

# THE NEW SCENE

SCOUTS

68







"Hey, Bill! What about all those things you were filling me in on yesterday? Did you guys really do all that stuff?"

"You want to believe it, Tom! It started way back when our patrol got down to planning our camp. Six of us wanted to do something different, see? Our Scout counsellor sort of gave us the idea, but we took it from there. So we went to see the mayor and the police chief and ended up camping outside city hall."

"Sounds keen, Bill, but know if I'd want to get mixed up with Scouts again. Tried it

a coupla years ago. But I didn't like the way the big guys shoved us around."

"Hi, guys."

"Hi, Harry!"

"What're you cats doing? Did I hear you talking about Scouts?"

"Right, Harry. I was telling Bill I didn't like Scouts when I was in. Too much seniority stuff. Big guy equals boss man. Little guy equals nothing."

"Tom, I was just about to tell you, when Harry arrived, that those bigger guys aren't in Scouts anymore. When you're 14 you move up into a Venturer Company — a whole new scheme for the older guys!"

"Do you have to go to Venturers, then?"

"Well, you don't have to go as soon as you're 14. But you can't stay in a troop once you turn 15. Nobody makes you go. It just happens."

"Like, all this Scout jazz is for the birds. Tom, you got out of it okay — stay out. Bill, you're about out — so get out. Simple?"

"Harry, you know the old motto: Don't knock it until you've tried it."

"I thought the old motto was 'Be Repaired' or something like that!"

"Oh, yuk! Why don't you try looking in on a patrol meeting or a troop night and see if you can't get your brain repaired?"

"Cool it, Bill. Harry's a skeptic. There's a room for people like that in this world. It's a small room, with padded walls."

"Now, what about your Scout counsellor? Is he the guy who runs your patrol?"

"Hey, get with it, man! We run our own patrol. The counsellor, Mister Gresham, is our advisor."

"Oh, I get it! Mister Gresham is your Scoutmaster!"

"No, Mister Gresham works only with our patrol. We usually have our meetings in his basement rec room.

He let us fix up a patrol den in one corner and we keep all our gear at his house. C'mon, I'll take you over there now, if you're interested. Things are different — you'll find patrols work at three different levels now, Pioneers, Voyageurs, or Pathfinders. When every guy in our patrol was working for his Pioneer Award, the whole patrol was called a Pioneer Patrol.



"When we all started to work for our Voyageur Award, which is tougher, we were called a Voyageur Patrol. Get it?"

"No dig. As a matter of fact, man, you are confusing me. What's this Pioneer and Voyageur Award bit?"

"Tom, don't you know anything about the new Scout program?"

"Why should I? I've been out of Scouting for two years. Anyway, what's so new about it? Changed a few badges! Big deal. So what's the difference?"

"Listen, Tom, why don't you join my patrol and see for yourself? I can tell you, the new program is a bunch better! And, Harry—you could just come along to one of our meetings and look in. Nobody's going to sign you up and ship you off to camp!"

"Camp? Now that I dig, man! Batman . . . Superwoman . . . Shazam!"

"Not camp-camp — summer camp. Scout camp, outdoors."

"Anyhow Tom, all the guys in a patrol are grouped together by age. In my own patrol, we're all about my age."

"Aren't the older guys Patrol Leaders anymore?"

"Nope! It doesn't work like that now. Each patrol elects its own PL from among guys its own age. I was a little browned at first, because I figured I was gonna make PL as soon as I was old enough. And then they changed the setup."

"Can't you get to be a Patrol Leader anymore?"

"Oh, sure! I could be elected. It doesn't really matter, though, because we all take turns at being PL or leading the patrol in some special project. If I want to lead the patrol I just have to suggest something like a hike or a camping trip . . ."

"And then you gotta make like the Big Organizer, huh?"

"Well, Harry, it isn't all that much work when everybody's for it and they all pitch in and help."

"So the guy who suggests some project gets to lead the others on it, eh?"

"Yeah, Tom, and that way everybody gets a crack at being leader!"

"That wasn't the way it worked in my old patrol! Our PL was always the boss! We ended up more like scared rabbits than Panthers!"

"But Bill, I'm too old to go through that Tenderfoot smear again!"

"You don't have to, Tom. Once you're invested, you could start right in working on your Pathfinder Achievement Badges. Top level stuff. That's just what my patrol is working on now, and you can work along with us. The 11-and-12-year-olds are on simpler stuff."

"If I was 11 or 12 I'd want to go for the highest badge I could get."

"Harry, that's just what I'm trying to tell you, both of you. There is no way of stopping a guy from going as far as he wants to, as fast as he can. It's all there, whatever you can handle, whenever you think you're ready for it! It's a real gas. No Scoutmaster to keep you down . . ."

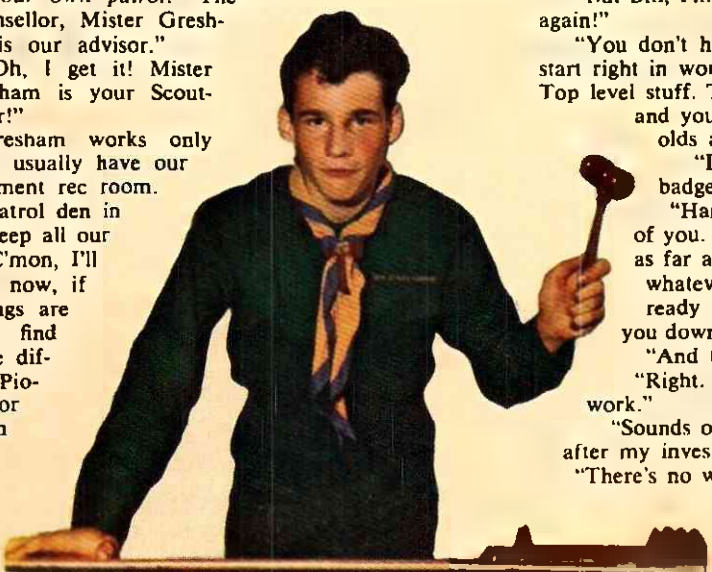
"And the whole patrol works on a badge together?"

"Right. Most of the Achievement Badges involve teamwork."

"Sounds okay, I guess, Bill, but I'd have to wait so long after my investiture, I'd never catch up with you . . ."

"There's no waiting now. All you need is to learn the Law and the Promise and know what they mean. Even you could learn that, Harry—"

"I already know it. I've been listening to you for so long





# YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER PATROL

about this jazz that I could probably breeze right through your patrol in a month!"

"Want to prove that, Supermouth?"

"But, Bill, it can't be that simple!"

"Tom, as Harry says, you can learn it in no time. Promise, Law, Scout Handshake, Salute, and why they're used. You cram a little on the life of Lord Baden-Powell and that's all there is to it! Good gravy — a test in Grade Nine is tougher than that!"

"Say, Bill, do you still have patrol names?"

"Sure we do —"

"Like Chicken Patrol?"

"Harry! Cool it, man — you are making ignorant noises!"

"We use patrol names, sure — like, ours is Algonquin Patrol. And you remember the shoulder knots, Tom? We got rid of them. Now we wear a sleeve badge instead."

"Don't you name patrols after birds and animals anymore?"

"Like chicken? Sure! *You can name your patrol almost anything you want*, from birds, animals, explorers, Indian tribes or chiefs, famous people of all kinds, or even the stars! If two patrols in a troop choose Indian tribes they just use different colored borders, so we can tell them apart."

"Lend me your Scout Handbook, Bill! I'll brush up a bit."

"Okay, Tom. I think you'll see a big difference in Scouting.

The old days of dictatorial Scoutmaster and bullying PL and snivelling ex-Cubs are gone. It's fun, because you're all involved with the same interests—even the sense of humor comes out better!

"Right now, our Court of Honour is working on plans for this year. We all get a turn at the Court of Honour when we're planning for something special. Last time I was on the Court of Honour, we planned a troop visit to city hall for a tour, as part of our Citizenship Badge work."

"Don't the leaders help out in a case like that?"

"Sure they do. But Mister Poole, our Troop Scouter — they don't call him a Scoutmaster anymore — Troop Scouter — wants us to do as much as we can on our own. He knows we're going to make boobos. If we really goof badly, he tells us where we're off the track."

"This Mister Poole must be some guy. I don't think my dad would let me do anything I wanted."

"Man, that sounds groovy! Do what you want? No more Scoutmaster telling you what's in the book!"

"Right, Harry. We decide what we do. The Scouter is there to help us."

"What kind of pad does this Gresham have?"

"Harry, Mister Gresham has the big rec room in his basement, but we don't always meet there. Two of us wanted to try woodworking one time. So Mister Gresham asked his neighbor if he would help. This guy has a neat shop in his basement — power tools and all that! Before we knew it, we were making ash trays and salad bowls, useful things we could give our parents and friends as gifts. And we got our Builder's Badge out of it too."

"You get a Builder's Badge for woodworking? I s'pose you get a Plumber's for carpentry!"

"Goof off, Harry — these badges cover everything you can think of. But they can't have a separate badge for everything, so they group the same kinds of things under one badge. This

still gives us 30 different Challenge Badges, plus Achievement Badges!"

"I can't quite dig—I mean, how does a guy know what badge he's got?" "Easy, Harry. Like you're interested in chemistry, right? So you'd go for the Science Badge, see? Somebody else may get this same Science Badge for his work in biology, or electronics. But s'posing you're way out — way out, man, and there's no badge that fits you. If the notion's good and most of the guys go for it, it can become a Troop Specialty Badge."

"Wait one minute, right there!"

First it's different colored Achievement Badges, to make you a Pioneer or Voyageur Scout or something. Then you say *there's a Challenge Badge for just about anything you want to work on*. Now you're babbling about a Troop Specialty Badge! How far out does this new program go?"

"Tom, there's no real limit! Achievement Badges you work on pretty much as a patrol, okay? Challenge Badges you go for on your own, or with a chum the same deal, right? What's who's interested in complicated?"

"I dig. It's that throws me."

Specialty bit that

"Okay! Suppose everybody in the troop likes skindiving, see? We could make that activity our Troop Specialty — see, *the whole idea of the Specialty Badge is to get the entire troop working together on one thing*. The next year, we can change the Specialty."

"Sounds okay, man. Convince me some more."

"We don't see some of the other patrols for weeks on end because they're off working on their own, on badges and that kind of stuff. It all depends on whether a patrol wants to attend troop meetings or not — or how busy they might be with its own affairs."

"Hey, Bill, do you think we could mosey over and have a look at your patrol den?"

"Sure, Tom. C'mon! Harry? You coming?"

"Might's well, man. *Nobody to talk to here on this corner but a fire hydrant*, and it doesn't look too intelligent with that chain hanging out of its nose."

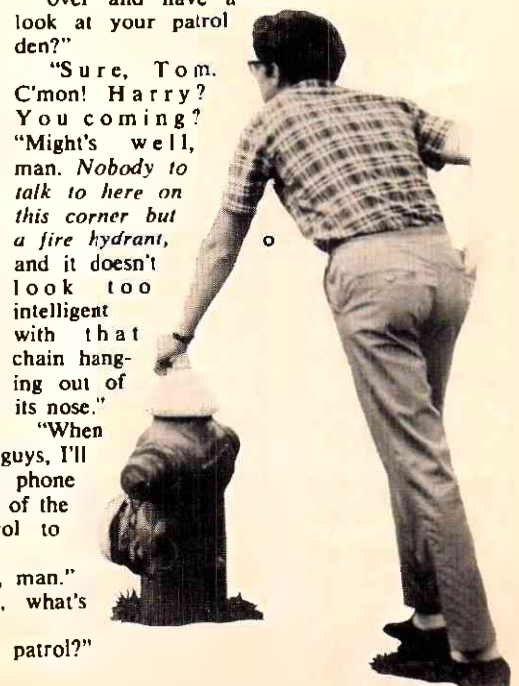
"When

we get to the den, guys, I'll make a few fast phone calls, and get some of the guys in our patrol to come over."

"Just one question, man."

"Yeah, Harry, what's that?"

"Like, what's a patrol?"



# FOR PARENTS ONLY

## BOY SCOUTS OF CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL



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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER  
FILE:

Dear Parents:

Your son is getting ready to begin a modern program of fun and adventure in Scouting. If he has been in Scouting before, you will notice some differences in the new program. His patrol will be made up of boys of about his age, and they will be meeting more as a patrol than with the whole troop. A Scouter will work closely with them as a counsellor, and the boys will largely build their own program.

Boys will gain many benefits from the new program. They will be able to develop understanding and the ability to work with others, plus skills as a leader. With an increase in fun and enjoyment will come a more thorough preparation for adult life and a meaningful place in Canada's future.

How will this new program affect you, his parents? Well, your son and his friends may ask to use your den or basement for the occasional patrol meeting. You yourself may have a special skill, interest or hobby you can share for a short period of time to help boys in their badge work. Father might be able to become a Scout counsellor, or a member of the group or section committee. Mother can help by working with other mothers in the group Ladies' Auxiliary. Talk to your son's Scouter to see how you can help.

If you're interested in knowing more about this exciting new program, get hold of a copy of "Scouts 68" or the new boys' book "Canadian Scout Handbook", available at your Scout distributor or through the national office. Come to a Scout meeting now and then, and see how your son is enjoying and benefiting from Scouting's newest program. Most important of all, encourage your boy to learn and grow in Scouting during the introduction of this new step forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. F. Dunn".

A. F. Dunn,  
Chairman, Boy Scout Subcommittee,  
National Program Committee

CANADIAN BOY

