5: The meeting should be held in a central location. It must be well organized and well run. The A.A.C.-Rovers should keep in mind the need

for new advisors. Potential advisors should be involved in organizing the meeting. The use of Rovers from a well-run existing crew is recommended.

The meeting plan should include an introduction; a slide presentation — Rovers; and a question and answer period involving the A.A.C. and Rovers. Schedule a follow-up meeting and adjourn to an informal discussion of Rovering.

Subsequent meetings should involve the A.A.C.-Rovers until the crew leadership is established. In some cases, the A.A.C.-Rovers may choose to be the advisor, but this means that additional adult leadership should be recruited.

The strength of an area crew comes from the fact that it belongs to the fellows who come together to set it up.

Take great care to ensure that the crew is registered in such a way as to be as satisfactory as possible to the Rovers. There are at least two options:

- Register with a strong existing group and adopt their number. This option might have advantages if good sponsorship, financial support or meeting place are important considerations. A disadvantage might be a difficulty in recruiting additional members next year.

- Seek separate sponsorship, using a section committee to administer the group. This has the advantage of avoiding old group loyalties and creating a true composite crew which may continue to attract older Venturers in subsequent years.

Be flexible and willing to explore unusual arrangements, keeping in mind the need to have the area commissioner's approval.

Assuming that the new crew is well established and functioning after a year, it may be used as a recruiting tool in several ways:

- If the Rovers are agreeable, they can recruit new members by making contact with older Venturers.

- The Rovers can assist in the setting up of a meeting that will lead to organizing a new affiliated crew.

A.A.C.-Rovers are encouraged to consider setting up area crews where companies have insufficient numbers of older boys to justify the formation of a crew. The process leading to the formation of the area crew requires the initiative, attention and efforts of the A.A.C.-Rovers or his service team over an extended period of time. A

SCOUTER'S Swap Shop

FOR THE BIRDS

Make a fat feeder by drilling holes into a block of wood. Drill smaller holes under each large hole and insert a dowel in each to serve as a perch for the birds. Attach an eye-screw to the top centre of the block for hanging.

Pack the large holes in the feeder with a mixture of: suet, bacon grease, cornmeal, rolled oats and wild bird seed. Stir these ingredients together over low heat until well-blended. Cool until the mixture has a doughy consistency and can be easily stuffed into the feeder.

Thanks to Mrs. G.W. Quadros of Prince Rupert, B.C. She also suggests that Cubs who make this feeder and observe birds at it during the winter can fulfill some requirements for a number of stars and badges: Tawny #1; Black #8; Carpenter #3; Handyman #5; Black #12; Observer #2 and #3.

PATROL CHALLENGES

Electrified Wire

Use flashlights and gym-mats if available. Stretch a rope across your meeting hall or between posts, just high enough that boys cannot jump it. Ask patrols to pick a 'victim' who is unconscious. They must move him and, all the 'rescuers' over the wire without touching it. They do it in the dark for added effect. Every boy who manages the feat by using various methods (boys' shoulders, staff, etc.) earns a point for his patrol. Finish by giving the proper first aid to the victim.

Time Bomb & Mine Field

Place a long rope in a large circle, or use chalk to outline the circle. A 'victim' is blindfolded and hog-tied in the centre of the circle beside a bomb (a can with a rope 'fuse'). In turn, each patrol tries to rescue the victim and

defuse the bomb within a given time limit. Because 'mines' also have been scattered within the circle, the boys must find a way to rescue the victim without being blown to bits themselves. Each patrol is judged, for originality, resourcefulness, team effort, leadership and speed.

Vanishing Blanket

Bring an old blanket, or several of them, all of the same size. Ask boys in each patrol to take off shoes and stand on the blanket. Begin to fold the blanket. As it keeps shrinking, the boys must remain standing on it for a count of three. No one may touch the floor. They can climb onto each other. The patrol which manages to stand on the smallest size blanket wins.

Highest Mark

Members of a patrol climb onto each other's shoulders. The top boy makes a chalk mark on the wall or a tree, and the highest mark wins. A similar idea is the 'cookie jar' hung from a tree branch. Without touching the tree in any way, a patrol has two minutes for each member to take a cookie or a smartie from the jar. No chairs, rope or ladders allowed.

These challenges are sent by Troop Scouters Bud Jacobi of St. Catharines, Ontario. A



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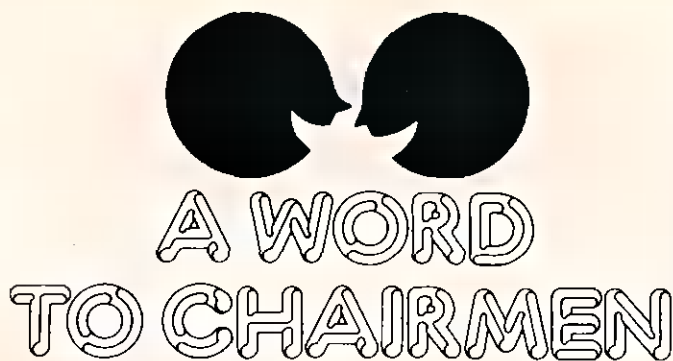
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A WORD TO CHAIRMEN

(of Group Committees)

by Pat Horan

... about the new Group Committee handbook

Dear Murray,

I'm delighted to report that *The Handbook for Group Committees* will soon be available. I had an opportunity to review early copy and I know it is going to be a most useful resource for both novice and experienced group committee personnel.

The Adult Volunteer Committee went far afield to seek and adapt useful materials from a great variety of sources, and the draft was vetted by a good number of people from all across the country.

As you would expect, the handbook includes complete chapters on camping, finances, religious policy, public relations and so on. But it also gives excellent information on planning, effective conduct of meetings, evaluation techniques and membership management.

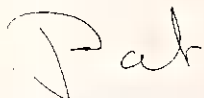
A thorough exploration of the Scout Group as an entity includes the duties of each member of the Group Committee and a note on Ladies' Auxiliaries, an under-used resource in many Scout groups. Appendices and illustrations provide a great deal of additional information.

Although a number of the areas are covered in one form or another elsewhere, it's valuable to pull them all together in one handy and useful reference book. The book's usefulness is increased by the inclusion of an open-ended section for names and addresses of committee personnel, leaders, resource people and parents who have expressed an interest in working with the boys.

The handbook will be available from Scout council offices or Scout Shops this fall. I hope you'll be able to provide a copy to each of your members.

When you've read the new handbook, be sure to tell us your reactions, and include any comments you think will be useful to add to the second edition.

Sincerely,



LOGO CONTEST DATE CHANGE: Because of the postal strike, the deadline for the GRILLA logo contest advertised by W.L. Connelly Investments in the June/July '81 issue has been extended to November 31, 1981. See page 37 June/July issue for contest details. X



MESSAGE
OF
YOUR
CHOICE

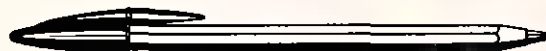
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If you are planning a fund raising campaign, the "Carrier Pen Pak" is your answer.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



by Bob Butcher

Perhaps as a rehearsal for the 75th anniversary of Scouting, the 33rd Canadian Martyrs group in Ottawa celebrated its own anniversary last April by staging a production called "Join a Cub Pack Charlie Brown".

The play was written and produced by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts themselves.

From left to right are: Leszek Nowosielski as Lucy; Matthew Hopkins as Linus; Matthew White as Woodstock; François Ollivier as Charlie Brown; Norman Guay as Schroeder; and Robbie Giroux as Snoopy.



Photo: Courtesy The Citizen, Ottawa, Canada

The 33rd Canadian Martyrs group was celebrating its 35th anniversary.

Scouter "Skink" Dutton of Winnipeg, a sometimes contributor to the **Leader**, has written to us with a special request. Skink would like to contact Scouters who are licensed amateur radio operators with a view to establishing a Scout net. "Net" is an amateur radio term for a group of "hams" who get together on a particular frequency at a particular time, on certain days of the week, to talk about, in this case, Scouting.

Skink writes that, at least initially, a net would be called on Sunday evenings at 0130 u.t.c., in order to accommodate Scouters in the five and a half time zones across the country.

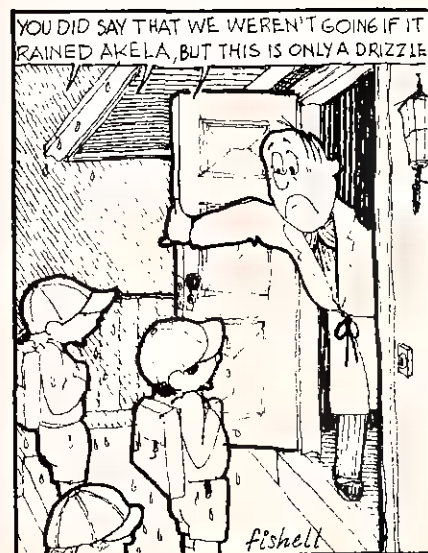
Such a network could provide a vehicle for talking about training, JOTA (Jamboree-On-The-Air), jamborees and camporees, organizing visits, and, generally, enlarging the brotherhood of Scouting.

Even if licensed Scouters are not interested in such a net, Skink would like to hear from them so that he can produce a directory of amateur radio Scouters. He would like their name, call, QTH, type of license, name of Scouting unit, and anything else that they would like to provide (equipment, interests in amateur radio, experiences in both radio and Scouting, etc.). A stamped, self-addressed envelope will get them their first information bulletin on SCN (Scouts

Canada Net) and other information.

Interested Scouters should write: V.L. Dutton VE4VQ, c/o University of Manitoba Amateur Radio Society, Room 514 University Centre, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man., R3T 2N2.

If the shoe fits.....

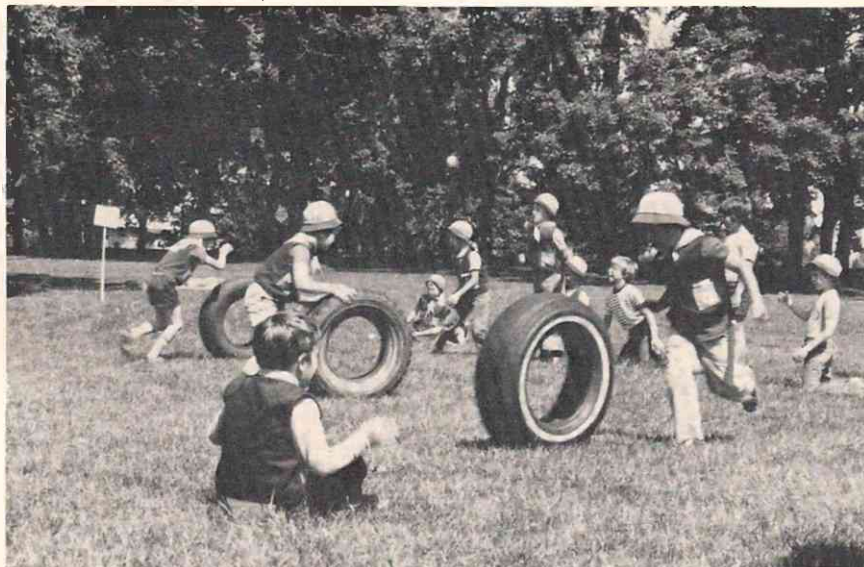


Without doubt, 1982 (and part of 1983) will be a year of anniversary celebrations across Canada. Scout councils and groups plan to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Scouting as well as their own anniversaries in many ways.

For instance, on the weekend June 4-6, 1982, the Fraser Valley Region will host a "Homecoming Gilwell Reunion" for all present and former Gilwellians of the Fraser Valley. The event, for which Gilwellians are invited to "follow the sound of the Kudu Horn and come home", is also part of their 20th anniversary as a region. The weekend will provide an opportunity to share and learn new skills, and to look into the development of the Fraser Valley Region and of Scouting in general.

Inquiries should be directed to: "Homecoming Gilwell Reunion" Committee Fraser Valley Region — Scouts Canada, 620 Queens Ave., New Westminster, B.C., V3M 1L2.

On May 31, over 1300 Beavers and leaders in the National Capital Region enjoyed the 9th annual Beaver picnic on the lawn of Rideau Hall, the residence of the Chief Scout, His Excellency the Right Honourable Edward R. Schreyer, C.C., C.M.M.,



Governor General of Canada. Our photo shows one of the more popular events.

From time to time, readers ask, "Who publishes **the Leader** and how is it distributed?" or "Why does it take so long to get my first (or every) issue?" or "How do I go about notifying you of my change of address?"

I've prepared the following to try to shed some light on these mysteries.

Until the late 1960's, our magazine, known as *The Scout Leader Magazine*, was owned and published by Boy Scouts of Canada.

Changes in the Post Office Act in 1968 resulted in the loss of second class mailing privileges for "association publications". Faced with overwhelming increases in mailing costs in 1969, the publication was in danger of folding.

To regain second class status for the magazine, Canyouth Publications Ltd., an independent publishing company, was incorporated in July 1969. Boy Scouts of Canada then sold to Canyouth its two magazines: *Canadian Boy* (now defunct) and, in 1970, *The Scout Leader Magazine*. At that time the Scout Leader was renamed **The Canadian Leader Magazine**.

Boy Scouts of Canada became, and continues to be, the "subscription agent" for Canyouth Publications Ltd. In its capacity as a subscription agent, Boy Scouts of Canada collects subscriptions and maintains the mailing list of subscribers.

There are at least three different ways in which readers' names get onto our subscription list.

1) Any individual who fills out the subscription form and sends it with

the appropriate fee to **the Leader** address has his name added to the list maintained at Boy Scouts of Canada national office in Ottawa.

2) One leader in each Scouting unit obtains a subscription when he pays his registration fee and when his registration form is turned in to his local Scout office. Each of Boy Scouts of Canada's 35 Scout offices maintains that part of the mailing list for their area.

3) In most major centres, Scout councils pay a subsidy to have all leaders in their area obtain subscriptions to the magazine. This is termed the "Every Scouter Plan", and these names are maintained at the local Scout offices as well.

Although there are a few other possibilities, these are the three basic kinds of LEADER subscriptions.

Once each month, Scout offices use their subscription list to prepare mailing wrappers. The wrappers are then shipped to Ottawa to be attached to the magazines as they are printed.

This brings us to the matter of changes of address. Most Scouters who change their address should notify their local Scout office of the change.

The exceptions are those who are on the national office list. You are on that list if there is a subscription renewal date code (month and year) printed above your name on the mailing wrapper.

Because of all the shipping and handling involved, mail wrappers are normally prepared *two months* before they are on the magazines and on their way to the post office.

Having read this far, readers will begin to appreciate how it may take some time before they receive their first copy of the magazine, or to have a change of address recorded.

While we can't guarantee a speedier delivery, there are a few steps readers can take to help.

- Make sure your registration forms are passed from your group to your local Scout office or field executive as early as possible.

- Make sure your name and address are printed as clearly as possible.

- Be absolutely certain to **USE YOUR POSTAL CODE**.

- Check to see if your Scout council is on the "Every Scouter Plan". If not, you may have to subscribe directly.

- If you want to bypass other levels, or if you simply want a second copy of the Leader for cutting and filling, complete the subscription form and send it, with appropriate fee, directly to **the Leader** address.

- When reporting a change of address, be sure to give your *old* address (including postal code), as well as your new one. Remember to check your label. Unless there is a month/year renewal code *above* your name, send change of address notification to your local office.

- Contact your local post office if your magazine continues to arrive late every month. Copies are mailed before the first of the month shown on the cover (except the Aug/Sept issue which is mailed in late August). X

Subscription Rates:

Registered Adult Members BSC
\$4.00 per year

Others in Canada
\$7.00 per year

Outside Canada
\$9.00 per year

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the leader

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Ottawa Ontario K2C 3H4



Dear Sir,

I'm very upset after reading part of *Beaver Happenings*, April '81 (a pine cone birdfeeder). NEVER, NEVER, NEVER feed peanut butter to a bird. It will gum up its beak and throat, causing it to choke. If that doesn't happen, chances are the bird will die because it can't digest the peanut butter.

You could use the same feeder idea, though, with softened bacon grease mixed with suet. Dip the cone into it, then roll in wild bird seed.

Also, remember that once you start feeding wild birds in the fall and winter they will become dependent on you for food. Keep it up until spring.

— Mrs. J. Quadros,
Prince Rupert, B.C.

Ed's Reply: We consulted with a bird expert at the Canadian Wildlife Association on this question, and received the following information. Peanut butter tends to stick in a bird's crop (part of the gullet where food is prepared for digestion), and dead birds have been found with undigested peanut butter in the crop. Although there is not enough research to say that peanut butter is definitely the culprit in these deaths, the consensus is that you should not feed straight peanut butter to birds. The expert suggests that you mix peanut butter with melted suet before using it in a feeder. The suet makes the peanut butter slippery so that it won't stick, and the peanut butter gives the birds an extra treat.

We also had a reply from the Scout-er who originally sent us the idea. She said she'd found reference to feeding birds peanut butter in a number of sources, including World Book Encyclopedia. She reports, "Our colony has made these feeders for the past five years and I have one in my back yard where many birds come to it each winter. I've never had a dead bird in all the time I've made them, nor have I heard any of our Beavers (approximately 60 per year) mention finding a dead bird in his yard or having one choke at his feeder."

Despite the report of good experiences with peanut butter feeders, we suggest that leaders follow the expert advice of the Canadian Wildlife Asso-

ciation in order to avoid any possibility of adding to birds' wintertime distress.

Dear Editor,

The Patent Hot Water System described in the LEADER, April '81 sounds like a very good idea. I've no doubt that it would work fine — with one alteration. It seems to me that the input tube must be higher than the output tube for it to function as described.

Was the picture drawn this way in jest? If so, I've only pointed out the "punch line" of an all too obvious joke (how embarrassing). Or perhaps the picture is correct and the laws of physics are wrong. Then again, maybe the picture and the laws of physics are both correct and I'm (gasp!) wrong. Which is it?

I really enjoy your magazine. Keep up the good work.

— Jack Regehr, Lethbridge, Alta.

Ed's Reply: John Sweet has had a flood of letters pointing out the mistake in his drawing of the hot water system, and On the Level, Aug/Sept '81 deals with this whole matter. Not you, but we (gasp!) were wrong! Many thanks for writing.

Dear Sir,

Have just finished reading the article by Helen Singh on a Cub Ramble with an Indian theme. While applauding the imagination and creativity demonstrated, I am distressed at the lost opportunity to teach the boys something of the Indian culture.

There seems to have been a total lack of research done by either the leaders or the boys. The use of wampum is but one example.

There does not seem to have been any conscious decision as to which of the several Native cultures was being followed. As in most Hollywood productions, we have a conglomeration of customs and costumes from the eastern woodlands to the west coast, with a smattering of elements from the plains.

The interpretation of the role of medicine man is 'cute' at best and 'ridicule' at worst. There is no recognition of the spiritual element that is an integral part of the role of the medicine man.

In the area in which Little Fort is located are numerous Indian bands. Contact with any one of them might go a long way towards helping Cubs better appreciate the value of a different culture.

That one group should have this type of program is unfortunate; that it should be recommended in The

Leader is deplorable. I hope there were no Indian children in her pack.

— Elizabeth Boyd, Toronto

Reply from leader/author Helen Singh: I very much enjoyed writing the Cub ramble article. Yes, I can get farfetched and theatrical at times, but that is the name of the game. The more blood and gore, the more the boys love it! Among my top priorities in working with boys are: a high standard of achievement in badge work, learning to get along with all sorts of people, and HAVING FUN.

The purpose of this ramble was to have fun and to search for fossils. It was not intended to be a cultural expedition. Yes, we did have an Indian boy in the pack. We also had Chinese/Ukrainian and Japanese/East Indian mixtures, and even a few white boys!

Our program is so full of camping, light-weight hiking, canoeing, glacier travelling, rock climbing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing that perhaps we do fail to take time to stress the cultural aspects of our local area. But, when our pack entered a western theme district Cuboree competition, we won the trophy with pack spirit and co-operation, skills and, more theatrics, "buffalo chips". Most of our Cubs have continued into Scouts and we have been able to increase the outdoor skills to which they were introduced as Cubs.

I think a Letters column is an excellent idea. I also believe that criticism should be positive, constructive and as kind as possible. Leaders must help and encourage one another, lean on each other, and pick each other's brains, taking what they like and ignoring what they don't like. Any sane writer who has just had her first article published in the LEADER would be absolutely crushed by Scouter Elizabeth's comments. But alas, buffalo chips from Little Fort nurture the nuttiest fruitcakes in the North Thompson Valley!

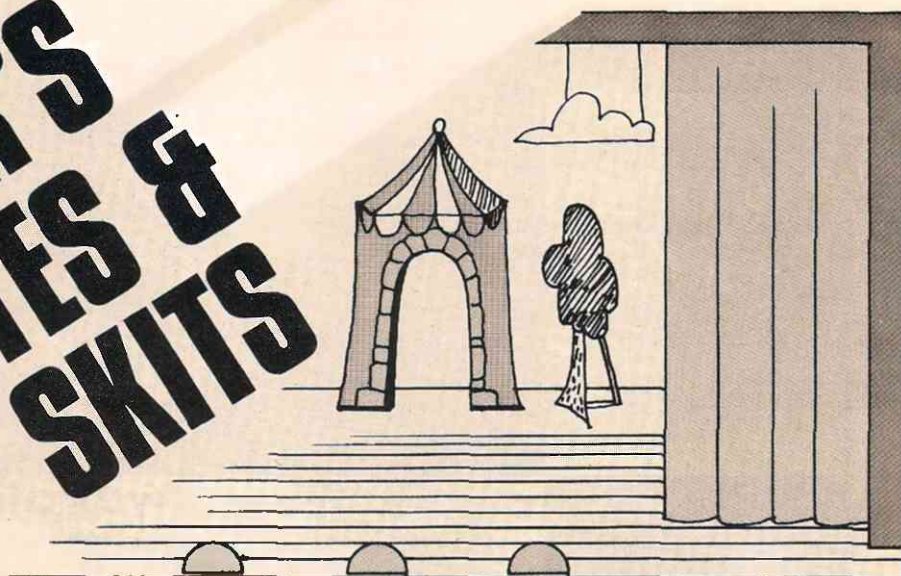
Dear Sir,

As cars get smaller and gasoline costs rise, how do other Scouters solve the problem of transporting Scouts to distant camping areas? Scout-age boys prefer to go "up north" from southern Ontario, for instance, rather than to camp on local sites that they visit during the winter. Often it is difficult to obtain the help of parents who own a van or station wagon to transport tents, stoves, food, gear and boys long distances. Renting or chartering a bus proves very costly. Any suggestions?

— Bud Jacobi, St. Catharines, Ont.



SCOUTER'S 5 MINUTES & SKITS



October. Harvest time. A time for thanksgiving. Through the ages, people from many different cultures in all parts of the world have celebrated the harvest with music, feasting, laughter, and prayers of thanks to their Great Provider. Grateful for His gifts they offered gifts in return and pledged to work with Him to ensure that the coming year was as plentiful as the year past.

And so it is today in most countries of the world. On a special day each fall we bow our heads in thanks over a groaning table of turkey, fresh garden fruits and vegetables, and pumpkin pie. In England people deck their churches with sheaves of grain, apples, pears, and the colourful harvest of their vegetable gardens, and in Japan they offer thanksgiving bowls of rice and prayer before a candle-lit shrine. Everyone thanks God in his own special way.

A BEAVER'S PRAYER

Thank you, God, for this day
For my friends and for my play,
Thank you for good things to eat
For eyes and ears, and hands and feet
Thank you God, for all You do
And, I will try to help You, too.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

O God, we thank you for this universe
and for the earth you have given us
as our home:
for its vastness and its riches,
and for the abundance of life which teems
upon it, and of which we are part.
We praise you for the arching sky
and the blessed winds,
for the driving clouds
and the constellations on high.
We praise you for the salt sea
and the running water,

WITCHES BREW

Scene: The Macabre Restaurant (two tables appropriately set up). Sign reading: *Soup of the Night — Alphablood (or Ghou! Gruel, or anything repulsive and gruesome)*. Three or four ghosts, witches, etc., sit at one table and pantomime eating and talking. Enter a cackling witch, who takes the other table.

Waiter (a Dracula type): What will it be, madame?

Witch: I'll try your Soup of the Night.

Waiter: Coming up, madame. (glides away and returns with suitably macabre-looking bowl of soup). Voilà, madame.

Witch (tasting soup): Screech! Waiter — I can't eat this soup! Bring me the cook!

Waiter: Of course, madame. Right away, madame! (flaps off, returns with cook, another witch).

Cook: What seems to be the trouble?

Witch: This soup is flat! It needs some eye-of-bat!

Cook: Yes, madame. I'll get some eye-of-bat right away madame (scoots off, returns and puts something into the bowl with appropriate cackles, stirrings and witchy mumblings). That should be fine now, madame. Try it.

Witch (taking another taste): No, still not enough spice. It needs some crushed beetle and extract of spider.

Cook: Of course, madame. Coming up. (hobbles off, returns and adds something to the soup, again cackling, stirring, etc. Customer witch joins the cackles and mumbles). There madame, I think that should be just right!

Witch (tasting once more): You fool! It's missing toad-tails! (Repeat routine of fetching, adding ingredient, cackles and stirs, but have cook witch sneak away while customer witch continues the mumbo-jumbo over the bowl).

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Witch (comes out of trance, looks around, tastes soup and slams down spoon): Screech! Waiter! WAITER!

Waiter (swooping over): Yes madame?

Witch: I can't eat this soup!

Waiter (exasperated): Why ever not, madame?

Witch: Screech! Because it's cold, you fool!

PEANUT BUTTER

Scene: Noon on a work project. Several workmen with lunch kits, one who is "star". Announce each act in words or by sign.

Act I

Star: (Takes out lunch, looks through lunch-box carefully, picks out a sandwich, unwraps it, examines and scowls) Peanut butter! (Throws sandwich away while others look on).

Act II

Star: (Smiles in anticipation, takes out lunch-box, looks through it carefully, picks out sandwich, unwraps it; lifts bread to examine filling, scowls and yells) Peanut butter! (Hurls sandwich away while others look on, shake their heads).

Act III (Star repeats action of Act II, another workman speaks.)

Workman: Excuse me for butting in buddy, but I've noticed that every day you look at your sandwich and throw it away. Why don't you tell your wife you don't like peanut butter?

Star: You leave my wife out of this. I make my own sandwiches!

— Thanks to Helen Singh, Little Fort, B.C.

for the everlasting hills, for the trees,
and for the grass under our feet.
We thank you for our senses, by which
we can see the splendour of the morning,
and hear the jubilant songs of love,
and smell the breath of springtime.

Grant us, we pray you, a heart wide open
to all this joy and beauty . . .

— from *Let's Celebrate*, available at Scout Shops across the country.

GREAT SPIRIT MAKE ME (translated from the Sioux)

O Great Spirit, whose voice

I hear in the winds,

whose breath gives life to the world,
hear me.

I am small and weak.

I need your strength and your wisdom.

May I walk in beauty.

Make my eyes ever hold
the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect
the things you have made and

my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so that I may know the things
you have taught your children,
the lessons you have hidden
in every leaf and rock.

Make me strong

not to be superior to my brothers
but to be able to fight my greatest enemy
. . . myself.

Make me ever ready to come to you
with straight eyes,

so that when life fades as the fading sunset
my spirit will come to you without shame.

— printed with thanks to Canadian Camping magazine, the official publication of the Canadian Camping Association.



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Outdoors

Carl Lemieux

*This article originally appeared in the May '81 issue of **OUTDOOR CANADA** and is reprinted with permission from the editor of that magazine, in a slightly shortened form.*

A FOOL AND HIS FIRE STARTER by Eric Chumley

There are many fire starters and related gadgets available to the unwary sporting goods buyer these days. We took the time to look at a few of the more seductively packaged items and found that most are of dubious value and many are entirely useless. A few would be comical were it not for the possibility that someone might actually rely on them and set out into the wilds without a working fire starter.

Before we have a look at some of the devices making the rounds, let's reestablish one fact that you already know perfectly well: *the best fire starter is a match*. A waterproof match is better; one dipped in paraffin is best. Carry lots of them in various places. . .

There are several models of metal match containers that work. . . badly. In order for these containers to be waterproof, the top half has to be screwed tightly onto the bottom half to compress a rubber gasket. The thread is so rough (and) the containers so slippery. . . that this is practically impossible. So they leak. But if you should actually succeed in sealing one, you might never live to see it open again. In emergency situations when you might need your matches — such as when you're wet and half-frozen — the containers are all but unopenable.

Another match container is made of brightly coloured hard plastic and combines its function with that of compass, whistle and emergency signal mirror! It looks silly, it's hard to close, the lid falls off a lot, it breaks easily, and the compass on my model showed a splendid impartiality in the directions it chose to point. The mirror is the size of a quarter and is terrific for signalling people in the back seat of your car if you should lose your way in the driver's seat.

Aiming it at mile-distant aircraft is another matter. . . because there's no aiming mark. And, to add insult to injury, this contraption for which I paid \$3.98 doesn't whistle worth a darn, either!

Screw-top plastic match containers are great, cost about a buck and have such handy features as a striking surface inside the cap (in case you don't have a zipper) or a flint attached to the bottom. . .

If you absolutely insist on having a match container, get a few of those little 35mm film canisters. . . They're waterproof, they float, they seal tightly and easily, they'll take a tremendous beating and survive, they're easy to open under almost any conditions, they're light and, best of all, they're free. If you're zipperless and insist on a striking surface, mix up some epoxy glue with sand and apply it to the inside of the lid.

All the magnesium fire starters on the market consist of a block of magnesium with a hard spark surface attached to it. The theory goes that you scrape off a pile of magnesium slivers with your knife and then rap your knife sharply along the sparker. . . to throw sparks onto the pile of magnesium. Under ideal summer conditions. . . if you're very good at the procedure and there's no wind, you might start a fire in under five minutes. But if you've just fallen through the ice on a windy January day and you're crawling to shore to make a fire, I hope you brought your waterproof matches along.

One company sells a tiny folding parabolic mirror as an emergency fire starter. You see, you open the mirror and impale a tiny bit of tinder on the hook that pops up in the middle. Aim it carefully at the sun and watch as the mirror concentrates the heat on the tinder. Once that tiny bit of tinder is smoldering, transfer it to your main tinder pile and blow it gently into flame. Sounds easy, eh? Well, don't bother trying. While I freely admit it is theoretically possible to start a fire in this way, I also admit that my own best efforts were insufficient to the task. . .

How about a magnifying glass? They're sold singly or in alleged sur-

vival kits and are supposed to be great for starting fires. And they can too, if the sun is shining and all other conditions are perfect. . .

There's more. Quite a number of emergency survival manuals expound the virtues of the old steel wool-and-battery trick. You take a little clump of steel wool (they tell you) and twiddle it into a pencil-thick string about 20 cm long. Hook one end to one terminal of your battery and brush the other end over the other terminal. Sparks should fly and the steel wool will eventually glow red-hot. If you use flashlight batteries, as is recommended, it doesn't work; if you use a car battery it works well beyond your wildest expectations! (To all those familiar with my experiments, I say "thanks" for your kind words and phone calls. I expect the bandages to be off my fingers in a week or so.) . .

Rubbing two sticks together is a dandy way to start a fire, as long as at least one of them is a match. And one company is definitely on the right track. . . . They sell matches, some waterproof and some windproof as well. They're not exactly either, but they do work pretty well. The waterproof matches can survive a dip but not a soaking.

For some reason, the manufacturer has seen fit to package them in a wooden outer container with a waterproof inside container. . . . The outer container lets water in freely. . . and the inside drawer holds the water in long enough to ruin the matches. The matches are great but. . . be sure to repackage them in something truly waterproof, and remember to include the safety striking surface from the side of the box.

Their windproof matches aren't so much matches as leftover military ordnance. If you can stand a small explosion when they light, a furious flare while they burn and a horrible smell for 10 minutes thereafter, why then they're wonderful! . . .

What is certainly the best fire starter development of the decade is also the most overlooked. It's light, small, handy, adjustable and gives thousands of lights. You guessed it. The disposable butane lighter. Advertising to the contrary, they're not waterproof. They'll rust. . . but as long as you don't rely on them totally, they're terrific.

There's another way of starting fires that involves finding a high tree on a high hill during a lightning season, but it involves too much waiting. There's also a general proverb that applies to buying fire starters. I don't quite remember it now, but it has something to do with money and fools. X

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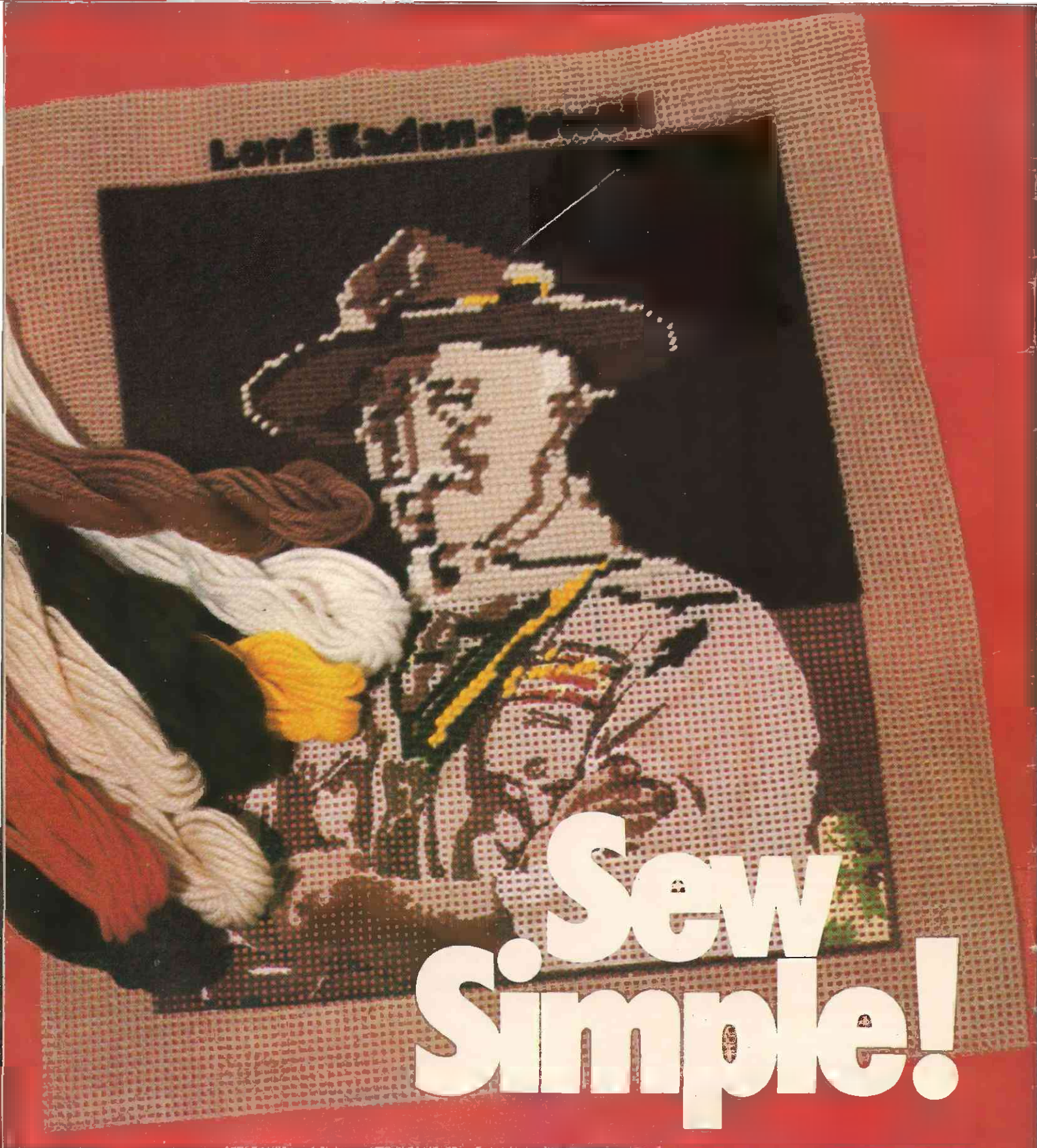
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