

the leader

DECEMBER 1983 VOLUME 14, NUMBER 4



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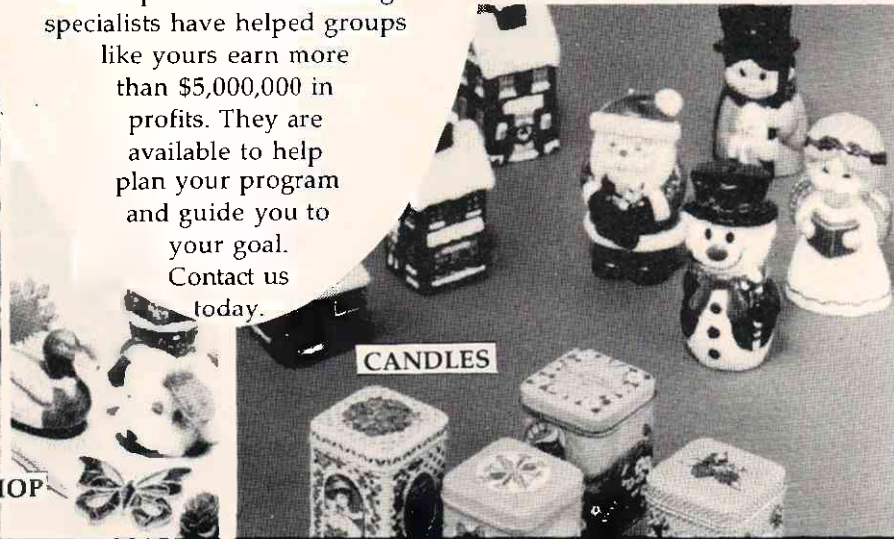
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THE CANADIAN LEADER magazine is published 10 times a year by Canyouth Publications Ltd., PO Box 5112, Stn F, Ottawa K2C 3H4; (613) 224-5131. Please direct subscription, advertising or editorial enquiries to the Editor. Second class mail registration 1405. Yearly subscription: to registered members, Boy Scouts of Canada \$5.00; others \$8.00; outside Canada \$10.00.

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ISSN 0711-5377



COVER: December bubbles with the excitement of Christmas and the holiday sparkle of fun games for parties, quick crafts, humorous nostalgia and the legend of the Christmas stocking. It's tied into a super package with puppetry, ski program and winter dressing ideas, updates on southern Ontario's snorkelling Venturers and the Maple Leaf Region, and poster display tips. When you need a breather, relax with a holiday browse through our book suggestions. Have a Merry Christmas, one and all!

DECEMBER 1983

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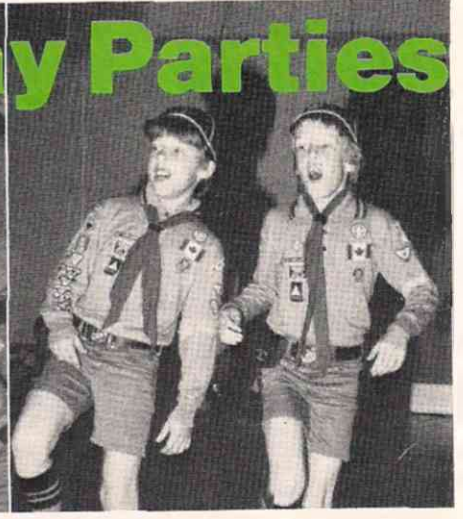


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Games for Holiday Parties



by Linda Florence

'Tis the season to be jolly, and that means getting together for holiday parties. Many sections will hold their own quiet parties to which they invite only family and friends. Some colonies, packs, troops or companies will shindig with neighbouring colonies, packs, troops or companies. Others will share their parties with bed-bound children or adults, or with lonely elderly people in the community. And still others will throw a great humdinger of a group bash involving all five program sections.

With these possible variations in mind, I've chosen a package of party games suitable to a variety of situations. You'll find ideas for young, old, in-between and mixed-age groups, and for active, mobile party-goers as well as those who are restricted to quieter pursuits. The one element all the games share is fun, because a party is an occasion to play, laugh and feel like a winner, no matter what the scoreboard says. Lay in lots of balloons, candies and nuts because you'll want to have prizes for everyone.

Getting to Know You

Christmas Message

As people enter, give each a large card on which you've printed a letter from the greeting, *Merry Christmas*. Help them pin on the card so that it's readily visible, then send them wandering to find enough other people with the letters needed to put the greeting together. When assembled, groups check into a designated location to receive a treat.

A variation is to hand arrivals a card or paper on which you've written one word. Send them looking for other word holders to put together a line of a Christmas song. In order to receive their reward, the assembled group must sing a verse of their song.

Animals in the Stable

As people arrive, hand them slips of paper on which you've written the name of a farm animal (cow, donkey, goose, pig, etc.). When you have a good gathering, sound a signal which tells them to move around the room silently imitating the animal they've been assigned and searching for others of their ilk. When four of the same animal have gathered in herd or flock, they let loose with the appropriate animal voices and are quickly fed peanuts or a sweet to curb their clamour. Truly a raucous beginning!

In-Between Games

To keep people occupied while you're preparing for more complicated activities, send them on a treasure hunt for cached sweets or Santa's boot (hat, mitten, suspenders). In the candy hunt, players simply gather up the goodies they find, but the search for Santa's boot is more complicated. Those who spot it keep the hiding place a secret. They try to throw others off by pretending they're still searching. When they are far enough away from the object of the search, they sit quietly to enjoy the antics of players whose eyes aren't quite as sharp.

If you have a large number of guests, you might run donut dunking races or hat-making contests for those who've completed the hunt and are tired of waiting.

Donut Dunking

Two-man teams line up some distance away from a table on which there's a cup or two of hot chocolate, tea or coffee for each. Give a donut to every player. On signal, one member of each team runs to the table, dunks his donut, runs back and feeds it to his partner. When he has consumed the donut, the second player races

through the same routine and feeds his hungry partner. Although speed is the object, everyone eats a donut, so it doesn't really matter who wins.

Hat Parade

For this two-man activity, give each pair a newspaper and a safety pin. Set them to work, within a time limit, to create a fantastic hat from the materials. Later, hold a hat parade. The judges award prizes for as many categories as they can dream up: most colourful hat; most stylish hat; most lopsided hat; and so on.

Circle Games

The Choir

Players write the names of their favourite Christmas (or other) songs on a slip of paper which they deposit in a box. Arrange them in a sitting circle and ask for two volunteers to start the game. The two pull a slip from the box, go to the centre of the circle, and silently act out the song for the choir to guess. When the others recognize it, they start to sing it. The two pantomimers say, "Shhhh!" if they are wrong, and join in to finish singing a verse if they are right. When the guess is correct, they choose another pair to replace them and join the choir for the next round.

Musical Balloons

Prepare a half dozen balloons by inserting a slip of paper containing instructions into each and inflating them. The instructions can be things like: Whistle the first two lines of *Jingle Bells*; Prance around the circle like a reindeer; Give your best Santa Claus impersonation; and the like.

Players sit or stand in a circle and, when the music starts, pass one of the balloons from person to person. The player who is holding the balloon when the music stops, takes it to the centre of the circle, sits on it until it

pops, retrieves the instructions, and proceeds to follow them. Play a round with each balloon, or until the game begins to pall.

Pretzels

Make a number of circles, each containing a maximum of 12 people. Ask one person from each circle to volunteer to leave the room. While he's gone, the others join hands and, without breaking grip, twist themselves into a complicated knot by raising arms and ducking under, lifting feet over joined hands, and climbing over or under each other. When they are ready, the outside player is called back to the scene. His challenge is to unwrap the pretzel and arrange the group into its original circle — without loosening any hands!

Meet Your Neighbours

Play this one when people know each other fairly well. Make two groups of equal size and send one of them out of the room. The other players sit in a circle, each leaving an empty space beside him, and don blindfolds (large paper bags are easy). When all is ready, the outsiders enter and quietly take the empty seats between those in the circle. At a signal, they start to sing. At another, they abruptly stop. In turn, each blindfolded player makes one guess at his neighbour's identity. If he's correct, he removes his blindfold. You may want to let those who miss try one more guess after another round of singing. Give players who are still blindfolded after the second round a peanut each to shell and feed to their unidentified neighbours. Then all remove blindfolds and the groups switch roles.

Musical Drawings

Sit players around a table or in a circle on the floor. You need a tape of some happy holiday music and a piece of paper and a coloured marker or crayon for each player. When the music starts, players begin to draw whatever they wish on their papers. When it stops, each person passes his paper along to the person on his right. The music starts again and everyone adds to the drawing he's received. Carry on until the papers have made a complete circuit. Display the pictures and have some fun trying to give them titles.

Teaser

Players sit in a circle and are instructed to remain absolutely serious throughout the proceedings. A leader starts by pinching the cheek of the player to his right, or tickling him under the chin. Each person in turn

repeats the action with the person on his right. No laughing, snorting or speaking allowed. A player who breaks the rule sits out a round, and adds to the difficulties of remaining players by making funny faces at them.

Christmas Stocking

Fill a large stocking with a selection of items — including a sack of candies or nuts — and secure the top. Players, each with a piece of paper and a pencil, sit in a circle. Pass the Christmas stocking from player to player, giving each about 45 seconds to "feel" the contents before handing it to the next person and writing down a list of what he thinks is in it. The person who produces the longest most accurate list, opens the stocking and shares whatever edible treats he finds with the other players.

Relay Games

Trim the Tree

Depending on numbers, arrange players in two or more teams in relay formation. Attach a large sheet of paper to the wall at the end of a course opposite each team, and give each player in a team a crayon of a different colour. On signal, the first players in each team run up to their paper and outline a Christmas tree. They race back to tag off the next player, who runs to the paper to add a stand. And so it continues, each player adding another piece of trim to the tree. Award prizes for the first team finished, and then hold a group judging of the best-trimmed tree and treat those who created it.

An alternate is to place a box of crayons or coloured markers for each team at a start line and tell the players their object is to make an illustration of a favourite Christmas story, event or carol. Give them a few minutes to consult. Run the relay as in the tree-trimming contest and award prizes for speed, teamwork and artistic merit.

Packages, Packages, Packages

Here are two "bundling" games, one of which requires less energy than the other. For the first, arrange the assembly into six- or eight-member teams. Give each team a hula hoop or loop of rope about the same size. Teams try to bundle as many of themselves as possible into a package held together by hoop or loop, and travel as a bundle to a mark where they pick up a treat before returning to their start line.

For the quieter game, organize teams in relay formation and give the first player in each a ball of string. On signal, he passes it to the next in line,

holding onto the end of it. Players unroll the ball along the line in this fashion. The last in line passes it around his back and starts it up the other side of the line to the first player, who secures it to tie the team into a parcel. Once bundled, the team must "unbundle" by sending the ball of string on a return journey and rolling it up as they go. Give the first team to untie itself successfully a parcel of treats to undo and share around. Perhaps they can unwrap a gift box which contains an announcement of the next activity for one of the team members to read.

Fashion Designers

Well-stocked "dress-up" boxes are a boon for this one, but it shouldn't be too difficult to gather together enough odds and ends of clothing to have fun with it. Arrange teams of six to eight players in relay formation. One person from each team is the mannequin and stands some distance away, facing his teammates. Each other player holds an article of clothing. On signal, the first person in each team runs to his mannequin, drapes it with his offering in whatever way he thinks best, then runs back to tag off the next player, who adds another article of clothing, and so on.

When all teams are done, the mannequins parade while the others vote upon which is the best-dressed. When judging is complete, mannequins return to their places to be "undressed" by their teammates in the same order they were dressed (i.e. first item on is first to come off). Award prizes for the first-dressed mannequin, the best-dressed mannequin, and the first-undressed mannequin.

March of the

Magnetic Toy Soldiers

Arrange teams in relay formation and explain that, for some reason, the toy soldiers in Santa's pack have become magnetized. Players in each team pair up. The first two in line face each other with toes touching and arms straight at their sides. Keeping the toe-to-toe position, they move down to a marker and back again to tag off the next pair in line. They must touch both members of the next pair of soldiers in order to magnetize them and unstick themselves.

There you have it — a few ideas to set them off and keep them laughing all the way home. Nothing says you have to play the games as described, but I hope you find enough in them to give your own imaginations a good spin. We wish all of you a merry party, a very Merry Christmas, and a very, very Happy New Year. X

Snorkellers Explore World of Sunken Ships

by Lynda Koudys



Scouter Martin Koudys offers a few words of precaution before the quarry dive.



Standing waist-deep in the sand-filled wreck at the stern, the divers prepare to explore inside.

Snorkel diving is not only fun, but also holds an element of mystery. Looking out over the surface of a body of water, you see the shoreline and horizon, but you are not aware of all that lies below until you take a look. You can do this by snorkelling or with scuba gear, or even in a glass bottom boat. However you view it, the underwater world is a whole new environment which can be unbelievably exciting.

Snorkelling Scouts of the Niagara Peninsula probed some of the mystery when they made their first "wreck dive" last August. The young snorkellers are Level II or above "graduates" of the Association of Canadian Underwater Councils (ACUC) snorkel diving course, led last winter for its third successful year in Fruitbelt District by Scouter Martin Koudys (see *the Leader*, Feb. 1983).

In the past decade, Ontario's fresh waters have attracted the attention of

increasing numbers of divers eager to explore outstanding dive sites in Fathom Five Provincial Park, Tobermory, Georgian Bay and the St. Lawrence River. Scouter Koudys chose a more local site at Sherkston Beaches where the boys could make two dives — one to an iron-hulled steamer found just offshore in Lake Erie, and the second in the Sherkston Quarry.

The story of the wreck is the kind found in old mariner's tales: one dark and stormy night, she was beset by giant seas and, despite the efforts of a brave crew numbed by winter winds and icy spray, she foundered and ran aground.

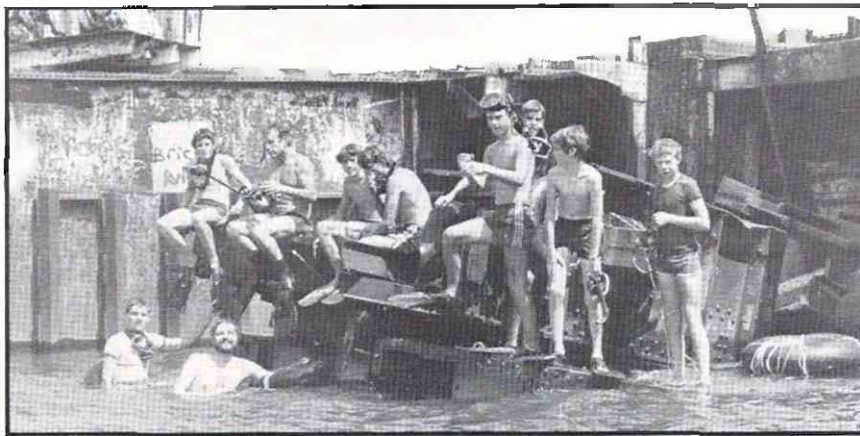
A diver might think that a wreck like this, lying in 20 feet of water with most of her hull showing, would make an easy dive. Not so, unless you pick a windless day, because shallow Lake Erie produces big waves — up to three feet the day the Scouts and Venturers were diving and, at times,

breaking over the canoe which carried the group's intrepid photographer.

The divers assembled at Sherkston eager to get wet and more than willing to snorkel the quarter mile out into the lake to reach the wreck. With Scouter Koudys, they reviewed instructions and checked water conditions before setting out in teams of two, each equipped to tow along an inflated inner tube to use for resting if there was a need.

Full foot fins were a protective boon to tender feet for the scramble over the rocky beach, and then they were in the water. Their destination "seemed a long way at first but, before you knew it, we were on the wreck," said 1st Winona Venturer Ron Bolhaar.

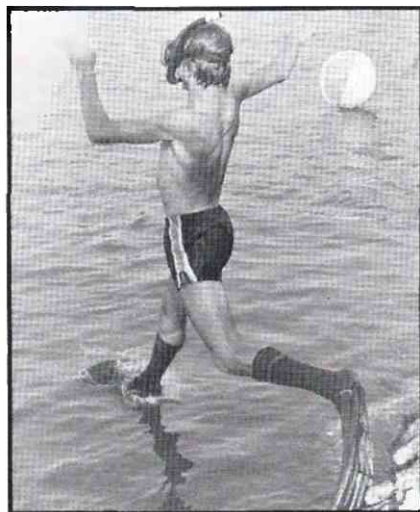
Once there, the divers experienced the thrill of finding propeller, shaft and other debris from the ship spread about the bottom. Locating one anchor at the vessel's stern and two others with chain and cables at the



Their wreck dive completed, the boys rest on the iron-hulled steamer before tackling the quarter mile swim back to shore.



Okay, friend — you've been resting long enough!



Venturer Mark Lilliman makes a front step entry into Sherkston Quarry.



The satisfied divers take a photo break: (1 to r, front) David, Michael and Chris Kay and Steve Blum perch on an inner tube while (back) Mark Lilliman and Ron Bolhaar hold up their divers' flag marker.

bow, they speculated that the crew had put them out to stabilize the ship in the storm, hoping they'd catch and hold her steady.

Numerous other storms have washed rocks and sand into the wreck so that the divers could stand waist deep in the water. They discovered they could snorkel within her, entering at the bow and making their way through the cargo area to the stern.

There's not all that much left of the ship. During a half-hearted attempt to salvage her, engines and other machinery, the pilot house and large sections of steel plate, were removed. On what remains above water, the divers found painted graffiti left by the kind of people who seem to have to make their mark on everything.

The Scouts and Venturers felt they were well prepared for their adventure because of their 12 week ACUC snorkel program. "We learned a lot on the course; how to clear our mask,

use the snorkel and fins, safety precautions, Direct A/R and other tips," said Venturer Mark Lilliman. "It is now obvious we needed these skills for this kind of diving."

The boys made their second dive of the day into Sherkston Quarry, now a pleasure playground for swimmers, wind surfers, paddle boats and snorkel and scuba divers. A number of years ago, the quarry was filled by an underground spring. The process submerged two pony engines, gondola cars, train tracks and a pump house, which the divers were able to see 20 to 30 feet below the surface. Their dive also gave them a fine view of fascinating plant and fish life.

It was a great day for the divers and their parents and families who had come along to relax on the beach. Some parents showed a little concern as they watched their sons from shore, but any doubts they might have had were resolved when boys and parents shared their experiences

over a picnic supper before heading home.

"I personally found it very rewarding to watch the boys develop from when they first came into the course until now," said Scouter Koudys. "They have become extremely confident at snorkelling, which shows they have taken the course seriously. They were well in tune with the situation on the dive. These are very capable young men."

An ACUC instructor and Water Safety Chairman for Fruitbelt District, Scouter Koudys is eager to promote snorkelling within Scouting and has compiled a list of ACUC instructors available to conduct programs in other parts of the country.

Scouters who are interested in learning more about the ACUC snorkel divers program are invited to write to:

Martin Koudys
6 Milliken Drive
Winona, Ontario
L0R 2L0



REFLECTIONS BEETLEFLONZ



story and illustration by Fred Fishell

Way back when I was a boy, which was certainly a long time ago, there were no Venturers, and Scouts went directly to Rovers. To us young sprouts coming into the troop, the patrol leaders, who actually shaved more or less regularly, were adults. In fact, the Troop Leader, who was sort of a senior patrol leader, had a moustache clearly visible without the aid of graphite or shoe polish.

I remember the day I wandered into the troop meeting and made the appropriate noises. One of the old hands correctly interpreted them as signifying that I wished to join. With the established full-patrol strength pegged at eight, the Otters were pretty thin on the ground just then, and their patrol leader made me feel very welcome. If we'd been choosing up sides for baseball, I'd have expected to be picked last, and here this almost-grownup was treating me like a first-round draft choice!

On this day, the patrol leader was the only member of the Otters present so that, when it came time for the inter-patrol tracking or trail-following competition, I was put with the Beavers. The attitude was, "Give the new kid a chance to learn from the best. Just make sure he doesn't get any crazy ideas."

There were seven members in the Beaver patrol and the eighth spot would go, in due time, to some upcoming Cub whom Akela touted as being particularly promising. Not that the Beavers were unfriendly, mind you, but modesty wasn't one of their glaring faults.

As my father used to say, "If you

can't be born rich and clever, it doesn't hurt to be born lucky." We pounded along the trail and I was carefully instructed to stay at the back so that I wouldn't accidentally obliterate a trail sign before the Beavers could read it and show it to me. So, it came to pass, that the greenhorn got two, or maybe even three, opportunities to call the attention of his betters to something they had charged right past — a trail sign changing the direction of the track.

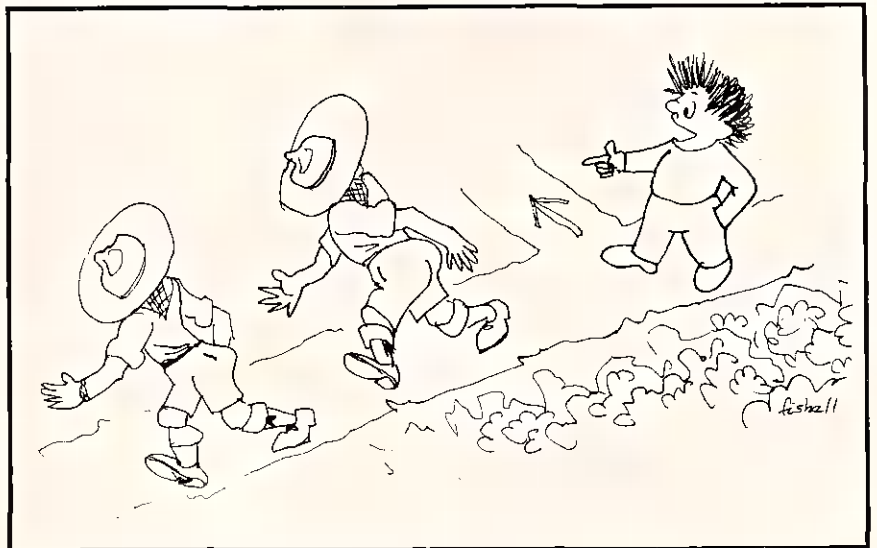
It's not that they thought me any good. It's just that it was their opinion that I would make a fine mascot or a good luck charm. Whatever the reason, the vacant position was offered. If I promptly got my full uniform and passed my Tenderfoot test, the extremely desirable #8 position in the Beaver patrol was mine.

The patrol leader of the Otters was, naturally, furious with me, but seeing the awe in which he held the Beavers did more to convince me to accept than all of the Beaver's bragging.

Innocently, I thought that becoming #8 just meant that seven bigger boys could shout at me and call me stupid. But no, I found that #8 was a specific position with its own duties and responsibilities.

When operating at a smaller than patrol level, we worked in pairs. Number 8 teamed with #7. That is, he did except when one of the lower numbers was absent, in which case the pairs were adjusted and #8, although an even number, became the odd man.

That was my first inkling of new math. But there was much more I had to learn. One not only had a number,



one also had a specific job and the way the pairs were set up had some relation to these jobs.

Numbers 1 and 2 were the leadership positions, patrol leader and second; 3 and 4 were the organizational staff, secretary (scribe) and treasurer (keeper of the purse); 5 and 6 looked after the bodily comforts as quartermaster and cook; #7 was the first aider, and #8 was the cheerleader. Don't ask me why, but that is how it was in our troop.

The Cheerleader

So, having joined the Beaver Patrol as their new #8, procured my immaculate Scout uniform, and passed my tenderfoot requirements under the tutelage of that source of all knowledge, the patrol leader, I was invested and stood ready to fulfill my new mission in life as cheerleader. As I mentioned, the jobs of the various pairs in the patrol were related and, because I was paired with #7, the first aider, I had the idea that the cheerleader was to perform the function of a pain-killer — in desperate cases, even of an anaesthetic. This was going to be a big job.

Official sources informed me that my first solemn responsibility was to maintain and keep up-dated the patrol Cheer-Log. This book traditionally contained the patrol call, song(s) and cheer(s), as well as the various troop songs and cheers. Far more to the point, it had to include a plethora of skits, all of them funny and new, which could be rehearsed and acted out at a moment's notice. This book was to be handed down through the ages from cheerleader to cheerleader, in this way becoming a repository of patrol lore.

Unfortunately, it appeared that, during the time since the Beavers last had a cheerleader, the log had been lost. I had to start from scratch. By pestering everybody who had been in the troop longer than four months, I soon collected all the songs and cheers and sorted out the true from the badly remembered. Skits were something else.

The skits in the Scout handbook were only examples and, of course, everybody knew them. The library wasn't much help either. Most of the books described skits that required a cast of a dozen and all sorts of costumes and props. What is even worse, they weren't very funny.

Finally, our troop leader who, in the distant past, had been legendary as cheerleader of the Eagles, took

pity on me. He asked me if I knew any doctors, dentists or barbers. I couldn't see where that was much help, but I admitted that I did.

"Aha!" quoth he, "that just shows how young, inexperienced and un-resourceful you are. Listen to your uncle four-eyes, who will instruct you in the honourable art of cheerleading."

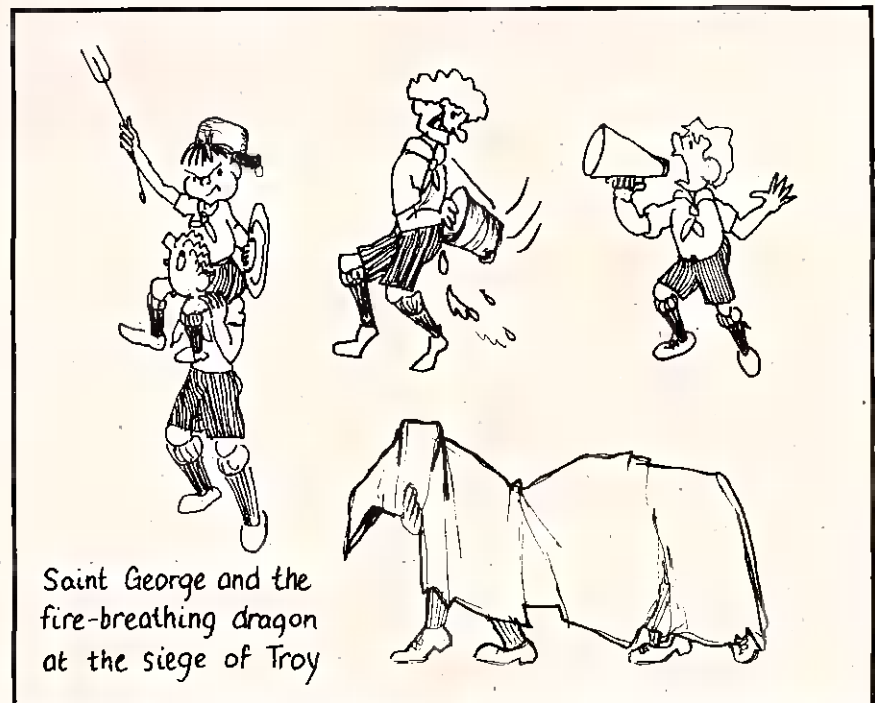
"The important thing is to amuse, so you look for jokes which are suitable for acting out. Ideally they'll require more than two but fewer than seven actors. As you won't have elaborate costumes or sets on hand, you will not cast yourself in any part, but will be the narrator who sets the scene."

"The best source of just such jokes is the good old *Reader's Digest*.

the pile. Every seven years or so, when the balance of the pile became precarious, the oldest 80 or so copies were chucked into the garbage.

If you collected this material, you had a source of tried-and-true jokes which, although nobody remembered them anymore, had once been explained to the duller members of the audience so that, at this second encounter, they had less trouble getting the point. Sometimes they still didn't get the point, but they nevertheless recognized that these jokes were considered funny and dutifully laughed at them.

Fortunately, there isn't the slightest chance of my finding my old Cheer-Log at this date. I shudder to remember the kind of material I considered choice and excruciatingly



Saint George and the fire-breathing dragon at the siege of Troy

There is only one problem with it. Everybody reads it."

You must remember that this was in the pre-television era when most people read for their amusement. Nearly every household subscribed to the *Reader's Digest* or borrowed it from a subscribing household. Even people who didn't read much managed to plough through *Life's Like That* and *Humour in Uniform* — the two most likely sources of skits.

Now, it was the pre-ordained fate of past numbers of this fine periodical eventually to wind up on little corner tables in the doctor's or dentist's waiting room, or at the barber shop. There they languished, gradually working their way to the bottom of

funny and carefully extracted from the *Digest* pages 40 odd years ago. Part of it was, of course, tailored to the cast. Our PL and Second prided themselves on their German accents so there was a heavy proportion of "Hans und Fritz" jokes. Peter always did a great job of acting drunk and we could depend upon our Scoutmaster to give extra points for skits with slapstick.

If you remain a Scoutmaster long enough, you also learn to be amused by simple things. I do mean simple! A great skit was one where everybody, including the audience, wound up soaking wet!

At least, that's how I remember it — way back when. X

Christmas Rush Ideas

by David Goss

Like Santa's pack on the 24th, December's *Duffle Bag* is stuffed with good things. To lighten the load, we're going to toss out a few ideas which can give your program a last minute boost. After all, by the time you read this, there won't be much planning or preparation time left before the 25th.

Beavers and Cubs enjoy this activity, and you can arrange it easily by constructing a paper bag piñata. I've drawn the steps as a craft offering this month. Older boys may want to tackle this as a project to take home, but that is not the intent. What I hope is that you will make one for your boys to enjoy as a last-minute Christmas treat, perhaps to close out your final pre-holiday meeting.

For a Scouter, you can have it adorned by woodcraft signs or Scouting symbols, or burned slightly around the edges. It will cost only a few dollars and, to make it a lasting memento of the friend's association with Scouting, can be framed for only a few dollars more.

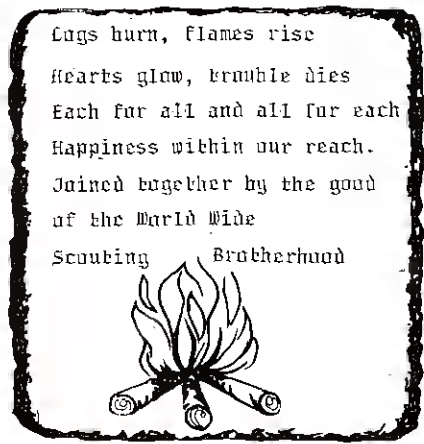
Paper Bag Piñata

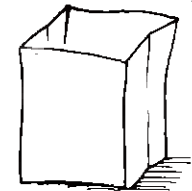
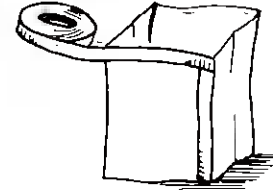

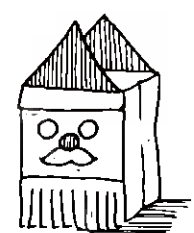
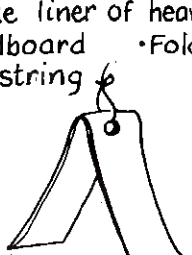

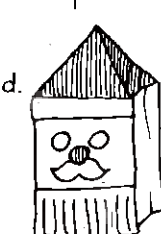
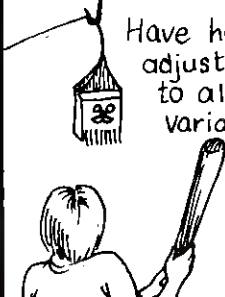
In Mexico, pre-Christmas celebrations centre around the breaking of a piñata which, in that country, is often a papier mâché donkey or Father Christmas loaded with candy and one or two toys. It's hoisted up over the heads of a ring of children. One of the youngsters is blindfolded and given a stick. If he or she manages to whack the piñata, the candy falls out and all the children scramble to scoop it up.

Gifts

Christmas is the time of gift-giving, and Scouters may want to pass along their thanks to faithful assistants. *Calligraphy*, or the art of fancy script writing, is one of the most popular of the old time crafts to enjoy a recent revival.

You can arrange to have a favourite verse, saying, proverb or campfire opening inscribed on fancy pa-



<p>Get a sturdy, flat-bottomed grocery bag.</p> 	<p>Reinforce with strips of masking tape.</p> 	<p>Make parts shown of construction paper.</p> 	<p>Glue pieces on.</p> 
<p>Make liner of heavy cardboard. Tie string on.</p> 	<p>Place liner in bag. Add wrapped candy.</p> 	<p>Glue or staple edges. Hoist overhead.</p> 	<p>Have height adjustable to allow variation in kids' sizes.</p> 

Gifts of yourself. Last year, my Scout-age son performed in uniform at a musical concert for senior citizens. A couple of days later he was surprised and delighted to receive a card of thanks from Jerry Collins, one of the audience. He, I later learned, took the time and effort to write to every child listed on the program.

It got me thinking about all the people we should thank but don't, and how much it would mean, at this time of year, to drop a note to the

Gifts for others. Like many colonies, packs and troops, Al Thompson's Westfield Scout Troop in New Brunswick has a Christmas gift exchange. Each boy brings a gift for some other member of the troop, but that's where the similarity with other groups ends. In the Westfield troop, each gift is presented to the minister of the supporting United Church, who makes sure it goes to those who most need Christmas gifts. That is the spirit of the season.

Here's another idea you might try:

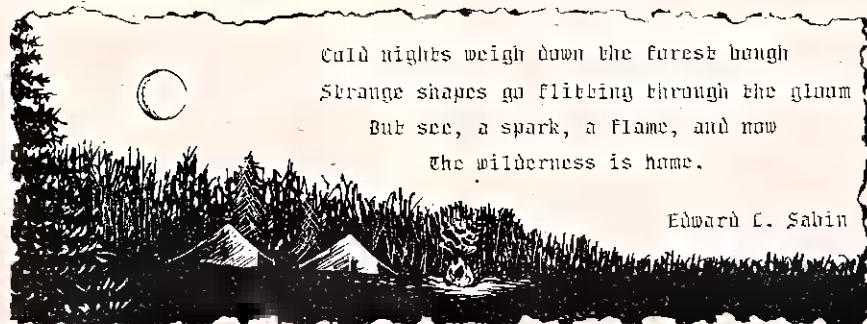
or hospital as a treat patients will certainly appreciate.

You can try this same idea with homemade candy. Be sure to ask permission from the place you'd like to deliver your goodies. It goes without saying that the Scouts, Cubs or Beavers could sing a few songs at the time, and that such a gesture could be made at any time of year. During Scout/Guide Week, for example, the cookies could be decorated in Scout motifs and the songs could be typical campfire offerings.

Inflation-fighter gifts for Cubs, Beavers or Scouts to give. Multiply the IOU drawing as many times as you need (whiting out the group name and substituting your own), and let boys make up some IOUs for members of their families. Provide markers so they can colour them nicely, and envelopes, so they can direct them to the correct people. You may want to give some suggestions like:

- one free snow-shovelling job
- one 10 minute backrub
- one breakfast in bed
- one dog-walking
- one shoe-shine
- one free babysitting job
- one car wash
- one dishwashing job for a complete meal
- 10 hugs and kisses
- one hour of peace and quiet

Merry Christmas to all. X



Cold nights weigh down the forest bough
Strange shapes go flitting through the gloom
But see, a spark, a flame, and now
The wilderness is home.

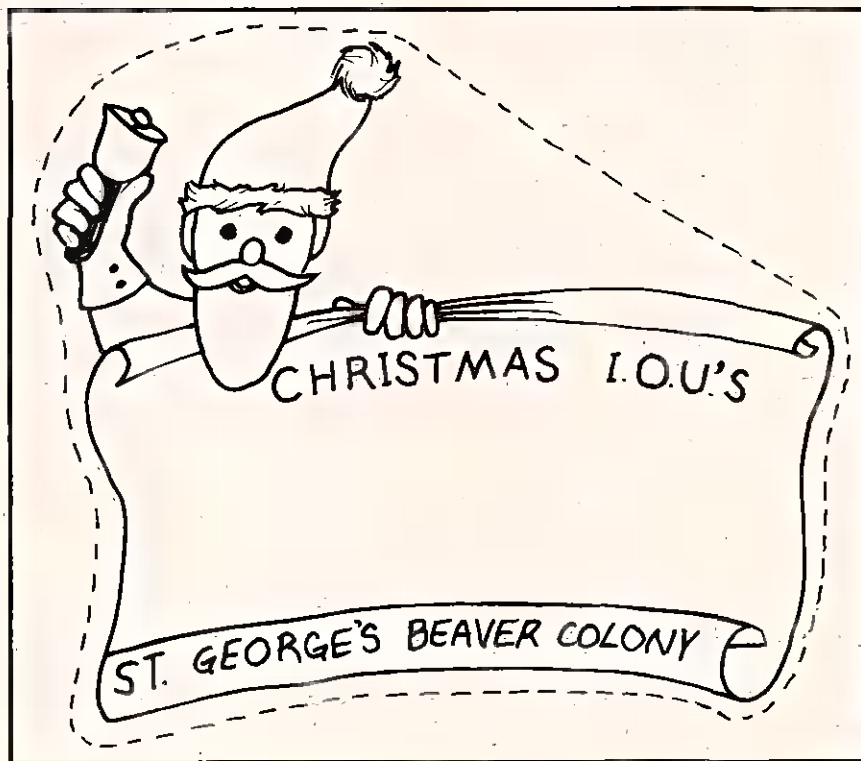
Edward L. Sabin

former associates, old friends and grade school teachers who once meant so much to us. Simply to say, "Thanks, you helped me along the way and I want you to know I'm grateful" can be the nicest Christmas gift you can give.

Scouter's Own Gift List. If I were a Scouter just starting out in the program and my partner asked me what I'd like for Christmas, I'd have a lengthy list. My wife doesn't ask any more because, after 17 years of marriage, my list is still lengthy but, for those of you lucky enough to be asked, here are some things I think every Troop Scouter could put to good use.

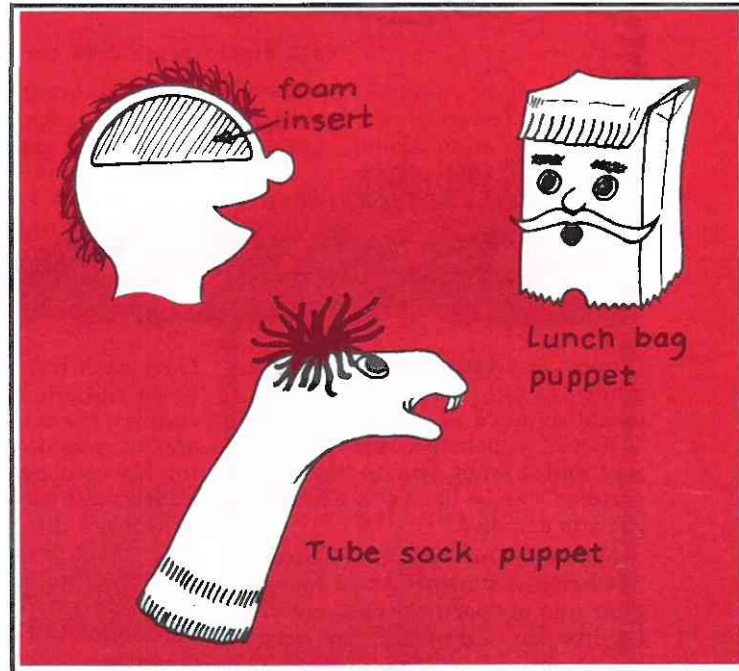
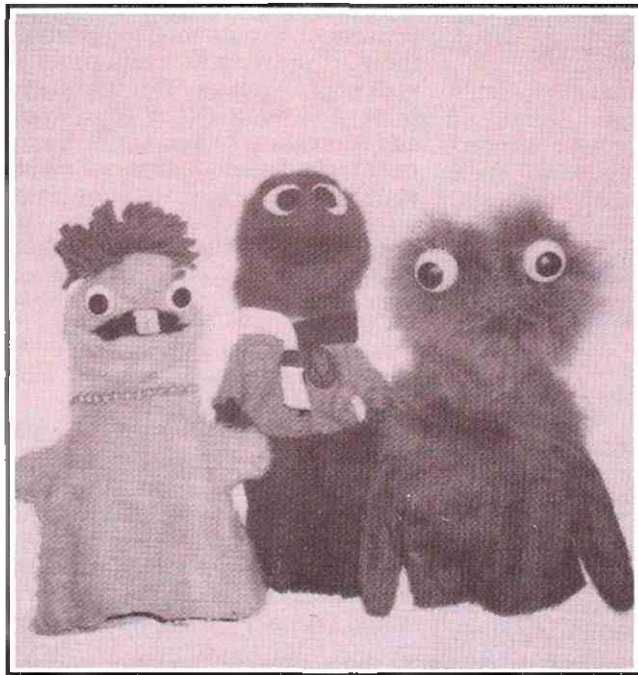
- a rainsuit, complete from head to toe
- a good Silva compass
- a good pocket knife and a spare for the glove compartment
- a 3-cup (minimum) vacuum bottle
- a closed-cell sleeping pad
- topographical maps of favourite hiking areas
- a magnifying glass
- nature identification books (birds, trees, flowers)
- a Boy Scouts of America Field Book (assuming you have all the Canadian ones)
- a year's subscription to *Scouting* (UK) from The Scout Association, Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London, SW7 5J2 15 L
- a Hot Shot Hand Warmer (disposable, but good for three hours)

Have each boy bring along a dozen or so suitably decorated Christmas cookies. Place the cookies on a table and let each boy select three or four for his own enjoyment. Then, give each a meat tray. Ask him to select a half-dozen different cookies for the tray, cover them with plastic wrap, and decorate the package with ribbon and bow. The boys can then take the cookies to a nearby nursing home



Play It With Puppets

by Helen Singh



Puppet plays come in many shapes, colours and sizes. So do puppets. You can choose from stick, bag, sock, paper plate, finger, shadow, marionette or mouth puppets like Jim Henson's muppets.

The mouth puppet play presented here was adapted especially for the 1st Wells Gray Beaver colony, but we have used the *Three Billy Goats Gruff* theme many times, varying the script and changing the puppets' costumes to fit the occasion. When the 1st Little Fort Scouts performed for the Senior Citizens' Christmas dinner sponsored by the Lions Club, the three goats became three lions. When we held a joint Guiding/Scouting party, Little Billy was a Cub, Big Billy was a Guide, and the Great Big Billy was a Scout.

Hints for Puppeteers

Simplicity is the key for a puppet play and, through experience, we've picked up a few hints we'd like to pass along.

The puppet who is talking should move while the silent ones keep relatively still.

Plan for audience participation at some point in the script: a place where the spectators can answer or "talk back" to the puppets.

Stop talking when the audience is laughing.

Speak quite slowly, using emphasis and lots of expression.

You don't need elaborate sound effects to make the play enjoyable. We didn't use real water for the Troll's plunge into the river. We all just yelled, "Splash!" The adults were the ones who got a real chuckle from that.

Improvise and keep the props simple. It was winter when we presented *Three Beavers Gruff*, and the cottonwood branches were bare. We found a raspberry cane with leaves still intact in the garden, and it made a fine tree. We used real food props to

tempt the Troll, though, and whichever hand happened to be free at the time set the items on the bridge.

You don't need an elaborate stage, either. You can drape a blue blanket over a table to represent the river and have the puppeteers kneel or sit behind the table. We did Beavers Gruff from behind the bar at the Elks Hall and used a board balanced on four ashtrays for the bridge. It could just have easily been a bridge sketched on paper and tacked to the table.

If you shine lights on the puppets, it helps to set the scene, and some introductory music is nice, but not necessary.

Puppets

I've included patterns and instructions for making mouth puppets, but boys can make very simple puppets and have just as much fun.

Beavers will enjoy making bag or stick puppets. For the simplest bag puppet, they make a face on a lunch

Mouth Puppet Patterns

The patterns given are drawn to a scale of 3:1. If you reproduce them on a half-inch grid, they will be proper size. You may want to make the Troll a bit larger.

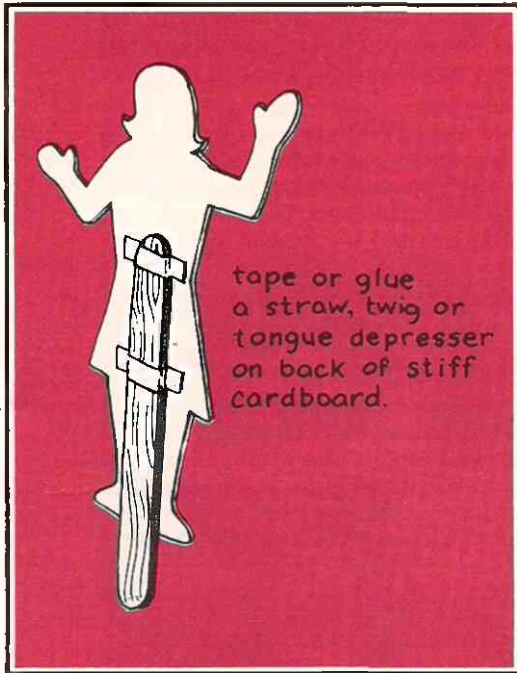
Eyes are not included. When the puppet is together, cut large round or oval-shaped eyes from white felt. Glue on large black felt pupils. To give the Troll bug-eyes, we painted black pupils on ping pong balls and glued the balls to the head.

Make head and arms of the same colour. The mouth insert is most ef-

fective if it's in a bright contrasting colour to that of the head. We don't recommend felt for this part. The mouth gets the heaviest action and we found we quickly wore holes through felt.

We stuff the head with a semi-circular chunk of foam which we glue into place. To make nice plump ears and nose, stitch, turn and stuff well. For the arms, simply over-stitch and stuff.

For a novice seamstress like myself, it takes three hours to make one puppet. But then, I'm slow at other kinds of handwork too.

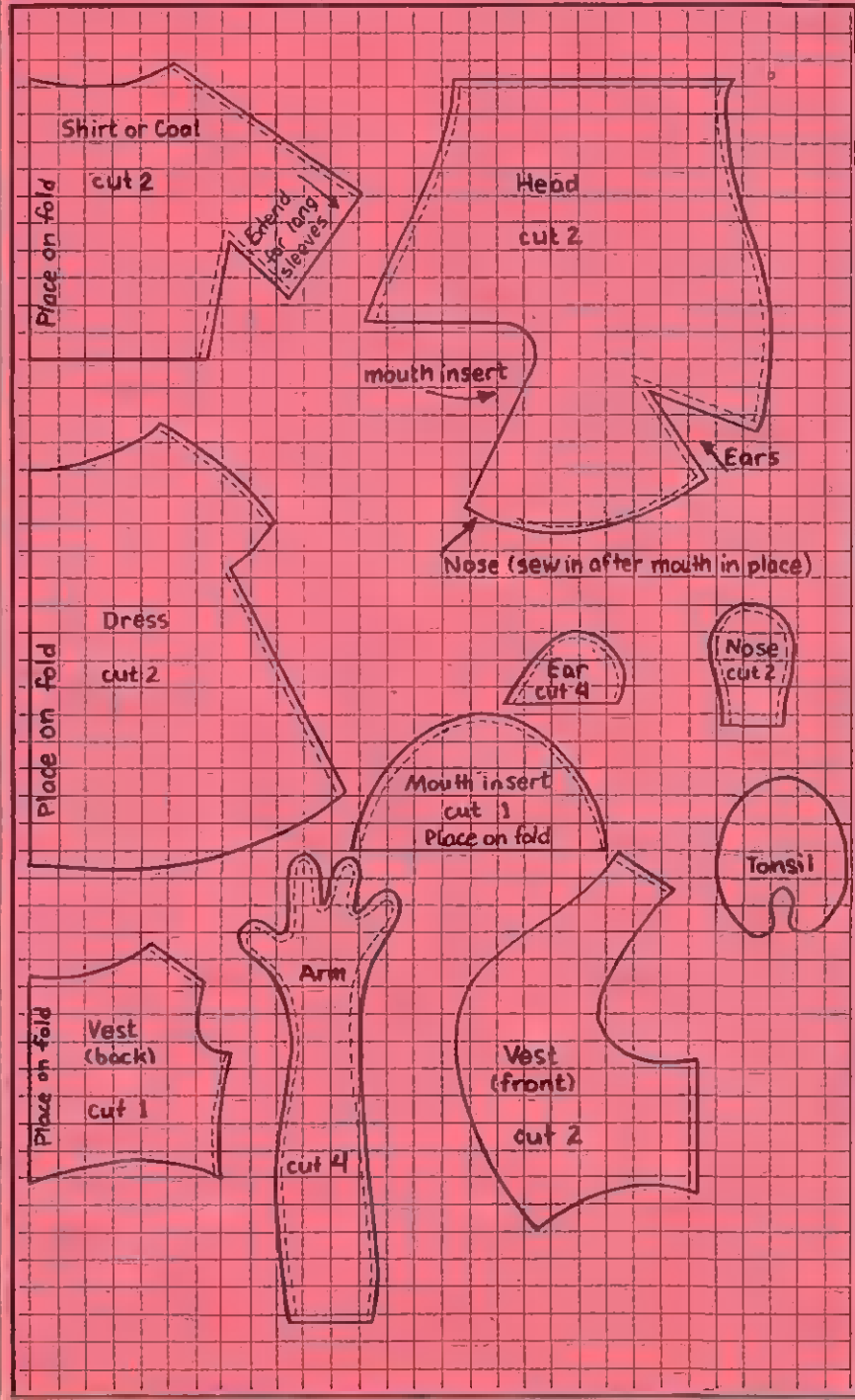


bag and add hair, ears, a hat, or whatever they wish. Cut stick puppet characters from sturdy cardboard, decorate them and tape on the back a twig, drinking straw or tongue depressor for the puppeteer to hold.

Give older boys a go at sock puppets. Have each bring from home a brightly coloured sock which has lost its partner. Shape a "mouth" pocket into the foot portion and stitch each side to hold it. The boys can glue on eyes, nose, hair, tonsils, ears, moustaches, and whatever other characteristics they want their creations to have. Buttons, felt, fuzzy fur material, wool, string and coloured paper are useful decorating items.

If you are feeling reckless, try having the boys sew rather than glue. Just make sure you have lots of parent volunteers or leaders to help thread needles, make knots and show them how NOT to sew through both sides of the sock.

Now, on with the show.



The Three Beavers Gruff

Billy Beaver: Hey Brenda! Come quick. Out there. Look! It's that colony of beavers I was telling you about last night. I *told* you they were blue and brown. And you thought I was making it all up.

Brenda Beaver: Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle! I can't believe it. Except that I see it with my own eyes! Boy, they sure don't have very big teeth. Hey, and look at the one over there — the one they call (_____). He doesn't have any teeth at all!

Billy: Yeah. But look at their tails! They're all different colours, for heaven's sake. And they stick out of their heads!

Brenda: Boy, Billy, all I can say is it sure must jiggle their brains when they slap the water to signal danger!

Billy (laughs): Hey — maybe their brains are on the other end!

Brenda (laughs): I never thought of that, Billy! (*Pause*) Well, one thing they have is big paws. Look at them! I bet they're good for swimming, and for pulling logs into the water, too. In fact, all those beavers look pretty big and strong.

Billy: Yeah, but those teeth, Brenda. I can't see how they can get enough bark to eat. Maybe they can run up the river banks faster than we can because they're bigger and stronger. But they'd starve to death by the time they cut down a tree with those teeth.

Brenda: I bet I know. See the big beavers over there? The big ugly ones? Those must be the mommy and daddy beavers. They seem to have very big teeth. Maybe they do the big jobs and the little guys do the small branches?

Billy: Could be, could be. Anyways, I'm sure glad we don't have any strange coloured beavers like that in our family. Blue and brown! Good grief!

Brenda: All this talk about teeth and food is making me hungry. Let's get across this bridge. I see some yummy cottonwood trees on the other side. Besides, big brother Buster Beaver Gruff will be finished his afternoon nap soon. And he's going to be mad and yell at us if we don't get some work done before he gets here. Winter is coming, you know.

Billy: I know, I know. (*Looks at bridge*). You're the big sister. You go first.

Brenda: Who me? I don't know. That bridge doesn't look any too strong to me. Maybe you should cross first. If it will hold you, then it should hold me.

Billy: What a sissy! I told you girls are sissies. Of course, I'll go first. Scared to cross a bridge, ha! I'll show you. (*Starts across*)

Troll (popping up): Who's that walking across my bridge?

Billy (quavering): It is I, teeny, weeny little Billy Beaver Gruff.

Troll: Yum! Just in time for my supper. I'm going to eat you up!

Billy: Oh, no, please I'm so skinny and bony. I won't taste good at all. Why don't you wait for my big sister? She's bigger than me, and she's coming across next.

Troll: Bigger, you say? You *are* rather skinny, and I *am* rather hungry. Okay, pipsqueak. Be off with you! (*Billy crosses and Troll disappears*)

Brenda: Thanks a lot, Billy. Girls are sissies, eh? I thought brothers and sisters were supposed to look after each other, and share. Well, thanks a lot for sharing your ugly purple nasty friend. I wonder if he's an uncle to those funny blue and brown beavers we saw? Well (*deep breath*) — here goes nothing! (*starts to cross*)

Troll: Who's that walking across my bridge?

Brenda: It is I, beautiful Brenda Beaver Gruff. Hello, handsome! Isn't it a lovely day today for a walk? and a picnic? Would you like an orange? or a sugar cookie? or this can of pop? or a bag of chips? I'll share with you.

Troll: Are you crazy? You know doggone well that trolls don't eat stuff like that. Only blue and brown beavers do. Trolls eat goats, but since I haven't seen any goats cross this bridge for a very long time, I'll settle for a nice plump beaver!

Brenda: Hey, wait, Mr. Beautiful Purple Troll . . . I . . . I'm not a very good substitute for a goat. Really! I'm hardly a mouthful! Why don't you wait for my big brother, Buster Beaver Gruff? He's much bigger than I am, and he should be coming around the corner any minute now.

Troll: Hmm. Much bigger, you say? Sounds delicious! All right then, but be off with you — quick!

Brenda (scoots across bridge): Thank goodness!

Buster Beaver (enters, peers around, addresses audience): Did you see two little beavers go by this way? (*Pause*) Is this bridge safe to walk on? (*Pause*). Oh, those two beaver kits. Every time I turn my back, they get into mischief. I bet they haven't cut down any trees, either. We'll never have enough for winter at this rate. (*Stomps onto bridge*)

Troll: Who's that stomping across my bridge?

Buster: It is I, Buster Beaver Gruff, of course. And who, may I ask, are you?

Troll: Me? I'm the big bad Troll, that's who, and I'm very hungry! I've been waiting for you. I'm going to eat you up! (*Troll grabs Buster — Buster struggles. Brenda and Billy rush to the rescue*)

Brenda (shouting): Leave my brother alone, you big bully!

Billy: Yeah!
(*The Troll is so surprised, he lets go of Buster. Brenda and Billy give him a push and he falls off the bridge with a splash*)

Brenda: There! That'll teach you not to pick on beavers!

Billy: Yeah!

Buster: Thanks, kids. Of course, I could have beaten the old grouch . . . but, I'm glad you were close by. (*The three cross the bridge and start working on the tree on the other side*)

Troll (pops up crying): It isn't fair! It isn't fair! They weren't supposed to fight back! Now I'll have to find another bridge. Or maybe I'll become a vegetarian. I mean, bark and grass and water lily shoots can't be all that bad! (*disappears*)

Brenda, Billy & Buster (tree falls): And they all lived happily ever after!

CURTAIN X

Posters

by Bob Milks

The posters produced for the period September 1, 1983 to August 31, 1986, have been designed to provide maximum flexibility.

Each program section has three 12"x18" posters; a portrait, an indoor scene and an outdoor scene. In addition, there are a 12"x13½" logo and a 12"x4½" meeting notice which were left uncut (A).

Sections can display these posters by arranging them as a 24"x36" poster or a 48"x18" poster (B, C).

The meeting notice can be used with the logo, as issued, or with one of the other posters (D, E).

In addition, we produced a 12"x18" leader poster, badge chart and *Trees for Canada* poster. The 12"x13½"

Scouts Canada logo and the 12"x4½" Group Committee meeting notice complete this set (F, G, H).

To provide maximum flexibility for halls or malls, all of these posters can be mixed or matched to make 36 square feet of poster.

To provide even more flexibility, we produced; 12 different 18"x18" sponsor logos; one 18"x18" Scouts Canada logo; one 18"x36" *Catch the Scouting Spirit* logo. You can use these with section posters to set up interesting displays at group parent and son banquets (I, J).

Other items designed to add flexibility are 12"x6" strips saying *Join Us* and *Scouts Meet Here* in different languages. They too, can be used with section posters.

No doubt you can develop dozens of other combinations for use on a notice board or in a shopping mall. We hope that you enjoy using them!

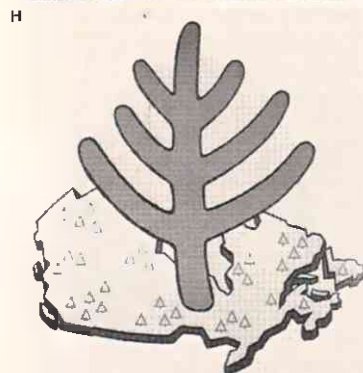


WILL MEET
PLACE

PHONE



MEET CONTACT
PHONE



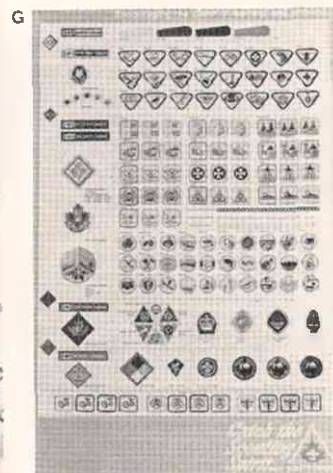
Trees for Canada



SCOUTS CANADA



SCOUTS CANADA



SCOUTS CANADA

A Winter's Tale

by John Sweet

16th December 1964

Two boys from a cottage down the lane, one 12, the other 10, have spent the whole of this winter afternoon raking and sweeping the fallen leaves from our neglected lawn. They are non-Scouts. Now, at 4:15 on this cold December day, the light had gone from the sky and they are still working as vigorously as they did at 1:15 when the operation started. They came round this morning with a box of windfall pears and offered their services. They expect to be paid and paid they shall be.

I wish they were Scouts, but their father, who collects junk for a living in a clapped-out old van, does not encourage them to mix with the other kids in the neighbourhood. It may be that he fears they will come under a bad influence. They are, without exception, the most truly courteous boys I have ever encountered.

My wife, who knows them better than I, says that when they have completed the job they will clean the tools and return them to the cupboard from which they came. I don't believe it, but that's what my wife says they will do.

Later: As predicted, our two young friends from down the lane cleaned the tools, put them tidily away, and then rang the doorbell. When, at their request, I had inspected the work, the little boy said, "Have we done a good job?" I was able to reassure him. They thanked me for giving them work, accepted payment without loss of dignity and then, when we'd said our goodnights, went back round the corner of the house to have another look at their work.

Next morning, when my wife went down to collect the milk from the doorstep, she found it decorated with sprays of evergreen. A bit of cardboard was spiked on a twig. "Happy Christmas to mister and missus Sweet," it said.

I loved those kids and still do.

Where are they now? What has life done for them?

I wish I knew.

The Good Leader

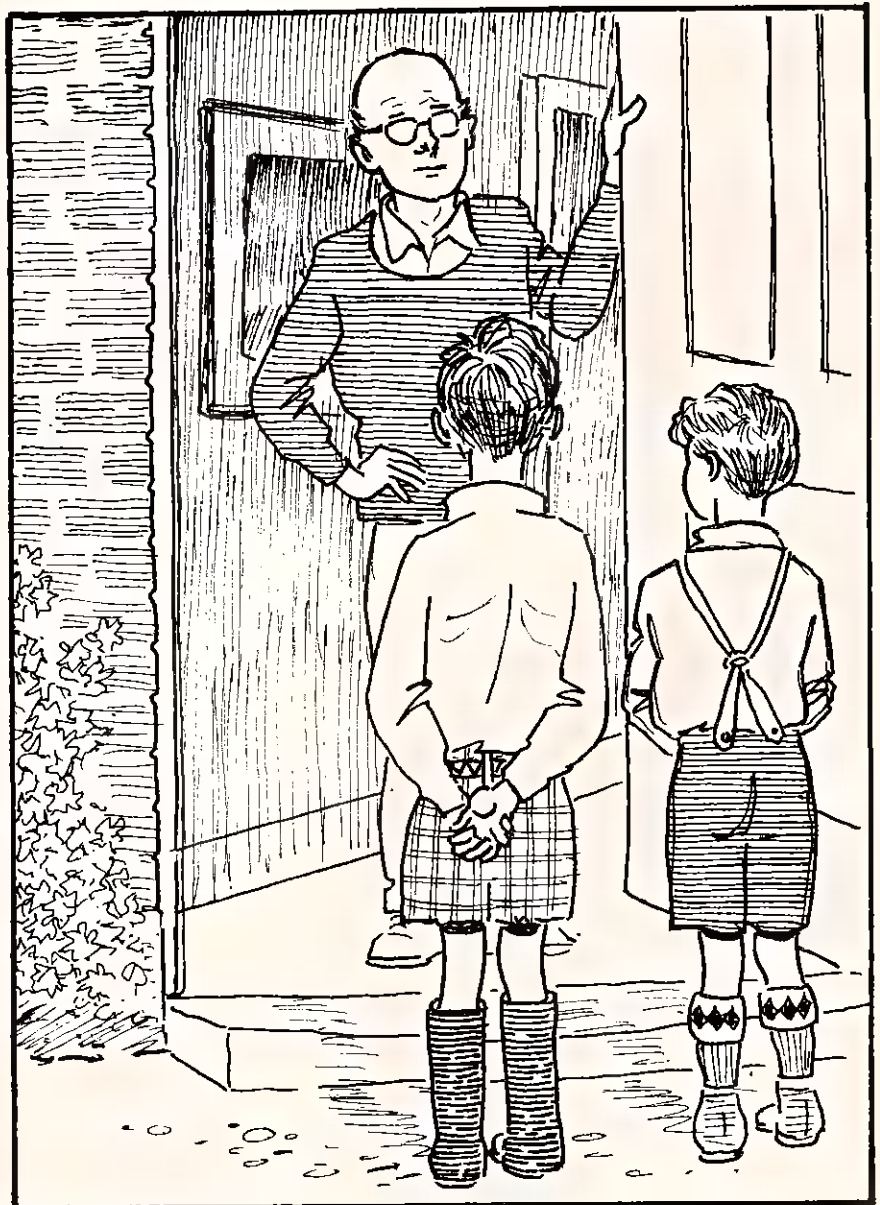
"The good leader," I remember our district commissioner of the period saying to us, long, long ago, "never raises his voice."

He was wrong! I used to raise mine all the time.

On the other hand, he did say the "good" leader.

Anyhow, at that time in my life, I

had not yet become set in my ways and, having a high regard for dear old "Badger" Ward, I took his advice to heart and tried to model myself upon it, billing and cooing round the troop room like any turtle dove where before I had been wont to bellow like a bull. The 17th Whitley Bay (St. Andrews) to whom I was seconded at the time, wondered what the merry dickens had come over me.



"What's up with you, then?" Jack Stokoe asked me one night. "Got the croup or something?" I gave the lad a frosty glance.

"All I want from you, young Stokoe," I said, "is a bit of hush in your patrol corner."

"Oh, that all?" he said. "PIPE DOWN YOU LOT!"

They did so.

This incident taught me that it isn't the voice that matters. It's the man behind it.

Potted Obstacle Expeditions

Talking of potted obstacle expeditions for the troop night program (we weren't, but do let's), no one at the time of going to press has responded to our plan for a few fresh ideas for suitable incidents, but we still live in hope. Meanwhile, here are a few of our very own for your consideration.

Base One — Mark out an area about 6 metres in diameter and place in centre, about 1 m apart, two jam jars, one containing a lighted candle. Provide ample sisal twine. Instruction: "Working from outside the area, reverse the position of the two jam jars in relation to each other. If the light goes out, your failure will be complete. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!"

(The method is to make a running noose in one end of a length of sisal and attach other strings to it so that the loop can be opened or closed at will. Note that the jam jar containing the candle need not be tampered with at all.)

Base Two — A single block, a movable object of any sort, an anchorage (e.g. door handle, hot water pipe or what-have-you), a length of expendable rope. Instruction: "With the equipment provided, show how you would use block-and-tackle to the best advantage to move the (movable object) towards the (anchorage)."

(The method is to remove one strand from the rope to secure the block to the movable object, then tie off the standing part of the remaining two strands to the anchorage, reeve it through the block, and haul away.)

Base Three — A crossbar of some sort 2 m above floor level. A baseline about 8 m away. A good supply of sisal twine. Two mallet heads or other weights. Instruction: "Working from the baseline, throw a line over the crossbar and draw it back under the crossbar."

(The method is to weight the mid-

dle of a long sisal line and throw it over the crossbar, keeping the free ends of the line as wide apart as possible so that the weighted line hangs from the crossbar in an open V. Another weighted line should be thrown through the V. The double line can then be drawn back to the baseline.)

Base Four — A "channel" about 3 m across. In the middle, two billycans without handles, one containing water. Scout staves, sisal twine. Instruction: "Working from both sides of the channel, pour water from one billycan into the other and back without spilling a single drop."

(The method: Sheerlash two staves together to make a rigid bar extending the width of the channel. Make a second bar, lay it over the first in the form of an elongated letter X and sheerlash them together, not too tightly, to make a slightly eccentric pair of tongs. The tongs can then be operated from both sides of the channel to grip and manipulate the billycans. Must admit I've never attempted it myself, but can't see why it shouldn't work. Can you?)

Sand-and-Kerosene Cook Stove

To make the OTL sand-and-kerosene cooking stove, take one large babyfood tin and two small cocoa tins. Pack the small tins with fine sand and, with a hammer and a 6 inch nail, drive lots of holes through the sides, wrenching the nail this way and that to increase the size of the holes. Empty out the sand, then remove the bottoms and telescope the two tins together. Cut a hole in the base of the babyfood can equal in size to the two small tins, then fit them into it and pack sand tightly round the tins and soak with kerosene. Light a small fire and set your stove over it on a couple of bearers to allow the free passage of air up the flue. Presently, little tongues of flame will begin to spout from the nail holes and your stove will be ready for use.

Perhaps you will be good enough to pass this idea on to your patrol leaders and get them to promote a timed water-boiling exercise on troop night. Let us know if the OTL sand-and-kerosene stove actually works.

We have often wondered.

Great P.R.

Sheer coincidence, of course — how else can one explain it? — but towards the end of the summer camping season in the U.K. we received

several delightful picture postcards from boys, telling us, in almost identical terms, of the smashing time they were having at Youlbury Camp, our place in Oxfordshire, England. All, with one accord, spoke with warm appreciation of the amenities, the lovely big swimming pool, the canoeing, the fun and adventure they were having in tackling the 1983 Youlbury Scout Challenge and especially, *especially*, the friendliness and helpfulness of the warden and his magnificent service team.

Does your heart good, so it does, to read unsolicited testimonials like that from satisfied customers. Well done, Youlbury! Our sincere congratulations to you all — not least to your resident P.R. man who is obviously doing a fine job.

Postscript

Yet another card from Youlbury this a.m., this time from the 4th Chiltern (Toddington) Venture Unit. "Youlbury camp is good. Food is too. Been canoeing, hiking, swimming, horse-riding and pioneering." And, on the reverse side of the card, a splendid freehand drawing signed by the artist with a modest "G".

I mean! — to get a card like that from Venture Scouts! It *must* be on the level.

Disciplined Silence

At the forthcoming meeting of the Patrol Leaders Council, try to sell the idea that a 10 minute period of "Disciplined Silence" should be introduced into the program of each troop night meeting for the next month or so. When the signal is given, patrols must carry on with whatever they may be doing, but without making the slightest sound. A "listening post" of Assistant PLs will be set up amidsthips to monitor the experiment and identify any who break the discipline. The first person to do so deliberately (there is always someone) will be deprived of his rights when chocolate biscuits are dished out to the patrols at coffee break.

New Years Resolution

The season of the Good Resolution is at hand, but why wait for the New Year to dawn? Resolve now that never again will you give direct instructions of any kind to the troop as a whole which might just as easily, and just as efficiently, be passed to them via their own patrol leaders. A

Troop Specialty Badge

by Phil Newsome

The troop specialty badge is probably the most seldom earned and least understood challenge badge available to Scouts. Bud Jacobi, a troop Scouter from St. Catharines, Ont., sent us requirements for his troop's specialty badge. If other readers have developed a specialty badge for their troops, I'd welcome a copy of their requirements for future sharing in this column. Thanks, Bud, for passing along your ideas.

One of the most meaningful badges a Scout can earn is his own troop's specialty badge. All members strive to earn this coveted award and wear it proudly on their sash. The specialty should be challenging enough that the badge is not presented automatically to every new boy who joins, but it should not be out of reach to boys who make a real effort over a period of time. The requirements should allow for choice and flexibility so that they appeal to all boys, academically and athletically inclined alike.

To earn our troop's specialty, a Scout chooses three out of six skill areas: cliff climbing; judo; survival; shooting (rifle range); canoeing; swimming. All requirements are oriented to represent rugged, adventurous Scouting. They are calculated to challenge the "action guy" and interest a wide age range of boys.

Some Scouters may prefer to zero

in on a single skill in which their Scouts excel and show a high standard of proficiency: first aid; life saving; pioneering; orienteering; stalking and tracking; scuba diving; archery; skiing; ham radio; etc.

Here are some details about our requirements for the troop specialty badge.

Climbing — Demonstrate proficiency in climbing technique and rappelling; and skilful use of three rescue knots. Requirements include a "courage test" and transporting a "casualty" to safety.

Judo — Demonstrate proficiency in jiu-jitsu skills, including falls, defence breaks and police holds (e.g. breaking the choke hold; bear hug; head lock; hand grip; straddle hold; kidney scissors and double nelson; club and gun attack).

Survival — An adventure challenge similar to the old First Class Journey. The Scout, equipped with lightweight gear and food, is blindfolded and taken, by car, to an unknown area in the country. He follows map references and grid bearings, spends the night in a shelter or tent and, on his return, submits a log, complete with reports on discovery assignments.

Shooting — Demonstrate proficiency in gun safety and marksmanship. Scouts practise frequently at a local rifle range with the help of expert vo-

lunteers who also provide instruction at meetings. The only charge is for the ammunition the Scouts use.

Canoeing — The annual canoe trip is the highlight of our summer camp. We teach safety, technique, canoe and paddle parts, portaging, and capsize rescue according to the Charge Certificate Requirements and other resource books. Scouts must demonstrate their knowledge and skill at a special weekend camp.

Swimming — We have a monthly swim meeting at the local YMCA or Brock University pool. Along with exciting races, games and diving contests, Scouts have the opportunity to pass tests for the various stages of the Swimmer's badge. In order to qualify for this part of his specialty badge, a Scout must earn his Gold Stage Award.

Important Notice

Although it is expected that a Scout normally will complete his requirements for the Chief Scout's Award while a member of the troop, a Scout who has moved to the Venturer program has a three month period of grace within which he can complete the requirements for the Scout section's highest award.

Troop Scouters are asked to share this information with Scouts who will be moving to the Venturer company. A

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Cub Uniform Organizer

by Gerry Giuliani

Here's a neat craft idea from Doug Cunningham of the Muskoka Area in Ontario. You may want to do some of the tricky work yourself (e.g. cutting the wood with a jig saw), but let the boys trace the pattern.

Organize parents to help supervise. You might set up work stations; one for pattern tracing, a second for cutting, another for drilling, glueing, rasping edges, and so on. As he's ready, each Cub circulates from station to station.

A Cub can hang the wolf head on his bedroom wall and use the hanger for his jersey. The other dowel pegs are handy for hanging cap and scarf.

Materials

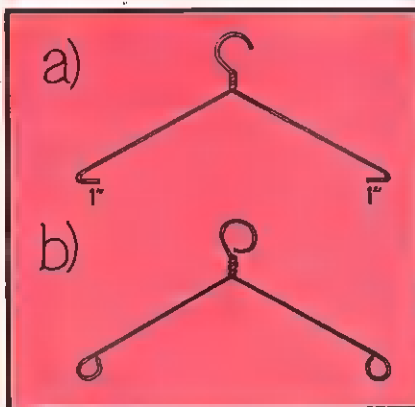
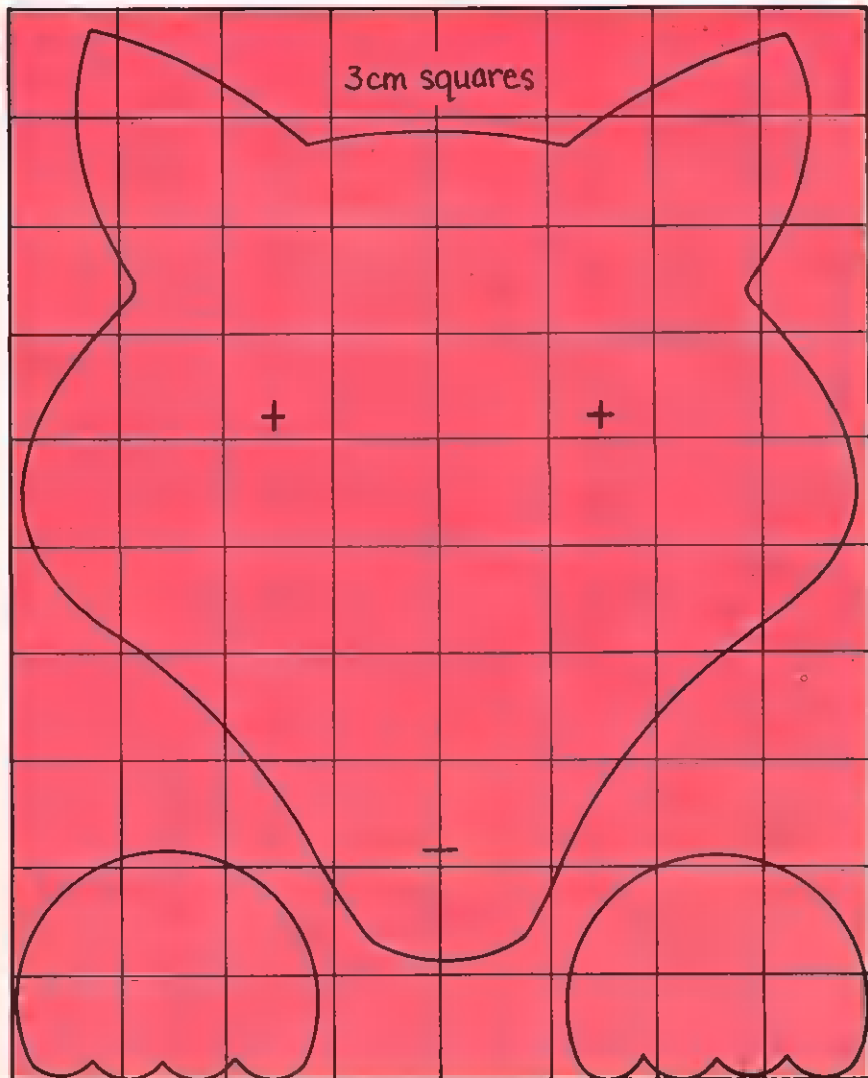
- 1 pc 2.5x24x30 cm white pine or other lumber
- 1 pc 3/8"x16" hardwood dowelling
- 3 pc 3/4"x4" hardwood dowelling
- 1 wire coathanger
- 2-1" roundhead wood screws with washers
- 2 wall hangers or small screw eyes
- sandpaper
- white wood glue
- covering for wire hanger (optional)

Tools

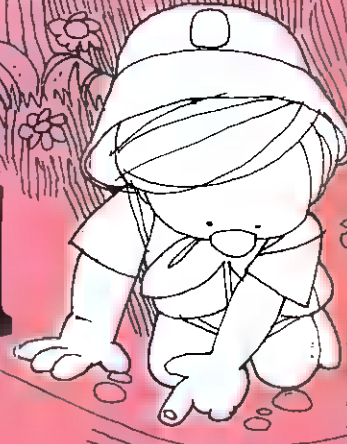
- electric jig saw or coping saw
- fine wood rasp
- 3/4" and 3/8" wood bits
- electric drill or bit stock
- screw driver
- hammer
- needle nose pliers
- wire cutters

Directions

1. Trace pattern on board
2. Cut out all parts
3. Smooth edges with rasp and sand all parts
4. Drill 3/8" hole in side of each paw and glue in 3/8" dowelling
5. Cut bottom from wire coat hanger, leaving about 1" on either side (a)
6. Using needle nose pliers, bend each end to form a small loop (b)
7. Fasten wire coat hanger to back of paws using screws and washers
8. Bend hook of wire hanger to form a 1" loop (b)
9. Cover wire part of hanger, if desired
10. Install two picture hangers or small screw eyes on back of ears (one on each)
11. Drill 3/4" holes at designated locations (eyes and nose) and glue in the three pieces of 3/4" dowelling
12. Finish if desired
13. Make a canvas bag (handbook size) to hang on hanger.



Fun at the Pond



"It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty founder was a child himself." — Charles Dickens

This is the time of year when a Beaver colony bursts with excitement. The many traditions and tales of Christmas are magic to Beavers, and even the simplest of crafts will delight them. Here are a few you might like to try before the night before Christmas arrives.

Super Stocking Stuffer

Older brothers and sisters, or Mom and Dad will find a book mark useful.

Provide your Beavers strips of sturdy cardboard 10 inches long and two inches wide (25x5 cm). Help them to round off one end for a head and cut short legs and feet at the other end. Then let them draw on a face, hair and clothing with crayons or paint. Finally, leaders can print: THIS IS WHERE YOU STOPPED READING, or something to that effect.

Christmas Tree Birds

Simple paper decorations sometimes add the finishing touch to a Christmas tree. To make these Christmas tree birds, you need: coloured construction paper cut into 3/4" (2 mm) widths, scissors, staplers and thread.

Attach two 8 inch (20 cm) strips at the top to start the bird. Form a small loop from the top strip for the head and staple. Form a larger loop from the bottom strip, staple and curl the

tail. Tightly curl a short strip of paper (by pulling the strip against the edge of scissors) and glue into place to make an eye.

Loop the thread through the neck and tail staples or secure with tape. These Christmas birds can decorate a tree or hang from the ceiling in a seasonal mobile.

Cone Christmas Trees

You can use pine cones to make many simple Christmas decorations. Spray dried cones with glittery Christmas "snow" or gold paint. Your Beavers can also use larger cones to make mini Christmas trees. First they glue a large cone to a cardboard base, which they've painted green. After the glue is thoroughly dry, they can "decorate" the tree with bright beads, sequins and silver and gold stars held in place by clear glue.

Christmas Tree Napkins

For this Christmas dinner decoration you need a package of green paper napkins and tiny gold or silver foil stars or Christmas trees. Have Beavers hold napkins so that the folded corners are to the top and left. Then they fold over the right and left sides until they just meet at the centre. Trim off the corners at the bottom, turn over the tree and stick on the decorations.

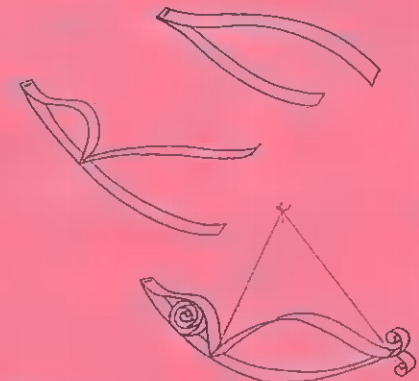
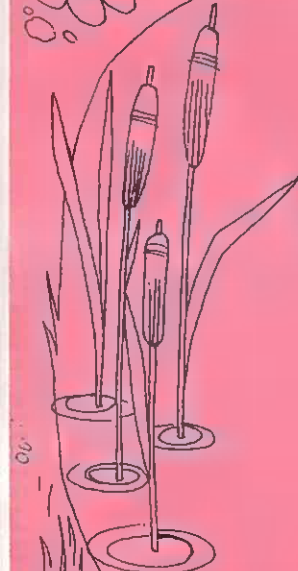
Holiday Snowballs

1/2 cup popping corn
3 tablespoons honey

Pop the corn and, while it is still warm, stir in the honey. By the time the popcorn has cooled, the honey will have hardened to form popcorn snowballs for a special treat. Makes about six cups.

Gift Packages

Stir softened cream cheese with a fork until it's very smooth. Spread the cream cheese on small crackers, stacking them up to make packages. Spread cheese on the outside of the packages and refrigerate. Paint on food colouring ribbons using a fine paintbrush.



Pass the Parcel

This well-known children's game will put everyone in the mood for Christmas morning. In case you've forgotten it, here's one version.

Wrap a small prize like a candy cane in as many boxes and layers as possible. The bigger the parcel, the better. The colony sits in a big circle and passes the parcel around to the music of Christmas songs. When the music stops, the boy holding the package unwraps a layer. Continue passing and unwrapping until the treat is uncovered.

The Legend of The Christmas Stocking

On Christmas Eve, your Beavers will eagerly hang their Christmas stockings for Santa to fill with oranges, candies and small surprises. Those who don't have a fireplace mantle to hang them from will put them on their bedposts, or a door-knob. The jolly old elf finds them wherever they are, and Beavers say thanks by making sure to leave out a sweet for Santa and some sugar lumps or a carrot for his reindeer.

Your Beavers might like to hear the story of how this custom started. It's said that, not too many centuries after Christ was born, St. Nicholas, a kindly Greek bishop, wanted to help three young ladies in his village. They were very good young ladies, but they were sad because, although they were beautiful, they could not marry. Their father, a poor man, had no gold to pay their dowries, and no man would accept a bride without payment. The whole family was sad because, in those days, it was considered a disgrace if young women did not marry.

One night, St. Nicholas dropped a purse of gold down the chimney of the poor man's house. By chance, the purse fell into the elder daughter's stocking, which she'd washed and hung by the chimney to dry.

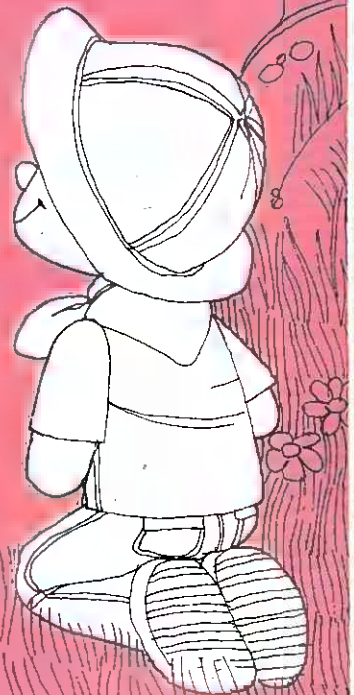
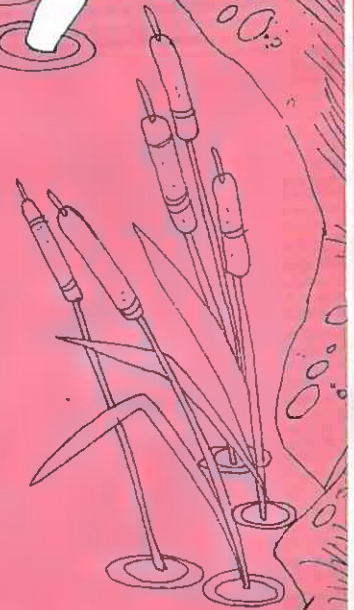
The elder girl married a good man, and the second sister, then the third, decided they should hang up their stockings to see what would happen. Good St. Nicholas managed to drop a purse of gold into each, and brought happiness to all members of the family.

The story was passed on and, in time, children began to hang their stockings, hoping St. Nicholas would fill them with gifts. The oranges found in the tip of a Christmas stocking are a reminder of St. Nicholas' gold.

In some parts of the world, children set out their shoes for St. Nicholas to fill, but the origin of the custom is the same. Dutch and Belgian children put out their sabots or wooden shoes. German children set out their shoes or boots on Dec. 6, St. Nicholas Day. If they have been good during the year, they find them filled with sweets. If they've been naughty, they find them filled with spanking switches! Since most children are a mixture of naughty and nice, most find a bundle of twigs hung with sweets in their boots the next morning.

In Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico and many South American countries, the Three Kings rather than St. Nicholas are the gift-bearers. Children fill their shoes with hay for the Kings' camels and set them on the windowsill in anticipation of receiving sweets and small gifts in return.

In all countries of the world, Christian families share the excitement, the music, the warmth and the joy of a special "giving" season. May your stockings be filled with goodies and your hearts filled with love this Christmas. A



An Urban Safari

by Ken Lee

From time to time, even the most ardent outdoor troop can have fun by venturing into a land of concrete sidewalks. The Pine Beach (Nahani) Troop of Dorval, Quebec, enjoys four-season camping under canvas along with canoe trips and backpacking, but we also get a lot of fun from city exploration trips. A visit to Quebec City with its Old Town, aquarium and walled citadel, or to Shelburne Museum in Vermont where 18th century life has been restored, or to the SAC Air Force Base at Plattsburgh, New York, is an attractive expedition for Scouts.

Somewhat longer than any of these for us, but an excellent outing, is a weekend in Toronto. It goes something like this.

Just after 4:00 on a Friday afternoon, we either board a chartered bus or vehicles in a car pool to leave Dorval. Each Scout brings a minimum change of clothing, a sleeping bag, a jacket, his dishes and a small lunch. The leaders pack kitchen gear and food for two breakfasts.

A little after 11:00 p.m., the crew arrives in Burlington, Ontario, where they have made reservations through friends to spend two nights in the local church. Soon after arrival at our "hotel", it's a quick change and off to sleep for everyone because 7:00 a.m. Saturday comes mighty early.

All are soon up and dressed and, after cooking breakfast, washing dishes and stowing gear, we're off to

the Toronto Science Centre. Every possible gadget is on display at this huge "hands on" museum: mechanical and scientific models the Scouts can operate; and action displays of laser beams, liquid nitrogen, and a Van de Graaff generator which fans your hair into a statically charged halo.

The boys move through the centre on their own or with friends of similar interest, and pick out the things they want to see and try. There's no way that one day is enough to try everything. They each have \$3.00 to buy lunch at the museum lunch counter,



and we set 4:30 as the time to meet at the exit.

When everyone has gathered, we travel down to the waterfront for an elevator ride up the CN Tower. It's quite a view from the top, especially around 6:00 in the evening when the lights start coming on across the city. The tower trip ends with a private showing of a time-lapse film about the construction of this highest free-standing man-made structure in the world. It's a good engineering lesson for the boys.

Finally, it's back to the church in Burlington and all the pizza and milk the Scouts can consume. After such

an active day, they're usually ready to spend a somewhat low-key evening.

On Sunday we're up at 7:30 to cook breakfast and pack most of the gear. By 10:30 the Scouts have their colour party organized and parade into Sunday service. Then it's the duty of one of the leaders to obtain the correct quantity of chicken from a local outlet while dessert and juice are prepared for lunch.

After lunch we load up and give proper thanks to all concerned before heading toward Montreal. On the way, we stop at the atomic generating station at Pickering to see a film and

view the working models. This is another learning experience for the Scouts.

Kingston is the stop point for supper and one of the fast food outlets gets a surprise when we show up with our appetites. We eventually arrive home about 11:00. We're tired, but what a weekend — one which offers plenty to talk about for the next few weeks. One last chore waits the leaders — to write and send letters of thanks for all the help extended us on the weekend.

Urban explorations are fun. Look for something you don't have in your community, and give it a try. A

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Program around *Ski Safety*

by Phil Newsome

Now that the Canadian winter is upon us, many of our Venturer companies will be looking for program ideas and themes to carry them over the next few months. I'd like to share some ideas based on the theme of ski safety, showing how it can be developed into a full company program which covers most of the Venturer interest areas.

A number of our Venturers are interested in competitive and recreational ski programs. Down-hill and cross-country skiing are experiencing tremendous growth, which creates an increasing need for first aid, rescue and safety programs. To provide safe recreational skiing, many of our popular ski areas rely on volunteer ski patrollers who are trained in search and rescue techniques. A Venturer company can develop a program to provide young people the training opportunities and experience which could lead to membership with a ski patrol organization.

To help provide a balanced company program, I've arranged a list of ideas and program suggestions into the six Venturer experience areas.

Service

Assist with on-hill and first aid room duties at a local ski area.

Participate in first aid, skiing, binding check and toboggan handling training courses.

Organize ski swaps.

Take training in map and compass use for search and rescue.

Assemble equipment for emergency rescues.

Learn techniques of crowd control and communications and provide service at local ski races or other skiing events.

Personal Interest

Study the history, traditions and safety roles of skiing.

Conduct discussions on skier courtesy and sportsmanship.

Find speakers from competitive skiing, olympic teams and other national and international skiing events.

Take a CPR and first aid course related to winter accidents.

Fitness

Study proper conditioning, exercise and nutrition for skiing.

Plan programs on sports medicine, first aid, ski equipment, safety, health care and proper skiing procedures.

Complete an advanced CPR and standard St. John Ambulance training course.

Exploration

Learn about alpine and nordic competition.

Plan cross-country trips and activities.

Study survival techniques and orienteering.

Where applicable, take training in dealing with avalanche conditions and ski mountaineering.

Plan training and practice in toboggan handling, communications and rescue.

Social/Cultural

Plan family activities and ski schools, co-ed activities, parents' programs, parent and Venturer ski events, church programs.

Teach skiing to disabled persons.

Support and work with community ski programs.

Vocational

Review career opportunities in coaching, teaching, ski equipment, training, journalism, sports medicine, safety and ski area management.

Arrange for speakers from local park areas, private enterprise, ski instruction and allied skill industries.

These are only a few projects a company might undertake. All they require is an interest on the part of the Venturers, and some guidance and support from an enthusiastic Venturer advisor. λ

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a word to chairmen

Ontario Relationships Conference

by Pat Horan

Dear Murray,

Great to meet you again at the Ontario Relationships Conference at Blue Springs, Oct. 4. It was a good move to bring together representatives of the Anglican Diocesan Committees on Scouting the previous evening. I was impressed by the way in which they tackled the final revision to their *Religion in Life* program. The next important step will be to produce an instructor's manual of some sort.

Like you, I was very interested in the presentation by the Partner Planning Group (formerly Membership Management). As they pointed out, their role is to promote supervision over the partnership/sponsorship area; conduct research and review programs relating to partnership concepts and agreements; and recommend ways to improve programs and *expand the number of sponsors*.

Because this year's conference was designed primarily for church partners (a conference for non-church partners will be held in the spring), it allowed discussion and feedback to concentrate on church/Scouting matters. A number of items were of special interest to me.

- the updating of denominational *Religion in Life* programs
- the review and promotion of special events such as the Anglican *Let's Celebrate Retreats* in Toronto, Ottawa and Lethbridge
- a plan for the effective recruitment and selection of Scouting teams
- the need to "sell" the Scouting package at theological colleges and deanery and other meetings
- a need to provide "spiritual" awards for leaders (already available for Salvation Army, Mormon and Lutheran leaders)
- the need to raise awareness of other faiths among Scout membership. On this point, delegate Putli Byramjee spoke on Zoroastrianism and its growth in Canada. There will likely be a *Religion in Life* program for youth of this faith
- the report on the World Jamboree from Chaplaincy Corps members Jim Small, Gord Wilder and Jim Sutton, anticipating exciting plans for CJ '85

There was an encouraging reaction to the display of proposed partner logos. Thanks to Communications Services at NHQ, these will be produced in quantity to help improve partner/Scouting relationships across the country.

The delegates were assured that the provincial council would continue to support and implement the partnership concept through *Provincial Notes*, field visits and provincial and regional events such as this annual conference.

All in all, it was a good participative conference designed to identify and meet needs.

Yours sincerely,

Pat

X

At Risk with Crafts

by Gerry Giuliani

Crafts are an important part of Beavering, and many leaders enjoy hobbies. Many may not know, however, that their hobby or craft materials might be dangerous. This month, I share valuable information adapted from an article which appeared in the Feb. '83 issue of Safety Canada.

On the basis of U.S. figures, it can be conservatively estimated that one in four Canadians may be exposed to hazards when they work at hobbies or arts and crafts. Young children may be particularly at risk.

The National Safety Council in the U.S.A. recently compiled information from a number of sources to describe the problem. Their findings show that as many as 100,000,000 Americans who have contact with art and hobby supplies may be unwittingly exposing themselves to toxic substances.

Anything from clay to rubber cement is a potential danger. Paint thinners, photographic chemicals, plastics and dyes contain or give off such hazardous substances as benzene, lead, uranium, carbon monoxide and acids.

Manufacturers fail to protect consumers by failing to put warning labels on art supplies. According to the U.S. findings, many artists with medical problems didn't know their art supplies could be the source.

At risk are the skin, eyes, heart, blood, kidneys, bladder, liver, and respiratory, nervous and reproduction systems. The potential consequences include paralysis, birth defects, liver disease and cancer. For pregnant women, children, the elderly, heavy drinkers or smokers, and people with allergies or chronic heart, liver or lung problems, the risk is even greater.

"Small children's brains and nervous systems are especially susceptible because of their lower body weight and higher metabolism," says M. Rossol, director of the Art Hazard Information Centre. "The smaller the child, the greater the risk."

Toxic substances enter the body through the skin, nose and mouth. Acids, peroxides, bleaches and solvents can dissolve the skin's protective shield (a waxy substance and a protein-bonded layer of dead skin cells) to attack deeper skin layers

and, possibly, enter the bloodstream. Fumes from melting plastic, aerosols, photographic chemicals and welding immediately damage the respiratory system's sensitive linings. Dust can cause chronic disease. Contaminated hands and food are often in contact with the mouth.

Protective gloves, goggles and proper ventilation can reduce the hazards but, unless labels include ingredients and warnings, consumers aren't aware they should take protective measures.

How About in Canada?

Factual information is not easy to obtain. The hazards endanger health but seldom result in an immediate fatality. When there is a fatality some time later, the cause may not be recorded, or known.

The Lung Association has published a small booklet which explains how hazardous materials enter the body and details some of the hazards. It says those who work in ceramics and pottery face problems with clays, glazes, colourants, fumes and gases.

Clays contain silica dust, and white clays contain talc which may be contaminated with asbestos. Glazes and colourants contain some potential cancer-causing agents. The firing process may produce gases such as fluorine, chlorine, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and ozone. It may also release toxic metal fumes. Lead glazes vaporize at low temperatures and pose a particular problem.

The Lung Association provides similar information for painters, sculptors and printmakers who, collectively, may be exposed to methanol, cadmium, lead, benzene and zinc oxide.

Prolonged exposure to wood dust can cause respiratory irritation and allergic reactions. Soapstone can sometimes contain large amounts of free silica which causes silicosis. Inhalation of asbestos can result in asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. One wonders if the gifted carvers in the North, who work extensively with soapstone, are aware of the need for protection.

What To Do?

With many potentially dangerous products, the amount of exposure determines risk. To throw out all art supplies and forbid youngsters to

create is definitely not recommended.

Instead, consumers need to be more aware of potential problems and know the composition of materials they use frequently. Ask manufacturers for safety data sheets on their products. If they won't supply the information, use alternative products.

You can get information on many of the products sold in Canada from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety in Hamilton, Ont., or a number of sub-offices across the country. Reliable bookstores should have a number of books on the subject. Before you buy, check the date of publication or revision. Information in older publications may not be current. We highly recommend the Lung Association booklet. The Product Safety Branch in Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada may also help answer some questions (tel: [613] 997-1194).

The federal government shows considerable interest in this area. The Product Safety Branch and Health and Welfare Canada are working on a program to identify, examine and evaluate art materials. Health and Welfare is studying the toxicity of dyes used in art supplies.

There are currently no regulations on the materials themselves but, in some cases, warnings are required. Health and Welfare is developing an information poster for artists, art supply stores, schools and other interested persons.

There are many problems to overcome. Take the case of powdered clay. A professional artist may work with the material for a week with little wastage. A 10 year old (or a class of them) may use clay only once a year, but put clouds of it into the air and inhale as much that one time as the artist does over a long period. How can that be regulated?

At present, the keynote is to use reasonable care and caution. Supervise young people closely. Use lead-free glazes, asbestos-free talcs and moist pre-mixed clays. Ensure all work areas are well ventilated and avoid eating, drinking or smoking in the work area. Frequent hobbyists might briefly discuss their hobby and the materials they use with the family doctor.

The important thing is to become as well informed as possible about the art supplies you buy. X

Holiday Browsing

If you're like me, you likely have "book" written beside a number of names on your Christmas list. And, like me, you probably find that visiting the book store to choose the right book for each name can be absolutely disastrous to your tight schedule. Book stores are gardens of delight which I avoid like a plague, unless I know I have a few hours to spend.

Because you, like me, doubtlessly don't have many free hours, we tried to do some browsing for you by asking some of our regular contributors to tell us about books they've recently read. Here are their gift suggestions.

Escape — Adventures of a Loyalist Family by Mary Beacock Fryer, Dundern Press Ltd., 1982; paper

There's real Scouting flavour in this story of a loyalist family who, in 1789, fled New York State for a new life in Ontario: their long wilderness trek; their use of the tricks of spies and the skills of backwoodsmen to elude pursuing American soldiers; their courage and perseverance in the face of perils presented by both men and nature. Cubs and Scouts aged 9 to 13 will thoroughly enjoy the adventure narrated by 12 year old Ned, son of Caleb and Martha Seaman.

Although the American war of independence was over in 1783, men like Caleb, who had remained loyal to the British crown, continued to face persecution. Ned's story begins with a chance encounter which leads to the arrest of him and his father. It follows through with all the excitement of their break from jail, the family's hurried middle-of-the-night flight, and their subsequent escape through both settled and wilderness landscapes. The hazards are many when you are a conspicuous family of 10 carrying a blacksmith's anvil and a spinning wheel.

What adds to the book's fascination is the fact that the Seamans were real United Empire Loyalists. Caleb and Martha were the great-great-great grandparents of author Fryer, who retraced their route before writing Ned's fictional but historically based story.

Escape is a good read for young people. It's also a painless way for them to learn more about their country and the people who helped build it.

— Linda Florence

Youth With (dis)Abilities — A Leader's Resource, published by Boy Scouts of Canada, 1983; \$5.50 paper

A valuable addition to any leader's "working" library, this extensive resource book was developed to help Scouters and Guiders extend a welcoming hand of friendship to young

people with disabilities. It is another part of the growing move in Canada and elsewhere to integrate youngsters with disabilities into a wide variety of community programs.

Youth With (dis)Abilities is a complete revision of the well-known *Scouting for Boys with Handicaps*, published in 1976. The new book was developed by a task group of Scouters and Guiders who have extensive experience in working with young people with disabilities.

It is designed, not for a single read, but as a reference you can go to time and time again for information and program ideas. There are six chapters: *The Challenge*; *Getting Started*; *Adaptations* (for everything from uniform to program and equipment); *Coping with Disabilities* (what specific disabilities are and what each requires in terms of first aid preparation, teaching techniques or program adaptations); *Program Ideas*; and *Resources* (agencies, books, films). The detailed index will be a help to newcomers to this area of Scouting or Guiding.

Check it out. You'll want one copy for yourself and a few others for your friends who work with young people.

— Pat Horan

McClure — Years of Challenge by Munro Scott, Canec, Toronto, 1979; hardcover

A year ago, I reviewed *McClure — The China Years*. I'm happy to say that this second volume is every bit as interesting and exciting.

Upon returning from war-torn China, Dr. Bob McClure set up a private practice in Toronto, but found this new existence rather tame compared to the life he had been living. The restless doctor accepted a challenge to use his surgical skills among the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip at the time when the new state of Israel was emerging.

The book relates life among the Arabs in fine detail, and shows the

experimental surgery McClure developed as a forerunner of many of today's modern techniques.

It's fascinating reading to follow McClure from the Middle East to India, where he faced poverty, drought, famine, disease and an enormous population as he revitalized and modernized a rundown hospital. After 13 years in India, he returned to "retirement" in Canada, where he was elected the first lay moderator of the United Church of Canada — a role he filled with distinction, though he ruffled a few feathers along the way. When his term was over, he took his surgical skills and healing touch to Sarawak, Peru and Zaire.

McClure — The Years of Challenge is a good read and a wonderfully human story of a modern-day hero.

— Reg Roberts

Playing, Living, Learning — A Worldwide Perspective on Children's Opportunities to Play by Cor Westland and Jane Knight, Venture Publishing Inc. 1982; \$13.95, paper

"... the degree of richness of children's play is one of the critical factors which determine the future quality of their lives."

The founder of the great game of Scouting may have used different words, but it's a belief he obviously shared.

A tribute to the International Year of the Child, this comprehensive book provides "a world-wide overview of programs aimed at improving children's opportunity to play" — particularly programs for children aged 6 to 12.

In it, Scouters will find not only immediately useable ideas for games and activities, but also stimulation for their own ideas, and information about innovative Canadian ideas and facilities they may be able to tap for program enrichment.

The first few chapters look at the importance of play to the development of children, concerns relative to play (including the lack or misuse of play space), and the concept of full participation by children in all aspects of play, from planning and evaluation to teaching others.

The remainder of the book is a tremendous resource which describes different kinds of play programs and opportunities offered in different countries, among them programs involving animals, farms and nature;

adventure playgrounds; educational play; and creative play. A chapter on new ways to play games describes Canada's thrust in cooperative sports and games, and includes games from this country, the U.S.A., England, Germany and Scotland.

Extensive lists of source names and addresses augment the book's value as a resource. A chapter-by-chapter program index enables the reader to locate information quickly.

Playing, Living, Learning is the product of the cooperative efforts of the World Leisure and Recreation Association, UNICEF, The Canadian Parks/Recreation Association, and The International Association for the Child's Right to Play. It is available from: Canadian Parks/Recreation Association, 333 River Rd., Ottawa, Ont. K1L 8B9. Order yourself a copy for Christmas — L.F.

***Your Teen and Drugs* by Norman Panzica, McGraw Hill Ryerson Ltd., 1983; paper**

Drug abuse in Canada has never been more widespread than it is today, and the problem shows no sign of improving. Parents, of course, need to be aware and need to know how to handle the issue of drug abuse before it becomes an issue for them.

But how about you as a leader of young people in Scouting? How can you tell if Scouts in your troop are on drugs? How can you prevent kids from using drugs? What can you do if you suspect Venturers or Scouts are on drugs? How can you answer young people's questions or their arguments in favour of drugs?

Your Teen and Drugs is a concise and readable guide which answers these and many other questions. Though written for parents, it is no less relevant to anyone who works with young people.

The book develops a profile of the drug abuser; describes what addiction is; explains what is known about "grass"; and tells how to recognize drug abuse. It includes numerous pages of the most-asked questions, each answered clearly and without pulling any punches. You will learn, for example, that marijuana stays in the body long after the smoker gives up the habit: toxic residue remains in fatty tissues of the brain and sex glands.

Your Teen and Drugs stresses parental responsibility to decrease the probability of teen drug abuse and offers practical suggestions for exercising this responsibility.

For leaders in Scouting, many of whom are also parents, it's a must-read book. — Reg Roberts

How to Raise Money and Make Friends

by W.G. MacNichol

It's difficult to raise the funds necessary to keep a community organization in operation, especially at a time of economic hardship. But the real difficulty in fund raising is to do it without having people say, "Oh boy! Here they come again!"; or "I wonder what they want this time?" An attitude of that sort can do irreparable damage to your public relations.

It's important for a group to study all the ways of raising funds and to consider a number of questions.

Are other people in the community doing the same thing? Don't get on the bandwagon just because some other group has done well. Find your own idea; something new to your area.

Will the public want what you're offering without having to be pushed? That doesn't mean you shouldn't advertise; only that you shouldn't have to force the issue.

Is it possible your event could be held on a regular basis? Is it something the public might look forward to?

Can you advertise the idea without bothering people at their front doors or in shopping centres where they are busy? Those types of promotional activities have worn out their welcome in most communities lately.

I believe the 1st Boy Scouts Group Committee of Sept Iles, Quebec, has found the ideal fund-raising method. It keeps all of these points in mind and is successful at both earning money and catching public interest.

When our group was having trouble trying to finance its way through a winter, someone suggested we hold a sale of donated books. We asked parents and friends for used books and collected about 1,500 volumes in good condition for resale or trade.

We then established a pricing policy. For a straight buy, we set a book's price at 25% of the original cover price. On trades, we added up cover values of books brought in and exchanged them for any number of books that totalled the same value.

plus 25c per book. We like the trading idea because it keeps up the inventory for the next sale.

We held our first three sales in the Scout Hall and did very well despite the fact that it is removed from the business section of town. We owe our success to the great help given by the local radio station, and to people who passed along the word.

Our next step was a big one. We went public in a shopping centre, thanks to the donation of vacant store space by the centre's management. Here we held a five day sale which the public accepted way beyond our wildest dreams. Our 4,500 books could not keep up with the demand.

Fathers put the books into place and mothers operated the business like any other store. People had room to browse and could help themselves to free coffee. Posters, signs and banners showed customers who we were and what the sale was for, and Scouts, Cubs and Beavers came around to help those who wanted help.

There was no need to beg, hard sell or push the public into buying, and some of our customers told us they would like to have more of this type of thing in the community. Many wanted to know when and where we would hold our next book sale so that they could take advantage of the good prices and tell their friends about us.

In June we held a similar sale with over 10,000 books and magazines available. We increased not only sales and profits, but also inventory for another sale planned for late fall.

The results of our book sales have been so good, we're now helping other community youth groups by paying them 10c for every pocket-book in good condition that they want to sell us. In this way we not only build our inventory, but also share our good fortune with the community in which we serve and live.

Macx MacNichol is group committee chairman of the 1st Sept Iles Boy Scouts. A

Kanadische Pfadfinder in Deutschland

an update from the Maple Leaf Region



We may not be the largest single sponsored group of Canadian Scouts but we are definitely the group situated the farthest away from home shores. We are the Maple Leaf Region, serving about 350 boys on the edge of the Black Forest in Lahr and Baden-Soellingen, West Germany.

Our boys are the sons of serving members of Canadian Forces personnel on duty in support of NATO, or of teachers and civilian personnel living in Germany. It is a unique arrangement. The 5000 servicemen and their families are an excellent base from which to draw both boys and leaders.

Because of the nature of the parents' jobs, it's rather like a town where one large mill is the only source of income. Unlike in a big city, chances are you'll meet and get to know well, not only other Scouters, but also parents and boys. The result is excellent community support for the program.

Because many adults know one another through their daily duties, things sometimes get done faster. You don't have to wait for the next meeting to see Joe to talk about your program, for example, because Joe works in the next office. There are times, however, when Joe is away on exercise and you can't talk to him for another month — and he's the district commissioner!

The group in Lahr is a totally independent financial organization. Although the Canadian Forces is our sponsor, we do not draw funds, either public or non-public, from its coffers. The Department of National

Defence does, however, provide us meeting halls, our own camping area "the Langenhard", and the occasional bus to visit certain regions.

What about camping and meetings? This is the most fantastic part of our European situation. From Lahr or Baden-Soellingen, we can drive to France in 15 minutes, to Switzerland in an hour and a half, and to Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland or Austria in five hours. Superb camping opportunities are open to us.

The biggest event is the annual Intercamp which involves 10 nations and more than 2000 boys in the Scout section alone. We're proud to say that Lahr will be host for Intercamp '84.

Each year, as well, a contingent of Cubs heads off to Kandersteg in the heart of the Swiss Alps to enjoy Scouting's international camping area. And, to celebrate their year's end, Beavers often travel by train to Freiburg, Frankfurt, Basel, Switzerland or Strasbourg, France, to visit zoos and, believe it or not, McDonalds!

How can we afford all of these activities? We're no different from any group at home in Canada. Instead of paper drives, we hold pocketbook drives within the Canadian community. Up until recently, we had no Canadian television and this was a great fundraiser. At 20¢ a book, our sales averaged \$350 a month. With the community's new access to taped CBC TV broadcasts, our monthly take has dropped to about \$200.

We also sell Christmas trees, an enterprise that must be organized at least one year ahead because the

Waldmeister (local forester) administers his woods very stringently. All cutting is carefully controlled to protect existing and future forests. We have a standard Apple Day, also, but we sure miss our MacIntosh apples.

Langenhard, our local camp, is similar to Opemikon in the National Capital Region, except that we don't have a lake. As is typical with any camp, it's used frequently on weekends by many groups. Also typical, it requires much upkeep and a great deal of help from parents, and here's where the element of being a Canadian community in a German town gives us strength.

Germans and Canadians mingle and enjoy their friendships in this mixed community but, on the basis of their nationality, Canadians also develop a strong sense of their own small community. There's a kind of belonging which can only be understood by people from small towns who follow the local hockey team and band together to cheer wildly for their players in an out-of-town arena. The result is a firm dedication to all community activities, including Scouting.

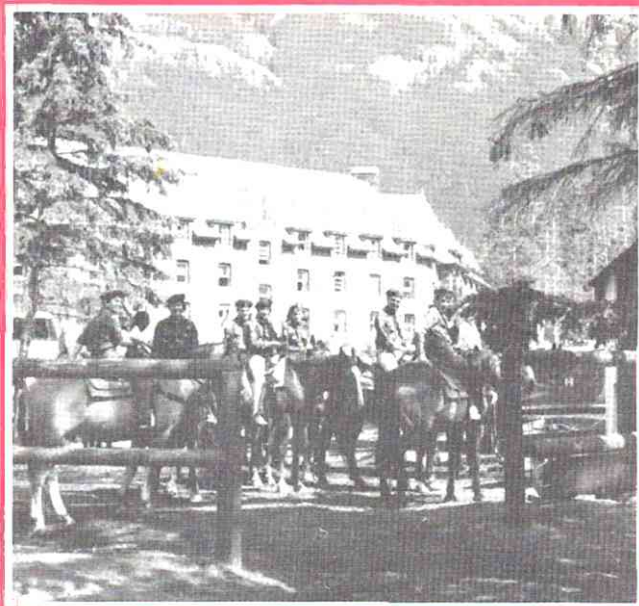
Our most recent camp cleanup drew 50 helpers the first weekend and 125 the next. Because of past forest damage in Southern Germany, underbrush control is an ongoing task. An army of workers hauled huge piles of twigs and branches out of the bush for burning and mulching. Other volunteer contingents applied gallons of paint to outbuildings. Meanwhile, a Scout troop conducted routine camp activities without difficulty.

As parents meet the many demands we make of them, there's another effect that comes as a bonus; the parents gain a growing respect for their boys. At present, we've drafted an extensive list of future projects which will continue to involve parents and give boys opportunities for community service, conservation work, and badge work.

Maple Leaf Region is in another place, but it's still a Scouting world. And that's universal.

Our thanks to Major John Scott for keeping us in touch with the Maple Leaf Region. ^

cross-country photo news



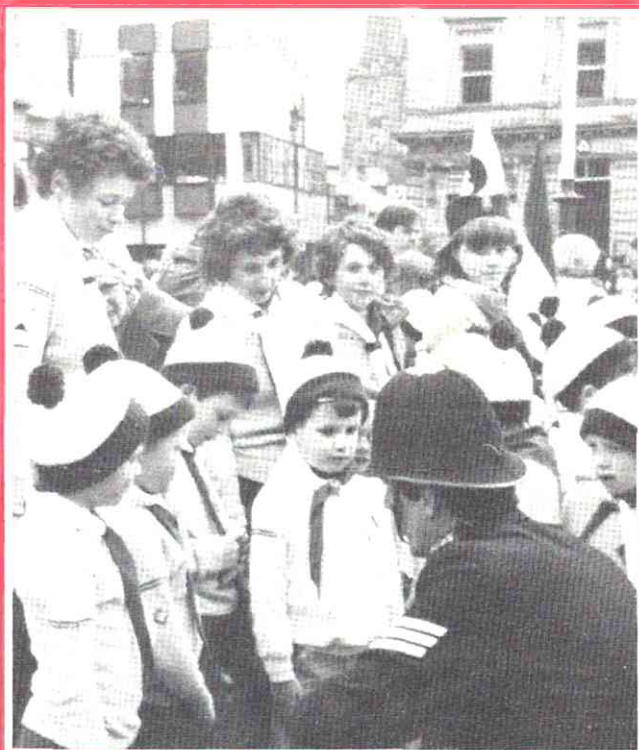
THE 113th OTTAWA Scouts took advantage of a World Jamboree summer to make a four-week cross-Canada camping tour which allowed them to enjoy the fishing, swimming and hiking offered in provincial parks. A stay at Camp Gardner near Calgary "was like a mini-jamboree and we met Scouts from many different parts of the world," reports Scouter John Garby. While in the foothills of the Rockies, they visited the World Jamboree site for some badge swapping, took in the Calgary Stampede, and enjoyed horseriding in Banff. Road closures at Rodger's Pass meant a detour through Jasper en route to Vancouver where they were met by the warm hospitality and friendship of Scouter Maurice Luck and the Richmond Georgia Scouts.

Aside from the pleasures of exploring the country, "the Scouts were able to practise teamwork and cooperation in all chores connected with camp life" and became "masters in the art of cooking on a two-burner stove," says Scouter John. "It was a fantastic trip."



BEAVERS FROM THE Port Arthur and Fort William Districts proudly lead Scouting's contingent in the annual Shrine Circus Parade at Thunder Bay, Ont. To help celebrate Scouting's 75th, a joint committee of Beaver leaders from the two districts organized the boys and a huge "birthday cake" float for the only major parade Thunder Bay holds, reports Scouter Norman Bell, who kindly shared this photo with us.

THE 1st NEEBING Voyageurs disembark a dignitary for the official opening of Minaki Lodge near Kenora, Ontario in July, invited to add historic colour to the occasion by the provincial government. In Aug., they raced their canoes, demonstrated skills and performed Voyageur songs and dances as they helped celebrate Port Days in Thunder Bay.



BEAVERS ARE A relatively new phenomenon in Britain, but leader June Robinson writes us that there are three colonies averaging 24 Beavers each in Nottingham. One colony accepts girls who then move on to Brownies. "We have taken a great interest in Beavers in Canada and we do try to model ourselves on your expertise," writes Scouter June, who shared this photo of the 2nd and 3rd Nottinghamshire Beavers as they chat to a policeman on St. George's Day. She points out that the Beavers are not a regular part of the Scout movement in the U.K.

*Share ideas, activities and smiling faces!
Send photos and a few words of explanation to
the Leader, Box 5112, Stn F, Ottawa K2C 3H4.*

How to Establish A Positive Learning Climate

by Stephen Breen

A positive learning climate is dependant upon several important factors. Although no single element can, by itself, determine the success or failure of a learning experience, if we overlook a number of the necessary elements, we can have major problems.

The Place

Good physical arrangements are the most obvious contribution to a positive learning climate. Do we really concern ourselves enough with them? You might like to use this checklist when planning a course.

Is the room(s) large enough?

Is the setting of the room conducive to the learning desired (i.e. theatre-style conference or small tables for group work and discussion)?

Is the lighting adequate?

Are the chairs comfortable?

Are the facilities easily accessible; if they are in a large centre, are they easy to find?

If it is a live-in course, will the sleeping quarters meet needs?

Are arrangements for meals and coffee-breaks sufficient?

Is all the equipment you require available?

There are probably other things to consider and I'm sure you can add to the list on your own.

The People

The participants, themselves, are another factor to consider. It's important that they've identified their need to learn. Far too often we assume that, because someone is taking a course, he or she has identified the need, but we find out it isn't always the case. In most instances, we have to rely on others, such as service team members, to prepare volunteers in the matter of needs identification.

One way we can deal with this pro-

blem is to set an "expectations exercise" at the beginning of the course. This helps you, the trainer, identify where participants are "at". If the course won't meet the expectations of some people, it enables you to let them know and, possibly, to tell them where they can get what they need.

Preliminaries

Although they come before the course, joining instructions also contribute to the learning climate. Ideally, they convey the feeling that you are looking forward to working with participants so that people feel comfortable about coming. They also include basic information about location, start and finish time and what to bring. For a weekend course, include a number at which participants can be reached in an emergency.

You also need to consider joining exercises because they can set the tone for the rest of the experience. A good way to break the ice is to provide participants a chance to share information about themselves with someone they don't know. Each member of the pair then introduces his or her partner to the rest of the group. This kind of opening exercise allows people to get on with the course without worrying about who is who and how to meet.

Trainers

The kind of behaviour we model as trainers is one of the most important factors in setting a positive learning climate. If we set ourselves up as authority figures or "experts", we have to accept the consequences. It certainly doesn't lead towards cooperative learning.

If, instead, we identify that we are all there to learn from each other, participants realize they can contribute to the learning experience as

well as receive from it. Such an approach helps eliminate the attitude that trainers know everything and they know nothing.

The manner in which the members of the training team interact with each other is also very important. Do they share responsibilities for course content? Do they have an opportunity to contribute to each other's sessions in a supportive manner? Does the behaviour of the team convey an atmosphere of cooperation, mutual support and harmony?

If some of these elements of trainer behaviour are missing or the team demonstrates disharmony, participants are likely to feel very uncomfortable. Obviously, their feelings will interfere with their learning.

Course Design and Methods

A positive learning climate also depends upon the design and conduct of a course. It's important to provide a balance between skills and knowledge/theory learning. If you devote a large portion of time to imparting theoretical knowledge and sacrifice opportunities to learn and practise new skills, participants may not learn much. More important, they may not want to learn much.

It's important that participants see a logical flow in a training experience. If you start with one subject area, introduce a new one, then return to the first, they can become very confused, unless you identify a specific reason for the sequence. Confusions of this nature get in the way of learning because participants are too busy wondering, "Why are we doing this?" to think about content.

It's also important for us, as trainers, to recognize we can use a variety of techniques and methods to deliver the contents of a given experience. Nothing is as counter-productive as a course which uses the same technique over and over again.

Finally, we can make a learning experience positive by helping participants relate their new learnings to the back-home situation. By showing how they can use a learning when they get home, we reinforce the idea that this was something they needed to know.

Many factors contribute to a positive learning climate. Our responsibility as trainers is to set the best possible learning climate for those who take our courses. Keep these factors in mind when you are developing your next training experience. A

Update Rover Program Review

by Phil Newsome

During the past summer, Rovers across Canada were asked to complete a program survey developed to collect ideas on needed changes to the Rover program. From the 408 returns, the task group has developed a number of recommendations.

The next step in the consultation process is now underway. Through a mailing to the Rover crews, each Rover in Canada is being given the opportunity to react to the recommendations presented to the National Program Committee. The task group asks that all replies arrive before February 20, 1984. Mail your comments to: *Rover Review, Program Services Boy Scouts of Canada PO Box 5151, Stn "F" Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3G7*


Program Committee Recommendations

- (1) The Rover Program be a service-oriented program for adults.
- (2) All councils place emphasis on promoting the Rover program and its activities.
- (3) The National Office develop contemporary resources, particularly for radio, TV and print media, for promotion of Rovering.
- (4) All councils support Rovers in developing their own communications systems, such as Round Tables, newsletters, etc.
- (5) The content and format of the Rover Handbook be revised to meet present and ongoing needs.
- (6) Relevant support material which

- helps Rovers deal with contemporary issues be made available.
- (7) Guidelines for Rover Advisor Woodbadge Training be developed and made available.
 - (8) Rovers be eligible for all adult training events.

It's important to remember that the Rover Program Review Task Group wants every Rover and crew to give these recommendations some consideration. Once changes have been approved by the National Council, all Rovers will have to abide by them until the next cyclical review of the Rover program takes place.

The task group looks forward to hearing from all interested parties on this important issue. λ



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Maybe They'll Learn

Thanks for the XV World Jamboree cover picture and write-up with pix inside. Just great to have so many people of the world together in one spot, at one time. Maybe a tip to the leaders of the world?

— Bert Smith, Longview, Alberta

On Co-Ed Venturing

Scouting all over the world is co-ed. The U.S. Scouts, the Explorers, went co-ed nine years ago. The only one left is Canada.

Everyone complains about numbers falling, especially in the Venturer section. Venturers, at age 14-17, think about school, careers, sports and girls. In Girl Guides, Pathfinders (12-15) and Rangers (15-17) are dying in numbers for almost the same reasons. I can't see why Venturers don't go co-ed as long as there is a female advisor. It will save both the Scouting and Guiding movements.

I think you should publish the results of the vote at the National Meeting. Canadian Scouting should start thinking about the kids and numbers. If co-ed Venturing is not approved, no one will be able to complain about their falling numbers!

My wife and I have been leaders for nine years. We have many camps, programs and other activities together — Venturers and Pathfinders/Rangers. We've seen the parents' and kids' reactions. It can definitely work,

and it will definitely be good for Scouting.

— name withheld by request.

Operation Outreach Fan

I'm writing to tell how much I enjoyed *Operation Outreach*. It was a great learning experience and lots of fun. I went on the Caddy Lake trip (50 km) and, after everyone got back, the leaders cooked us a great meal. On *Operation Lost*, they took us out by boat blindfolded, without flashlights or matches or anything. They wanted to see what our reaction would be if we were lost. We stayed put and passed the test. All and all, I found *Operation Outreach* a great experience and hope to go again next year.

— Rob Wray, Winnipeg, Man.

Ed's Note: We don't often hear from Scouts, but it's very nice to get feedback, particularly about a program we've featured in the magazine (J/J 1983). Thanks for sharing your reactions with us.

Anyone Know Nash?

Some time ago, I was sent a copy of an article published in *Canadian Boy* (June 1965). Titled *Reckless Courage*, it was by Stanley Nash, whose home at the time was Pushthrough, Newfoundland.

Pushthrough was abandoned in

1969 and, in 1972, I moved into one of the abandoned homes for a time. I am very curious about Pushthrough and why it was abandoned. I've written a number of articles on this part of the coast and hope to write more, but I need information. I am writing in hopes that you can help me locate Mr. Nash. I'd appreciate any leads.

— Dawn E. French, PO Box 28, Sutton West, Ontario L0E 1R0

Roses

I would like to say this magazine is great. It has good ideas. After 10 years, this is my last year with Scouting because of illness. I will miss this magazine every month.

— Nancy Stephen, Scarborough, Ont.

A friend I made while out in Canada for the XV World Jamboree was kind enough to send me **the Leader**, Aug/Sept '83. Could you pass on my congratulations to Linda Florence for her great account of the jamboree.

I was lucky enough to be part of a team of five leaders and 32 boys who represented Berkshire. All had a fantastic time and, if our last meeting is anything to go by, the Spirit will live on in Berkshire for a long time.

For me, the article put into words what all of us felt and, for anyone who didn't attend, it gives a great insight to the jamboree.

— Elaine Thorpe, Windsor, England

Tawd Vale International Camp

The Scouts of Merseyside, England, have invited Canadian Scouts and Venturers to join them for their 5th International Camp. It will be held July 21-28, 1984 at Tawd Vale, near Liverpool, for 500 participants, half of which are expected to be Scouts from outside Britain.

The Merseyside County Scout Council campsite lies in the wooded Tawd river valley and boasts an open-air swimming pool. The camp program will offer canoeing, sailing, hiking and archery, international competitions, visits to places of scenic

and historic interest, campfires, and plenty of free time for getting to know brother Scouts from many countries.

The camp fee of £12 sterling includes badge and excursion costs, but not the cost of food, which campers will be able to buy on site. If desired, a short period of post-camp home hospitality will be arranged for visiting Scouts.

Because Canadian contingents as such will not be formed, individuals or groups who wish to attend will be responsible for their own travel ar-

rangements and camping equipment.

If interested, you must complete an *Application to Attend an International Event* (available from Scout offices); possess a valid passport; carry a completed medical form (available from Scout offices); be responsible for baggage and out-of-Canada medical insurance; and meet deadlines for applications and deposits.

Relationships Service of the National Office will act as a link between Canadian participants and host organizers, and will pass on new information as it becomes available. X

Dress Warmly

by Gerry Giuliani

The coming of winter should not throw a blanket on your outdoor program. In fact, winter adds a new and exciting dynamic to the outdoors. You can ski, toboggan, snowshoe, go ice fishing, make snowmen and snow shelters, and hold snowball fights. And you can become acquainted with a completely different side of nature.

To all of this, I add the familiar caution: "Be sure that you and your boys are dressed warmly." This month, *Outdoors* takes a close look at dressing for winter in the great outdoors. What does it mean to "dress warmly"? What do we have to look for and what precautions do we have to take?

Layering

In order to keep you warm, dry and comfortable, winter clothing must provide three things: ventilation; insulation; and wind protection.

Ventilation — Without proper ventilation, moisture given off by your body is trapped within your clothing and can destroy its insulating quality. The ventilation layer of your clothing should create an air-space around your body to permit perspiration to evaporate and allow moist air to escape at the neck opening.

The ventilating layer is the clothing which contacts your skin. Cotton underwear best performs the function of allowing perspiration to evaporate. Cotton acts almost like a wick to suck up the moisture and vent it at the neck opening. Fishnet underwear does the best job of wicking moisture away from the skin but a good set of thermal cotton longjohns will serve the purpose. The only alternate might be wool. Although it retains most of the moisture you perspire, it also retains its insulating properties when damp.

Insulation — The insulating layer of clothing keeps you warm by trapping dry air in much the same way a good sleeping bag does. It's also the layer which you can use to adjust your body temperature. If you wear a

number of thinner layers rather than one thick one, it allows flexibility in temperature control. The layers must fit loosely enough to allow freedom to move and to trap dead air space.

For practical reasons, the first of these thinner layers will usually consist of a wool shirt, a pair of heavy pants (wool is excellent here too) and a good pair of wool socks. On top of this, you may want to add a wool sweater or a vest made with down, Dacron, Hollofil or Polar-guard stuffing. An insulated parka, preferably with an insulated hood, completes the outfit.

There are two ways to cool off while wearing insulating layers: remove layers, or increase ventilation. Watch your boys for overheating and use these techniques for making adjustments. Removal of layers can be inconvenient because it's time-consuming and means storing the removed layer but, where practical, it permits fairly permanent adjustment.

To increase ventilation, begin at the body points which are the most effective radiators. Remove the parka hood first, but keep the toque on. To permit heat from your torso to escape, open neck and shirt front. There's a dual advantage to opening the cuffs: the wrists and hands are excellent radiators because they have large blood vessels close to the surface; and air movement up the sleeve draws warm air from the arms and underarm area. Once you've made openings for ventilation, encourage airflow with a bellows action. Flap the arms to draw in cool air and expel warm moist air.

Wind Protection — The final layer protects you from wind, snow and rain. Wear a three-quarter length wind-parka of tightly woven cotton or nylon and nylon pants. When possible, waterproof both. It's important to recognize that, unless the wind protection layer is made of expensive Gortex material, which has ventilating properties, it will seal in moisture and may lead to damp clothing with resulting loss of insulation, particularly if you're not wearing good wick-type underwear.

Heads, Hands and Feet

The head is the single best control you have over body temperature because 60 per cent of your heat loss is from this area. Make the first layer a wool toque or cap which can be pulled down over the ears. Add insulated parka hood and, finally, the hood of your wind parka.

Hands are difficult to insulate. It's not practical to insulate individual fingers, and the mitt is the alternative. Hand coverings should include an insulating inner layer (wool mitts) and a windproof and water resistant outer mitt. If you need the flexibility of gloves to work, supply yourself with a pair of light cotton gloves. When your hands cool off, slip them back into your mitts until they're warm again. If necessary, place bare hands inside your clothing under your arms until they are warm and can be returned to the mitts.

Feet are very good sweat producers and need special care. Wear two pairs of socks. The inner pair can be cotton to draw away moisture from your foot. The second pair should be heavy wool for insulation. Wear insoles in your boots. Felt insoles provide the greatest insulating value but should be changed periodically because they become loaded with moisture.

Finally, your boot should permit the foot to rid itself of excess water vapour and provide water protection from the outside. The snowmobile boot is good. It has a waterproof sole which usually runs to the top edge of the foot, and a nylon top which permits your foot to vent inside dampness. You should be able to stuff pantlegs securely into the top of your boots to keep out the snow.

In Short

Wear loose-fitting clothing with closures at ankles, wrists and neck.

Insulate for warmth:

Ventilate before you begin to sweat. Regularly change damp things like insoles, socks and mitts.

Use a wind protection layer.

Use your head: uncover to cool; cover to warm.

Exercise to keep warm by making your body furnace work harder.

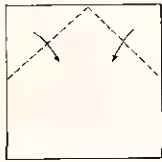
Enjoy the winter out of doors.

Much of this information comes from The Camping Book, a Boy Scouts of Canada publication available from Scout Shops. It's a good resource for all leaders to have. A

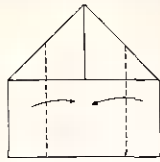
Origami Ornament

Ken Shigeishi's "wild" animals were a hit with readers of our October issue. His newest Japanese paper folding offering has particular significance as we celebrate the birth of Christ. During years of persecution, early Christians used the fish as a secret sign of identification because a combination

of the first letters of the words *Jesus Christ is Son of God and Saviour* spelled *ichthus*, the Greek word for fish. Ken's origami fish, folded from squares of Christmas wrapping paper and touched with a bit of glitter, can make rather unique Christmas tree ornaments.



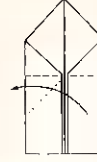
(1) Fold the 2 top corners towards the center.



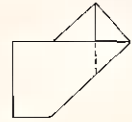
(2) Fold the 2 sides into centre as shown.



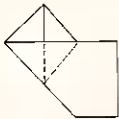
(3) Fold in half, crease, unfold.



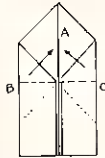
(4) Fold bottom piece over as shown.



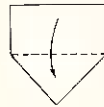
(5) Unfold, do the same with other bottom piece.



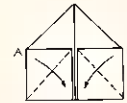
(6) Crease well, then unfold.



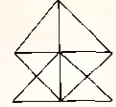
(7) Fold points B & C onto point A. Crease well.



(8) Fold rectangular shaped piece back down.



(9) Fold down points A & B of the rectangle



(10) Turn over, turn 90°, Decorate.

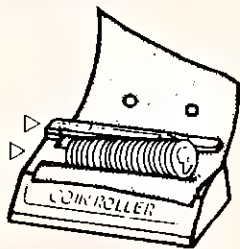


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scouter's 5 minutes

The 23rd Psalm — An Indian Translation

The Great Father above is a Shepherd Chief,
and I am his, and with Him I want not.

He throws out to me a rope,
and the name of the rope is Love.

He draws me, and He draws me and He draws
me to where the grass is green
and the water is not dangerous,

And I eat and lie down satisfied.
Sometimes my heart is very weak
and falls down, but He lifts it up again,
and draws me into a good road.

His name is wonderful.

Sometimes, it may be very soon,
it may be longer,
it may be a long, long time

He will draw me into
a place between mountains.
It is dark there, but I will not draw back;
I will not be afraid, for it is in there
between these mountains

that the Shepherd will meet me,
And the hunger I have felt in my heart
all through this life will be satisfied.
Sometimes He makes the Love rope into
a whip, but afterwards He gives me a staff
that I may lean on.

He spreads a table before me
with all kinds of food.
He puts His hand upon my head,
all "tired" is gone.

My cup He fills it till it runs over.
What I tell you is true. I lie not.
These roads that are a way ahead
will stay with me through life
And afterwards I will go to live
in the Big Teepee,

And sit down with the Shepherd Chief
forever.

*Let peace encircle all the world
Let men walk hand in hand
A living bond of Brotherhood
A voice from land to land.*

Scouter's Five Minutes — page 531 Dec. '83

games

That's Christmas!

Are you planning a Christmas get-together
this month? Here's a presentation you might
find good to use. Adapted from the 1979
Circle Ten Pow Wow Book, BSA, it is suitable
for almost any size Cub pack. Given a small
group of a dozen boys, you can assign each
a couplet to recite. With larger numbers, assign
groups of two or three boys to recite each pair
of lines.

The boys enter carrying parcels, decorations
or whatever symbols are appropriate to
their words in the presentation. They arrange
themselves in a line or semi-circle and proceed
to speak the parts in turn.

- 1: Secrets, secrets, in the air,
Merry greetings everywhere!
That's Christmas!
- 2: Cedar boughs in every nook,
Holly everywhere you look!
That's Christmas!
- 3: Christmas trees with baubles bright,
Flashing in the candlelight!
That's Christmas!
- 4: Hearth fires leaping high to show
Faces in the firelight's glow!
That's Christmas!
- 5: Spicy smells of things to eat
Promising a welcome treat!
That's Christmas!
- 6: Bundles big and bundles small,
Peeking's not allowed at all!
That's Christmas!
- 7: Little whispers all about
But we can't find one thing out.
That's Christmas!
- 8: Such a lot of things to do,
Shopping trips and wrapping, too.
That's Christmas!

Skits — page 123

Dec '83

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- 9: Time for fun and song and play
Just the year's most happy day!
That's Christmas!
- 10: Manger, star and shepherds' joy
Greet the holy infant boy.
That's Christmas!
- 11: Bells sing out the Christ child's birth.
Hope and peace for all the earth.
That's Christmas!
- 12: Joy in all we have and do,
Wishing joy to others, too!
That's Christmas!
- All: So we gladly join to say,
Have a happy Christmas day!
Merry Christmas everyone!

Quick and Foolish

Boy and Matches

A boy enters with a large box of matches. He removes a match and strikes it, but it doesn't light, so he throws it away and takes another match out of the box. He repeats the performance several times. Finally, he strikes a match which lights. He blows it out quickly, puts it back into the box, looks at the audience, smiles and says, "That's a good one. I'd better keep it!" Exit

The Traveller

A cast of two; the traveller and a hotel clerk who sits behind a table. Traveller approaches hotel desk.

Traveller: I'd like a room for the night, please.

Clerk: With tub or shower?

Traveller: What's the difference!

Clerk: Well — you sit down in a tub!

Exit

Skits — page 124

The Meaning of Christmas

To some, Christmas means presents,
To others a Christmas tree;
To some it may mean a party —
That's not what it means to me.

To some it may mean brand new clothes,
Or candy and cake and tea;
To some it may mean another good time —
That's not what it means to me.

We do receive presents on Christmas,
We have a Christmas tree, too,
But to me Christmas means
the Christ child's birth.

Is that what it means to you?

*Like silver lamps in a distant shrine
The stars are sparkling bright,
The bells of the City of God ring out,
For the Son of Mary is born tonight.*

Tonight

The door is on the latch tonight,
The hearth-fire is aglow,
I seem to hear soft passing feet
The Christ child in the snow;
My heart is open wide tonight
For stranger, kith or kin;
I would not bar a single door
Where love might enter in.

A Christmas Wish for Everyone

Something to do;
Someone to love;
Something to hope for.

— *Kant's Three Rules for Happiness*

Scouter's Five Minutes — page 532

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Collector's Items

by Bob Butcher

Elsewhere in this issue, you will learn from a Canada Post advertisement that the commemorative Scout stamp will be available at face value from post office philatelic counters only until early January. It is our understanding that, after that date, the unsold remainder will be destroyed and interested parties will have to pay a premium to obtain the Scout stamp from collectors and commercial dealers.

On this page, we want to inform you of another related collector's item generated in July at the XV World Jamboree.

At that event, Canadian Scouting and Lord Baden-Powell conspired to invent a scheme to raise funds for Boy Scouts of Canada's World Scout Foundation Trust Fund. Canada Post donated 200 first day covers, each of them numbered from 1 to 200. Lord Baden-Powell then personally autographed all 200. Anyone who has met Lord Baden-Powell may have discovered that, on principle, he does not sign autographs. He agreed to make an exception for this cause.

Boy Scouts of Canada put these special covers on sale at the Scout Post Office for \$50. each and a significant number were sold before the jamboree ended.

A considerable number, however, are still available, and **the Leader** has agreed to act as a broker for their disposal.

Anyone who wishes to obtain one (or more) of these limited edition collector's items should send a cheque payable to Boy Scouts of Canada, to the attention of the editor. The price remains \$50. each and covers will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis.

Design Contest Winners

Further to the subject of the commemorative Scout stamp, we have learned that each of the 43 regional winners in the poster design contest will receive an award certificate, a stamp album containing commemorative stamps, a first day cover with a block of four stamps, and a postcard with the Scout stamp.

Where possible, arrangements for special presentation ceremonies have been made.

An Inside Troop

We thank Field Executive Bob Carlaw of Halton Region, and District Commissioner Ted Cooper of Oakville, Ontario, for news about Scouting at the Syl Apps Youth Centre, a maximum security juvenile centre in Oakville.

The young people living there have had clashes with the law and are being prepared, through the centre's program, to return to their respective communities. The centre includes a high school which offers a full academic program, and has a number of extra-curricular activities as well.

Early in September of 1982, some of the boys asked if they could have a Scout troop. When authorities from the Syl Apps Youth Centre approached the provincial Scout office, Bob Carlaw was put in charge of the project. He spent many hours with the people at the centre, outlining a possible program.

After much discussion and careful consideration, the project received a green light and a group committee was formed. Joe Lamontagne volunteered to be Troop Scouter and the group was registered as the 17th Oakville.

Joe was quick to sign up for Part I Woodbadge training and was eager to learn all he could about Scouting. His questions really kept the Service Team on their toes because of the unusual circumstances of his group.

Although the boys at the centre had asked for the group, they were hesitant to step forward. In this small community of skeptics, peer pressure is quick to single out a minority group. After much encouragement and patience, the troop began with a nucleus of six boys.

Brian Pashchley, ADC Scouts, assisted Joe for several meetings, preparing the boys for investiture. The requirements were strictly adhered to and the leaders came to know the boys well. Joe attended an investiture in another troop to get a better feel for the ceremony.

Finally, on March 9, a sign appeared over the gymnasium door welcoming one and all to the 17th Oakville Scout Troop. The boys, dressed in new uniforms, were visibly nervous at the prospect of becoming the "stars" of the evening. Guests

included District Commissioner Ted Cooper, Provincial Field Executive Bob Carlaw, members of the Service Team, proud parents, relatives, friends and staff members from the centre.

After introductions, flag break and a prayer, Commissioner Cooper invested Scouter Lamontagne, who then invested each of his Scouts. After an official presentation of the group charter, guests, officials and new Scouts enjoyed refreshments which included a cake decorated with the Scouting insignia and the 17th Oakville name.

The boys presented a program of skits and songs and, after centre director Mrs. Wynn Turner thanked all present for their support and cooperation, a traditional flag lowering closed the evening.



Television lights blazed as, with the help of two Cubs, His Worship Gus Harris, Mayor of the City of Scarborough, cut the official ribbon to open the first of three new Scout Shops in Greater Toronto Region on Sept. 6. Mayor Harris invited guests and their friends to tour the premises and enjoy refreshments served by the Regional Committee for Ladies' Auxiliaries. Executive Director Ron Vincent of GTR presented Mayor Harris a special mug as a memento of the occasion. X

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supply news

It's New!

by Jim Mackie

Supply has recently developed an attractive three-inch red maple leaf made of a reflective material on which the Scouts Canada logo has been superimposed. It has a peel-off backing and is ideal for use on bicycles and cars. Now available in your local Scout Shop (catalogue #26-429), it sells for \$1.75 and will make an excellent stocking stuffer.

Speaking of stocking stuffers, remember that your local Shop or dealer has a large variety of inexpensive and useful items to buy as Christmas surprises for all members of the family.

Confused?

Recently we have had a number of inquiries about the two blazer crests shown in the '83/'84 Youth edition of the catalogue. In the photographs found on pages Y15 and Y16, the crests appear to be the same but vary widely in price. To clarify the situation: #04-508, pictured on page Y15 at a price of \$16.95, is made with gold bullion thread; #04-507, page Y16, \$3.15, is not.

Energi-Sac

Another ideal Christmas gift for adults and youngsters is the "comforter you wear" — the Energi-sac. Warm and comfortable, it can be used as a wrap-around at a campfire or while television viewing, or as a bed covering or an indoor or summer sleeping bag. Colourful and machine washable, it comes in adult size (catalogue #52-608) for \$28.00, and a junior size (catalogue #52-607) for \$25.50.

New! Tasco Pocket Microscope

Now available at many Shops and dealers, the Tasco Pocket Microscope is only 5 3/4" long and operates on two "AA" batteries. This 30-power pocket precision microscope is ideal for everyone from kids to adults. Tasco's *Little Looker* puts you where you want to be — up close to stamps, coins, leaves or bugs — and captures many things which escape the naked eye. It has a centre focus wheel for precision one-hand operation and, in emergencies, also works as a handy flashlight. Best of all, it sells for only \$15.00. A super Christmas gift for all!

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to our newest dealer, King Sports of Moncton, New Brunswick. Ralston H.H. King is well stocked and prepared to serve Scouters in and around Moncton. Remember to keep Mr. King up-to-date on special district events so that he can be stocked with trophies and other items to meet your needs.

B.-P. Sketches

Some news for the crest collectors: the next two crests in the B.-P. sketch series are now in production and will be available very shortly through your local Scout Shop. Remember that all of the drawings shown on the crests are from the Founder's original works. They make great prizes and presents not only for the avid collector, but also for every member of the organization. X

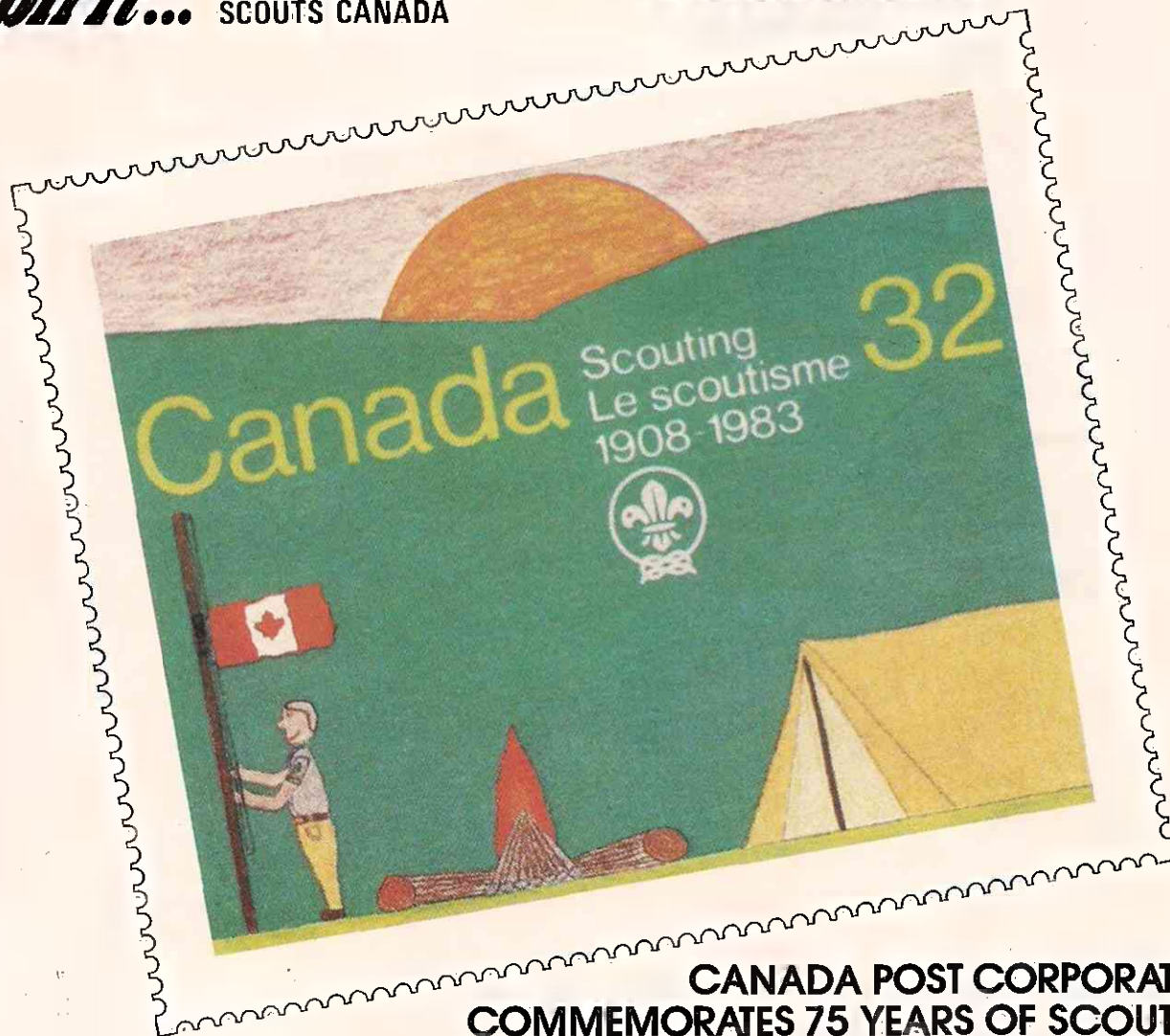


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**Stamps, first day covers and postcards of the Scouting —
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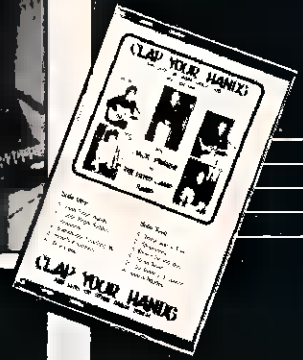


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