

# THE SCOUTER



*9d*

*January 1956*

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## SYMBOLS

### OF EFFICIENCY



#### DESPATCH RIDER BADGE:—

"The bicycle must be properly fitted out with front and rear lamp."

(Note to Scouts taking this Test: Examiners appreciate the smartness and efficiency of Miller Cycle Dynamo Sets.)

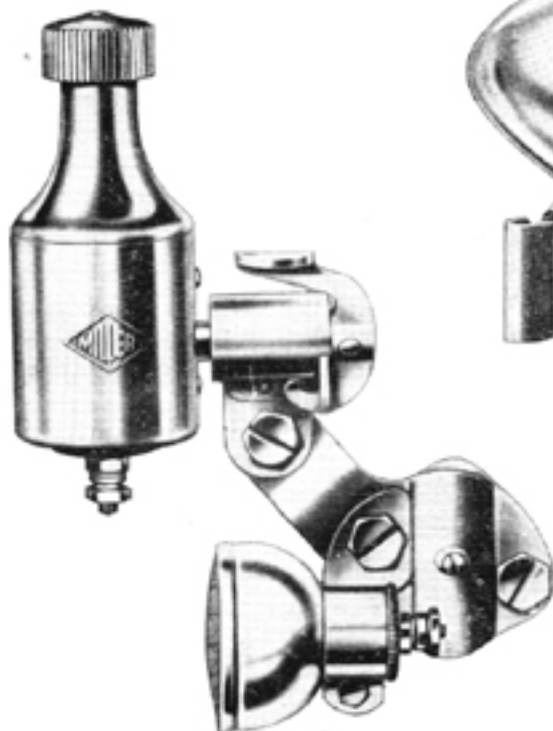


#### MESSENGER BADGE:

"The Scout must keep on his bicycle a front light and tail lamp in good working order."

(Note to successful messengers: Miller Cycle Dynamo Lighting Sets give a strong white beam at all speeds.)

Vide "Scout Badge Series No. 20."



Set No. 535

The Despatch Rider or Messenger Badge is something to be mighty proud of. So are Miller Dynamo Lighting Sets, whose efficiency and reliability—like the famous Scout Motto "Be Prepared"—is second to none.



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H. MILLER & CO., LIMITED

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# The SCOUTER

January 1956

Vol. L. No. 1.



## THE OUTLOOK

By THE CHIEF SCOUT

I have just received a request to bring to the notice of all Scouts an appeal which is being made for funds for the Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1955-58. As you have no doubt read in the papers, this expedition, to be led by Dr. Fuchs, intends to cross this last great unexplored Continent from sea to sea. It is a great adventure which will thrill every Scout and rouse memories of Captain Scott and Edward Wilson and others of his gallant band, whose names will for ever be associated with the Antarctic. And we in Scouting must never forget what a thrill it was to all connected with the Movement when they heard that Scout Marr of Aberdeen was to accompany Shackleton on one of his expeditions. Then, too, for many years Scouts everywhere derived inspiration from our Sea Scout Headquarters ship Discovery, and although she is no longer in our possession we shall never forget our connection with her and her connection with the Antarctic in which so much of her life was spent. But this is not merely adventure; it is hoped to complete, or at least carry on, the work of scientific research so nobly started by Scott and Shackleton and those other explorers. Exploration nowadays is a costly business, but the importance of the work to be done is so great that the Governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have subscribed nearly £200,000 towards it. The appeal is now made to us who remain at home for £175,000 to ensure that the work of these gallant men is not hampered, nor their lives endangered, by lack of funds. Perhaps some County Scout Councils would like to organise an appeal to the Groups in their Counties. I do hope this will be so. At any rate, let us hope that every Group have their attention called to the fact that this money is needed and that this opportunity is open to them to have their share, however small, in this great adventure. Further particulars can be obtained from Rear-Admiral C. R. L. Parry, C.B., D.S.O., Secretary, The Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 64 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Please do your best, each and every one of you, to make this appeal a success and ensure that Scouting, which claims to be based on adventure, lives up to its reputation and makes a worthy response.

I WAS told by one person who had read my "Outlook" in the November number of THE SCOUTER, that after my remarks about Ayrshire I should have put "Advt.!" Well, good things need advertising, and I feel that credit is due to those who have produced such excellent results and are still not complacent, and hope that others will follow their good example. So no apologies to anyone for bringing the attention of Counties to what has been achieved.

THE Director of the International Bureau is trying hard to raise funds for the development of the work, an attempt in which I am sure we shall all join in wishing him success.

One of the means he is using is the collection of used stamps which are coming in to him from all over the world and are finding a ready sale to the stamp dealers, and bringing in a very useful sum.

Of course I know that some of you were sending in your stamps to other organisations before this was suggested. If you were, then please don't change, but I would like particularly to impress on the Colonial Territories that although the stamps they receive with their regular mail may not appear of any very great value to them, there are lots of boys at home and in other parts of the world who collect stamps and are willing to pay for them. I do hope you will help Dan Spry as much as you possibly can. The money is needed and the more we collect the more we can do to help those countries where Scouting is still struggling.

I paid a visit, since my last "Outlook," to Cleckheaton in West Yorkshire, to present the prizes at the Whiteliffe Mount A Grammar School which is, I believe, unique, in that it was founded on public subscription in 1908. They have had an amazingly successful career both from the academic and the sports point of view, and I was delighted to present a prize to a brother of the Butterfield who was such a tower of strength to the Lions, the Rugby team which nearly broke records in South Africa.

Scouting has been for forty years the mainstay of the school and is staffed by Old Boys giving back something of what they received. In the school hall there is a memorial window to the first headmaster who raised the Scouts, and the window depicts Scouts round a Camp Fire. Sir Alfred Mowat, President of West Yorkshire County Scout Council and his father have been the only two Chairmen of Governors. This family have been most generous benefactors, and I couldn't help feeling what a pride Sir Alfred must have felt as those neat and tidy, cheerful and courteous boys and girls came up to the platform to receive their prizes. It was a great audience and a most inspiring one.

A dinner with the Spen Valley Local Association, a most enthusiastic body; the Annual Meeting of the Girl Guides - County Commissioner a sister of Sir Alfred - and with H.R.H. the Princess Royal in the Chair, thoroughly enjoying the proceedings at the Camp Fire; finally a Conference for Commissioners at which a film of the Canadian Jamboree was shown.

Taken by amateurs with no previous experience it is an excellent production, and is being shown throughout the County with boys who were present to give a commentary. A fine example of what can be done by enterprise.

But what struck me most about this meeting was a talk on an investigation by Major 'John Butterfield, following up the country-wide leakage investigation last year. This was so good that the tremendously hard work involved in visiting the 82 Groups in the last six months or so by Major Butterfield was amply justified. I have asked him to tell in THE SCOUTER the remit given to him by the County Com-

### FROM THE MAGAZINE OF AN INTELLIGENT GROUP

Do you take a copy of The Scout each week? If not, why not? Take it from me, it's a really fine magazine and one that no real Scout can afford to be without. I've noticed that when Geoff brings his old copies round to H.Q. they go like hot cakes. So why not order one from your newsagent right away: it will save all that waiting. The 6d. couldn't be better spent.

missioner, the method he employed, the questions he asked of Scouts and Scouters, and the answers he got, as a guide to others not only in a special investigation of this nature, but also to help the Commissioner in his ordinary visits to his Groups. Mahor Butterfield is another of those people freshly into Scouting who are doing a really splendid work, bringing a fresh and active mind to bear on the problems as he sees them, and nobody can accuse me of advertising this time, because I hasten to add that I have no connection with West Yorkshire except as a very happy visitor to an active county which is doing fine work for the boys.

Are we too complacent? Of course we are. We see the best and realise what Scouting is doing under first-class leadership, and like to kid ourselves that it is doing the same elsewhere. We say complacently that "Duty to God" comes first in the Scout Promise, but does it come first in Scout practice! Remember that almost every Youth Movement nowadays has been forced by circumstances to realise that work among youth, unless there is a religious basis, has no permanent value. Do we do more than others in putting this into practice?

No doubt the Church Sponsored Groups are properly looked after in this way, but when P.L.s go to camp on their own do they always remember to have Prayers for Use in the Brotherhood of Scouts with them? Of course the good ones do, but is there a time for prayers in the majority of Patrol Camps? B.-P. stressed the value of a Scouts' Own, but stressed also that it could not take the place of communal worship in a Church. Do you have a Scouts' Own Service in your Group where all, except those specifically barred by the rules of their religious denomination, come together on a week night?

Do you yourself set the example by going regularly to Church? Do you stress to those who are taking out a Warrant for service in the Group the importance of their personal example in this respect? I wonder. I hope I am wrong, but I fear that in some cases I am right, and yet we promise "on our honour that we will do our best to do our duty to God." Think this over, and where things are wrong try to put them right. It was noticeable that those who were suspected by the Staff of providing the rowdy element which was present at the last Queen's Scout Reception were absent from the Scouts' Own at Gilwell Park. It's no use living in a fool's paradise, and if we are not paying attention to the very first words we utter when we are invested as Scouts then we had better think again.

**ROWALLAN**

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## DEAR EDITOR

### Time-table or Programme?

#### DEAR EDITOR,

The article entitled "Time Table or Programme?" in the November SCOUTER has at last prompted me to write the letter that I have been considering for ages, but have never got round to. We are continually being told that our Scouts want to run things, for themselves, that they are keen to get on and gain badges, and that one of the chief causes of leakage is that too many Scouters will not give them the opportunity. Is this really so?

Am I the only Scoutmaster that has come out of a Court of Honour exhausted and apoplectic, having vowed to speak only when spoken to, and having been forced to listen to stories of girl friends, the picture on at the local and what clots school teachers are? Any decisions made are quickly forgotten, and when introduced into a programme are frequently disclaimed.

Some while ago I suggested that Patrols should take it in turns to provide ideas for the weekly programme. It is difficult to visualise the horror with which this was greeted!

We compromised that the duty Patrol should provide the programme one night during the month it was on duty, but after one round no more were forthcoming.

Apart from one that was good, the rest were simply repeats of the games and stunts of the previous two or three weeks. A request for new games was greeted with the response that that was my job! Give my Troop its head and it would play British Bulldog and handball the whole time. Incidentally, I once tried the experiment of letting them do it to see if they would get fed up. When the letters of complaint from parents rose to a flood I got fed up first.

Give my boys their head in camp and the Seniors will make one mad rush for the nearest girl, while the youngsters will (a) settle down with a comic, (b) moan they have nothing to do, (c) take a bus into the nearest town (even if it is just round the corner) and have an entertaining time wandering round Woolworths.

I am tired of arranging Saturday wide games, outings, etc. - with or without the help of the Court of Honour - and seeing a quarter of the Troop turn up. Only last month we organised a spy stunt on their very doorsteps - everyone agreed it sounded very exciting but when it came to it 22 out of 28 had pressing engagements elsewhere.

A year or so ago we lost practically the whole of a batch of Seniors because I made it clear that I was prepared to help and advise, but that the planning must be left to them. Having declined the suggestions that I should first tour the countryside finding them a camp site. secondly, take them all to camp by car, and thirdly allow them to camp in civvies, several of them departed because, as they so aptly put it, they did not think much of my organisation. It was a slightly earlier set of Seniors who allowed themselves to be persuaded into a holiday abroad, let me make the necessary arrangements, and then decided (nearly a year beforehand) that it would be quite impossible to raise the £15 needed. Yet those same boys spent nearly £10 apiece in pocket money, chiefly on ices, drinks, funfairs, etc., at the modest camp they finally decided on.

It was a later batch of Seniors that decided at a Patrol in Council that they would like an Ambulance Badge course organised. Having arranged it with our local St. John Division all five Seniors provided excellent excuses why they could not attend, though it was on a recognised Scout night. I am sick and tired of arranging training sessions and having one or two boys attend. Of course most of these sessions should not be necessary if the Patrols held Patrol Meetings, but just try to persuade them to do so!

I have several boys who have been with us now for two or three years and have made little progress towards Second Class. Are they disheartened or unhappy?

Not on your life; the only time they are unhappy is when I tactfully suggest it is time they had a shot at another test. I have several times considered giving them a time limit to get on or get out, but which is better - a Scout with no Second Class or a boy on the streets?

Have I painted a black picture? Possibly I have shown all the shadows and none of the highlights. There are the boys who are keen and want to get on - I need look no further than my present A.S.M.s for examples of the Troop's successes - but I doubt if they account for a quarter of the total. For the rest the problem is there, and I am fed up with articles and lectures at training courses telling us that the boys are keen as mustard but the wicked S.M. holds them back. We are not a "bad" Troop: we have won the Divisional Camping Competition three years running and invariably get a place in anything there is going. I certainly do not claim perfection, but I refuse to believe that the lack of interest is entirely my fault - I need only think of the P.T. master at the school at which I teach nearly going down on his knees to persuade boys to play in the school football teams.

What is the answer? Certainly it is partly P.L. trouble, but that is a problem on its own, and far too big for me to tackle here. Chiefly I am convinced that the average boy does *not* want to think for himself, and is quite content to make a comfortable little niche and stay there until he is forcibly dragged out. I am aware that my views would be regarded as heresy in many quarters, but I would be interested to know if they are shared by other active Scouters.

If they are then I feel it is about time we had a few articles suggesting how we can train our boys to want to think for themselves, and not quite so many slanging the poor Scoutmaster for his bad psychology.

**RICHARD R. Fox,**  
*G.S.M., 12th Croydon.*

### Co-operation

DEAR EDITOR,

So many times at the recent National Conference of the B.-P. Scout Guild did members rise to say that they wished for greater co-operation with the Boy Scouts Association that I wondered if some Scouters had taken the trouble to find out about the B.-P. Scout Guild. Do Scouters look upon us as the armchair "hangers-on," the "non-uniformed types" so cynically expressed? Invite one of the Branch Officers to talk to you at your Scouters' Council, L.A. or Group Council meetings and you will be surprised at the amount of work on behalf of the Movement which is being accomplished, and the host of jobs we are willing to undertake if asked.

To-day it is impossible to run an efficient Scout Group without many lay members. A well-organised B.-P. Scout Guild Branch will help in many ways; inevitably, with extra leaders - though it is always stressed that leaders should not come from the Guild.

We, in the Guild, need your goodwill, the same as you need our active support. If I here mention just a few of our activities, you may find in one of them the answer to your own pressing need and to us, once more, the reason for developing a Branch in your Group or District. Remember - once a Scout, always a Scout.

Helpers at Scouts' Owns, St. George's Day, swimming galas, sports, concerts, shows, garden fetes, judges at Scout Competitions; Badge Examiners and Instructors; organising dinners, reunions, Scout camps, trips to places of interest, rallies; helping Handicapped Scouts and Guides; erecting Scout Huts and so on.

Our Founder, on more than one occasion, expressed the sincere hope that every Group would complete the Scout circle by forming Old Scout branches. Have you?

**J. H. GUILMANT,**

*County Organiser, Hampshire.*

### Cub Tests

DEAR EDITOR,

I find the biggest stumbling block to gaining the First Star is the second verse of our National Anthem. "Choicest gifts" seems unpronounceable to 90 per cent of my Cubs - and this same test floors the majority when that part of the Second Star is reached - "re-pass First Star tests." I believe the problem could be solved by more revision in the form of games but, although I have tried out several of my own devising (simple as they seem to me, who could recite the Anthem backwards), boys seem unable to grasp the requirements and we are no further forward.

Can any other Cubmaster offer helpful suggestions please?

Having recently dropped Semaphore in favour of Morse (to fall in line with the Troop), I have found that instead of teaching alphabetically or by "opposites," "Sandwiches," etc., a simple method, easily grasped by most, is the "building up" one, e.g., . . = E; . . = A; . - . R; . . - . . = L; etc. Not only does it speed up learning but seems to be more easily remembered.

**WINIFRED LEADBETTER, CM.,** *5th Hadleigh, Essex.*

## HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

### ROVER SCOUTS

It has come to the notice of I.H.Q. that a number of rumours about possible changes affecting the Rover Scout Section of the Movement are current and that these have caused a certain amount of unrest among Rover Scouts.

Changes are under consideration and a full statement will be made in the March SCOUTER. Meanwhile it may be stated that nothing is being considered which would prevent any Rover Scout who may wish to continue to serve Scouting from retaining his membership of the Movement.

### HEADQUARTERS CAMP SITES - CAMP PERMITS

It has been decided that in future Form P.C. or Form P.C.(Cubs) as applicable, will be required in the case of Scout, Senior Scout and Rover Scout Camps of more than two nights' duration, and Pack Holidays or Cub Camps held on Headquarters Camp Sites, and that Short Camp Permit Cards will be required in the case of Scout, Senior Scout and Rover Scout Camps held on these sites of not more than two nights' duration, with the permissive extension to four nights in respect of Easter, Whitsun and August Bank Holidays.

### PRESENTATION OF QUEEN'S SCOUT CERTIFICATES, 1956

The Chief Scout will hold three receptions for Queen's Scouts over the following week-ends in 1956:-

May 12th/13th	Gilwell Park
October 6th/7th	Edinburgh
November 17th/18th	London

At the reception in May the Royal Certificates will be presented by Chief Scout's Commissioners and Headquarters' Commissioners in the presence of the Chief Scout. The Chief Scout will be at Gilwell Park for the whole of the week-end.

The receptions in October and November will be limited to 200 Queen's Scouts and no applications will be accepted once this figure has been reached.

When the Queen's Scout Badges are issued to Badge Secretaries, by the Equipment Department, each badge is accompanied by a prepaid postcard asking for details of the recipient's name, address, rank and Group, and whether he will be attending a Chief Scout's Reception. Should there, for any reason, be a delay in obtaining the card a letter will suffice.

The Scout's name should be written clearly in block capitals as otherwise the name may be inscribed wrongly on the Royal Certificate.

The completed card should be sent to I.H.Q. as soon as possible and applications must be received by April 14th for the May Reception, by September 15th for the October Reception and by October 27th for the November Reception.

It will be appreciated if the card is sent to I.H.Q. as soon as it has been completed. If the Scout is unable to attend the Certificate will be completed and sent to his County Commissioner, who will arrange for its presentation locally. In order that the Queen's Scouts may avail themselves of the opportunity of attending one of the Chief Scout's

Receptions, Local Associations and Group Committees might consider the possibility of helping with the cost of travelling.

Detailed arrangements will be sent to Queen's Scouts direct at least 14 days before the Reception. It is regretted that no arrangements can be made for Scouters or parents to attend. Some Scouts will have reported for their National Service before the Reception, but it is usually possible to obtain leave in order to receive the Queen's Scout Certificate.

### H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S CHALLENGE SHIELD COMPETITION, 1956

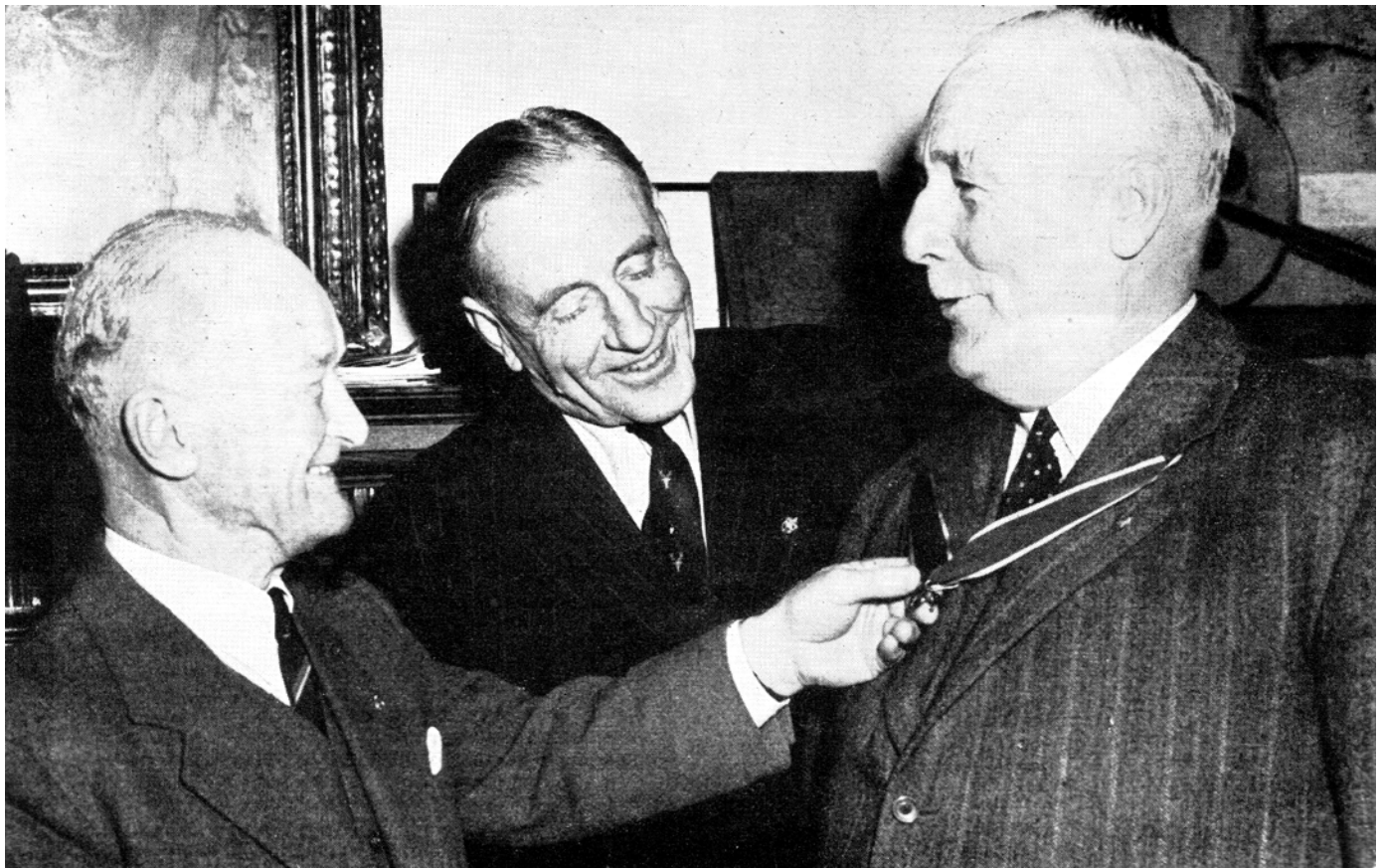
This competition for rifle shooting will again be run under the control of the National Small-bore Rifle Association.

Full details, conditions and entry forms may be obtained from I.H.Q. The closing date for entries for the United Kingdom teams is March 26th, 1956; for the Overseas teams, May 31st, 1956.

Entries will be made in either the Junior Section for the competitors all under 16 years of age, or in the Senior Section for those under 25 years of age, on the day of the shoot. The competition is for teams of four competitors, two cards each.

The Secretary of the National Small-bore Rifle Association, Codington House, 113 Southwark Street, London, S.E.1, would be pleased to put any Scout Troop in touch with its nearest rifle club, who may be able to provide training facilities and expert coaches. The club also may be able to assist with rifles, but Scouts would have to purchase ammunition used.

For a nominal annual subscription of 5/-, Groups who regularly practise rifle shooting may affiliate direct to the N.S.R.A. Particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the N.S.R.A.



#### HAPPY OCCASION

*Col. J. S. Wilson and Lord Rowallan congratulate Col. Granville Walton on the presentation of the Bronze Wolf*

## OUR DISTRICT By A.D.C.

THERE was a stranger present at our quarterly Association Meeting last night, a bronzed gaunt man of fifty-five or so, who arrived with the D.C. We got through the minutes of the last meeting and the other routine business, and Hankin and Stuffley had a rather acid verbal battle about the date of the Annual Sports, and then the Chairman said the D.C. wanted to say a few words.

"They will be very few," he said when he stood up. "I just want to introduce Colonel Sheetanchor. I happened to run across him today at my club, and managed to persuade him to come along and give us a yarn."

A little gasp went round the room, for Colonel Sheetanchor is not the sort who can usually spare time to yarn to quarterly meetings of L.A.s. He is a man of action rather than a man of words, but his mere name on a poster would fill almost any hall in England. As a youngster he fought with Lawrence of Arabia, and since then he has led a life of high adventure in faraway places with strange-sounding names. He was the sole survivor of a memorable expedition to find the source of the 'Mboho river beyond the Mountains of the Moon in Central Africa, and he accompanied Brown and Jenkins to Tibet.

He nearly died on an iceberg during the Polar exploration of 1931, and only the careful nursing of an Aborigine friend saved him when his plane crashed in the Northern Territory of Australia in 1933. He talked to us for an hour, modestly and quietly like the great man he is, and you could have heard a pin drop as we accompanied him in spirit. The shabby United Free Church Hall with its faded green walls and rusty radiators disappeared, and we wandered with him in the great market of Aleppo, trudged across the desert of Sinai, sailed to the South Seas through the Golden Gate, and saw the white towers of Damascus glinting in the last rays of the sun.

We broke off for tea and currant buns, kindly supplied by the cub-

master of the 24th, who is second typist to the permanent under-secretary of the Ministry of Forms and Schedules.

I think most of us felt much smaller than when we had arrived at the meeting, for we are very ordinary people in Our District, bank clerks and engineers, shop assistants and schoolmasters, men working on the railway and girls in canteens. This sudden glimpse of a larger world of colour and romance made us feel a bit stupid, somehow, strutting about in our Scout uniforms and worrying about the date of the Annual Sports.

The hall-keeper was already jingling his keys and looking at the clock, but the Chairman had a word with him, and announced that the Colonel would answer a few questions.

The first was from Hankin, who asked him what had been *the* biggest thrill of all his adventurous life.

"I can answer that right away," he said. "For the most thrilling of all my adventures began in a hall like this more than forty years ago. My Sir Edmund Hillary of that adventure was a young chap who worked on the bacon counter at the local branch of Tumberry's, the big grocers. He was my Sunday school teacher in our Methodist Church, and when he started his Scout Troop I was his first recruit. Six of us under his leadership met in just such a hall as this to pack up for our first camp, and though I've lived a long time since then I've never equalled the thrill of that camp. I remember waking in the little tent at dawn, and hearing the birds shouting their heads off in nearby Epping Forest. I had passed my fire-lighting first go off, and was to help with the dinner for my cooking test. The chap who gave me that priceless memory died at Mons before he could win any medals, but no other hero has ever taken his place in my heart."

The Chairman declared the meeting closed, and reminded us that the 14th wanted Jumble for their Sale.

## MY SCOUTING STORY - 1

By P. B. NEVILL

*WHEN I asked P. B. for a small contribution for the Christmas SCOUTER about his early days in Scouting I was, I gathered afterwards, only echoing what a number of his friends had been suggesting he should do for some time. The result of my request was to set P. B. one rare day of leisure turning out old letters and photographs and turning over pages of old log books and records and then to begin to write. Soon my desk was covered with old photographs, old logs, old programmes, but all to me, anyway, of great interest and I am sure to the Movement generally. For as a result, P. B. is going to write his memories of Scouting month by month as we move towards our fiftieth birthday.*

*He hasn't found it easy to write because it never is easy when one has to write of oneself and one has always been right in the middle of things, but you don't need my assurance that he is a very modest man. I thought I knew how great a part he had played in the early and later days of Scouting, but Jam constantly being surprised. He likes to think of himself arone of a team who has been privileged to work from the beginning under B.-P. and to be lucky enough to have been on the spot when great events were pending. It has brought him much happiness and I am sure through him it has brought much happiness to many men and boys.*

*I hope his memories will bring both happiness and inspiration to all of you who are going to read them.*

**R. H.**

I had been sent to Coventry - no, it was not a concerted effort on the part of my friends to snub me - it was just that I had been sent as a junior with a team from my office to audit the accounts of a firm in the city of Coventry.

It was in 1909, and one week-end I went over to Wolverhampton to stay with some relations. As I awaited my train on Coventry station, I noticed a copy of *Scouting for Boys* on the railway bookstall. I had seen this before in London, and wondered what it was all about, now I invested a shilling in a copy, and it was the best investment I have ever made.

My relatives must have thought me very uninteresting that week-end, for I never put the book down until I had finished it, and further I wrote there and then to the H.Q. of those days, one room in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, for information as to how I should get going. Having no reply at the end of three weeks I wrote again, and then received the name and address of the Secretary of the Scouts in the Enfield area where my home was at that time.

I found that there were already four Troops in existence, and I visited them all, but none required any help, so there was nothing to do but to start a Troop of my own. Within a comparatively short time two of those early Troops had closed down as there was no one to carry them on, and I learnt one of my early lessons never to refuse a good offer of help.

While all this was going on the first big Scout Rally was held at the Crystal Palace, and I went along to see what I could learn. It was a very impressive show, although there was perhaps rather too much banging of guns, which gave the critics plenty of opportunity of decrying the military trend in the Movement. We lived this down in the end, but it took us many years to do it. The part of the Rally which impressed itself most on my memory however was the conference of Scoutmasters, when the subject was "Religious Observances for Scouts." It was on this occasion that H. Geoffrey Elwes first introduced us to the term "Scouts' Own."

It seems curious to me looking back, that no one had roped me in for work with boys before. True one attempt was made when our Vicar asked me in a letter if I would go along to his C.L.B. to take a gymnasium class. I shied off this as it was not in my line, and it taught me how not to get people to help you in your work..

The process I have always adopted is to find out first what subjects my victim is interested in, and then ask him to come to talk on one of these to the Scouts. In this way he is at his best, talking of something that really interests him, and often he will discover that boys are not quite so frightening as he imagined. There is one exception to this method of approach which I have often adopted with success, and that is to invite a possible Scouter to come to camp with the Troop.

If you wait till after the camp is over before you ask him to do anything further, you will often land an Assistant Scoutmaster.

The starting of my first Troop - the 5th Enfield - worked out in quite a curious way. On the evening I had been to visit the last of the four Troops who wanted no help, I was walking home late pondering on how I should proceed, when I overtook a young fellow who was known to me only by sight. We fell into step and started talking. With the subject of Scouting very much on my mind I mentioned where I had been and that as no one seemed to want any help, that I was contemplating starting a Troop of my own. He was very interested and before we had parted that night we had agreed to start a Troop together, and he was to ask his father, who was a Deacon at the Presbyterian Church in Enfield, if we could have the use of a room as our H.Q. Soon a meeting was arranged for people interested and a date announced when we proposed to start.

On that first night, Thursday, 7th October, 1909, there were present two Scoutmasters and one boy! But the following week six more boys turned up and we soon got going. Our first Patrol was the "Otters," chosen, I am afraid, by the Scoutmaster because the colours of the Otter Patrol happened to be those of his old school! From the very beginning we always held two meetings a week, one being on Saturday afternoon, when we roamed the neighbourhood playing exciting Scout games, sometimes by ourselves and sometimes with other Troops.

We paid a lot of attention to good turns in those days, and would send Scouts off at a moment's notice both individually and by Patrols, to find some good turn to do, and to return when this had been accomplished. We were very embarrassed on one occasion when an irate labourer turned up and wanted to know "What the we were doing to let one of our Scouts go prying into his private affairs." It turned out that the Scout in question, hearing local gossip that this man's wife was carrying on with someone else, conceived the idea that it would be a good turn to the husband to check up on this, which he proceeded to do. Having tracked the wife down and actually seen her with someone else, he went off to the husband and told him what he had seen. I don't know who had the most difficult job, the Scoutmaster who had to explain to the Scout why this was not necessarily the best kind of good turn or the Assistant Scoutmaster whom I sent to make an explanation to the irate husband and offer our apologies.

At the beginning of 1911 the Troop had outgrown its H.Q. and a search for new quarters began. Eventually an old iron building which had been used as a Church, and later as the Parish Hall was discovered in Bush Hill Park, and as a large number of the Scouts lived in that neighbourhood, it was conveniently situated. It was due to be pulled down as it was situated in the Vicar's garden, but when I approached him he said that "Scouts were probably of more use than cabbages," and so we agreed to rent it.

It was in a very bad state of repair but we soon got busy cleaning, painting, reglazing, and fitting up new lighting. In all this work we enlisted the help of the parents of the Scouts. In July 1910 had forecast at a parents' meeting starting a "Fathers' Committee," but waited until we had something very definite for them to do. It was a discovery to find how useful they could be, and how glad they were to do something practical to help.

Before this, in 1910, Haydn Dimmock came along to join my Troop. He had become a Scout in Scotland, where his father had been working for a short time. He was a keen youngster and it was not very long before he was suggesting that the Troop should run a magazine. I was always anxious to encourage any Scout in subjects in which he was interested, and the question was discussed by the Court of Honour, and finally agreed, Dim being appointed Editor.

This was in the autumn, and the first number of the new magazine, *The Stalker*, appeared on 1st December. The magazine was duplicated and issued monthly until August 1911. By that time Dim's ideas were growing, and he thought that the magazine should be printed. He came along one day after camp with a scheme all cut and dried, by which the Troop were to buy a small printing machine with some type. This was all very well, but I could not see the Troop funds being spent in just helping one Scout, but he had his answer ready.

With the machine we could not only print the magazine but we could turn out other printing work which would earn money for the

Troop funds. So the printing machine was purchased, and installed in a little room at the back of our new H.Q. which by that time we had acquired. It took us a long time to set up that first copy and the next issue did not appear until January 1912. It was decided that the setting up of the type was too big a job for us at this stage so we made friends with a local printer who in future did this part of the work for us, but we continued the printing. In January 1913 *The Stalker* ceased as a Troop effort and blossomed out as a District Magazine under the ambitious title of *The Boy Scout's Gazette*. This soon went far and wide and a copy reached the Editor of the *H.Q.s Gazette* as THE SCOUTER was called in those days and the Editor was not very pleased. He wrote to our County Commissioner, saying that it should not be allowed to continue as it might compete with his paper!

The difficulty was soon resolved by our agreeing to put the words at the top of the title page "The Enfield and District Scouts' Magazine" and all were happy.

This little controversy brought Dimmock before the notice of P. W. Everett our County Commissioner who eventually took him into his office, where after a time he joined the staff of *The Scout*.

Scout Dimmock was appointed an Honorary Second in 1910 when he was made Editor of *The Stalker* and in due course he became Patrol Leader, Troop Leader and Assistant Scoutmaster, and when he came back from the 1914-18 war, in which he was very badly wounded, he took over his old Troop as Scoutmaster.

There is one story about Dim which is worth recording as it shows how worth while it is for a Scouter to keep his Senior Scouts in the Movement.

At one time not even the attractions of being editor of our magazine seemed to be holding him and he tried to get me to accept his resignation from the Troop, but I was not prepared to let him go. So one day he sat down and put his resignation into writing. His letter arrived on a Saturday and being determined to keep him in the Troop if it was at all possible I set off to see him at his home.

Fortunately he was in when I called, and he came into the front-room rather sheepishly. I asked him what he meant by sending in his resignation when he knew that I was not prepared to accept it.

There was some discussion, when at the right moment I pulled out the offending letter from my pocket, tore it across, and threw it into the fire which was burning in the grate. That finished it, he could not stand up against that, so he carried on with his Scouting.

Dim and I often laughed over this incident in times past and I shall never cease to be thankful that I took so firm a stand, and I think Dim was glad also, when he had recovered from the shock!

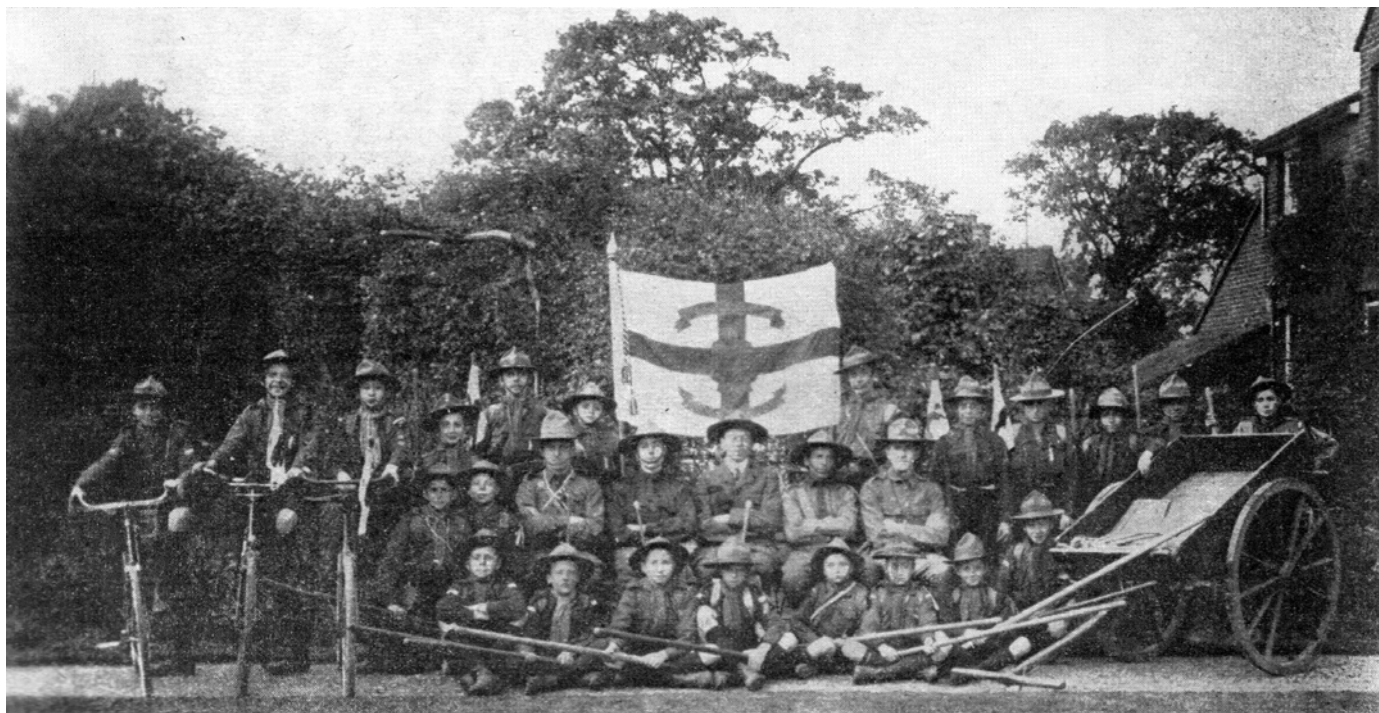
One never knows what the future will bring forth, but this was certainly a battle worth fighting when judged by the work done by Dim for the Movement in the years which were to follow.

There was another Scout of those early days who without knowing it, had a profound effect on my early Scouting. I have long ago lost touch with him but if ever he chanced to read this I am sure he would not mind my telling the story.

He was one of the keenest P.L.s we had; he would turn up night after night to help with any Troop activities that happened to be on. After a time however the interest of our Patrol Leader flagged. He lost interest in one thing after another. The reason was not at all apparent, and the weekly meeting of all the Scouters, which was held in a city restaurant at lunch time, failed to solve the problem.

In due course the slackness of the P.L. was noted by the Court of Honour and after due warning the somewhat drastic step was taken of reducing him to the ranks. We thought that he would leave at once but he continued for a time to turn up, but in the end he left. In those days I marked the Troop register with various letters which told me the reasons why boys left the Troop, and in this case the letter "F" was entered at the bottom of his record. "F" stood for "failure., - he was a boy I had failed with. I wonder how many of us think that the reason for boys leaving our Troops is the fault of the boy? I am quite sure that it is more often our own fault - lack of experience - or of training - or lack of patience.

Anyhow he left and I lost touch with him, but I did hear that he had emigrated to Australia. Time passed and one continued with the normal routine of Troop work, sometimes wondering if it was all worth while, as there seemed to be so many failures. Was it worth all the hard work?



**THE 5<sup>th</sup> ENFIELD GROUP STARTED BY P.B. OM 1909; THE LATE HAYDN DIMMOCK IS THE THIRD CYCLIST FROM THE LEFT**





B.-P. AT A RALLY AT FRIERN HARNET, 1910



GROUP OF ENFIELD SCOUTERS, EASTER, 1910. REV. A. R. BROWNE THIRD FROM LEFT IN FRONT; THE AUTHOR ON EXTREME RIGHT

Well, one day out of the blue a letter arrived from Australia; it was from this old Scout. He wrote to tell me of his experiences since he landed "down under." He had had a rough time, in the bush and in the towns, but had at last settled in Sydney in a good job, had become connected with a Church and was taking a Sunday School class, and the one thing he told me that had helped him to keep straight was the remembrance of the Scout Law and the Promise. This was a failure, was it? Out came the old register and all the "F"s were removed, never to be used again.

This letter which I still treasure altered my whole outlook on my Scout work. In spite of all the difficulties, all the apparent failures, it was worth while after all.

Another incident which had a profound effect on my Scouting was of quite a different nature. We had worked out several ideas in our Troop which seemed to us to be successful, and I thought that there might be something in these which would be of use to others. I therefore spent some time in putting these ideas on paper, I even thought of publishing them in a small booklet! But first I sent them to my County Commissioner. Mr. P. W. Everett sent the whole batch on to Geoffrey Elwes, the Editor of the *H.Q.s Gazette*. Eventually Elwes returned the lot to me with a request that I condense the matter into two articles, both of which appeared in the *Gazette* in due course. But the point of this story is that in returning the papers to me Elwes did not detach a note that Everett had pinned to them, whether this was by design or accident I shall never know. The note was to the effect that he had received the attached from one of the best Scoutmasters in his County. I had no idea of the C.C.'s personal opinions, he probably never intended that I should know them, but what a difference it made to one's outlook.

If this was what he thought of me I must not let him down. This was a real lesson on the value of praise, and how to bestow it fitted in with B.-P.'s ideas on the subject too. You can have no real idea of the value of praise, unless you have experienced it yourself.

I had always been exceedingly keen on hobbies. It is of the greatest importance that everyone should have some activity apart from his job of work to occupy his mind and fill his spare time with something creative.

One of the ideas that we worked out in the Troop was a hobbies night. This was in the nature of a second Troop meeting in the week when all Scouts were expected to turn up. We obtained the help of a number of ladies and gentlemen, who were experts in some interesting activity, to come and help. These activities ranged over a great number of subjects, from tailoring - we made all our own uniform in those days - and knitting - we knitted green tops which we fitted to the tops of our everyday stockings - to sweet making, these we sold in our canteen.

Other articles, basket work, bent iron and leather work, and many others were produced, and sold periodically for Troop funds. The size of the various classes varied according to the ability of the instructors and the tools available. In order to prevent the Scouts from getting tired of any one hobby, a general post took place every month, and those who wanted a change were passed on to another occupation. The scheme worked well and had the double objective of teaching the Scouts useful handicrafts and helping the Troop funds at the same time. The scheme did not come to an end until the 1914-18 war gradually took all the instructors away from us.

*(To be continued: all the photos are by the author)*

## *The Trans-Antarctic Expedition*

(See "The Outlook," p. 1)

Antarctica is almost as large as Australia and Europe together and, in spite of its vast area, so little is known about it that except for the coastal regions it is virtually unexplored.

Large-scale maps of the Antarctic are few and far between and in order to assist those interested in the Expedition, special maps are being printed together with photographs of those taking part, dog teams, some of the special equipment being used, etc. It is expected that these maps will be ready for distribution in the middle of next January, and may be obtained, on request, from the Headquarters of the Expedition in London. It is also intended to issue further maps and photographs later on, when they become available, in order that the progress of the venture can be followed.

Separate testimonials of thanks will be sent to any Groups, or individuals who may like to subscribe to the funds of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

**C. R. L. PARRY, Rear-Admiral.**

Every society gets the youth organisations it deserves. As societies change, so will the youth organisations. A country which adopts a totalitarian regime and way of life can no longer tolerate the existence of a variety of free and voluntary youth groups, as witness the history of youth work in Italy and Germany twenty years ago, and the reversal of the trend of uniformity and centralisation of youth organisations in these countries in the post-war decade. Moreover, the writings of Toynbee and other "global" historians have produced undeniable evidence that societies which do not adjust to changing demands and challenges become stagnant and moribund and, sooner or later, perish. I believe that this is true, too, of youth organisations. It is, however, necessary to distinguish between the organisation itself, the forms and methods it utilizes on the one hand, and the values and attitudes for which it stands on the other.

These latter may well be of permanent value; and in suggesting that the place of Scouting in a modern society needs continuous and searching review, it is more the forms and methods which I think have to be scrutinised and revised than the principles of honesty, helpfulness, service, loyalty and faith on which it is based.

The changes in our society in the last fifty years are, despite their vast scope and influence, usually taken for granted. As far as boys growing up are concerned, it is worth while listing some of the potent influences which during this period have appeared, disappeared or operate in a rather different way. First, there are the changes in the nature of, and the attitude to, family life, and the way in which the relationships between parents and children are expressed in terms of control and obedience, the amount of time spent in the home, dependence on parents for information, discipline and even the material necessities of life. I do not at this point pass judgment but simply record a change (but I would add that, personally, I do not by any means count all, or even most, of the change as being for the worse).

Secondly, there is the vast extension of the scope of education which avowedly is now concerned "to contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community" and this by providing facilities out of school for people of all ages who are able to profit by them. Within the schools themselves a far greater atmosphere of freedom prevails: learning by doing has its place side by side with learning by rote. Thirdly, there have been revolutionary changes in the ideas and practices of the health services as far as young people are concerned. Fresh air, physical recreation, the application of modern theories about nutrition and clothing have made perceptible differences in the stature and physique of boys and girls. It therefore follows that many of the features which gave rise to the original need for Scouting and the form its activities took have themselves greatly changed. The later editions of Scouting for Boys contain this description of Scouting in the introduction: "It may be taken to be complementary to school training and capable of filling up certain chinks unavoidable in the ordinary school curriculum. . . . The subjects of instruction with which it fills the chinks are individual efficiency through development of Character, Health and Handicraft in the individual, and in Citizenship through his employment of this efficiency in Service."

And yet Baden-Powell's fundamental conception of it is still as important and valid as ever it was. The value of voluntary membership in a small group to the growing boy, the practical lessons of leadership within the Patrol, the graduated scale of goals and rewards for achievement, all of them

deeply rooted in the tradition of Scouting, have been recognised and confirmed by the experimental work of psychologist, sociologist and educationist. Many of them have been working in other fields and have, alas, acclaimed their discoveries as new. In 1920 (Aids to Scoutmastership), Baden-Powell wrote "THE PATROL IS THE CHARACTER SCHOOL FOR THE INDIVIDUAL."

This may give rise to a questioning of the soundness of the formula of "character building" as the basis of education, and specifically, of the kind of informal education which is characteristic of the Scout Movement. Like so many theories in the Brains Trust and elsewhere, it all depends on what you mean by "character building."

L. J. Barnes of Oxford has given a clear meaning of a possible and frequent misinterpretation in The Outlook for Youth Work (1948):

"Youth workers soon learn that preaching does not pay. Nevertheless the idea persists that moral and spiritual training

must involve the transmission, by hook or by crook, of prescribed codes of conduct and articles of belief. Such an outlook entails an educationally false antithesis between character and brains; and in general it both derives from and perpetuates a disastrous dissociation of the spirit of man. Ultimately it denies the integrity, and hence the value, of the person. . . . A more fruitful starting point is the hypothesis that human personalities can and do become wholes, given appropriate conditions." This belief in the positive and liberating side of education rather than its restrictive and prescribing role is, I think, in the true spirit of Scouting and is as true now as ever it was.

I have emphasised the relationship of Scouting today to education and schooling, because we have to recognise that the greatest part of the membership of the Movement is among boys attending school. There is, however, another aspect of education which is greatly changed in the contemporary picture, and that is the Youth Service. Here there has been an immense growth of youth clubs and other organisations providing for the leisure time recreation and training of young people. Scouting is no longer one of a select group of three or four movements with a wide appeal to young people of all types in all parts of the country.

Thank goodness there is much more plentiful and varied provision and far larger numbers of young people up to the age of twenty and over are usefully engaged in the activities available. One of the outstanding developments has been the extension of the principle of co-education to this field of informal further education and this principle, which is now widely accepted and even expected, more especially among succeeding generations of boys, inevitably has its effect on their attitude to Scouting.

Finally, what of leadership? Sufficient time has now elapsed for us to see clearly that recent developments in the progress of our welfare Society have in no way diminished the vital importance and value of the voluntary work of youth leaders in the great national voluntary organisations. What is even better is that the decline in numbers of volunteers, which some of the more fearful predicted, has not occurred. Recruitment of Scouters is maintained and it will be a day of ill-omen for the Movement and for the country as a whole when it falls off. There are still not enough Scouters or, for that matter, youth leaders of all kinds, and it is no wonder - since if we take the total age-group, 11-15, both boys and girls, the figures for England and Wales show clearly the picture:-

1954	2,240,000
1956	2,240,000
1958	2,400,000
1960	3,000,000 (I)

## THE PLACE OF SCOUTING IN A MODERN SOCIETY

I. By PETER KUENSTLER

You've met him!



The "Why-was-I-born-so-beautiful" or "just-off-for-a-paddle" type

The difficulties and obstacles that Scouters have to overcome are numerous: some of them have always existed and have acted as an invigorating challenge to the enterprise and initiative of the group: the need for money, premises and equipment: others throw the challenge back on the individual Scoutmaster. A survey undertaken by the writer a few years ago to which over two thousand Scouters took the trouble to reply showed how, given the enthusiasm and spirit of service, such varied difficulties as travel, expense, sacrifice of holidays, "baby-sitting," overtime, transfer of labour, and the claims of National Service can all be met. Every society feels responsible for the upbringing of its younger

members, but this responsibility has to be borne by individual men and women. Indeed, the purpose of the kind of education given through Scouting is to elicit and encourage this spirit of willing service within the community. Those societies function best which in their youth work are able to help boys and girls, as they grow up, simultaneously to develop the full potential of their personalities and to satisfy the demands of membership of a dynamic society. In an age of rapid technological change, Scouting will retain its place in so far as it effectively expresses the concern of the adult community to help each younger generation to grow in reverence, in cultural and creative achievement, and in the skills of human relationships.

### October

Started our Scout year with an indoor camp fire. We sang all the old songs and laughed at well-known sketches. Afterwards the Scouters went to the chip shop for "sixpence worth and a Coca-Cola." Phil, the proprietor, spotted Dod's "Uke" and came over to give us a rendering of George Formby favourites. We talked after and found that Phil knew nothing about Scouting. He does now and we've won a new friend for the Movement and ourselves.

If we spoke to more people about Scouting, its aims and endeavours, perhaps the world would be a better place.

### November

Most requested game by the Court of Honour is still British Bulldogs. I can't understand why. However, it is the best way of letting off steam that I know.

### December

Spent Christmas Eve delivering food parcels to old folk. The difference in welcomes was amazing. Some were embarrassing in their thanks, others said scarcely a word and had the door closed before we turned away; some were proud and were sure it wasn't for them, others told tales of woe and could have taken more.

I wonder if our gifts made these people happy and reminded them of the spirit of Christmas? Perhaps it did - perhaps it didn't.

What made us happy was the parcel we delivered to an old man living in a single room off a dark stair - a clean old man polishing brass ware for a living - a man who took the gift in the spirit it was given - a lonely old man who enjoyed the "wee bit crack" we had before we left.

### January

On the way down to the Troop I met two young Guides who saluted me smartly as they passed.

I am so used to Scouts creeping past pretending they didn't see me that this thrilled me immensely. Must see that our Scouts don't sneak past.

### February

Every Friday this month we sent a reporter from each Patrol to cover a special event for his Patrol newspaper. The editor collected these reports, edited them, "censored" them, then published them in his paper.

Everyone was very enthusiastic - from the moment they heard that the first reporters had gone to interview the rugby player who scored the winning try against Wales. We couldn't live up to a start like that, but with a little thought we made sure the other reporters had an exciting time too.

### March

As our hall was being used by the church and we were relegated to a very small one we held a Radio Evening.

Our very small P.L.s answered "Any Questions," the Patrol brains answered "What do you know," the adventurous types tried "Take your Pick," the comics provided "Variety Playhouse" and we finished with "A Book at Bedtime" and "Evening

Selections from

# NOTEBOOK FOR A YEAR (24)

### May

On the way home from a week-end camp the Scouters were first on the scene of an accident. One man lay in the middle of the road, an M.G. was half-way through the fence with a woman hanging out of the door, another man was slumped at the wheel of a Standard Vanguard. We knew what to do but - would our Scouts have?

We had an all out drive on ambulance work.

### June

"Mum, you can't make mince like Bobby," one small boy is reported as saying on his return from a week-end camp - he wouldn't eat mince at home but at camp he had to.

His mum now makes mince like Bobby. I wonder if she always did!

### July

Had Patrol cooking at camp for the first time.

The week before the Troop arrived the Court of Honour were in camp working as a Patrol.

They tried out all the new dishes and gained experience in the old; they built altar fires and planned their own kitchens; they made plans and passed tests, explored the country and made friends.

When the Troop arrived the Patrol went to their own camp sites and worked over their own fires under their now experienced leaders.

In our case the Patrol System did wonders in camp.

On return home the mother of our youngest Patrol Leader asked him how he got on.

Prayers." 'Twas really all Scouting coated with sugar.

### April

Realised how little we knew the parents so we arranged a social.

There, with the boys safely out of the way we got to know them well and they got to know us and each other.

Our Group Committee is now much stronger.

You've met him!



The "Must - have - discipline - discipline - the - thing - get - into - line - there" type

"Oh, Mum," he said, "I've had a smashing time, but I've worked awfu' hard.

I've never worked so hard in my life."

A working camp is a happy camp.

### August

Studied the camp log books very carefully and was amazed at the way prayers are seldom mentioned - even Scouts' Own is just referred to. Is this reserve on the part of, the boy or merely disinterest?

Do we place enough emphasis on prayers?

### September

When I sat Part I of the Wood Badge I was rather proud of the answer I gave to the question: "How would you deal with a P.L. who is neglecting his Troop or Patrol for his girl friend?"

Now I am not so confident - the situation has arisen in our Troop!

It goes to show that Part I is as valuable as Part II. "BOBBY,"

# IDEAS AND THINGS – I

PREVIOUS to last year we in our District took the easy way out. When our Seniors asked about the “Incident Journey” part of the Venturer Badge we told them to wait until either County or a neighbouring Local Association arranged one and sent them on that.

Last year at a Scouters’ Meeting I was foolhardy enough to suggest that we arranged one of our own. The suggestion was very well received, too well in fact, and I should have seen the snag. I didn’t - well, not until the date and time had been fixed, and then I discovered that it was taken for granted that all the details and arrangements were left to me. I suppose it served me right for opening my mouth in the first place.

At that time I had just read a book entitled *Two Eggs on My Plate*, a most excellent book about the resistance movement in Norway during the last war. This, I decided, would form the basis of the “stunt.” It is just as well I had not been reading *Three Men in a Boat*, or the result would have been really chaotic.

After much cogitation the scheme worked out as follows. The Patrols of Senior Scouts reported to a Scouter in a local wood at half-hour intervals on a Sunday morning in November. They were informed that they were saboteurs parachuted into war-time Norway. One of their number had landed away from the Patrol, and they were to keep a good look-out for him. There was a possibility that he might be injured. Their task was to blow up a vital bridge with the highly concentrated explosive provided (a “Little Demon” left over from November 5th) and this task had to be completed within two hours, at the end of which time an aircraft would be available to fly them home. If they were late it would leave without them.

Having assimilated this they were given a pass word, actually a phrase, to try out on the local inhabitants. If the correct feply was received the “natives” were members of the local resistance movement and would help the saboteurs.

For the first incident the saboteurs were blindfold so as to prevent them from seeing vital stores held by the local resistance, and so knowing too much if captured. They then had to follow a sisal trail. This was not easy as it led through a tunnel under the canal. It was impossible to crawl owing to very sharp stones, and to stand upright meant a good crack on the head, as the roof was rather on the low side.

After removal of the blindfolds the saboteurs has to cross a field with strict instructions to keep out of sight. As there was no cover the results varied from the furtive air of a stage burglar to “What the heck docs he think we are?”

At the opposite side of the field were resistance workers in charge of a ready-made Commando bridge. After giving the pass-word the saboteurs were allowed to cross the bridge. Many had never tried a Commando bridge before, but only one - the last one - fell into the water. The resistance workers found things rather tedious, as they had anticipated a larger percentage of casualties. One bright spot in their morning’s work occurred when a saboteur lost his beret in mid-stream, and by a series of extremely complicated manceuvres succeeded in retrieving it without leaving the bridge.

At this time the saboteurs were suddenly reminded of the fact that one of their party was supposedly missing. They found him with a broken arm hanging from his parachute harness about twenty feet up a tree. A rope was provided, but apart from that the local resistance turned out to be a pretty useless lot. The volunteer up the tree was also an unco-operative character. If the bowline was slack he fell through it. If it was tied round his waist he came down head first. If after being rescued he was laid on the (sloping) ground and ignored he obligingly rolled down towards the water below. The members of the local resistance got their money’s worth.

Following a compass direction the saboteurs came upon a party of resistance workers on the canal bank.



These helpful people provided spars, sisal and oil drums (more or less sound) and the information that the canal had to be crossed and all traces of their presence removed within half an hour. At the end of that time a German sentry was due to patrol the opposite bank. At this point the local resistance got more than their money’s

worth. Most saboteurs got across in good order, but the main difficulty seemed to be in disembarking. There was a marked tendency to lean on the bank and at the same time push the raft away with the feet. This can have only one result. After the first member of each Patrol had made the passage there was, of course, someone to hold the raft while the others came ashore, but the first one was just plain unlucky. One lot of saboteurs had a really bright idea. They had all arrived in well-nailed heavy boots ready for anything. The first of the party decided to ferry himself across unencumbered by such weighty footwear. He took them off. So did the next. And the next. The last one found himself the proud possessor of enough boots to start up in business. With great presence of mind he threw them across one at a time. There was a? great danger that these saboteurs would still be grubbing about in the undergrowth in their stockings when the sentry turned up, but somehow all boots were found and sorted out in time. Each party of saboteurs had the forethought to provide a line by means of which the raft could be hauled back to the point of embarkation, and between parties the local resistance worked frantically to dismantlerrafts, empty waterlogged drums, and be ready for the next lot.

From the canal the saboteurs had to approach the bridge which was their ultimate objective. At this point there was ample cover, and it was a simple matter to keep out of sight. One crowd did very well. Not only did the bridge go up, but also the D.C. and a local resistance worker who were chatting on the bridge at the time.

The area covered was small, and at times Patrols were in danger of catching up with other Patrols and had to be held back. In view of this it seemed desirable that the next spasm should be held over a larger area. This was done, and there were complaints that the area covered was too large. It’s a hard life.

Next month we will go into the details of our second effort. Who knows - someone might like it.

Meanwhile, let us digress. One evening the wife of our Badge Secretary remarked that we (the Movement, not just our District) seemed to be getting more Queen’s Scouts than ever before. Having attended the Filey Conference shortly before Jhis, I knew the answer. I came out with it. You know the drill - “We’ve made it harder and the boys have accepted the challenge and so on. . . .” “I see,” she said, “but don’t you think some of the examiners are letting the boys off rather lightly, and so making it easy for them?”

Well - are they?

D. L. N.

# REALLY FIRST CLASS JOURNEYS

As a member of Rex Haziewood's mysterious council of thirteen it is my privilege once a quarter to address the P.L.s' corner in *The Scout*. I have just finished two articles dealing with the first class journey, in which my theme has been that although the journey is more important than the log, the log is more commonly the bugbear of those who fail: and that seems all wrong. Before offering any helpful advice I tried to analyse the reasons why boys sometimes turn out such shocking bad logs, and I was perturbed to find that the fault seems at least equally divided between the boy and the way we set about teaching him. And when I found that some of the advice I wanted to give, cut across accepted practice and might therefore get boys into trouble if they followed it, I asked for space in *THE SCOUTER* to present my ideas to those responsible for training the boys and passing them through their tests.

Basically, I suggest we are inclined to treat the log as something apart from the journey, and pay too much attention to the mechanics of log writing. Conventions have crept in that things must be done in a certain way, to the point that it would almost be fater to the boy to give him a printed form to complete—it would at least ensure that nothing important was left out, and would encourage the orderly presentation of his ideas. However, we have not yet sunk quite as low as that, so I hope that the suggestions I have to offer may be accepted as a constructive attempt at improvement. There are five of them, and I would emphasise that only the last has anything to do with actual log writing.

1. Let us dispel the idea that the log is something you do to gain your First Class Badge: it finds a place in the tests because every good Scout should keep a log of every worth-while thing he does.

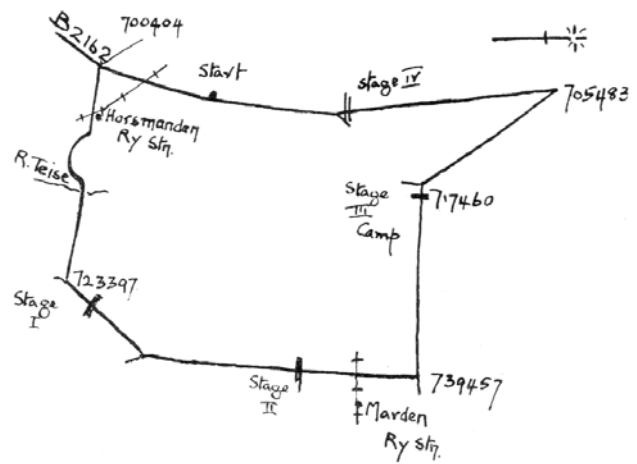
2. It seems at the moment fashionable to address one's log to the D.C. - why not to the Great Chain of Tartary? The log is a diary the boy writes for himself, and if it is a good diary it will be equally useful to others: it is essential that the boy be clear in his own mind as to the purpose for which he is writing.

3. The journey itself must have an object. Some boys can spin an amusing yarn out of next to nothing, and some can't; and to help the less articulate boy, to give him something to write about, he must feel that he is doing something more stimulating to the imagination than toting a heavy load round a fourteen mile circuit.

4. And talking of heavy loads I am sure that the staggering weight boys take with them contributes directly to bad log writing. "Journey's End" is the goal, and not anything they may encounter by the wayside. There has been a lot of research on this problem, and I would say that if he is to stay alert to what goes on around him no 14-year-old should carry more than 28 lb. And what do we do to encourage this ideal? Nothing: in fact we tacitly if not actively encourage the very opposite. On kindred competitions, if not on the First Class test itself, boys are inspected as they come in, and if they have dirty shoes they lose marks; so shoe cleaning materials (and a bottle of eyewash), become a "must" for a one night journey. And that list of kit at the beginning of the log - could anything be more conducive to overloading? Anxious to prove his ability to deal with any contingency, the boy keeps piling things in, and if he takes anything out his mother, who doesn't have to carry the pack, puts it back again.

Surely the right approach is for the Court of Honour to compile a list of what a boy needs for a short hike - and woe betide any Scout found carrying more. Rule 431 requires the boy to camp for the night, and a rigid interpretation of the word "camp" condemns the boy to hump round another 4 - 5 lb. in the shape of a tent.

A more liberal view would permit the use of caves, shelters, ruined buildings, or what have you. Most L.A.s could put say a dozen such sites into good enough order to serve as a framework on which hikes could be planned, and I would rate such work at least as high as L.A. camp sites and training grounds which nowadays are so fashionable.



5. To turn to the log itself, it has to reflect the varying activities that make up the journey, and some variation in literary style is essential. Topographical information is factual and must be presented as concisely as possible; at the other extreme, in describing his adventures the boy should be encouraged to spread himself. It is the writer's experience that few boys make any attempt to classify their material, with the result that logs are not easy to read, and it is hard to follow the thread of any particular subject.

Our present teaching of topography involves the use of so many columns that by the time the boy has finished ruling them only a narrow margin is left for the text; and every half-dozen lines there has to be a break to record that it is now 3.52 p.m., 17 minutes have passed since the last entry, during which 7/8 of a mile has been covered, making a total of 4 3/4 miles since leaving the Troop room: most interesting, and very restful for the reader.

To turn to constructive suggestions, the first thing is to divide the journey into stages of from 45-60 minutes' marching, with a single entry to cover the whole of the stage: viz: Stage 3 - 3 miles to camp site, 300 yds. east of church at 717460. 62 mins. Rd. juncs. need watching after turning west at 739457.

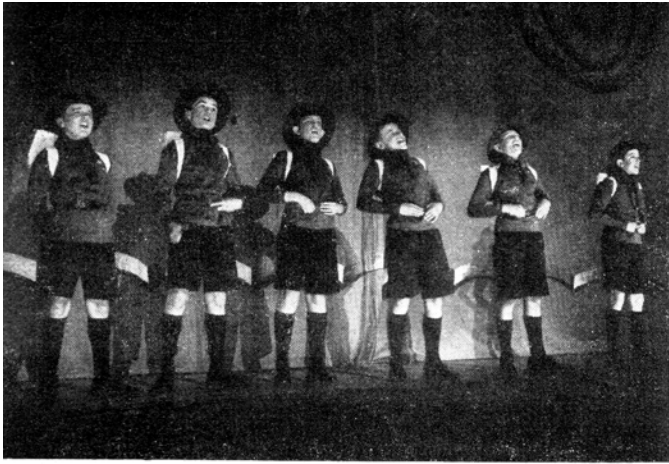
Linked with such information is the matter of maps and sketches. It is generally laid down that the log must contain a trace of the 1 in. map, covering the journey, which has to be pasted at the end of the book so as to open clear of the text. The idea is hard to fault, except that the combined effort needed to find a piece of tracing paper, make a legible trace, and stick it in the right way up seems quite past the majority of boys.

The suggested alternative, which is simpler, easier to draw and read, and useful practice for other occasions, is the diagram made familiar to us by the travel agencies. Something on these lines should appear on the first page of the log, and if a similar sketch, on a larger scale, was drawn on the left hand page, facing the topographical note on each stage, the reader would be able to follow the journey very easily. If the boy has been set a task not directly related to the journey, say the reconnaissance of a camp site, there is much to be said for putting it separately at the end of the text, so that the main body of the log is left free for the boy to air his fancy in a reasonably coherent account of his adventures. He is encouraged to think clearly, and to make deductions from what he sees.

In conclusion, one admits that some boys do turn out very good logs, just as some boys write amusing letters; but the remaining impression after some years of log reading is that far too many are weighed down by the effort of trying to remember all the rules they have been told must be remembered.

My suggestions are offered as a plea for a wider appreciation of the purpose behind the journey and the log that accompanies it, and as an attempt to strike off some of the shackles that cripple the young log writer.



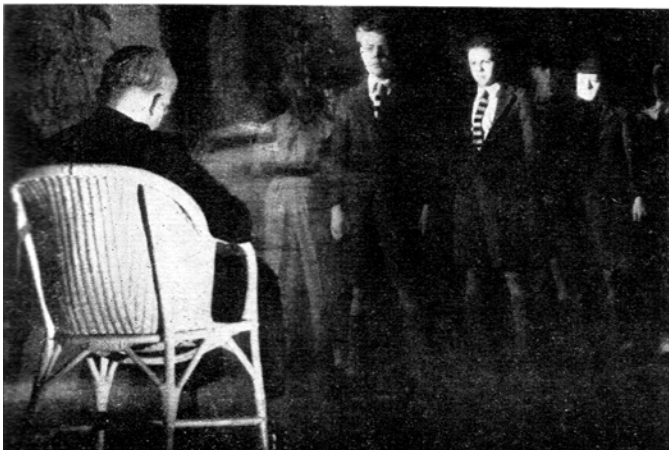
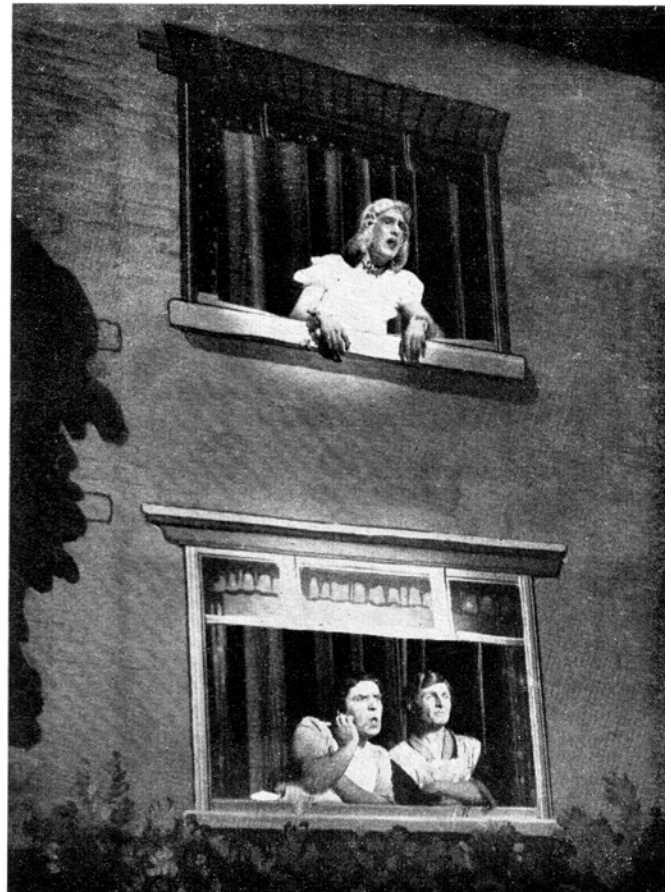


## GANG SHOW, 1955

*On the opposite page: "Christmas Carol" and "Me-i-o."*

*Above: "Fifty Years Ago," "Quartet," "Mount Vale Wanderers"  
and "Over the Sea. . ."*

*Below: "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" and "Neighbours"*



## NEWS FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

FOUR years ago it was my privilege to include in this column the announcement by the Director of the International Bureau that 1957 being the Centenary and Jubilee Year, the main celebration would be a combined World Scout Jamboree and Rover Moot - the World Indaba was added later. At that time, 1957 sounded a long way off, but now we are talking about *next year*. There is much to be done during the next twelve months if our celebrations are to be worthy of the occasion; that they will be worthy, I have no doubt.

One important task for every Scouter is to do all we can to ensure that those we are privileged to lead really know something of *the adventurous life and achievements of the Founder*, to quote *P.O.R. 245*. February 22nd is only a month away and that might be a good date to begin a regular fortnightly or monthly yam about B.-P. There are many exciting stories in his long and varied career, so there is no dearth of material. It is worth remembering, too, that last year a book entitled *The Founder* was included in the Patrol Series. It can be obtained from the Scout Shop price 1s., plus 2d. postage, and I would like to think that every Patrol had its own copy. Benevolently minded Group Committees might consider presenting their Patrols with copies on the anniversary of B.-P.'s birth next month.

Our celebrations next year will be so much more real to our *Scouts* if they are well informed about the man who gave us Scouting and whose centenary we will be observing.

SOME time ago, I mentioned that we had received a letter from a part of the Commonwealth asking if Commissioners and Scouters could be reminded that members of the Movement in the United Kingdom who propose either to visit or to settle in another part of the world should obtain a letter of introduction from I.H.Q. so that they may be welcomed properly when they arrive. It was a great pleasure to have a letter from Western Australia reporting that three recent arrivals from this country had been linked up and were happily settled in Groups in their new surroundings. Once again, this confirms the value of Commissioners letting the Overseas Commissioner at I.H.Q. know of departures for other parts of the Commonwealth and Empire, or the International Commissioner in respect of any *Scouts* or Scouters going to foreign countries. The appropriate letter of introduction will be issued to the traveller without delay and, in the case of the Commonwealth, the headquarters of the country concerned will be notified at the same time.

FROM time to time there are references to and portrayals of Scouts in radio and television programmes. In some instances the references are serious, but generally they are of a humorous nature. Sad to relate, if something funny or allegedly funny occurs in a sound or television programme we invariably get a few letters and telephone calls demanding that something should be done to stop this disgraceful behaviour. You do not need my assurance that if the Movement was insulted in this way, it would be taken up with the culprits at once, but I cannot remember hearing of anything which could be called offensive. I think those who demand action have, perhaps, misunderstood what was no more than good natured fun. The time when we should really begin to worry about these things is when the comedians and the cartoonists do not think we are worth making a joke about. Thank goodness we are not likely to have that worry!

While on the subject of radio and television, I want to remind you of *P.O.R. 53* which states that no member of the Association may be concerned in any sound or television broadcast referring, or relating, to the Scout Movement without the previous approval of I.H.Q. Generally, when Scout help is needed the first approach is made to I.H.Q. but, from time to time, an invitation may be extended direct to a Group or District. In any such case, it must be referred to the Publicity Secretary at I.H.Q. at once and certainly before any commitment is entered into.

A. W. HURLL,  
Chief Executive Commissioner.

## THE GILWELL LETTER

OVER the years Gilwell has owed a great deal to the countless volunteers who have come and laboured on the estate, to Gilwell's profit and, I believe, to their own pleasure. In recent years organised working parties have been well supported, and tremendous fun they have proved to be.

One or two Districts have of their own volition and with my full support organised such working parties. This is just to say that any District within striking distance of Gilwell which would like to see its manpower engaged in healthy physical labour will be most welcome. I have little doubt that camp sites all over the country, whether or not they are I.H.Q. owned, would equally enjoy the experience of a "Working Bee" descending upon them.

I HAVE just been trying to assess the figures in relation to the Training of Scouters as they affect Great Britain, and I find them so interesting that I think they are worth a wider audience.

It is just ten years since organised Preliminary Training was introduced and since then, in Great Britain alone, 2,400 Courses have been run and 40,000 Scouters have taken Preliminary Training. In the same period no fewer than 17,000 Scouters have taken Part 2 of the Wood Badge. In the last six months we have had at Gilwell the record number of 838 Scouters on Wood Badge Courses and an additional 1,095 received Wood Badge training in the counties. Alongside this, we have had at Gilwell in these ten years 260,000 campers: what a mercy they did not all come at the same time!

Encouraging as the training figures are, they show that only 4 per cent of our Scouters attended Wood Badge Courses in the past year.

I am happy to know that a number of counties and, through them, a great many Districts, are increasingly ready to accept their obligations in regard to training. They can do this, first and foremost, by making sure that the training team is adequately supported, both financially and in every other way, and Districts can do their share by seeing that at least one Cubmaster and one Scoutmaster takes Wood Badge Training in each year. But what a very low target is this number. The County of London has been challenged by their County Commissioner to produce three Scouters per District for Wood Badge Courses in 1956. Others please copy or do better.

Three Scouters per District would mean about 3,500 were being trained: I would not be content or satisfied with that, but I would be pleased about it. Anyway, D.C.s, think about it and act upon it, and all of you, see if you can embarrass me by producing so many applicants that we are hard put to it to cope with them all!

I AM often asked what I do in the winter, and the short answer is that I try to catch up with the things I don't have the time to do during the rest of the year. To show you the variety of life at Gilwell I give you a few extracts from my diary for one day, ignoring all the routine things which would not, to you, make very interesting reading: -

1. Call from a neighbour asking for a sack of chicken manure, which, he says, is the only known cure for a certain disease. (I don't know him well enough to inquire whether personal or horticultural!)
2. The local builder calls for a cheque, which fortunately is ready for him. He leaves me a pot of honey, which I don't eat.
3. The postman asks if he can collect lug worms from the estate at night to help with his angling efforts.
4. A Commissioner from Durham pays his first visit to Gilwell in twenty-five years and I sign him up for a course.
5. The Committee of the Cricket Club which plays on the Gilwellbury ground call to report progress. They quote the astonishing number of balls they have lost owing to the number of sixes scored by opposing teams. They see a fixture with the Gilwell staff and infer that they do not expect so many sixes. (They could be right!)

JOHN THURMAN,  
Camp Chief



# LUCK OF THE MONTH

By THE EDITOR

**November 10th.** - From Carrington's *Rudyard Kipling* (on *Stalky and Co.*): "In Kipling's story, the violence and the heartless cruelty which, as everyone knows, occur wherever boys are gathered together, are paraded with boyish gusto."

**November 14th.** - Pleasant occasion recently in Hatfield (Herts.) when the Marquis of Salisbury on behalf of the Local Association presented Bill Day with a cheque on his retirement for health reasons to Guernsey. Bill started Scouting in Hatfield 34 years ago.

**November 16th.** - Interesting to see queueing-up and lunching in I.H.Q. restaurant today: two M.P.s and Dr. G. F. Morton (whose pioneer book *Hike and Trek* many older Scouters will remember with affection).

**November 18th.** - An experienced G.S.M. (forty years in Scouting, retired bank manager) had done a good turn to the Pack by taking one of the Seconds home after a Sunday afternoon out with Akela. It was some way and darkness had fallen. When at length they arrived at the Cub's home, the Cub found the key ("round the back"), and entered his home to find a note from Mummy saying "All gone to church. Help yourself to what you want." Seeing all was well the G.S.M. prepared to go. "Are you sure you wouldn't like some tea?" asked the Cub. No, the G.S.M. wouldn't, thank you. "Oh well," said the Cub, "are you sure you can find the way back - or should I come with you? And - have you any money on you?"

**November 22nd.** - Without comment: from today's *Manchester Guardian*: "Earlier the two Soviet leaders [Krushchev and Bulganin] attended a rally of 5,000 Boy Scouts and Girl Guides at which they watched displays of dancing and acrobatics, had traditional caste marks dabbed on their foreheads, and were enrolled as honorary members of the Bharat Troop."

**November 23rd.** - Light on the 8th Scout Law: "When my Mum tells me orf I whistle - and she ain't half mad."

**November 25th.** - 2nd Birkenhead Pack again. On being asked what B.-P. was doing before he started Scouting the new chum suggested "His National Service." (By the way, wouldn't it be nice if every Akela sent me in her-or his - favourite Cub story so that I could use some next year - Cubbing's fortieth birthday. A How about it?)

**November 26th.** - From *The Yorkshire Post* of today:- Willie, a newly recruited Cub, reported to his mother that the Cubmaster had told them that all good Cubs did what their mothers told them to do without question. What did the Cub-master mean.? Mother seized the chance to make his meaning absolutely clear. Willie's six-year-old brother, David, was standing by. Asked what he thought about it, he answered: "I'm not joining."

**November 27th.** - In the Navy of the first Queen Elizabeth there was a ship named *Scout*, painted green and white, the Queen's own colours.

**November 28th.** - First night of another London Gang Show: a vintage year, with the mood mellow, and the stage pictures gay and lovely. Ralph has waited 23 years to give us the best ever first act finale - in dark blue and claret and gold. And he has carried on the post-war tradition of putting the most charming of the year's numbers to begin Act II: a choir of fathers and a choir of boys stand side by side and line by alternate line sing with simple sincerity of their faith in each other:

May he grow up good and wise  
May he remember all his days  
Where the path of beauty lies  
Is through the Godly ways.



LUCK OF THE MONTH: SNOWDROPS

"Mr. Chips" makes a welcome and eminently successful return.

A Christmas Carol has a snow-clad winter-village setting that is a joy (but the actors this time I thought didn't quite live up to the setting). The small boys are at their most appealing as some of the first Scouts in *Nearly Fifty Years Ago* - even if Ralph wrote it with rose coloured spectacles on! (He should read the *Headquarters Gazette* from 1909 to 1914 if he thinks there was no leakage problem!) and the other verses were equally amusing and equally bore little relation to facts! There is an odd, haunting tune "Me-i-o" - something quite new for Ralph; there is nice fooling in "The Desert Rose Marie" and inspired lunacy in "Quartet"; there is a fine song in what one might call the nonconformist tradition in "Happy Ending"; in "Over the Sea to Skye," the youngsters again take over lightheartedly in charming kilts and Scottish accents which you could cut with a dirk.

There is (one sees with satisfaction) less female impersonation: - Ralph seems to be experimenting more and more with numbers where boys can be boys and men, men. If we miss this year a purely Scouting sketch, and sigh for the incomparable Dinky on his own, perhaps we shall be satisfied on these counts next year. For the fact remains that though we treasure this or that great moment from past Gang Shows, this year's Gang Show is as good as the best of the past. The colours glow, the hearts are happy, and as the greying middle-aged man walks down to the footlights with the memories of 23 years beside him, as they must be, to make the customary gestures and say the expected words, all we can do is once more to say thank you for the joy this talented Scout has given to us so generously.

**November 30th.** - *Times* certainly change in one way: the programme of the 152nd North London Show *Scouting On* mentions that their first "Concert and Display," 45 years earlier "had included a bugle trio and a duet 'Sing me to Sleep' by the Scouts Hudsons." Those were the days, Ralph?

**December 1st.** - John Sturrock tells me that New South Wales and Queensland have to all intents and purposes banned what we call the hand axe (and they the Tomahawk) from Scout tests as being too dangerous: they use a light felling axe instead. How about it?

REX HAZLEWOOD

# WOLF CUBS 1916-1956

## GREETINGS FROM

### *Barbados*

In this Fortieth Anniversary Year I send greetings and best wishes to Cubs everywhere on behalf of the Cubs and their Akelas here in Barbados.

**H. WALCOTT,**

*Acting Assistant Island Commissioner for Cubs.*

### *Cuba*

"Akela of Cuba" and all the Wolf Cubs of this country, send to their brother Wolf Cubs of Great Britain their best greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of Cubbing. They wish them continued success in the coming years and in the words of the Cuban Cubs' motto - "SIEMPRE MEJOR" (always for the better).

**MRS. MAUD DE CORONA,**

*National Commissioner for Wolf Cubs.*

### *Denmark*

Cabmasters and Cubs of Det Danske Spejderkorps extend their warmest greetings and congratulations to the British Boy Scouts Association on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Cub Movement.

In Denmark all the Cubs and their leaders assemble on the Council Rock and unite in a roaring Grand Howl, wishing their brothers in the jungle on the other side of the North Sea good hunting and promising to do their best to increase the number of tribes and to improve their skill on their own hunting grounds.

**INGER HOLM,**

*Wolf Cub Commissioner.*

### *Holland*

During forty years British Cubs and Cubmasters have given the world the best example of Cubbing and shown us the worth, the happiness, the fun and the joy of B.-P.'s game for the junior branch of Scouting!



*Our warm congratulations and thank you for the inspiration and friendship you gave us.*

*On behalf of the Wolf Cubs and Old Wolves of The Netherlands.*

**NEL LIND,**

*Akela Leader*

### *Hong Kong*

The Cubs of Hong Kong send greetings to their brother Cubs all over the world on the 40th birthday of Cubbing.

In Hong Kong birthdays are always an occasion for great celebrations and rejoicing, and on this very special Anniversary we in Hong Kong would like to send the traditional Chinese good wish - "Kung hay fat choi!" which means "Congratulations on your prosperity!" as well as "Good Hunting."

**J. A. HUDSON,**

*Organising Commissioner.*

### *India*

On behalf of the Cubs in the homeland of Mowgli I send you greetings and best wishes on the occasion of your Fortieth Anniversary. We are lucky to have untold opportunities to meet reAZ Akela, Baloo, Bagheera and all other jungle animals almost even aav.

May the joy of jungk life you have had for forty v ears con:inue for ever!

**HAR DIAL SINGH,**

*Camp Chief.*

### *Federation of Malaya*

We thank God for the Fortieth Anniversa'v of the official start of the Cub section; 13,000 Wolf Cubs from Malaya wishing their brothers all over the world Good Hunting!

**ZAINAL AHIDIN BIN ALI,**

*Akalea Leader.*

### *New Zealand*

As one of the veterans in Scouting and on behalf of the Cubs in New Zealand who now number 11,700, I would like to send greetings and good wishes to Cubs across the sea and particularly to England where Cubbing first started. May the next forty years be as good as the last. Good Hunting and Kia Ora.

**NANCY WILSON,**

*Hon. Akela Leader.*

### *Scotland*

Forty years! Every one of them filled with that unforgettable, unforgotten personality of our Founder, that "Friend-making, everywhere friend-finding soul. Fit for the sunshine so it followed him."

We have shared, are sharing and will continue to share in that sunshine if we keep to the trail blazed out for us. Our Robert Burns once wrote "Wha does the utmost that he can, will whiles dae mair." We might start out on the next forty years' pathway with the slogan - We'll D.O.B. +. What Good Hunting that would give us!

**RAKSHA**

*(Mrs. Dodds)*

### *South Africa*

The 11,000 Cubs and 700 Pack Scouters of South Africa salute you. We join with you in thanking God for the genius of our Founder wha provided us with a scheme to fill our leisure hours so uiefully and happily.

We send best wishes for many years of steady progress and wish good hunting to all our brother Cubs and fellow Scouters in the United Kingdom and the rest of the world.

**E.P. FOWLE,**

*Chief Scout.*

*United States of America*



“For the one will do what the other requires as soon as the need is shown; And hand in hand they can make a stand which neither could make alone!”

**Rudyard Kipling:** *Together.*

TIME and again these lines of Kipling’s have come to mind since I have been associated with Scouting. Their author certainly never intended that these words would offer a real Thite” to a Scouter, but it seems that they do.

Akela may plan, on paper, a wonderful programme. Let him, alone, attempt to carry out that programme, and you know the result as well as I do. How else may Baloo and Bagheera and the other Assistants be truly assistants to the Cubmaster, than by sharing in the Pack’s programme? There are so many jobs to do, planning and carrying out a Pack programme, that the Assistants and the Cubmaster must work closely together for the success of the Pack. The Cubs hear the Jungle Stories of how Mowgli received training from Bagheera, Baloo, Kaa and all the others. It is only natural that the Cubs look forward to being helped by the Pack’s Assistants. Did you ever visit a Pack where you perhaps thought that you might be called upon to lead in a game, or tell a yarn, or help with the instruction? The evening went on, and no one asked for your help or advice. You just sat there, a spectator rather than a participant.

Didn’t you go home feeling that you had wasted all the effort it took to be there on time, in full uniform, especially when you had given up another important engagement? Your Assistants surely feel just the same, if you do not use them as Assistants, but let them share in the programme by “turning on” the moon, or opening and closing windows.

You say this seems very unlikely?

Are you using your Assistants so that they are receiving training for the time when the Pack’s continuity will depend on one of them leading the Pack in your stead?

Parents, too, “will do what the other requires” if given the opportunity. The Akela who knows the parents of his Cubs well, knows that transportation will be offered gladly when plans are being made for a Pack outing or Pack holiday. Busy mothers, if asked well in advance, will always help with costumes, or the making of signalling flags, or will bake cookies, or save bottles and waste paper. After all, the Cubs first of all belong to their parents, and the parents appreciate all that the Pack leaders are doing for the Cubs. Just give your Cubs’ parents the opportunity to help you, and you will be amazed at the help and co-operation you and your Assistants will receive. -

“As soon as the need is shown” to the butcher, the baker, the candlestick-maker, you will find your Pack helped in many unexpected ways. How many Cubs have visited the local newspaper’s printing plant? Or the local bakers, or the brush factory? Getting to know all kinds of people, and telling them about Scouting in general, and Cubbing in particular, is good “public relations” with our neighbours. Then, when you find there are five Pack meeting nights next month, you are able to approach some of these friends, and perhaps arrange a Special Pack Meeting. Or perhaps you would like to use some shop window, to display the Pack’s handicrafts, or to put on a demonstration. Your friendly grocer, who knows all about Cubs by this time, willingly offers his shop window. He has even been known to provide the odd apple or chocolate bar to the Cubs putting on the demonstration! He will be willing to show posters in his shop window, too, when the parents are having a sale of work, or other money-raising scheme for the Pack and Troop in their Group. The local Fire Station will co-operate with the leaders, and arrange that the Pack may visit the Station, where the Cubs will remember more about fire prevention than all the written books they could be offered. I will never forget the pleasure and excitement of the Cubs in my own Pack, when they were allowed to climb all over the fire engines, and inspect the whole Station, and even try on the firemen’s big boots! It is quite safe to say that no little boy in the Pack ever so much as thought of ringing a false alarm at the corner fire box after that visit.

Professional folks, too, may become real assistants to the Pack leaders. A nurse, in full uniform, carrying a very businesslike satchel, may secure better results than you had ever dreamed possible, in helping the First Aider Badge instruction. When a few fortunate Cubs are allowed to participate in “extras,” such as cutting bandages with real surgical scissors, or learning how to take temperatures with a real thermometer, who knows? - some future doctor may owe his success to the interest and inspiration that he received as a Cub, working for his First Aider Badge.

To go back to the parents again. The parent of one of our Cubs (never, never, refer to Bobby’s dad as “the father of one of my boys!”) was one time asked to accompany our Cubs to Camp, since one of our Assistants was unable to attend. He agreed, not too enthusiastically, mind you, but he went along. By the end of the camping period, that father was “sold” on Scouting. To shorten this yarn, he was very soon a Scouter, and at present is a valued member of the Training Team. In receiving help, we may often help the Scout Movement tremendously.

Let’s try to help other Packs sometimes. We have three capable and wonderful Assistants. Let’s, when we know that the Pack a few blocks away is suffering from lack of leaders, offer to drop in once in a while, and help. Together, we may be able to inspire the necessary help for that Pack, from parents or friends to whom we speak of the Pack’s needs.

Scouting is a wonderful adventure and experience. it is a grand “hobby,” if you want to call it that. Don’t try to keep it all to yourself. Remember the prophet Nehemiah. He secured the help of the most unlikely people to build a wall, and the wall was well and strongly builded.

**M. JEAN HOWE,**

*C.M., Knox-crescent and Kensington Pack, Montreal, Canada.*

### Meet Michael (1)



"We be of one blood, ye and I"

## SPECIAL PACK MEETINGS

### IX - A DAY WITH AN A.A. PATROL

*Dressing up - in the clothes as near to those the drivers and passengers wore in 1905.*

*Remember that the Cubs are either drivers or A.A. Patrols throughout the time of the meeting although for easier explanation they are referred to as Cubs and Sixes in the explanation of the games.*

1. A free breakdown service is available to all members.

#### BREAKDOWN SER VICE RELAY

Gear: Nil.

Sixes in line facing Sixer who is about six yards in front of his Six. He is the breakdown vehicle and the Cubs the vehicles who have broken down. In turn he goes out to "tow" (done by broken down vehicle holding on to waist of Sixer and running behind him) the vehicles into the garage - space behind where he is standing. On word "go" Sixer runs, first Cub holds on to his waist and is towed into the garage, and left there (parked). Sixer runs again and this action is repeated until all Cubs have been towed in and are neatly parked, one behind the other with breakdown vehicle in front. First to finish wins the point.

2. Road patrols are skilled motor engineers and also can give varied information of their area.

#### ROAD PATROLS' ASSISTANCE

Gear: Piece of paper and pencil per Six. List of car tools for Akela - enough for one for each Cub.

Sixes form own little groups round piece of paper - all groups should be equi-distant from Akela. On word "go" Sixers run to Akela who tells them the first tool and they must go back to the Six Group and draw it without any words spoken and the other Cubs must try to recognise it. As soon as it is recognised correctly, Cub No. 2 runs to Akela who tells him next tool, he returns to Six and when guessed No. 3 Cub goes. This is continued until each Cub has been to Akela and back to his Group and drawn tools in turn, and when all Cubs have done so, Sixer goes up and tells Akela the last tool that was drawn and the first Six to complete the list wins the point, such Six standing in line, alert, their repair being completed.

3. Patrols usually go on duty at 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. (or lighting-up time if it is earlier) and on Sundays from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m.

#### HOURS OF DUTY ROUNDERS

Gear: Rope, signalling flags, paper, red and blue pencils, dry biscuit, ball, skipping rope, balancing block, for each Six.

Mark out a small "rounders" course. Sixes in file, facing one side of the course.

One hour of duty is one rounder of the course, but before starting on the "hour" the Cubs perform the following in turn, and the Six finishing their rounder, after each "test," first scores a point.

Equipment to be laid at the side of the Sixer, to avoid being in front of the Cubs as they run off.

**9 a.m.** The Patrol starts duty. First Cub hops nine hops forward, turns and hops nine times back, then runs rounder and goes straight to back of Six, who by now will have moved one pace forward.

**10 a.m.** Skip ten skips backward, then run rounder as No. 1, etc.

**11 a.m.** Walk eleven paces forward balancing block on head, remove block, run back and put block down then off on rounder.

**12 noon.** Signal the first twelve letters of the alphabet, A-L, i.e. including J. Run rounder.

**1 p.m.** Dinnertime. Eat a dry biscuit and then run rounder.

**2 p.m.** Back to work. Recite both verses of the National Anthem.

**3 p.m.** Draw the three flags of the United Kingdom.

**4 p.m.** Tie four ropes together (three sheet-bends).

**5 p.m.** Throw and catch a ball five times with Cub at end of Six.

**6 p.m.** Name the six emblems of the three countries of the U.K.

**7 p.m.** Time to go off duty - so run off immediately.

Finish in Sixes facing as they started. Count up points per

Six for first one home after each test and rounder.

4. Patrols are useful with their hands.

#### HAND WORK

Gear: Templet of the A.A. badge per Six, pencils, scissors, thin cardboard, crayons, string, gum.

Halt of each Six make an A.A. badge consisting of badge cut from templet first traced to cardboard, with similar shape attached to back with gum but coloured yellow. Remainder of each Six to make a pair of goggles drawing them freehand or using a pair of old spectacle frames for pattern. Attach a piece of string to each to tie on later.

5. A.A. will send you a recommended route for an~ journey you require.

#### ROUTE PLOTTING RELAY

Gear: A map in outline only with several towns on a route marked with dots, and a few towns off the route marked with smaller dots - one for each Six, and pencil per Six. North marked. Map complete with towns of route only marked and named, other towns as small dots - for Akela; with North marked.

With apologies to the B.B.C.—I



"Twenty Questions"

Sixes are allowed to study the complete map for a minute, remembering the names and positions of the named towns. They return to their Sixes and stand in line behind their blank map. Akela calls out two adjacent towns and the first Cub joins them together by a line, from what he can remember of complete map. Then another two towns are called out and next Cub joins them together. Then Akela tells the next Cub to join a certain town with the nearest town off the route, telling him a certain compass direction, the direction of this off-the-route town. These instructions are continued until all the route is joined up from town to town and various "roads" are marked joining towns on the route with others in definite compass directions from them. Towns should not be connected in order of journey, but dodged about, thus making another form of Kim's game.

6. Patrols, among their other duties, have to be able to deal with accidents and make accurate reports.

#### ACCIDENT REPORT

Gear: Message for each Six (the same) printed out and then cut up into pieces with one word per piece of paper.

Cubs stand in line, with pieces of message or report in a pile in front a few yards away. On word "go" first Cub runs, picks up one word and returns to Six, when No. 2 runs and this is repeated through Six until all have been collected, when Six retires to Six corner and arranges words to form message. First message properly completed wins the point for the Six.

7. A.A. Scouts patrol most of the important roads in the country and are on the look-out for members in need of help. When they pass a member on the road the A.A. Scouts give him a salute.

#### PATROL OF THE ROADS

Gear: Goggles and A.A. badges made earlier, three beans per A.A. Scout (those with goggles) the others being members wearing A.A. badges.

Cubs in two large circles one inside the other. They start to move - drive round in opposite directions, and should they be passed by an A.A. Scout in the other circle who forgets to salute, A.A. Scout has to give up a bean to motorist. Duration about one minute and the A.A. Scout with the most beans left is winner.

8. The A.A. patrol goes off duty so reports by phone to the nearest H.Q.

#### REPORTING OFF DUTY

Gear: Nil - but chair facing each Six at opposite end of den.

Sixes in line at end of den, numbered 1 to 6. Akela calls out the telephone number of H.Q. where A.A. Scout is to report and corresponding numbers in the numbered Cubs have to run up and round the chair back to place. Should their number appear twice then they must run up and back twice.

A. M. SPOONER,  
Asst. Akela Leader, London.

## FOR AKELA'S NOTEBOOK

### 39. Paper Cuttings

The fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen are known the world over, and many know his remarkable life, from his childhood in Odense to his last years in Copenhagen. The story of his life is told by letters, manuscripts and pictures at H. C. Andersen's house in Odense. His drawings and paper clippings tell us about such sides of his artistic mind as are not commonly known.

The museum possesses many of these paper clippings and they give a delightful splash of colour to an out-of-the-way and rather dark corner.

#### Coloured Papers

He was very nimble of finger and the examples reproduced here are of the more simple designs. Andersen used blue, red, orange, yellow, gold, green and other coloured papers. After his design had been cut out he mounted it on white or black paper.

In other examples he used white or black paper for the design, mounted on a coloured background, and in others he used two contrasting coloured papers.

Many simple and yet effective designs can be achieved by the method illustrated.

#### Ideas

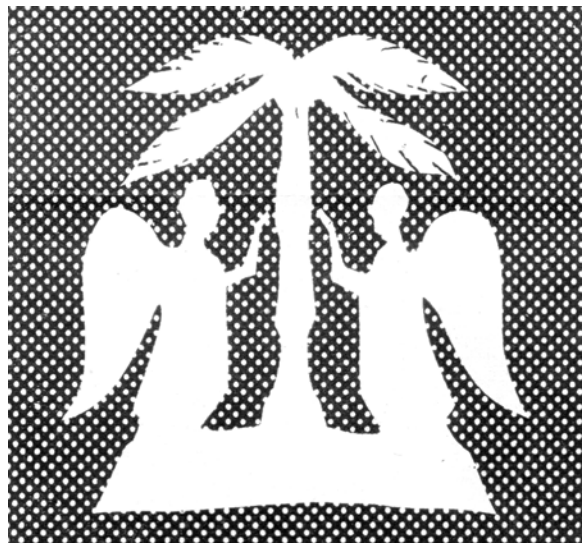
The two examples of Unit Design illustrated here (with acknowledgments to H. C. Andersen's House, Odense) would be suitable for lampshade decorations when cut out of thin coloured felt material. Use a fairly strong liquid glue. The shapes should be clipped from thin cartridge paper. This would provide a strong pattern or templet from which to work.

The repeat pattern design can also be used as a border round the foot of the lampshade.

Designs similar to those illustrated would make ideal pictures for calendars if worked in gay-coloured and metallic papers.

Paper clipping would perhaps encourage some boys to work for the Artist Badge. It is interesting to tell them that several commercial artists of the present day use sheets of coloured paper and coloured cellophane in their design work - often with amazing result.

HAROLD JACKSON,  
C.M., 93rd Glasgow.





J.  
J. I. M.  
M.



Almost everywhere one sees at this time of the year injunctions to make New Year Resolutions - to determine to improve something or to achieve something else. Somehow New Year Resolutions have never really rung true as far as I am concerned because nobody really expects to keep them after the end of January, and if they do they regard it as sufficiently surprising that they tell everyone what wonderful people they themselves are! I am not therefore going to implore you to make some New Year Resolutions about preparations for the Jamboree, but I am going to remind you of one vital fact and leave you to work out what it means to you - the Jubilee Jamboree is going to be held NEXT YEAR!

The replies to the questionnaire that I put in the November Scomm and also *The Scout* at the end of that month brought forth a most interesting collection of information, and I do want to thank everyone who took the trouble to send in a postcard, for their help. It would take too much space to reproduce all the statistics that we have correlated from them, but it may amuse you to think about the implications of some of your answers. For instance, several of you suggested as many as five excursions of varying length for everyone. If you consider the days on which such things can take place you will discover that on only six separate days is it possible to send parties out of camp in any great numbers - this means that most of the 35,000 participants would be out of camp each time. You imagine arranging transport for that number; it would take seventy average sized trains or nearly 1,100 coaches! Incidentally, if we offer only two excursions which is much more feasible it will necessitate sending out nearly 12,000 people each day.

I have had a wonderful number of very kind offers of help from individuals, Troops, Crews and even Districts, and this is most encouraging. I do want all of you to appreciate how grateful all of us on the Jamboree staff are for your readiness to help, but we are most concerned that you are satisfied that your services are not required by your Districts and Counties during 1957 for which you may need some of your holidays. To ensure that your District and County is aware of your offer you will all be receiving a form to fill up which requires your Commissioner's signature.

Similarly in regard to hospitality, the response has been very heartening. Again I would remind you that the arrangements for this will be made on County and District level in due course. I am very glad so many of you are planning to entertain your brothers from overseas, but I would warn you of two things. Firstly, it is not going to be possible to satisfy everyone and some areas may well have far more opportunities for offering accommodation than others. We must study the requirements of visiting contingents and cannot very well say "Sorry, you cannot go to X because the people of Y want you to stay with them!" Secondly, some Groups and even Districts are already planning to entertain in their town "representative" gatherings of Scouts - two or three from one country, half a dozen from another and so on. This is an attractive idea, but when one considers selecting one or two boys of any particular nationality out of 25,000 one realises that this is pretty well an impossibility.

An idea which may commend itself to some Districts and Groups is that of inviting some of the Groups who are not part of their National Contingent in the nearer continental countries to spend their summer camp in Great Britain in 1957, and it would be a nice gesture, quite apart from being a worth-while experience, for United Kingdom Groups who are proposing to camp near Sutton Park, to offer to share their summer camp with them.

Anyone who is thinking of asking Scouts from overseas to join them for summer camp that year, should get into touch with the International Department at I.H.Q. who will be only too delighted to give assistance.

I am very pleased to learn that a goodly number of Troops throughout the country are already inquiring about suitable camp sites in the Sutton Coldfield area for August 1957. As a result of this demand, and to ensure that the best possible arrangements are made, we are setting up a small Committee, consisting of Commissioners of the Midland counties, to arrange for suitable camp sites in and around the area, and to help Troops and Districts seeking sites to obtain the kind of facilities they need. Several problems arise from this, the main one being that as the purpose of the camps is obviously to visit the Jamboree, and that may mean long periods when the whole Troop will be out of camp, the provision of some supervision for the camp site will be a necessity. Consequently, camp sites which will accommodate several Troops, and which will have a small staff to look after them, will be much more desirable from the individual Troop's point of view than an open field on some farm.

As soon as possible we will announce the name of the person to whom inquiries should be made direct to the Midlands for camp site accommodation; in the meantime letters addressed to me will be forwarded and dealt with as speedily as possible. At the same time as being encouraged by the fact that hundreds of Troops are planning their summer camps in the Midlands for 1957, I do hope no one will be so greedy that their stay in the Midlands will preclude other Troops from having the opportunity. Inevitably, the amount of campable land within striking

distance of the Jamboree is limited, and if every Troop plans merely to spend a week in the area, then double the number of Troops will be able to camp there during the fortnight.

Some of you may think it is exceptionally early to be making plans for ordinary Troop camps, but quite apart from the problem of accommodation, we are going to find that transport facilities, as well as feeding arrangements, will be more than usually difficult to provide, as the Jamboree itself will be demanding a great deal, and the whole of the Midlands area will be on holiday, and therefore using the existing coach services, etc., to the full. It is not by any means too early for Group Councils and District Scouters to consider this question.

Most of you will have read in the national Press that last November the Chief Scout was received by Sir Anthony Eden the Prime Minister. It was most encouraging to all of us at I.H.Q. that the Government were so ready to support the Jamboree, and within two or three weeks of the meeting the Government Departments and Ministries had appointed their Liaison Officers so that close contact could be established immediately. It is a humbling thought to realise how great a regard the Government have for Scouting and what a responsibility the privilege of enjoying this respect bestows upon us.

A further piece of information which has long been awaited is the details of the size of the United Kingdom contingent to J.I.M. It will be remembered that for many years it has been the practice for host countries to make their contingent no larger than the largest visiting contingent, but this has been regarded as an unsatisfactory arrangement, and the International Bureau have now agreed that we may have a representation of 25 per cent of the total at the gathering in 1957. This means that the United Kingdom will be sending 6,250 Scouts to the Jamboree, 1,250 Rovers to the Rover Moot, and 1,250 Scouters to the Indaba. Those of us with long memories will recall that the United Kingdom contingent to France in 1947 was just over 6,000 and consequently the representation from any one District to the Jamboree at any rate, will in 1957 be about the same as it was nine years ago when we went to Moisson.

KEN STEVENS, Organising Commissioner.



## S.—B.—D.!

By DOROTHY BOOTH

“YES!” said the G.S.M., as we watched a hefty Senior Scout carefully adjusting the steering on his Soap Box car, aided by much good advice from a bunch of his fellow Seniors. “Haydn Dimmock certainly had something when he thought of the Soap Box Derby. Building this car has done more to keep my Senior Troop together than any programme I have ever up”

“My fellows have certainly learned something,” chimed in an S.M. “They’ve built and rebuilt and tried out ideas which didn’t work, and then started all over again. It’s certainly shown them what patience and ingenuity can achieve in the end.”

And they’ve got a good car,” put in one of Vauxhall Motors’ leading technicians. “Franldy, I’ve been amazed at some of the ideas I’ve seen. There is one car here with independent front wheel suspension and front wheel drive. And another Troop has a large diameter alloy tube for the backbone of their chassis. These lads have certainly used their ingenuity...”

When Haydn Dimmock decided to introduce a Soap Box Derby sponsored by The Scout, into this country he decided that the American idea - a streamlined shell running down a sleep ramp - was not what our boys would want. He felt that Scouts would appreciate a real test of skill in driving, of ingenuity in design, construction and means of propulsion. The car he wanted to see was to be pedal-driven from a standing start on a flat course.

Most important of all, it was to be the unaided work of the boys themselves, and the limit of cost was to be strictly adhered to.

His idea, first tried out in 1939, was an overwhelming success and when, in 1950, the Soap Box Derby was revived, the postwar Scouts proved themselves no less lacking in ingenuity and initiative than their older brothers of pre-war days.

Their cars may be a little more streamlined, but the same amount of head-scratching and trial and error has gone into the building of them each succeeding year. And, in the building, many Scouts have learned the love of working with tools and the pride of craftsmanship, as well as finding the thrill of proving that they have built a “winner” in the end.

And they entered into it without thought of possible reward! Indeed, in 1950, when the first post-war Derby was announced we were well on the way to the Semi-Finals, cars were entered and built and no word had been said of prizes.

How and where were any to be obtained? Dim said to me: “These boys are really splendid. Where else would you find fellows going in for a contest without knowing what reward it might bring them?”

It was then we were fortunate enough to secure the backing of Vauxhall Motors Ltd. Their generosity provided trophies and money prizes for the winners, and has done so each year since. In 1955 their awards took the form of Scouting equipment - and several Groups are now proud possessors of handsome tents, a welcome addition to camping gear.

Scouting owes much to Vauxhall Motors for their active co-sponsorship of the Soap Box Derby. And yet another great debt to the many Vauxhall-Bedford dealers up and down the country who have given their time, so willingly, to advising Scout builders, made available their workshops and tools, and have provided much-needed transport to Semi-Finals and Finals.

Now plans are going ahead for the 1956 Soap Box Derby. Perhaps there are some budding mechanics and technicians in your Group who could build a car which will smash the existing speed record of 25.5 m.p.h.?

Perhaps, if you have seen a Soap Box Derby, you feel they couldn’t hope to compete with some of the more experienced Groups. We have thought of that, too. This year, as last, there is a special Section for beginners. If your Group has never entered before, or has entered but never got a car on the line, or if you have tried but never achieved even a heat win, then you can enter in the Novice Section.

The Championship Section is open to Groups which have earned a place to the Finals in any or all of the last three years.

What does your Court of Honour feel about “having a go” this year?

Your Scouts will learn a lot during the building of the car and will have the fun and thrill of racing it in competition with other Groups.

Already we know of two Senior Scouts who, as a result of their efforts in the Soap Box Derby, are now serving their apprenticeship in big motor works.

Perhaps in your Group there is a future Stirling Moss? Or the designer of a world-beating racing cat? And might the designer of the first successful Space Ship say, as he steps on to Mars: “Well, it really started when we entered for the Soap Box Derby in 1956...”

*Full details of the 1956 Soap Box Derby and an entry form can be obtained from The Organiser, “Soap Box Derby,” The Boy Scouts Association, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S. W.1.*

# DAYS OF SNOW

There was a nip in the air as Tom came whistling up the road to the vicarage. The Scout pennant was fluttering from the halyard and everyone who was in the know," knew that I would be at home, and not on one of those interminable days of visiting the scattered farms of our moorland parish.

Many a long trek up the hill from the village had been saved since one of the lads thought of this "In" "Out" signal, and helped me to fix the flag pole on the end of the garden wall.

"Hello, sir, are you coming to the sale tomorrow at Fell Hail? I've been having a look round and in the stable there are two pairs of skis and some queer old snow shoes which look as if they might have been used by a Red Indian trapper about a hundred years ago. They won't make much, but the skis might if anybody wanted them."

So it all began, and I brought home in triumph all these additional items of snow kit, to add to the growing collection in the big roomy loft above my garage.

Two pounds five for the lot seemed very reasonable, for the ash skis were in good condition, and the bindings, though old-fashioned, were quite sound. It is always possible to fix modern types to suit the taste of the user, and it is wonderful what a bit of saddle soap and dubbin will do to restore tired-looking leather straps.

I had been using my own heavy pair of hickory skis for many years. I bought them at Gamages, when I worked on a hill farm in the Pennines, long before I became a parson. Jolly useful they were too in those "long and far off times." I sometimes carried baskets of butter and eggs on a lovely old yoke, with a guinea fowl, or a good fat chicken slung on either end, for eight miles over the moors to the nearest town, when none of my neighbours could get away from their own farms. On one memorable occasion the local doctor was in trouble because a sudden heavy fall of snow had completely cut off the seven patients and three nurses, who had just been taken to the lonely isolation hospital, and the grocery van had not been able to get through to them. Meeting me doing my shopping on my trusty skis, he asked if I could possibly help him. The resulting adventure with a large rucksack full of provisions, brought me far more notoriety in the local Press than I deserved, and opened my eyes to the wonderful imagination, if you can call it that, of newspaper reporters.

However, I very much enjoyed my journey, and the welcome I received from all the inhabitants of the almost completely buried hospital. I was quite sure that I knew well enough where the hospital was, but in the driving snow, in which I could only see a few yards ahead, I had some difficulty in finding the place when I left the main road, with its guiding line of telegraph poles, for the open moor. The doctor had managed to get through on the telephone, and had warned them to be on the look-out for my arrival, so the old caretaker had climbed out onto the roof, and hearing my Scout whistle in the distance, he rang a handbell to direct me safely to the open skylight which was the only way in or out of the building. Of course, I gladly promised to return the next day, and to bring personal letters from the post office, and a further supply of essential food.

It was tales such as this, told round the camp fire, that inspired the lads of my village to keep their eyes open for any odd pairs of skis that might be advertised for sale.

We bought a simple little book of instructions for half a crown called *Skating in a Fortnight* by Arnold Lunn, and oh what fun we had, when with eight pairs of skis, and as many different sorts of fastenings, we were able to encourage each other along the level, and up and down gentle slopes, until at last we became a real mobile squad, willing, if not quite able, to tackle any hill in our district, and to go for quite long expeditions through the pine woods, or even along the roads by moonlight or carrying Tilley lamps on dark night hikes from farm to farm.

Never had our Scouting been quite so much fun, and before long we began to realise that we were on to a useful Scout activity.

On one occasion there was an old lady, cut off by seven-foot drifts, and known to be all by herself, in a cottage appropriately called "Seldom Seen." She was glad when one or other of our Troop visited her every day whilst the storm lasted, to help with the wood and water problem, to feed her hens in an outlying hen house and to gather the eggs for her.

Others milked two cows in a hillside "mistal" as we call it in the North, and carried the milk in cans on their backs to the village.

One boy went several times to fetch medicine and contact the village nurse three and a half miles away in one direction, or to the doctor six miles in the opposite direction, and took their instructions to the families of those who were ill.

My wife and I were able to make our way to three churches and a tiny village hall, for services each Sunday, for seven weeks on end in the 1947 snowstorm, when no car or cart could be moved on the roads, and the few people who had to get about did so on horseback, sometimes only to be turned back by drifts too deep to be pushed through.

Snow shoes, of which we had three pairs at one time, are of most use when the snow is freshly fallen, and too soft for skiing. They will get you there, but it is a slow job, and not very exciting as a form of exercise. In an emergency, however, a pair of Canadian snow shoes can be lashed onto a pair of Wellingtons or even soft shoes, and the worst kind of drifting snow can be tackled at a steady plodding pace without fear of falling or sinking in. Our rule was always *don't wear boots* with snow shoes, unless you simply must, they will ruin the gut thonging in no time. Jauncey's of Birmingham have good genuine Canadian snow shoes for sale at 12s. 6d. ex-W.D.

A completely different kind called "Trugger" with a wooden strut under the foot, and cord webbing, can I believe be obtained much more cheaply from Thomas Best of Bath or F. E. Brigham of Manchester, but give me the Canadian treated sinew, or sealskin thong variety every time.

Skis may be obtained quite reasonably from Lillywhite's who have I believe still got a number of ex-W.D. pairs which were intended for use in the Norwegian campaign during the last war. They would be much better used in war against the elements, and might save the costly use of "Helicopter Snow Lift" next time we have a real storm.

I myself no longer live in the hills of the North, but I am quite sure that Tom and the rest of them are ready for any hazards and chances that the next two months may bring. They will be hoping no doubt that no one will suffer, but if the call comes to help some farmer to hunt for sheep in difficulty, or to give a helping hand to anyone who cannot get about, they will be on top of the world again.

Those mystical initials B.P. remind thousands of men of all ages of their duty to "Be Prepared" for service.

Our preparations may not have amounted to "winter sports" standard or style. Nobody ever wanted to be examined by the D.C. or get a badge to wear. We did not wear Scout uniform on these activities, for obvious reasons connected with knees and elbows, but we were able to get about and "go places," in what most people would call bad weather.

It is my belief that if two or three happy young people in each small community could be similarly equipped to help their neighbours out of a difficulty, no one in our small islands need starve, and a great many of our cattle and sheep, or even wild deer, could be spared much hardship and suffering in those districts where experience has shown us that snow may fall this year, next year, or sometime.

When Tom and his companions draw their curtains back one of these fine days, and see a white expanse of real deep snow covering their well-loved hills, their song will be full of joyful anticipation of worth-while adventure in the service of other people.

**T. GARNETT JONES,**  
*A C C., Handicapped Scouts,*  
*Cambridge.*



# ROVER ROUNDABOUT

I HAVE been thrilled to hear of so much service done by Rovers during this last month or so. It is refreshing after all one hears about them not doing much these days, and it all really started when I asked some members of an obviously active Crew to send me one of their programmes. From it I learn that they meet on average ten times during the month. They have a band in the Group, which is supported quite strongly by the Crew. The area camp site sees them as a working party once a month and fortnightly they go along to see that a Spastics Club run by the local Rotary gets its members on time, pushing the folk in their chairs, helping to carry from cars into the Hall and making themselves generally useful. No wonder the Scout spirit (and it can be quite high at times with this crowd) simply oozes out when you meet them together.

Another Crew in Westminster entertained to tea the other Sunday afternoon two coach loads of spastic folk, including members of our Movement, who journeyed up from Reading. For one man of 51 years of age it was his first coach ride and the first time he had been outside his home town. This was organised by a few London Rovers, one of whom has made quite a name for himself in the I.P.F. World (sorry - International Polio Fellowship). They had their annual party this year in the Guildhall of the City of London. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attended and our cricketing friend John Arlott and Rover Don Burt (known to many handicapped Scouts and working party slaves) received scrolls for their good work over a period of years of service. They are now listed on the Scroll of Benefactors. Not only that but publicity was made for Rover Scouting in one of the most widely read of our daily papers.

Now a story from the other side. I travel very often on the morning train with a Scouter who works with the Pack at the celebrated Queen Mary's Hospital for Children at Carshalton, Surrey. They have a news-sheet and it is typed by one of the Troop who on occasions has also edited it. He cannot use either arms or legs and does his typing with a gadget held in his teeth. Just to think about it appals most of us. What an inspiration to us and what a return for those whose Sunday morning "lay in" never comes off. They live in many cases miles from the hospital, and it's an early breakfast and a walk to a rendezvous with somebody with a car or pushing the "old iron" when most of the inhabitants are wasting the precious free hours from their daily grind in bed. My dog and I often seem to be the only folk (bar the milkman and newspaper boy) to go out before nine o'clock on Sunday mornings.

Lastly, I was interested to read in the Rover notes in the news-sheet of a Surrey district a piece headed "Notice to all Scouters. Where the services of Rovers are required in the District please contact me and I will personally circularise the Crews, but short notice must be avoided. Please allow us two weeks and your needs will receive attention." How many times have we been rated for not doing what some folk feel is a Rover job when there has not been time to organise any fellows, and I do hope that some of our "brass hats"

will remember that Rovers have something better to do with their time than to act as doormen and guides at Scout functions, and waiting and washing up is not my idea of "Rover Service." A young man with an exacting day-time job, and two or three nights at Evening Classes, cannot in fairness be asked to do such things. Some of us older and semi-worn out are quite capable of doing this type of work. Please think next time you plan Coulsdon, Surrey (they seem hogging this page, don't they? - perhaps it's a Rover active area), have sent me their programme planned for six months, a well mixed bag of Rover Plan with, I am pleased to see, notices of the District Rover Meeting (and they use that evening for a Crew turn-out to support it). That is the way to build a spirit of Brotherhood. Numbers aren't everything by any means, but the knowledge that we are a part of something much bigger builds up our spirit and helps our ego no end.

Woolwich send me their notes regularly and I'm always pleased to see mention of their next Rover Scouts' Own. This type of District meeting can be of real help to many Crews, especially to an open Group Crew. We shall be meeting in our area round about February 22nd to commemorate the birthday of B.-P. - a very appropriate time. It's not too late to organise it now; a den or small church room, nothing elaborate, but the feeling of sincerity is something which is an inspiration for all partaking.

The start of a lad in Rovering is something which I have always been concerned about. It doesn't help to have a keen Senior just drift into a new life. The Going Up Ceremony can help a Senior as much as it does a Wolf Cub and the recognition of his Squireship is, or should be, a stepping stone to his full Rovering. Hertford have produced a ceremony for such an occasion which fits in very nicely. Why not make the effort to produce one for your Group? We can never do any harm in placing before a young man the possibilities in "aiming high," and although there is no place in Scouting for elaborate ceremonial, don't get "slap happy" as so many other things in life these days have deteriorated too.

Well, it's 1956 and I haven't wished you a Happy New Year. I do now and may it be one of progress in the sphere of work you have chosen to do in the Movement. New resolution to Rover Leaders. I suggest that they should take the form of a trip outside the Movement for a few hours each week, do something different for a change, meet other folk than Scouters, go to the theatre, a boxing show, football match, concert, do the things that you promised yourself you'd do last year, probably the year before and your contact with your fellows in the Crew will have that freshness of a new angled outlook. We all need it and the narrowness of thought and expression can do no service to ourselves or those whom we are privileged to take as far as the threshold of life that can be full and more useful than our own.

Be seeing you during the year.

JACK SKILLEN.



## LIFEBELTS

New lightweight rubber lifebelt as issued to British Liberation Army. Inflate by mouth. Fold flat, 7 x 4 in. to fit pocket. Weighs only 8 oz. Adjusts to fit child or adult. Ideal swimming aid, air pillow cushion. P. & p. 1/-. **2/6**



## KHAKI, Canvas Padded MATTRESSES

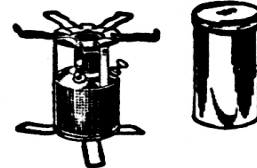
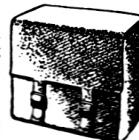
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**5/6**

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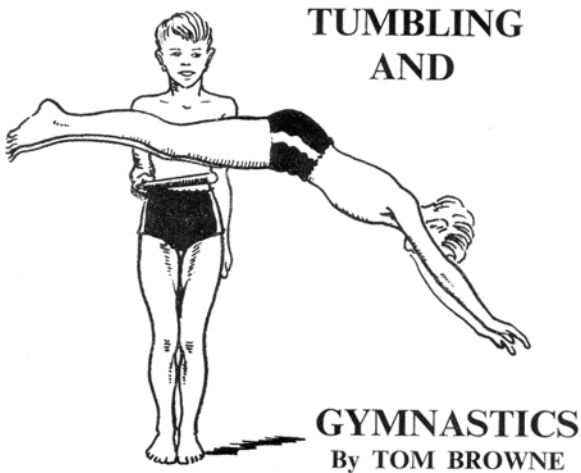
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A lot of you have been practising clown stunts on the lines of what I wrote in *The Scout* some time ago; you have got all the winter before you for practising these; why not do so, and make a really good troupe for the display."

Those are not my words, though I have been writing a couple of articles on similar tumbling stunts in *The Scout*. Those lines were written in 1921 by our Founder in a book called *What Scouts Can Do*, and they remind us that B.-P. was constantly showing us how to capture the natural interest of boys and turn them to useful ends. There are really two ends served by fostering this urge to turn somersaults and headsprings, to walk on the hands and do similar feats of strength and agility; the first we may pick on is that these skills may be used to make a valuable and attractive addition to the Troop display or Gang Show, and so help to build up Group funds; the second and much more important one is the laying of the foundations of agile fitness which can last almost to the edge of old age. It is surprising how many gymnasts retain a very considerable degree of strength and skill into the sixties and seventies. Charles Lord, the coach of the famous Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. gym team is a good example. He was British Gymnastic Champion in 1901 and 1902 and he still gives a spectacular demonstration on the horizontal bar and other apparatus; and only the other day I heard of an instructor in Birmingham, already over 70, who regularly attempts a one arm balance and always with the optimistic remark, "I'll get it before I'm 80!"

But we mustn't let our eyes get focused on old age. Our concern is for the boy. What we want to do is to find the best way to stimulate and encourage his interest in his physical development, and that means holding out a much nearer and more attractive goal.

If you read *The Scout* articles - and I hope you will - you will see that they give first a picture of the gymnastic part of the British display at the 8th World Jamboree at Niagara, and then go on to suggest that in the eighteen months before the Jubilee Jamboree there is time to build up a really first-rate standard of Scout tumbling for an arena display there. Obviously some of those who start practising will not make the top grade; some of those who do excel in this way may not succeed in getting into the Jamboree contingent; but if we can help them to begin their training by finding room for it in the Troop programme and by either instructing them ourselves or finding instructors, we shall have done a treble job of real value. We shall have given all these boys a healthy activity and a pride in new strengths and skills; we shall have helped to build up a nucleus of first-class tumblers from which the actual display teams can be chosen, and you will have these as almost a ready-made item for your next Troop show.

Perhaps your reaction to all this is that we should leave physical training and gymnastics to the schools and clubs, either because there is so much other Scouting to be done, or because you don't feel competent enough to take on the instruction.

But you have only to read *Scouting for Boys* to realise that fitness and strength are very much part of the Scouting plan, and if we can develop these by stunts which the boys enjoy, it is surely rather crazy to leave all these amusing parts of P.T. to the schools, while we try to put over, sometimes I fear by just getting the boy to read about them in his test book, just the six exercises in *Scouting for Boys*. I'm sure B.-P. never intended them to be the whole answer.

Not feeling competent to instruct is a more understandable barrier, but why not see what you can do by way of tracking down someone who can?

Perhaps by tapping the interest of an enthusiastic gymnast you may be the means of adding Scouting to his enthusiasms, and another helper to the ranks of Scouters. So will you at least read the articles yourselves and bring them to the notice of your Scouts? The Chief has already told you how proud he was of the British contingent at Niagara. I was too, and full of praise for the vigour and determination with which they tried in the final rehearsals there. As a result they put up a very good show indeed, but I know most of them wished that they'd started getting suppled and strengthened much earlier. Well, we've got the chance to do that now. Can we take it?

## CAMPING ABROAD 1956

Yes, I know Christmas is only just over and the New Year has barely begun. And it may seem rather soon to start asking you to let us know your plans if you intend camping abroad this year. But year by year the traffic increases and if you need help from the International Department early application will get you an early answer - which presumably is what you all want. So let us know by April 1st if you want advice or assistance. If, however, you are making all your own arrangements, we'll write and tell us just the same at least a month before you leave so that we shall know where you are and can answer any inquiries about you that may arise. And if you are going to Eire remember that the formalities regarding camping abroad apply there.

We have already received an invitation for British Scouts to camp in Sweden this summer. The National Camp of two of the Swedish Associations is to be held from August 3-13, 1956, at Galo, some twenty miles south-east of Stockholm. Further particulars are given below. Details of other such invitations for 1956 will be published as received.

But if your Group is not going abroad this year you can still do something for international friendship. During the past months we have received a considerable number of requests from overseas Scouts who wish to start pen friendships with British boys. There are applicants waiting from the United States and France and contacts can usually be arranged with Scouts in a number of other countries. I would therefore ask Scouters to keep this idea before their boys and encourage both individuals and Patrols to link-up in this way with brother Scouts abroad. Numbers have already done so and many a good personal friendship has resulted.

Let this, then, be the first step. But once contact has been made through the post I do urge Scouters to consider going further and inviting one or two of these Scout pen friends from nearby countries to their Troop camp. I believe this sort of thing is most important. I am not suggesting that he, or they, should necessarily come for nothing, though any self-respecting Group can surely raise an extra Camp Fee or two for an opportunity and a privilege such as this.

When camp is over, let your visitor round off his time in Britain with a week in the home of one of your Scouts - preferably, of course, the one who has previously been writing to him. A spell of living together in a home is one of the very best ways of dispelling possible illusions and prejudices and of really getting to know each other.

Each year we have many requests from abroad for Scout hospitality here either on an exchange or paying guest basis. I would therefore be very glad to hear from any Groups and especially from Senior Troops, who would like to offer such hospitality this year.

This applies particularly to Troops and homes in London and the Home Counties.

Lastly, I am always glad to receive reports and photographs of Scout ventures abroad or of the activities of foreign Scouts in Britain. These will be put to good use and may well inspire others to follow the example.

So good International Camping in 1956.

**ROBIN GOLD,**  
*International Commissioner.*

## INTERNATIONAL NOTICES

### 11th INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC SCOUTERS' CONFERENCE, EDINBURGH, MAY 24th-27th, 1956

The Scottish Catholic Scout Advisory Council will be the hosts of the 11th International Catholic Scouters' Conference, in Edinburgh next May. It is expected that delegates from some twenty countries will be present.

The theme of the Conference will be "Scouting and the Family." Papers bearing on this, and based on answers to a questionnaire sent to many countries, will be read by Scouters representing Cubs, Scouts and Rovers. It is hoped that the conclusions of the Conference will be of a practical nature, and that they will be of interest to Scouters all over the world.

All enquiries for further information should be addressed to The Secretary of the Conference, Mr. Ian G. Banks, 91 Comely Bank Road, Edinburgh, 4.

### CAMPS AND VISITS ABROAD, 1956

Individuals and Groups of Scouts requiring help and advice from National Headquarters abroad are reminded that they must make application to the International Commissioner at I.H.Q. as early as possible and not later than March 31st next.

Those making their own arrangements with a Scouter or other person abroad and not requiring assistance from either I.H.Q. or National Headquarters abroad are asked to make application to the International Commissioner as early as possible but not later than one month prior to their visit.

### CAMPING IN EIRE

For all camps in Eire approval of the International Commissioner at I.H.Q. must be obtained. Applications to camp must be sent to him not later than May 1st whether or not help is required from I.H.Q. or from the National Headquarters in Eire. Before booking any site, seek advice from the International Commissioner.

### INTERNATIONAL SCOUT CHALET, KANDERSTEG

Accommodation in the Chalet is limited and in order to avoid disappointment early application is recommended.

There is unlimited camping space for those prepared to take their own equipment (tents, etc.).

### NATIONAL CAMP OF THE SWEDISH Y.M.C.A. SCOUTS, 3rd-13th AUGUST

An invitation has been received for British Scouts to attend the National Camp of the Y.M.C.A. Scout Association to be held at Galo in the archipelago 30 km. south-south-east of Stockholm from 3rd to 13th August. There will be a camp fee of 45 Swedish crowns (approximately £3 7s. Od.). In addition to this participants will be expected to pay their own travelling expenses. Applications to attend should be sent to the International Department, I.H.Q., by not later than 29th February.

### INTERNATIONAL SCOUTS SKI-ING COMPETITION

The Austrian Scout Association are holding an International Scouts Ski-ing Competition at Murau, Styria, from 18th to 19th February, 1956, and British Scouts are invited to take part. Those who are interested should write for further details to the International Department, I.H.Q.

## WORTH THINKING ABOUT I

### RAW MATERIAL FOR TROOP AND PACK YARNS

*The Secret of Strength.* - The Great Vine at Hampton Court bore few grapes for many years. Then one year fine fruit in plentiful clusters made its appearance. The gardener on investigation found the roots had gone through the bank into the Thames.

*The Finished Article.* - When they started to build the Anglican Cathedral at Liverpool, the workers often found cause to grumble. Sometimes the weather was bad, often the work seemed dull and uninteresting. One old mortar mixer, however, was always cheerful and this was his secret: "Every day I go and look," he said, "at the picture on the office wall which shows what the work will look like when it's finished. I'm only a labourer, but it helps me to mix my mortar better, for, my word, it's a grand job we're on."

*What's in a name?* - Alexander the Great saw amongst a band of soldiers about to attack a castle, one whose name he was told was Alexander. He called him over and said to him: "You must bear yourself bravely, my friend, in order to do justice to your name."

*His Source of Inspiration.* - Roald Amundsen, the great Arctic explorer, once said: "I have often been asked what it is that always spurred me on to these expeditions; it is simply this" - here he unfurled the Norwegian flag which he had in his hand.

*The Upward Look.* - When asked how he could carry heavy loads of bricks up and down a ladder without dropping any, a bricklayer answered: "Whether I am going up or down, I always look

*Action Needed.* - On a question being put to Joan of Arc as to what virtue there was in her white banner which made it victorious, she replied: "I say to it, 'Go boldly among the English,' and then I follow it myself."

*The Danger of Personality.* - When the Young Pretender landed in Scotland in 1745, Lord Lovat was warned by his friends not to go near him. They told him: "If once you set eyes on him, you will do whatever he wants." In spite of the warning, Lord Lovat went to meet the Prince - and his head fell on Tower Hill in 1746 as the result.

*The Attractiveness of Courage.* - Sir James Outram tried, in the nineteenth century, to raise a regiment for the Indian Army from the Bhils, a native tribe. He obtained only nine recruits, and it looked almost an impossibility to get more. Then one day a panther attacked Sir James. A friend fired and missed. The panther landed on Outram and they rolled down the hill together. Sir James contrived to draw a pistol and shot the animal dead. The Bhils in the party ran to see what had happened to him, and heard him say: "What do I care for the dawing of a cat?" This saying became a proverb among the Bhils, and after that there was no difficulty in getting them to join the regiment.

*Character.* - Xenocrates was called to give evidence at a trial and advanced to take the oath at the altar. The judges rose from their seats and said: "No, Xenocrates, we will take your word without an oath. We have trust in your character."

*Ancestors are not enough.* - In days of old, three kings reigned in Yemen one after the other. The first, Shamar, was a mighty man, who conquered China and Samarcand. The second, Asad, was a man of wealth and generosity. We are told that he sacrificed 6,000 camels at the holy place and put a golden door on the temple. Of the third, Abu Haran, it is recorded that he did nothing of any account but was fond of saying: "The king before me killed 6,000 camels and set up the golden door, and the king before the king before me conquered China and Samarcand."

**J. B. GEARING**

# BOOKS

## LEISURE READING

The Game of Cricket, an essay by Sir Norman Birkett, with 17 illustrations in colour and 17 in black and white (Batsford, 25s.).

This is a connoisseur's book written by a connoisseur (not only of cricket) with illustrations selected with great discrimination: there are several pages of notes on the plates by Diana Rait Kerr. That it would make a delightful present for the cricket enthusiast goes without saying. B.-P. himself was not a cricketer but our second Chief Scout was, and was a one-time President of the M.C.C.; our present Chief Scout is a member of the same distinguished Club. On one occasion at least in our history a Scout XI played at Lords! But many Scout people are interested in the game and with great courage often form XIs from the doubtful resources of their summer camps to play (and usually to lose decisively) against local village teams of great cunning and power. Others who no longer play with their remembered skill (if indeed they ever did) are now content to watch and murmur and applaud through "all the long glory of a summer's day" or as many of such days as a too busy world will allow them. All these will be glad to have Sir Norman's scholarly essay and the lovely plates, in this (as we should expect from its publishers) beautifully-produced book.

Sir Norman in his time has quoted Barrie on cricket: perhaps I may be allowed to quote him now: "A rural cricket match in buttercup time, seen and heard through the trees; it is surely the loveliest scene in England and the most disarming sound. From the ranks of the unseen dead, for ever passing along our country lanes on their eternal journey, the Englishman falls out for a moment to look over the gate of the cricket field and smile."

R. H.

Roaring Boys, by Edward Blishen (Thames and Hudson, 12s. 6d.).

This is a brilliant book which every Scoutmaster should read. Boldly stated it is the record of the first four years of a young teacher's life in a tough neighbourhood. It is funny, frightening, pathetic, riotous: and reminds us that Utopia, educationally and socially, still lies far ahead. But it is in his quite amazing power of painting a boy's portrait in a paragraph, and of suggesting an atmosphere with equal economy that Mr. Blishen astonishes. If it's true, as is sometimes said, that nowadays only nice, more or less middle class boys come into Scouting, you might like to read this book to see if you've got any boys like those of Stonehill Street School in your Group. This is a very entertaining and worrying book.

R. H.

The South Hams, by Margaret Willy; Holiday Lancashire, by Sydney Moorhouse (Regional Books, Robert Hale, 18s. each).

The South Hams are roughly to the west of Torbay and south of Dartmoor which you may know, but I don't. It is rich Devon country and the author takes us over it town by town, walk by walk, almost cliff by cliff. To my taste there is too florid an abundance of detail but anyone who knows the district (which I don't), will enjoy recapturing their memories while those who propose to visit it will enjoy it the more having seen it through Miss Willy's enthusiastic eyes.

The many photographs are most pleasant to look at. In contrast with Miss Willy's lush style Mr. Moorhouse's is plain and homely as he writes about Blackpool and Morecambe and Lancaster and the valleys of the Lune and the Ribble- all that countryside which is so full of surprises.

From Cub—



He has written a nice sensible book, visiting history sufficiently, but not staying too long, putting in those odd little facts which it is always so pleasing to come across, and giving a true-to-life picture of a part of the country which is always entertaining, and is often far lovelier than those who are merely superior about it from a distance would believe. The photographs ably match the text.

R. H.

None but the Brave, by Frith of Satler (Souvenir Press, 16s.); The Golden Horseshoe, by Terence Robertson (Evans, 12s. 6d.).

If you're not tired of war exploits here are two books well worth reading about two men, one on one side, one on the other.

Leif Larson became the most decorated member of the famous Shetlands Gang "of Norwegian sailors who operated innocent-looking fishing craft in the enemy occupied waters of Norway, delivering arms and secret agents and bringing back refugees." He was a young Norwegian sailor of outstanding courage and determination whose exploits have become almost legendary. The account here is rather over-dramatic to my taste: the almost incredible happenings would have been equally memorable in a more subdued prose. But it is a story of tremendous courage.

A Golden Horseshoe was the badge of a U-boat commanded by Otto Kretschmer, one of the most successful (and humane) of the surface raiders. One half of the book tells of his career and his exploits:

the other of his activities as a prisoner of war. In a foreword Admiral Sir George Creasy speaks of him as young, self-confident, brave, quick-witted: "his appearance and manners were those of an officer and a gentleman." It is well to remember that in any war there are men of courage and honour on both sides.

R. H.

Ninth Time Lucky, by Elios Toschi (Kimber, 16s.). Elios Toschi, who is said to be an inventor of the Italian human torpedo, was captured after one such expedition by a British destroyer. But he was of the type of which escapers are made whatever their nationality. He tried to escape from a transit camp in Egypt, but hadn't time before he was sent to India. Here his escapes met with varying success until at last, disguised as a Pathan, he got away across the breadth of India. His exciting story with its colourful background is worth reading, even at this time of day, when so many escape-stories have been told.

R. H.

H.M.S. Ulysses, by Alistair Maclean (Collins, 12s. 6d.).

In childhood I read, with relish, many bloodthirsty tales of adventure, spiced liberally with impossible heroism and strewn with the debris of battle. Commonsense told even tender years they were no more than tales, dream worlds to match childish fancy. H.M.S. Ulysses is a novel, but behind its fiction lies the shadow of a host of British seamen lost in two world wars. Its nightmare tale is truth appalling.

Details are inconsequential. The action, set in Arctic convoy routes to Russia, might have been staged as easily with Malta convoys or in the Western Approaches, where, with adjustments for heat, cold, hunger and thirst, other acts in the same pitiless play were performed.

No attempt is made to relate courage and endurance to patriotism, love of country or even defence of home or family. As in many other fields of arms, men live a while because they so wish to do; they die when no other alternative is available. I have already recorded the fact that this book is a novel, but nevertheless I quarrel, mildly, with the implied criticism of the Admiralty. Any General Staff, in time of war, is always faced with the impossible task of always being right. This aside, Mr. Maclean has paid high homage to those who perished. Perpetual mourning is as unnatural as it is undesirable, but we might all, in the reading, reflect a moment on these other crucifixions.

L. A. WYATT.

Justin Bayard, by Jon Cleary (Collins, 12s. 6d.).

Jon Cleary scored a notable success with The Climate of Courage and he now offers a sturdy yarn of life in the Australian Bush. For those who enjoy a little armchair Empire building, with a good measure of rough and ready action interpreted with interludes of "nut back" emotions, this is the very thing.

L. A. WYATT.

## COMPETITION: MEMORIES WORTH RECORDING

"Old men forget" - and so do young men, and old (and young) Wolves. As part of our Fiftieth Birthday celebrations the Editor is hoping to print a selection of "Memories worth recording" - happy, amusing, sad. Each one of you has surely one such memory or your Scouting life must indeed have been sorry, threadbare, poverty-stricken. You probably have many.

The Editor invites you to send in the best any time between now and the end of September - to give our many overseas readers an opportunity to be with us. Not more than 400 words for any one memory, please.

The Editor offers prizes of £5, £3, £2 and £1 for the four adjudged most "worth recording" and reserves the right to print these and any others. He hopes for hundreds!

### RELIGION

Challenge to Heritage, by Ruth A. Oakley (St. Catherine Press, 6s.). Here is a book one can only deplore! It sets out to defend Individuality, and Independent Judgment, and Character, against all the planners, and organisers of the post-war world. It stands for all that is involved in the Patrol System - for the training of character, and the building of initiative, and the rest. But it does it all so unfortunately!

In looking back nostalgically to the securities of the pre-1914 days it makes clear that the author was quite out of touch with that nine-tenths of the population who had no security in those days. In protesting against larger schools, "Town" schools, schools directed from Whitehall, it ignores the price too many children in rural England still pay for the village school where one teacher struggles with all age-groups. In grieving for the abolition of the "Cat" it tends to identify Scouting with Blimpism.

One cannot ignore the notable appreciations included within the covers. Quite clearly, men of stature have discovered much of worth within these pages. Your reviewer hasn't. Mrs. Oakley's staccato pronouncements have only impressed him as ideal quotations for Communists, eager to caricature the Christian home.

WILFRED WADE.

Progressive Religion, by E. K. Ellis (S.P.C.K., 3s. 6d.).

Primarily for Anglicans, this well-written book is intended for those at the elementary level of personal religion who wish to grow in the Christian Faith. Its emphasis is upon the contribution offered to the believer by Sunday Worship; and by daily prayer and Bible reading. Even one who does not share the author's conviction that Sacrificial Worship is the New Testament pattern nevertheless grants the helpfulness of all that is written here about Holy Communion. Indeed, the whole insistence on Worship, and the standards by which it should be judged, is sound.

The chapter on Bible reading might well have been more practical. There is, in fact, much more that could be written about the part Bible reading has to play in the development of the mature Christian.

Where Canon Ellis disappoints, however, is in making no reference whatever to the part Discussion plays in Progressive Religion. How many of us there are who would say that some of our deepest insights in the Faith have come as we have joined with others in talking over God's acts - in Youth Fellowships; in University Groups; in Rover Dens.

And isn't the final word about Progressive Religion Our Lord's - with its demand for Christian Action - "If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching"?

WILFRED WADE.

The Christian Faith, by David H. C. Read (Teach Yourself Books, E.U.P., 6s.).

Here is a book that is quite first-class. Personally I should rate it as the best value for money in the theological field since The Screwtape Letters. Many a volume four times the length. (and five times the price!) says less, and says it less effectively!

In a lively style, and with vivid language, it outlines the Christian Faith reasonably, so that the educated man inside or outside the Church will know what Mr. Read is talking about. Without approving every statement (the chapter on the Holy Trinity seems to this reviewer

too mechanical; and that on the Holy Spirit leaves out much that could be said) nevertheless, this remains an outstanding example of modern Christian Apologetics. Whether Mr. Read writes of the grounds for believing in God, or the difficulties involved in the doctrine of God's omnipotence; whether he is insisting on the utter centrality of Christ's Resurrection, or on the place of the Church in the life of the practising Christian; always the author does it clearly, intelligibly, wisely - and with an impressive absence of churchy jargon.

Quite definitely a book to buy - and a must for Scouters working with Seniors or with Rovers.

WILFRED WADE.

Discovering Buried Worlds, by Andre Parrot (S.C.M., 7s. 6d.).

It is a pity that the publisher's "blurb" is so extravagantly written. While one searches in some perplexity for the qualities referred to there, one goes in peril of missing the solid and commendable gifts the book does possess! Here is an interesting history of modern archaeology, concentrating on the work which has been done in the area between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, written in a vivid style, and giving a fascinating account of the routine on a digging site. The illustrations vary in value, but the book is excellent value, and has more than specialist appeal.

WILFRED WADE.

The Tower of Babel; The Flood and Noah's Ark; each by Andre Parrot (S.C.M., 7s. 6d. each).

These two little books are the first in the series with the general heading of Studies in Biblical Archaeology which Mr. Wade reviews above. I can imagine they will attract many readers. Mr. Andre Parrot, examines what truth lies behind the Old Testament stories of the Flood and the Tower of Babel, examining the various sources of the Flood story, and shows in both books how man's later discoveries can help to illuminate these darkly-doubtful stories of Genesis.

The books are quite brief, 72 pages or so, but with photographs and some diagrams and maps. They are of special interest to Scouters who are often faced with pertinent questions on these very things.

R. H.

### BIRDS

Birds Fighting, by Stuart Smith and Eric Hosking (Faber, 18s.); The Golden Eagle, by Seton Gordon (Collins, 16s.).

The flood of bird books we experienced a few years ago has abated to a trickle: these two books are the more welcome. Both Dr. Stuart Smith and Mr. Eric Hosking are old-friends of ours and surely no more authoritative or enthusiastic ornithologists are to be found than they. Theirs is a serious scientific book sub-titled "Experimental Studies of the Aggressive Displays of some Birds," and recounts experiments they have made - by the use of stuffed bins and painted cut-outs - to secure photographs of wild bird display.

Don't be misled by what I have written: the book is eminently readable, packed with interest, and adorned, of course, with magnificent photographs.

Mr. Seton Gordon has studied and observed eagles for a lifetime and his book is the harvest of this abiding interest. Again, a book full of good reading, beautifully illustrated.

R. H.

—To Queen's Scout!



# NOTES AND NEWS

## JANUARY PHOTOGRAPHS

This month's cover was taken by Stanley Newton at the Headquarters of the 16th Westminster Pack. The photographs on pages 26 and 27 are of Geoffrey Thornton of the 1st Walton-le-Dale (St. Leonards) Group.

## AIR SPOTTER/AIR OBSERVER BADGES

The 1956 lists of aircraft required for the above badges will be available from the Training Department at I.H.Q. as from 1st February, 1956.

The fourth edition of The Observer Book of Aircraft which includes all the necessary data was published on 16th January, 1956.

## I.H.Q. SPEAKERS' VISITS IN FEBRUARY

- 9th The Crossley and Porter Schools, Halifax.
- 11th/12th Gloucester Cub Scouters' Palaver Sussex Rovers' Conference.
- 18th Birmingham Cub Gather Round.
- 22nd Oxfordshire Annual B.-P. Commemorative Dinner.
- 23rd Alec Bussey Memorial Ceremony, Norwich.
- 25th/26th Hereford Scouters' Conference.

## ASSISTANT CAMP WARDEN - GILWELL PARK

Applications are invited for the position of Assistant Camp Warden (two are required) to serve at Gilwell Park from mid-March until the end of September or mid-October 1956.

The work is hard - trying to the feet and on occasion to the temper - the hours are long, the pay is small, but the experience is unequalled.

This is an ideal opportunity for a young man who has completed National Service and who is entering university or a profession in the autumn.

The post is residential, with full board and a small weekly wage.

Applications to: The Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, Chingford, EA.

## ERRATA

We much regret that the photograph on page 255 of the October issue captioned as a Venezuelan Scout is not of a Venezuelan Scout, but is of Herman van der Brugge of Curacao. We offer our apologies for any inconvenience caused. Page 332, December issue: Bar to Medal of Merit, Berkshire, should read "Badge Secretary, Reading and District."

## SCOUT ALPINE CLUB - CLIMBING COURSES AT KANDERSTEG

Climbing Course No. 30. July 22nd to August 1st

Climbing Course No. 31. August 19th to 29th

For detailed information please write to the International Department, I.H.Q.

## THE NINTH SCOUT CANOE CRUISE

Plans are now being made for the Ninth Scout Canoe Cruise, under the leadership of Percy Blandford, on the River Severn, starting near Shrewsbury, during the week August 18th to 25th. Scouts of 14 years and over, who can swim fifty yards in shirt, shorts and shoes, and own or can arrange to share a canoe, are eligible. The cost for the week will be £3.

Scouters will be welcome to join the party and offers of help from Scouters will be much appreciated by the leader.

For details of the cruise, apply to: Canoe Cruise Secretary. The Boy Scouts Association, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W. 1.

## Scouting from the earliest times—2



Egyptian (4500-2475 B.C.)

"Young S.M. on bathing picket." Note early introduction of Wood Badge and simple design of raft (From a wall decoration on a tomb)

## GLIDING COURSES

Three Scout Gliding Courses have been arranged for 1956. All will take place at the Lasham Gliding Centre, Nr. Alton, Hants.

The Easter Course will be from Saturday, April 7th, to Saturday, April 14th. The Summer Courses will be from Saturday, August 18th, to Saturday, August 25th, and from Saturday, August 25th, to Saturday, September 1st.

The Course fee will be eight guineas and will include all flying charges, temporary membership of the Club, all food and insurance. This fee is considerably below that payable by the general public for similar courses. Any Scout between the ages of 14 and 18 years at the commencement of the course may apply.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the Training Department, I.H.Q., 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1. Early application is advised as last year's courses proved most popular.

## SCOUT CINE WEEK-END

A week-end Get Together for cine enthusiasts within or filming on behalf of the Movement is to be held at Gilwell Park on Saturday and Sunday, 10th and 11th March, 1956. All "lone" cine photographers as well as members of Scout cine units are eligible to attend.

An interesting programme will include guest speakers well-known in sub-standard film circles, discussions, demonstrations, display of cine equipment and an exhibition of selected one-reel shorts and prize-winning Scout films.

The cost (approximately 30s.) will cover accommodation (indoor and comfortable!) and all meals from Saturday p.m. to Sunday p.m. For fuller details and booking form please write to the Publicity Secretary, I.H.Q.

## MEMBERSHIP - SCOUT ALPINE CLUB

Please note the following increase in the annual subscription of membership of the Scout Alpine Club, as from October 1st, 1955:-

First year	1. 0.0
Second year	15.0
Third and subsequent years	10.0

## WOOD BADGE COURSES 1956

In all Courses, age limits for the appropriate Warrant holders are as follows:

Pack Scoaters, Eighteen years and over.

Troop Scoaters, Twenty years and over.

Rover Scoaters, Twenty-One years and over.

In each Section, probationary Scoaters of the appropriate age may be accepted.

### **Gliwell Park**

**Cub Courses** (open to all appropriate warrant holders of eighteen years of age and over):

No. 141. Monday, March 19th—Saturday, March 24th. (Indoors.)

No. 142. Sunday, May 13th—Friday, May 18th.

No. 143. Monday, June 11th—Saturday, June 16th.

No. 144. Monday, July 16th—Saturday, July 21st.

No. 145. Monday, August 6th—Saturday, August 11th.

No. 146. Monday, September 10th—Saturday, September 15th.

**Scout Courses** (open to all appropriate warrant holders or Scouters on probation of twenty years of age and over):

No. 244. Saturday, April 7th—Sunday, April 15th.

No. 245. Saturday, April 28th—Sunday, May 6th.

No. 246. Saturday, May 26th—Sunday, June 3rd.

No. 247. Saturday, June 23rd—Sunday, July 1st.

No. 248. Saturday, July 21st—Sunday, July 29th.

No. 249. Saturday, August 11th—Sunday, August 19th.

No. 250. Saturday, September 15th—Sunday, September 23rd.

**Rover Courses** (open to all appropriate warrant holders of twenty-one years of age and over):

No. 14. Monday, March 5th—Saturday, March 10th. (Indoors.)

No. 15. Saturday, July 7th—Saturday, July 14th.

### **Scotland (Fordell)**

Cub, Cont. July 23rd—28th Cub, Cont. August 25th—30th

Cub, 4 W.E. May 5th

Scout, Cant. June 30th—July 8th Scout, Cant. August 11th—16th

Apply: The Secretary, Scottish Headquarters, 44 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2.

### **Bedfordshire (Milton Ernest)**

Cub Cont. August 27th—September 1st

Scout Cont. August 25th—September 1st

Apply: Capt. S. Starey, Milton Ernest, Bedford.

### **Berkshire and Oxfordshire (Youlbury)**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 26th

Apply: Mrs. I. Preston, Linden, Bath Road, Maidenhead, Berks.

Scout, 5 W.E. April 7th (omitting April 28th)

Apply: A. C. Murdock, B.Sc., 8 Kenilworth Avenue, Oxford.

### **Birmingham (Yorks Wood)**

Cub, 3 W.E. June 9th

Apply: J. Hawtin, 31 Gillott Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Scout, 5 W.E. April 14th, 28th, May 12th, 26th, June 9th

Rover, 4 W.E. September 8th, 15th, 29th, October 6th

Apply: C. Raeburn, 36 Innage Road, Birmingham, 31.

### **Buckinghamshire (Wolverton)**

Cub, 2 W.E. (Indoor), November 10-12th

Apply: R. Saunders, 18 Marina Drive, Wolverton, Bucks.

(Clesham Bois)

Scout, 3 W.E. April 27th

Apply: F. W. E. King, Rexview, Bois Lane, Chesham Bois.

### **Cambridgeshire (Abington, for East Anglia)**

Cub, Coot. May 18th—21st, commencing Friday evening

Apply: R. B. Herbert, Old Lakenham Hall, Norwich, Norfolk.

### **Cambridge, Norfolk and Suffolk combined (Shrubland Park, Nr. Ipswich)**

Scout, 3 W.E. June 2nd—3rd, 16th—17th, 29th—July 1st

Apply: Cyril Whitehead, 19 Westerfield Road, Ipswich.

### **Cheshire West (Overchurch)**

Scout, 4 W.E. May 5th

Apply: J. P. Hindley, 10 Warwick Drive, West Kirby, Wirral.

### **Cornwall**

Cub, 3 W.E. April 7th Scout, 4 W.E. April 7th

Apply: H. A. Stoyale, Westgate, Station Hill, Redruth.

### **Derbyshire (Chesterfield)**

Cub, 2 W.E. (Indoors) May 4th (Assemble Friday evening)

Apply: J. E. Hale, 8 Chesterton Avenue, Sunny Hill, Derby.

### **Dorset (Weymouth)**

Scout, Cant. October 13th—20th

Apply: Lt.-Cdr. H. Taylor, G.C., Hartgrove Retreat, Musbury, Axminster, Devon.

### **(Ogston Hall, Higham).**

Scout, Cant. May 19th—26th

Apply: H. W. Wright, 93 Simmondley Village, Glossop, Derbyshire.

### **Durham (Brancepeth)**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 19th (Whitsun)

Apply: A. Knox, 242 Park Road, West Hartlepool.

Scout, 5 W.E. June 9th Scout, Coot. August 11th—18th

Apply: C. Rogers, Wooderoft, Sea View Park, Whitburn.

### **Hampshire (Eatchbury Mount Hospital, Totton, Southampton)**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 5th

Apply: Mrs. L. H. Robinson, 76a Waverley Road, Southsea.

Scout, 4 W.E. March 31st

Apply: Capt. E. M. Hodding, Whinwhistle Farm, Wellow, Nr. Ramsey.

### **Hertfordshire (Well End)**

Cub, 2 W.E. May 18th

Scout, 3 W.E. March 24th—25th, 30th—April 2nd, 14th—15th

Apply: H. Warren, 27 High Street, Ware, Herts.

### **Kent (Buckmore Park, Rochester)**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 26th

Apply: Miss Wigger, 126 London Road, Sevenoaks.

Scout, 4 W.E. April 21st—22nd, 28th—29th, May 12th—13th, 19th—21st

Apply: F. J. Peters, 54 Priestfields, Rochester.

### **Lancashire N.E. and N.W. (Waddecarr)**

Cub, 3 W.E. April 28th

Apply: Miss M. M. Lloyd, 8 Sunny Bank Avenue, Bispham,

### **Blackpool. (Huntroyde Park, Padiham)**

Scout, 3 W.E. May 12th—13th, 18th—21st, June 2nd—3rd

Apply: H. Burrows, F.C.A., Penarth, 16 West Park Road, Blackburn.

### **Leicestershire (Ullesthorpe)**

Cub, Coot. May 18th—22nd

Apply: Mrs. E. Pye, Altery, Cowper Road, Burbage, Nr.

Hinckley.

Scout, 3 W.E. March 31st—April 3rd, 14th—15th, 21st—22nd

Apply: T. M. L. Walters, Granby Chambers, Granby Street, Laughborough.

### **Liverpool and S.W. Lancashire (Bispham Hall)**

Cub, 3 W.E. April 27th

Apply: P. Walmsley, 52 Halsall Road, Birkdale, Southport.

Scout, 5 W.E. May 27th (omit June 17th)

Apply: F. Molyneux, 326 Queen's Drive, Walton, Liverpool, 4.

### **London (Gilwell Park)**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 5th Cub, 3 W.E. May 26th

Cub, Coot. August 5th

Scout, 3 W.E. March 31st Scout, 3 W.E. June 16th

Scout, 5 W.E. September 8th (omit Sept. 29th)

Scout, Coot. September 22nd

Apply: The Secretary, London Office, 3 Cromwell Place, London, S.W.7.

### **Middlesex (Elstree)**

Cub, 2 W.E. May 19th (Whitsun), June 2nd

Scout, 4 W.E. April 28th (omit May 19th).

Scout, 3 W.E. Sept. 14th—16th, 21st—23rd, Oct. 5th—7th

Apply: J. A. Walter, Selwood, Cornwall Road, Hatch End, Middx.

### **Surrey (Bentley Copse)**

Cub, 2 W.E. May 12th (Assemble 4 p.m., 18th)

Apply: E. R. Alcorn, 27 Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey.

Cub, Coot. July 7th—11th

Apply: Miss R. Guggisberg, 71 Tupwood Lane, Caterham.

Scout, 4 W.E. June 1st (Assemble 8.30 p.m., Friday first week-end only)

Apply: J. L. Moore, 28 Campden Hill Court, London, W.8.

Scout, Coot. July 14th—21st

Apply: N. J. Wilkins, 22a Chatsworth Road, Croydon.

### ALTERATION TO SENIOR RULES

In addition to the alterations notified in the January 1955 SCOUTER, the following amendments have been approved.

#### Rule 247 N (iii)

This rule permits the D.C. to allow a Senior Scout to remain in the Senior Troop after his eighteenth birthday. The new amendment limits this extension until his nineteenth birthday. (This limitation also applies to Rule 244 (iii) for Scouts over 15 not invested as Senior Scouts.)

#### Rule 247 D.

An additional item is added enabling an A.S.M. (5) to be appointed to be in charge of a Senior Scout Patrol within the Scout Troop. This will mean that a Group with no separate Senior Scout Troop, but which has a Senior Patrol within the Boy Scout Troop, may now have an A.S.M. (5) responsible to the S.M. for the training of the Senior Scout Patrol.

#### Ride 247 I(i)

In future the minimum number in a Senior Scout Patrol may be three instead of four.

#### Rule 247 N (ii)

This is a new rule to enable, where desirable, a Senior Scout to be a P.L. in the Boy Scout Troop until his sixteenth birthday. This will give time to train a new P.L., and at the same time enable the existing P.L. to be both a member of a Senior Scout Troop and a P.L. in the Boy Scout Troop.

#### Epaulettes

This term is now used instead of "Shoulder Straps."

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## CLASSIFIED

### COMING EVENTS

**The Baptist Scout Guild** has arranged a Conference at Grendon Hall, Northants., February 18th/19th. Details from Mrs. G. Robinson, 86, Orchard Grove, Edgware.

**Ralph Reader** takes his original part in the Tottenham Local Association's production of his play "The Story of Mike" on Monday and Tuesday, February 20th and 21st, at Municipal Hall, Tottenham.

Ticket order forms from Mr. W. Tanner, 171 Philip Lane, N.15. "Gang Ahoy." The 33rd/52nd Epping Forest South 1956 Show, February 21st—25th at Sir James Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green. Ticket order forms from Box Office, 87 St. Barnabas Road, Woodford Green. Buckhurst 0399.

"**The Story of Mike**," by Ralph Reader will be presented by the 4th Ilford Group at Wycliffe Congregational Church Hall, Cranbrook Road, Ilford, on February 23rd, 24th and 25th, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets 2/6 and 2/- (Scouts in uniform on 23rd and 24th, 1/6) from Mr. S. W. Nightingale, 67 Middleton Gardens, Ilford, VAL 2182.

**Wolverhampton Rover/Ranger Conference**, March 10th/11th.- Information from Miss C. Carver, 69 Prestwood Road West, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, after February 1st.

40th Chiagford Group present "Leave it to Pete," Ralph Reader's Sea Scout play, Fri. and Sat., 24th and 25th February. Production by Aif Wingrove. Musical Director - John Stiles. Ticket order forms from E. J. Gathercole, 129 Drysdale Avenue, Chingford, E.4.

**Gloucester County Rover Moot**, June 23rd/24th. The Moot that is always different! Details from Moot Secretary, Bruce Rhodes, 14 Cheltenham Road, Wincheombe, Glos.

### ACCOMMODATION

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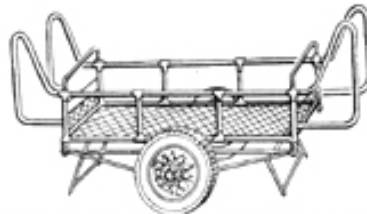
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