

The Scout



CAMPING
AND COOKING
ISSUE

Week ending 31st March 1962 **EVERY FRIDAY** 6d

Focus on CAMPING

THE CAMP CHIEF'S ROUND DOZEN

NO, THIS IS NOT A SHORT CUT to good camping, nor is it an attempt to tell you all about camping in the space of a few hundred words; it is just a number of miscellaneous thoughts about the key activity of Scouting which I would like you to read, to think about, to discuss in your Patrols, and, finally (I hope). to put into practice.

1. Inspection and all that

Morning inspection is a very valuable part of camping and on a fine morning there is no better way to start the day than by clearing everything out of the tent - and I mean everything (except the tent poles!). Most Scouts do just this, but then comes the rub I believe a good camp site should always be ready for inspection, not just first thing in the morning but all the time. So many sites by mid-morning look as though a hurricane had hit them and the once neatly laid out kit resembles nothing more desirable than the left-over remains from the last jumble sale.

A good camp is always ready for inspection by the Chief Scout himself if he happens to look in. Would you be proud to show the Chief round your site?

2. Bedding

A good Scout airs his blankets first thing in the morning or if he is lucky enough to have a sleeping bag he turns it inside out and lets the sun and the breeze get at it. If the purpose of putting one's bedding out in the morning is to air it, then it is foolish to leave it out long enough to catch the evening dew. Some campers are often guilty of this particular piece of folly and it is no unusual thing to see blankets still hanging out at six, seven, eight, and even nine o'clock at night. All the good which the morning sun did to the bedding has been undone by the evening mist and dew.

Bedding back in the tent by mid-afternoon should be the order of the day.

3. Lost Property

Here, at Gilwell, we accumulate enough lost property during the year to enable us to go into almost any business that can be thought of; such extraordinary articles as waistcoats, pullovers, jackets, knives, whistles, compasses, spectacles, and even false teeth (they surely must come from the Scouters!), combs (which are no use at all to me as I have not used one for 25 years), toothbrushes, soap, and, in fact, I could fill the whole of "The Scout" by listing the articles left behind at Gilwell.

How many Scouts carry with them a list of the things they take to camp? When I travel abroad I always keep a list of what my bags contain and then before I re-pack it is an easy matter to check the list and make sure everything is complete. This is a tip that is worthwhile for any camper but, of course, if you lose the list - which has been known - all your efforts will be in vain.

Not losing things is good thrift.

4. Tins and Tin Openers

I hope your Patrol possesses a really decent tin opener and not one of those things which must have been designed for making defences against some enemy. The kind that leaves jagged edges and gives you a 50 per cent chance of a nasty gash. The purists will say that you should not use tinned food, but either I am not a purist or I am a revolutionary and I know that for most camps a certain amount of tinned food is inevitable and, indeed, desirable. Into my camping kit goes a really workmanlike tin opener which will do its job speedily and with a minimum of risk to my hands. I hope you have a good one, too.

Have an efficient tin opener.



5. Towels

If you fold your towel neatly and place it on your kit you are wrong anyway. If the towel is damp it should not be on the kit and if it is not damp then it ought to be. Towels should be hung to air on a quite separate line, not on the guy ropes and not in the kitchen where they will catch all the smuts from the fire.

Treat your towel as a separate article.

6. Latrines

This is not a short discourse on field engineering or on hygiene, bacteria, and the like. I want to suggest to you that whilst a Troop latrine can be a thing of joy and beauty I have only once in all my travels seen a Troop camp where each Patrol had its own latrine. I know that on some camp sites there is no room and no possibility of reaching this ideal but where there is space and reasonable cover a Patrol ought to try to be completely self-contained and that must include making its own latrine.

I don't think a Patrol has really learned to camp until it has done all of it, gone to camp, pitched tents, done its own catering, cooked its own food, and built and used its own latrine.

Have a Patrol latrine.

7. Personal Gadgets

Most of the gadgets we make should be useful, but please let us have a few useless ones as well because they are the real joy of camping. The crazy gate which doesn't really serve any purpose and, in fact, is a bit of a nuisance, but we made it and we like it, is an example.

Here are just three things which you can easily do without but which you will have fun making and using:

A patent candle putter-outer.

A gadget for putting wood on the fire and lifting a pot off the fire at the same time, worked automatically from a distance of not less than ten yards. (Don't say it is impossible because no less a person than the International Commissioner himself made a magnificent one at Gilwell, and very proud of it he was; it really worked).

A book rest with torch attached for reading in bed, and if you can work into a gadget for turning the pages without having to take your arms out of the blankets then you are well on the way to becoming a real winter camper.

If you have any more ideas for unnecessary gadgets let me hear about them.

Gadgets can be fun.

8. Firewood

Always know what sort of wood you are burning and try to learn to identify it by its appearance and, with some woods, by the kind of flame it gives and the scent of the smoke. (You will not need to sniff Elder more than once or Elm more than twice). You can even identify a few woods by the sound they make as they burn. This is not easy, but it is worth trying.

Know your firewood.

9. Good Turns

Wherever you camp resolve that you will do one thing, however small, to make the camp site a little better than it was before you came. What sort of things you ask?

Filling in a gap in a hedge (providing the owner of the land wants the gap filled and has not made it to walk through).

Covering a bruise or scar on a tree.



Levelling an old ant or mole hill.

Clearing a blocked ditch.

Tightening up a loose fastening on a gate.

On the best kept camp site in the world I will guarantee that an observant Scout can find something which really needs doing, and you cannot find Good Turns unless you are observant.

Do a Good Turn to the site.

10. Blanket Lines

Have you ever run into one in the dark? Very painful, even frightening. There are two remedies - Either take the line down after dark;

Or leave something white (like a tea towel) hanging on the line at night.

Guard your lines.

11. Finding Out

Whenever you go to camp try to find three natural things you don't know and then worry your Scouter, the Rovers, or anybody until you have the things identified. What sort of things?

A Tree; a Fungus; an Insect; a Flower.

To learn a little every day is better than to cram now and then.

Learn something new.

12. This for the Patrol Lender

Whenever you go to camp resolve to give the maximum help to the Scouts in your Patrol who have the least experience. Don't hog all the interesting jobs for yourself, do your share of the chores and try to lead your camp by example and not by bullying or shouting. I hope your camp is a good one, and a well run camp stands the best chance of being a happy camp.

Good camping to you all.

JOHN THURMAN

The camp site scene and the photograph of the two boys cleaning their boots was taken by Peter Burton. The unusual angle of John and Tony Spender down a hole was captured by "Weekly Post Newspapers".

The Editor, with the help of some friends, offers some hints for the...

NATIONAL SCOUT CAMP COOKING COMPETITION MENUS OF 1962 *(Photographs by courtesy of Good Housekeeping)*

'IN CAMP COOKING the first essential, as with hotel catering, is "Mise en Place"! Translated into Scouting language this means "Be Prepared"! Have all your billies, knives and other equipment clean and ready, and prepare in advance the ingredients which you will need (e.g. peel the onions, trim the meat, etc.). If you don't do this the preparation of the meal can be chaotic, messy and unhygienic. These are points which the judge will finally note as they will almost invariably have reflection on the time the meal is served and the presentation of the dish. Presentation is vitally important and all too often a really well cooked meal is spoiled by bad appearance. A really well laid out dish is tempting to look at and makes the mouth water.' (So writes my friend Pat Fisher, a Commissioner and catering expert who helped judge last year's Finals.)

What follows is what the judges will expect your meals to be like - more or less! - during the Regional Cooking Competitions. Now let's get it quite clear from the start that we don't expect you to produce in camp exactly what a trained chef would produce in a first class hotel with all the benefits of his kitchen and elaborate utensils, let alone his knowledge and experience! We expect a camp version of the dishes concerned, which shall be, in the circumstances, as near as you can make them.

Two Scouter friends of mine Pat Fisher, whom I've already introduced, and Brian Watts, another Finals judge who is also a cooking expert, (and both these gentlemen hold distinguished appointments in the catering profession) have very kindly provided me with all sorts of information which I have simplified a little, added to a little, subtracted from a little and now pass on to you.



Madras Curry

I have also had the advice of a third friend and expert, Aidan Thomson, the Catering Manager of Baden-Powell House. The dishes as I describe them may not be absolutely classically correct according to the great cookery books but they are what we you will try to produce in camp for competition. Good luck, good cooking, good eating!

* * * *

First a special note from Pat Fisher which I quote just as he wrote it as I'm sure you'll all find of real value

"JUDGES DON'T LIKE -

Kitchens that look as though a bomb has just struck them.

Hands of a pastel grey colour mixing pastry or anything else for that matter.

A plate of food and eating irons thrust at them without a seat or properly laid up table.

JUDGES DO LIKE - Small portions attractively cooked and presented.

Clean AND hot plates.

Hot food with no long waits between courses.

I hope that some of the hints and recipes which follow will help you - so, a votre sante et avec bon appetit."

* * * *

Now for some of the dishes and let's begin with

Beef Olives

These amounts should make one olive for each Scout and one for the Judge.

4 thin scallops of beef, approx. 6" by 4".

1 medium and 4 or 5 button onions,

or 1 medium and 1 large onion.

2 sprigs of parsley which have to be chopped up.

2 oz. fresh white breadcrumbs.

2 small carrots.

A little thin brown sauce (not bottled).

Faggot. (This is comprised of parsley stalks, sprig thyme and a bay leaf. Tie tightly together with a string and use for seasoning when directed).

1 or 2 tomatoes or a dessertspoonful of puree seasoning.

METHOD

Cut the button onions (or large onion if you don't have button onions) into rings 1/8" thick (half moon shape; cut the celery likewise, if you have it). Heat a little butter in the pan and fry off onions, carrots and celery to a light brown colour. Make a stuffing with the trimmings from the beef finely chopped, the bread-crumbs, chopped parsley, the medium-sized onion finely chopped, salt, pepper (and a little nutmeg if you like);

bind together with a little water. Divide the stuffing into 4 equal portions, roll cork-shape and place in the centre of the scallops of beef. Fold in the ends and roll up. Tie both ends with string and lightly fry off to a brown colour. Place in a billy, add the fried off vegetables, cover with thin brown sauce, add faggot and diced flesh of tomatoes or puree. Bring to boil and cover with a lid. Cook gently for 45-50 minutes. Remove string and serve with sauce and vegetables. Lightly sprinkle with chopped parsley.

Weiner Schnitzel

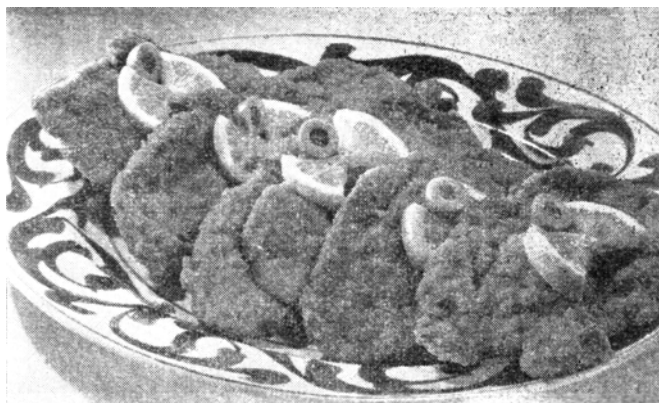
4 escalopes of veal (counted as before).
1 egg.
Flour and breadcrumbs.

METHOD

Take a piece of fleshy veal, moisten a Butcher's Bat and beat out as thinly as possible one piece of veal per portion. An escalope should be fashioned in the shape of an oval or a curved based triangle, and should be approximately 6" long.

Flour the escalopes, then dip in beaten egg, roll in breadcrumbs and fry for 4-5 minutes on each side (remember to serve upwards the side that went in first).

This is Wiener Schnitzel. It can be garnished in several ways, with a slice of lemon and a few capers or with chopped hard boiled eggs and a stoned green olive wrapped in an anchovy fillet stood on a slice of lemon



Weiner Schnitzel

Fillets of Sole Duglere

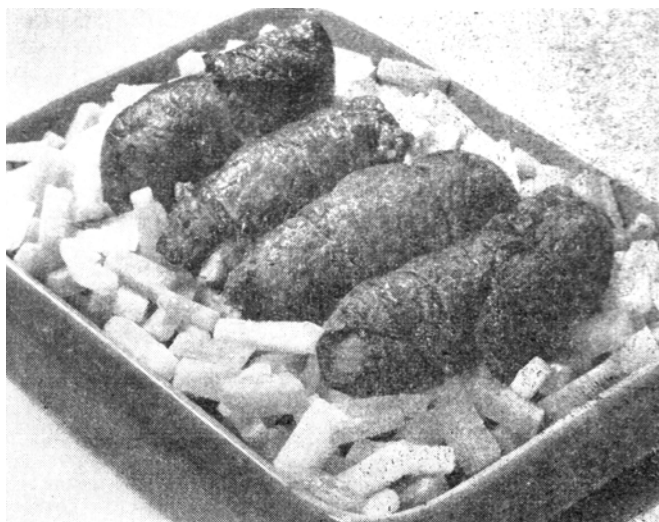
4 fillets of sole.
2 medium sized tomatoes.
1 fairly large onion.
Small sprig of parsley.
Fish stock or water.
1 oz. butter or margarine.
1 oz. flour.
½ gill of cream.
Salt.
1/8 pint white wine, or rather less amount of vinegar.
a lemon.

METHOD

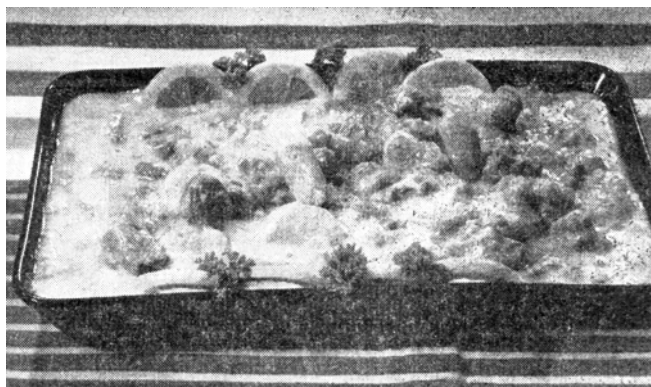
Lightly butter and season a shallow billy. Sprinkle with finely chopped onion and parsley, fold the fillets in two. Place cleaned fish on top and then sprinkle over with diced flesh of peeled tomatoes, add a few drops of white wine (or vinegar) and the juice of a lemon. Barely cover with fish stock (or water). Bring to the boil, cover with a buttered paper and allow to simmer gently. When cooked, remove fish and place on dish. Reduce cooking liquor by then stir in 1 oz. butter which has been mixed into a paste with 1 oz. flour. Re-boil (then add the cream). Correct the seasoning. Mask this sauce over the fish and serve garnished with chopped parsley.

Blanquette de Veau Fricassee de Veau

There's not a great deal of difference between a blanquette and a fricassee but we've decided to allow both because some of you will be more familiar with one than the other. So cook which you like!



Beef Olives



Fricassee of Veal

Now, in *my* amateur opinion, if you consult 27 cook books about these dishes you'll get 27 different recipes! But it will be *the look* and *taste* that counts! Here are two recipes if you're interested.

Let's take Blanquette de Veau and here's Pat Fisher's idea of it

1 lb. stewing veal.	2 egg yolks.
1 oz. flour.	2 pints water.
6 mushrooms.	1 oz. butter.
1 carrot.	6 small onions.
2 ozs. celery.	1 large onion.
1 gill cream.	1 faggot.

METHOD

Soak the veal in cold salted water for about 1 ½ hours, rinse, place in a billy and just cover with water. (This can be done before the competition officially opens). Add the quartered carrot, the large onion with 2 cloves stuck in it and the faggot, season and slowly simmer for 1 ½ hours then strain (saving the water in which the veal has cooked). In a separate billy melt 1 oz. butter and add to it 1 oz. flour. Cook over a moderate heat (without allowing it to colour) to a sandy texture (this takes about 2-3 minutes). Little by little add 1 ½ pints of the stock in which the veal was cooked, beating well as you do so, and allow to simmer for 10 minutes. If you add too much liquid at a time and do not beat well the sauce will be lumpy.

Beat the 2 egg yolks and the cream together in a bowl, then add half the sauce to it, stirring briskly as you do so. Your the mixture back into the sauce and re-heat without boiling. Add juice of a lemon and strain over the meat. Cook the button mushrooms and onions together in a little of the veal stock and use to garnish the stew.

Which sounds wonderful to me!

And here is Aidan Thomson's recipe for fricassee of veal:-
 "It's really, as you'll have realised, a veal stew - with the veal cut in small chunky pieces, sauteed in butter until slightly brown, with a little flour to thicken, then white stock added with carrots and small onions - all of which has to be simmered gently until done like any other stew. Mushrooms may be added - the essential thing is that both veal and vegetables are cooked in the saute. Egg yolks and Cream may be used as in the blanquette."



Madras Curry

1 lb. stewing beef, lamb or veal.
 1 lb. onions.
 2 bay leaves.
 1 oz. curry powder.
 Juice of ½ a lemon.
 2 oz. of fat.
 Salt.
 1 tablespoon of tomato puree.
 1 tablespoon of sultanas.
 1 tablespoon dessicated coconut.
 1 small apple.
 1 tablespoon of flour.

METHOD

When making any stew, curry, etc., of lamb, beef, mutton, etc., it is most important that:-

1. The Veg is Fried.
2. The Meat is Fried.
3. And the Flour is fried (plus curry powder in this case). It is the frying that gives a stew or curry its colour and flavour. If you were to add flour and water to the Curry in the form of a thin batter the Curry would look a yellowish, grey white. So

Fry the sliced onion until light golden brown, add floured diced meat and fry, colouring gently. Add curry powder and fry for a short time more. (Care should be taken not to burn the flour or the curry). Add tomato puree and then the stock in gradual amounts. Stir in well and bring to the boil. Simmer slowly. Then add the diced apple and sultanas and Look gently for about 2 hours (stirring the bottom occasionally) either on the fire or in a camp oven. Ten minutes before serving add the mushrooms and lemon juice.

Serve with plain boiled patna rice, which should not be soggy, but each grain should appear separate. It should be boiled in salted water, then drained and rinsed in cold water before being re-heated. Some people (and I'm one) like to have the curry served with either sliced raw banana or sliced fried banana as well as with chutney. Others don't!

Scotch Woodcock

This dish is scrambled eggs with the addition of strips of anchovy fillets placed criss-cross on the top. The secret is to cook the scrambled eggs just before you serve up the dish. Remember that you must withdraw the eggs from the fire while they are still slightly "Goey" as they will continue to cook after you have taken them off the fire. Good scrambled eggs do not eat like, or resemble, tennis balls! Serve on hot buttered crustless toast cut either oblong or round.

Devils on Horseback

Take the stones out of cooked prunes and wrap round each prune a piece of streaky bacon. Cook in a camp oven, or on a cleaned peeled wood skewer over a fire of embers, until the bacon is cooked. Serve on toast as with Scotch Woodcock.

These notes we have given you do not mean you cannot use your own recipes or ideas for these dishes. These notes are only meant to help any Scout who (competition or not) wants to try some rather more ambitious cooking than he usually tries.

And the puddings we'll leave to you!

We add these further:-

Hints for Class A

- * An onion stuck with a couple of cloves should be added as you cook the bacon.
 - * Dumplings should be made with suet or margarine not flour, water and salt only.
 - * By parsley sauce is meant parsley sauce: i.e. a white sauce with chopped parsley in it. For white sauce take an ounce (1 genuine tablespoonful) of flour and half a pint of milk, or water in which vegetables have been cooked. Have your flour in a bowl of some sort and add a *very little* of the liquid; stir it to a paste. Add a little more liquid: stir it to make a thinner paste and so on till all your liquid is used up and you have finally a milky fluid. Put it on to a slowish fire in a dixie and bring it *slowly* up to the boil, *stirring all the time*. Finish the sauce by seasoning with salt and pepper and stirring in plenty of chopped parsley.
 - * Pancakes should be wafer thin and served rolled and sprinkled with sugar.
- The rest we must leave to you.*

* * *

Hints for Class B

- * See that the steaks remain unbroken. The gravy or sauce should be thick and tasty. Be careful that your chosen vegetables are served attractively.
 - * Here's a recipe for steamed apple and date roll
Take 2 parts of apple and 1 part dates. Peel and cut apples, stone and chop dates and add clove and sugar. Pastry should be made, rolled out and the filling laid **en**. Roll it all up and tie on cloth as normal. Sprinkle with sugar before serving.
- The rest we leave to you.*

* * *

Hints for Class C

- * Steamed apple pudding should be cooked in a pudding basin. Apples should be properly peeled and cut up and sweetened.
- The rest we leave to you.*

**QUERIES
ANSWERED**

- Q. May a Group enter more than one team?
A. Yes, as many as it likes.
- Q. May packet stuffing be used for the Beef Olives?
A. Yes, but fresh stuffing is preferred.
- Q. Will marks be given for the kitchen and gadgets?
A. No marks are given for cooking, cleanliness, service, punctuality. But a smart orderly kitchen with just the necessary simple gadgets must affect the judges favourably
- Q. Isn't it difficult to make Summer Pudding for section D owing to lack of time?
A. Yes my fault Were substituting steamed Apple Pudding instead.
- Q. How can we get oysters for Angels on Horseback?
A. We've decided to cut out Angels on Horseback and just have the (more suitable ?) Devils on Horseback instead.
- Q. May canned Pineapples be used for the fritters in Class D ?
A. Yes - canned or fresh.
- Q. May entries be made to the Regional Organisers on plain paper ?
A. Yes.

*Every Scout who goes to
CAMP
should hove with him:
The Patrol Goes to Camp
The Scouts' Cook Book
Lightweight Cooking
1/- each (plus 24. postage)
from any Scout Shop.*

GET THEM NOW

REGIONAL COOKING COMPETITIONS IN SCOTLAND

Scotland will hold three regional camps as follows:-

	Place	Date	Organiser to write to
17.	Bonaly Camp, Colinton, Edinburgh, 13. Scotland.	May 26/27	Mr. George Hogg, 27 Columba Road Blackball, Edinburgh, 4.
18.	Auchengillan Boy Scouts Camp, Blanefield, By Glasgow, Scotland.	June 23/24	Mr. Douglas McLachian, Scout Memorial House, 21 Elmbank Street, Glasgow, C.2.
19.	Templars' Park, Maryculter, Kincardineshire, Scotland.	May 26/27	Mr. W. L. Chesser, 33 Abbotshall Drive, Cults, Aberdeen, Scotland.

GADGETEERING A SCOUTING SPECIALITY



GREENWOOD MUST NOT BE CUT WITHOUT PERMISSION

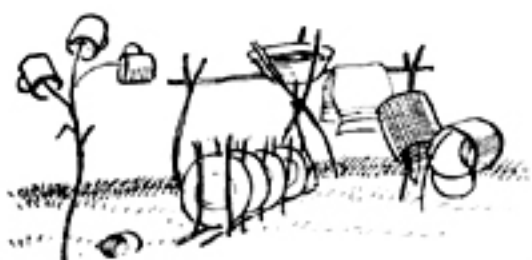


TAKE COPPICE GROWTH AND SUCKERS AT BASE OF TREE

STANDING DEAD-WOOD IS O.K. FOR MOST GADGETS

CUT CLEAN & CLOSE. USE SAW OR KNIFE - NOT AXE.

● NEVER TAKE GADGET WOOD - GREEN OR DEAD - FROM A HEDGE



TWIGGY GADGETS ARE KIDS' STUFF! DON'T SCATTER THEM AROUND YOUR KITCHEN

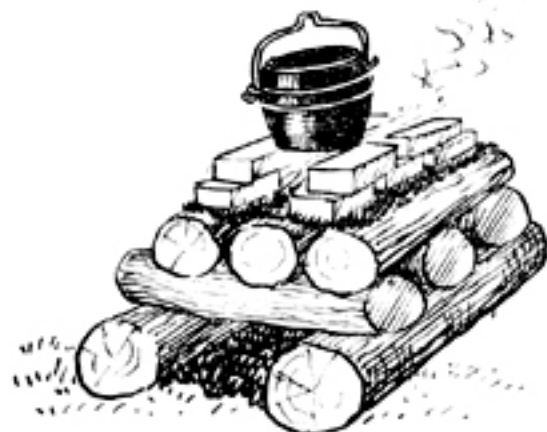
A CAMP DIBBER



JUST THE JOB FOR HEELING IN YOUR UPRIGHTS

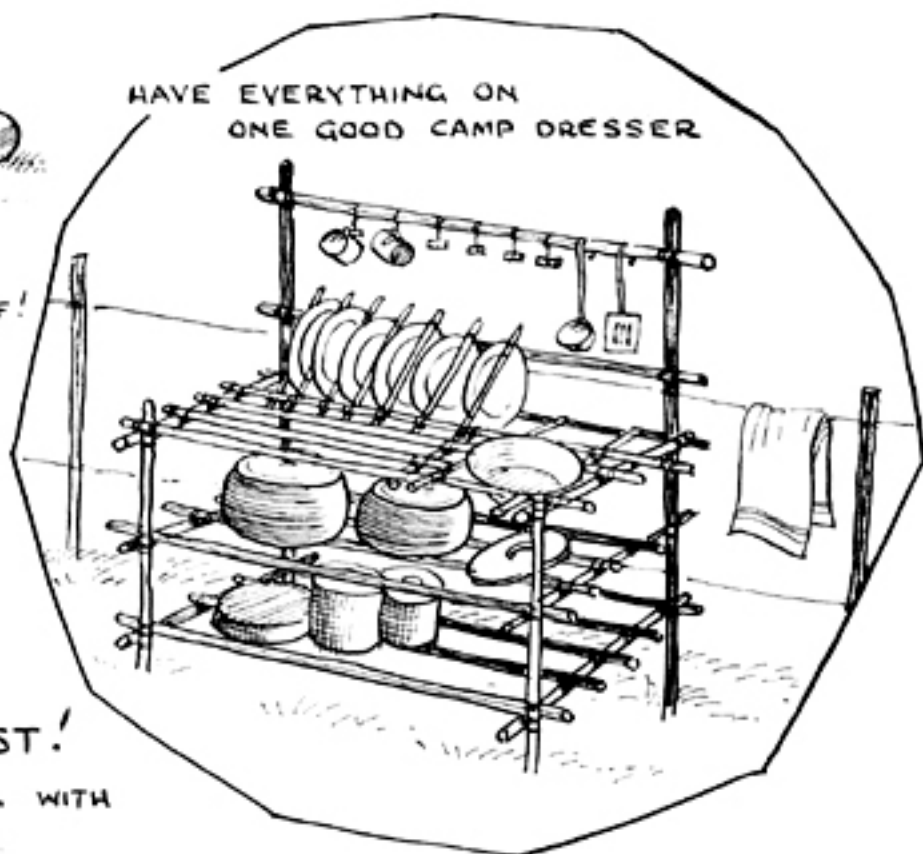
● FIRST THINGS FIRST!

START YOUR GADGETEERING WITH A GOOD COOKING FIRE

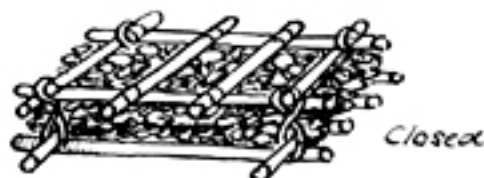
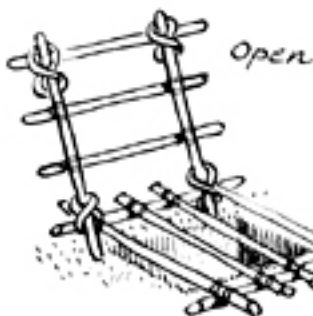


ALTAR FIRES CATCH THE BREEZE AND PREVENT BACKACHE

HAVE EVERYTHING ON ONE GOOD CAMP DRESSER



NEXT - MAKE AN EFFICIENT GREASE-TRAP



THE MARK IV HINGED GREASE-TRAP HOLDER

STRONG ELASTIC BANDS CUT FROM DISCARDED INNER-TUBES MAKE EXCELLENT "HINGES". PACK WITH A PAD OF FOLIAGE AT LEAST 3" THICK. BURN THE PAD AFTER USE

ARE YOU WITH IT?

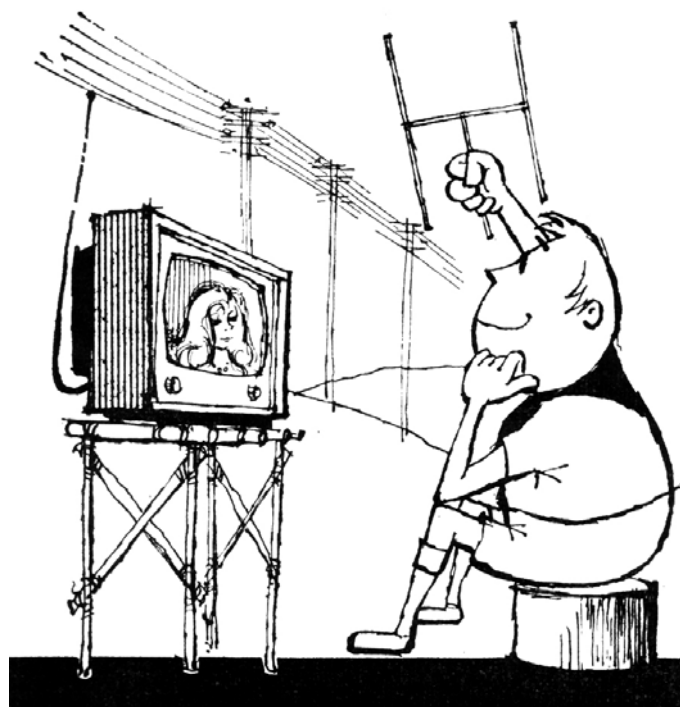
P.L. Bob Hobbs of the 2nd Rainham Troop gives advice in the first of two articles on organizing a Patrol Camp

WHEN YOU, THE P.L. or P/2nd, have decided that it's high time you had a Patrol Camp, don't do all the arrangements yourself. Even if some of your Patrol have never camped before, let the Patrol do it as a team. You, of course, know all that has to be done before camp; but here, briefly, is a list

1. Decide where to go.
2. When to go.
3. Notify the Camp Warden.
4. Decide transport.
5. Decide Menus, food lists.
6. Decide what to do when you get there.

Where To Go?

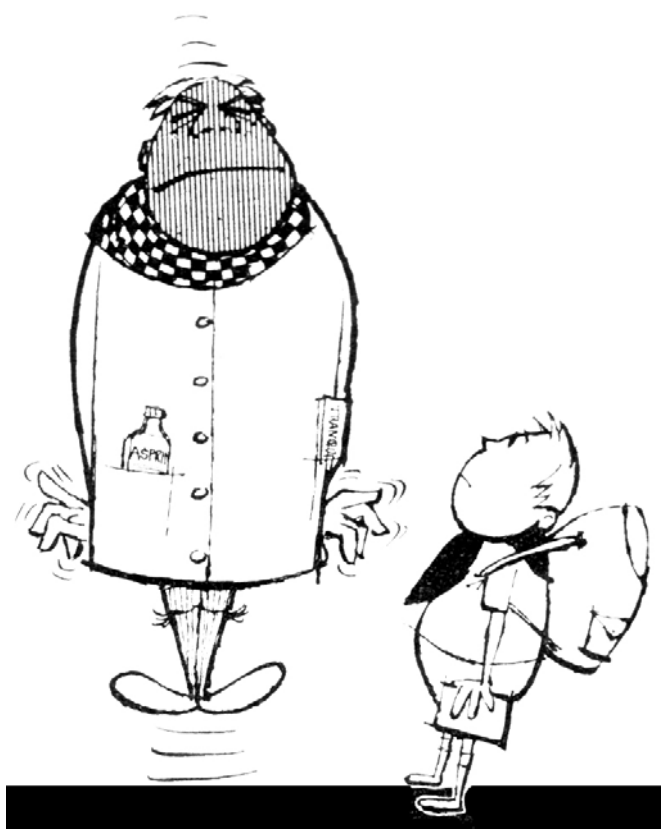
Not too far away for a Patrol Camp say within a 20-mile radius. If you don't know where the nearest camp-sites are, ask Skip and he'll give you the address of the Camp Warden to write to. Failing that, obtain from H.Q. the pamphlet entitled "District and County Camp Sites". This gives you all the Scout Camp Sites in Great Britain, with the names and addresses of the Camp Wardens or Bailiffs. When you have decided where you are going it's then up to you to decide .



...get away from our modern world

When To Go?

Try and pick a time when all, or most, of your blokes can make it. Easter is not the best time to take camping those blokes who haven't camped before; the best time being Whitsun and after. If some of your blokes haven't camped before and their parents are rather apprehensive, go and see them so that they can see how ugly and reliable you really are.



The long-Suffering Camp Warden

Unless you are going at a busy time like Whitsun, not much notice is required for your camping. Write to the Camp Warden of the site asking if it's all right for a Patrol of six Scouts from the 365th Heckmondwicke (All Saints) (?) Troop to camp there from the eve of Friday, 8th June, until Sunday afternoon the 10th. Also ask him to whom and when to send your food lists. Don't forget to enclose a stamped, addressed envelope with your letter. Send this about a fortnight before you hope to go, but for busy times like Whitsun, at least a month's notice is best. Don't forget you will need a week-end camp permit, which is valid for only four nights. This you can get from Skip.

Getting There

This is up to you. If your S.M. or A.S.M. has got a car they'll be able to take down at least your kit and equipment. If they haven't, one of your bloke's dads is almost sure to have one. Ask him politely, and he's sure to help you out.

If this is impossible you'll have to use Public Transport, and in this case you will have to take with you a minimum of equipment, and I shall deal with that later.

Food and Menus

This I shall deal with later, as it requires such a lot of space.

What Shall We Do?

At Camp you will want to do all those things you can't do in the Den, but don't work out a rigid programme for each day. Get together at a Patrol Meeting and work out what you'd like to do. This sort of thing just doesn't work

6.30 Reveille.

6.35 Wash.

6.45 Prepare Breakfast, rest brail tents.

7.20 Eat Breakfast.

7.35 Wash-up, rest tidy up site.

8.00 Get kit out for airing, etc., etc.

Be sensible about it. Who wants to get up at half-past six? It's inhuman. A sensible time would be 7.40. Even then, how do you know you're going to wake up at exactly twenty minutes to eight? Especially after the first night at camp. I've known Patrols eat Sausage and Mash at twenty to four - in the morning! There is no need to put down for every day Reveille, Wash, Prepare Breakfast, etc.



Sausage and mash at twenty to four - in the morning

Just put down something like this:-

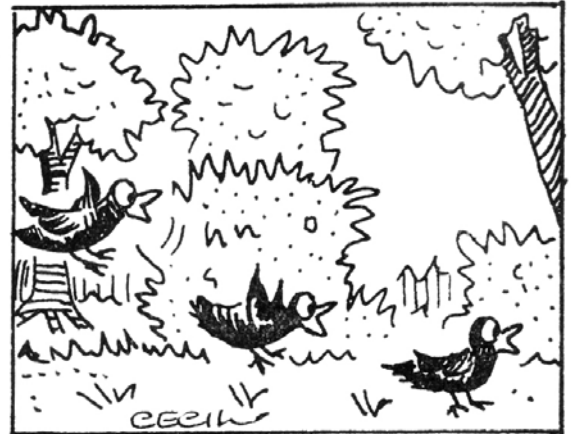
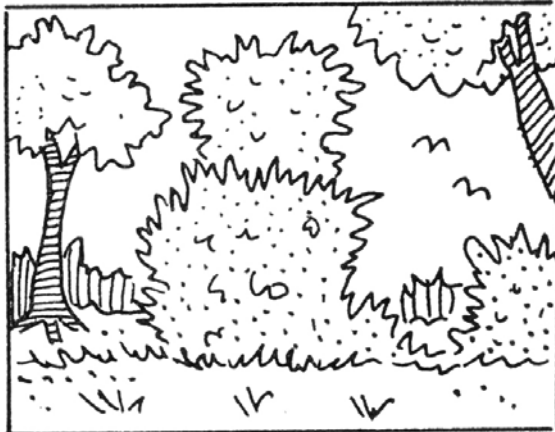
By 9 a.m. Breakfast, etc., finished. Then do not go into times

After kit out, Patrol Council to discuss game to play.

After game Start preparing lunch, etc., etc.

Leave plenty of latitude in your programme for the unexpected. For instance, there may be an old mill near your camp-site which you would like to see. With this sort of programme, you do not interfere with anything else in the programme.

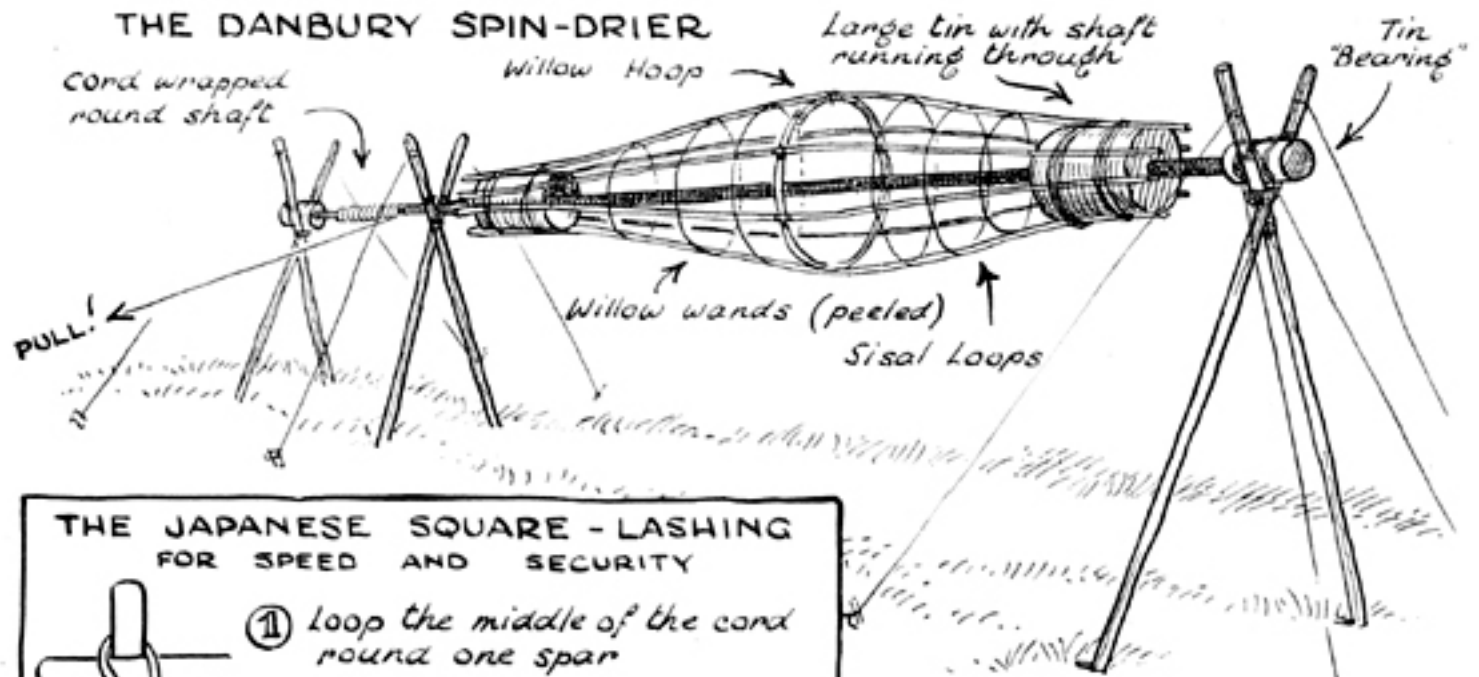
Don't do all test work. Play games, play lots of games. And I hope that you are not the sort who has to go back and forth to town for sweets and pop six times a day. Don't forget why you go to camp to get away from our busy, modern world; and, above all, to do some *Real Scouting*.



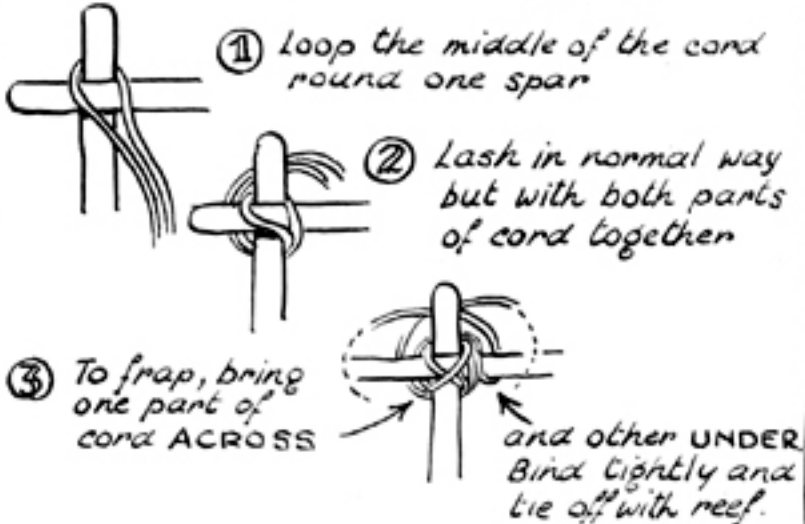
BACKWOODS MECHANICS

DON'T BE CONTENT WITH ORTHODOX GADGETRY. INVENT YOUR OWN

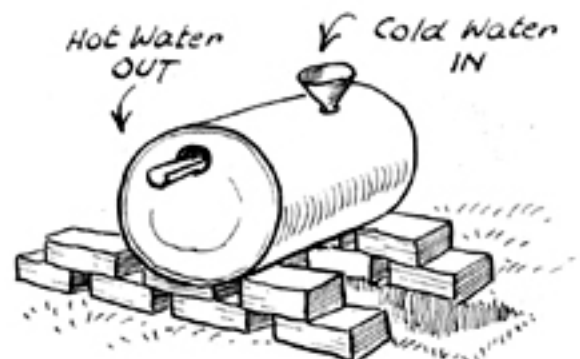
THE DANBURY SPIN-DRIER



THE JAPANESE SQUARE - LASHING FOR SPEED AND SECURITY

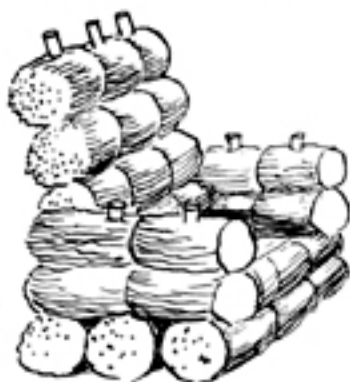


CONSTANT HOT WATER

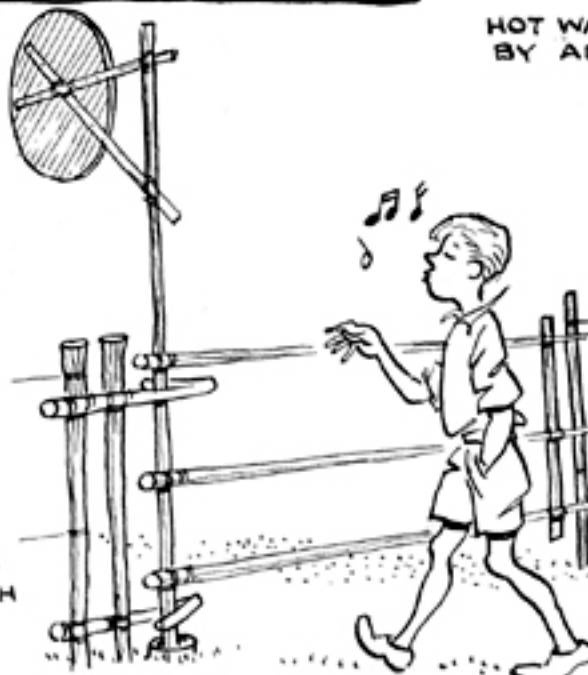


HOT WATER CAN ONLY BE DRAWN BY ADDING COLD WATER

THE MOISSON ARMCHAIR



BUNDLES OF HEATHER ARE BOUND WITH SISAL AND PINNED DOWN WITH LONG PEGS



AN AUTOMATIC "KEEP OUT" SIGN



your first class test in PICTURES



by John Annandale and Robert Dewar

THIRTEENTH WEEK

TREES

First Class Test No. 6.



Larch

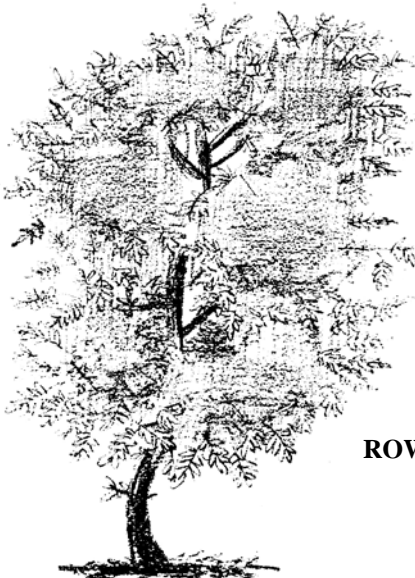


For this test you have got to know 12 trees. It means getting out and learning them.

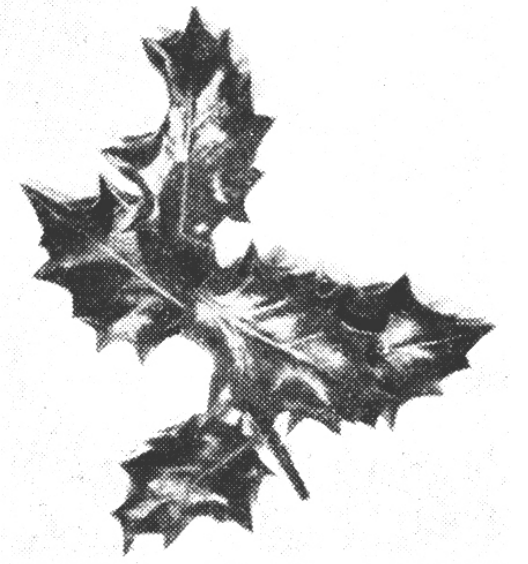
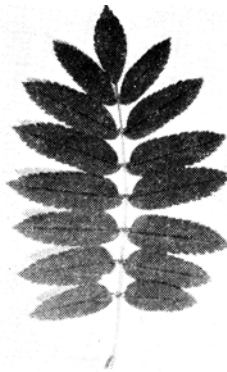
See if you can find the six trees on these pages



HOLLY

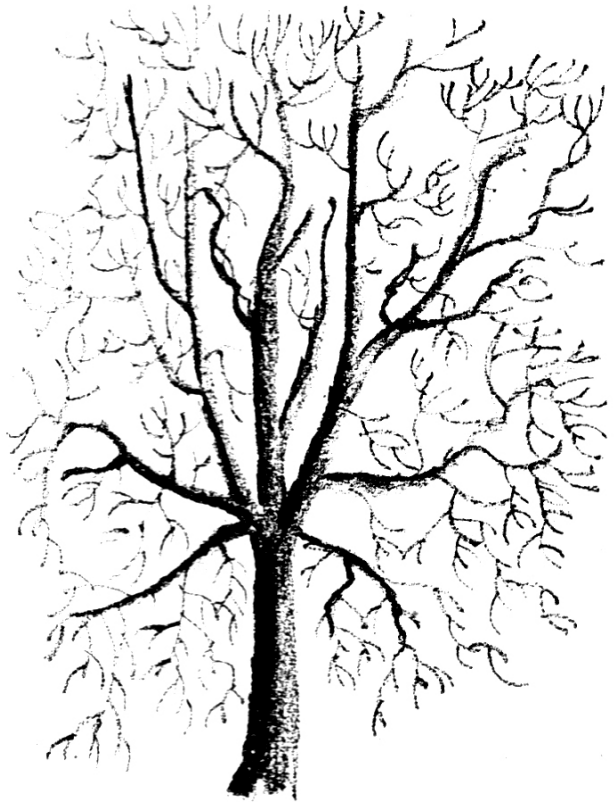


ROWAN

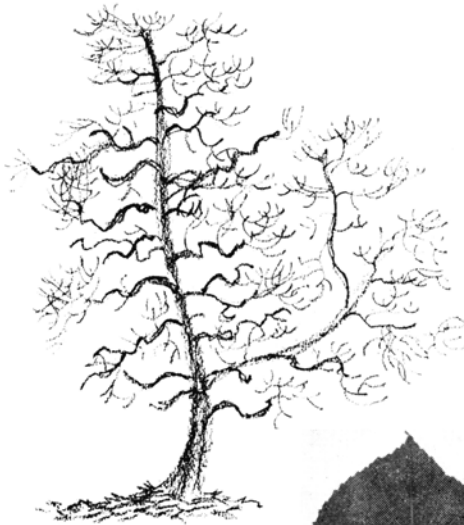




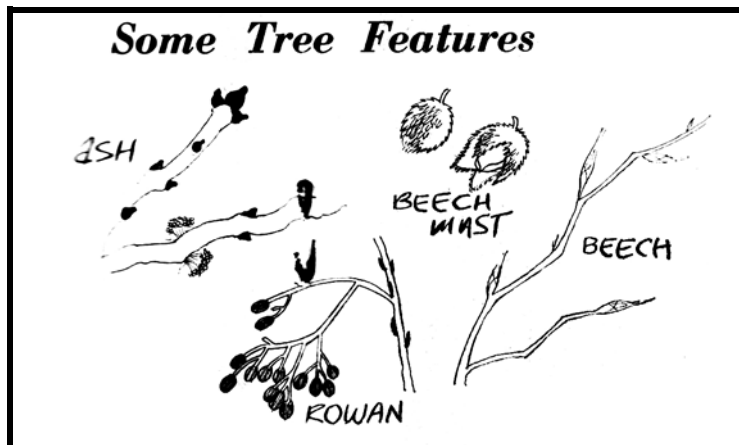
Beech



Ash



Lime



NEWS VIEWS



(Left) On B.-P.'s birthday, 22nd February, a service was held at Westminster Abbey when wreaths were laid on B.-P.'s Memorial Stone by (from left to right) Carol Latham, cadet Guide from Richmond, Surrey – on behalf of Guides of the Commonwealth; Lawrence Curtis, of Hackney – on behalf of Commonwealth Scouts; and Wilka Mims, of Coquitt, Georgia – on behalf of U.S.A. Girl Scouts in U.K.

(Photo P. A. Reuter)

(Right) Our President, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, visits the Sea Scout exhibition in the grounds of Government House, Nairobi, on the occasion of a Rally by Kenya Youth Organisations.

(Photo Planet News)

Challenge Hike

Due to demands of space the next installment of our serial is held over until next week

THIS WEEK'S COVER

Many of you will soon be off to camp. The essence of an enjoyable time is plans well laid.

(Photo by Norman Rowe)





Each week a member of the secret Council of Thirteen writes on this page for Patrol Leaders. If you have any problems or queries, or what advice or ideas; write to "THE COUNCIL OF THIRTEEN" c/o The Editor, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London. S.W.1.

getting out of the rut

ANY DAY NOW dozens - or should I say hundreds - of P.L.s will be checking up on their camping gear ready for their first camp of 1962. Readers of this page, of course, will have had their gear out once or twice during the winter and seen to any little repairs that needed doing and so they will be able to pack their kit and set off at a moment's notice. New readers, however, might have to do a little check up first to see, for example, that tents have all the guys in good condition and that all the brailing tapes are present. By the way, if you greased your cooking gear before putting it away make sure that it is washed well before I come and visit you as I detest greasy tea!

How are we going to camp this summer? Have we got in a rut - going to the same camp site time and time again? Do we have the same food each camp? Is our programme of activities worthwhile?

Although I do not think we should always go to the same camp site I do think it is a very good idea if Troops - or Patrols - have a sort of private site. Somewhere not too far from home so that you can cycle there in about an hour. I am not suggesting that you use this site for occasions such as Whitsun when you are able to venture a little further a field. Your private site is so useful when the Patrol finds on Wednesday or Thursday that it is free to camp at the week-end. If you have an arrangement that someone can just phone the farmer or owner to say you will be down it makes things very easy. It may even be possible for you to leave a tent at the site and possibly a little other Patrol gear as well. How much the owner of the site will help you depends entirely on how the gang behaves, so it is very important that you take careful note of any special points you are told. I know that you will remember the Scout Law - especially No. 5 - and I hope you will remember to ask if there is some little job you can do for your host.

I think we ought to be a little more adventurous with our cooking. For the past two years I have hoped that as a result of the Cooking Competitions many Patrols and Troops would use some of the dishes in their ordinary camps. At most of the camps that I have been able to visit I have seen the same old dishes being prepared and I have often thought that if Scouting disappeared then sausage manufacturers and baked bean canners would go out of business. If you turn back to "The Scout" for 3rd February you will find the dishes for this year's Cooking Competition. I expect some of you (like me) have wondered what some of the dishes are like and how you cook them. I'm in the middle of finding out and I'm rather looking forward to the Regional Competitions. Why not try at least one new item in the menu of each of your week-end camps this year?

I hope that my own bunch of toughs will take the hint and treat me to some decent meals at Easter.

I want to mention Sunday morning. I am rather unhappy about the small number of Scouts in camp who go off to Church. If you are at a Scout Camp Site you probably attend Scouts' Own but this should not take the place of your attendance at a Church service. During 1962 I hope more Patrols will go off to Church so that the public will know that we really do mean what we say when we promise to do our best to do our duty to God.

Now a word about dress in camp. During the week when at work I have to dress "formally", with a stiff collar and all that jazz, and so in the evenings and at week-ends I like to dress in a more casual manner. When I get to camp, especially when the weather is nice, I like to do away with the weight of a lot of clothes and feel comfortable. I am not old fashioned and do not believe that, because berets have come in and Seniors can wear long trousers, the Scout Movement is going to the dogs - in fact I'm very much in favour of all these alterations. However, when I see normal Scouts in a normal camp wearing jeans my blood begins to boil. I say "normal" camp because there are occasions when shorts and little else is not suitable - for example if helping your farmer with harvesting long trousers and long sleeved shirts are often desirable. In a normal camp that Boy Scouts would attend I think that jeans can be anything but comfortable. To start with you practically have to screw them onto your legs and when bending - to pick up wood and cook for example - you do so with a little difficulty. In the morning the dampness from the grass creeps up the legs of jeans and you find yourself with soggy cloth around your leg. Urgh! A lot of my Seniors are athletically minded and possess tracksuits. When the occasion demands it they allow themselves to wear the bottom half of a tracksuit in camp, but their rules are very strict and it must not be worn after about 9 in the morning until the evening. Tracksuit trousers have the advantage of being far warmer than jeans and also in the early morning the bottom of the legs can be pulled up to just below the knees and it looks as if one is wearing plus-fours.

Finally a word about something that does not have anything to do with camp. In recent months a tremendous number of Scouts seem to have got into the habit of wearing jeans over their uniform on the way to Troop Meeting and other activities. In most Troops where this happens it is the Patrol Leaders who are to blame as they start it. Scouts follow the P.L.s' example irrespective of whether it is good or bad. If this sort of thing goes on in your Troop I hope you and your fellow P.L.s will get together and stamp it out once and for all.

GET FREE SCOUTING EQUIPMENT WITH *Libby's* MILK LABELS!



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HOW TO GET THE ITEMS YOU WANT FREE!

First collect the required number of Libby's labels—you'll find it written under each item in the catalogue. Then send the labels to the address listed. You will get the item you've chosen by return. *Post Paid*. As a troop you'll soon have enough labels for the bigger items.

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE—fill in this coupon and post it TODAY!

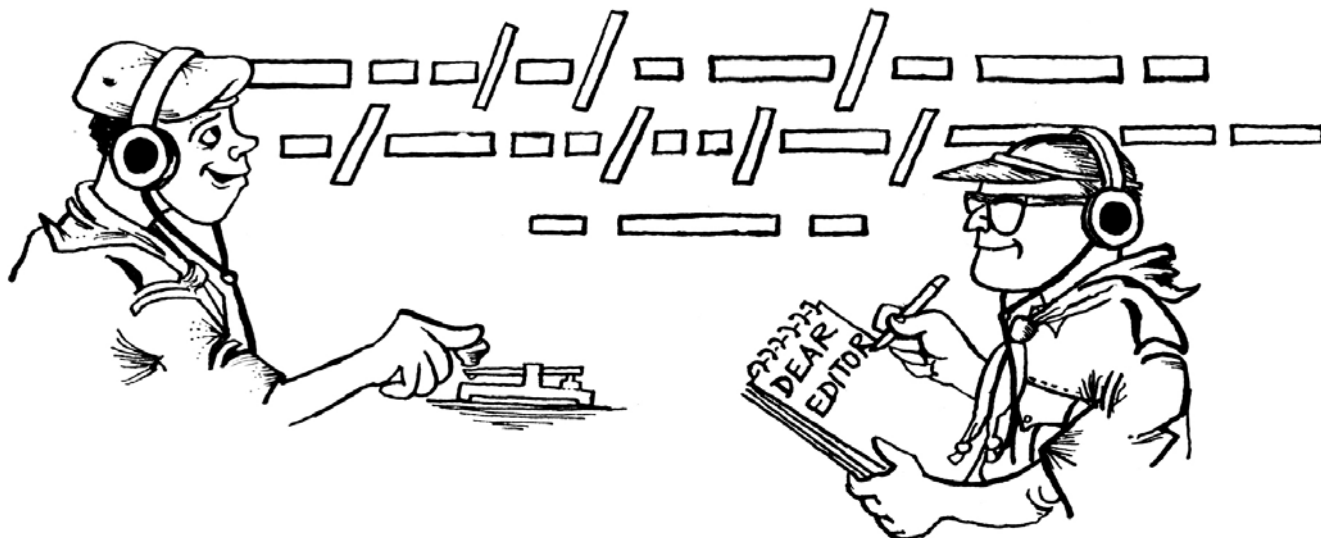


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Please send me a **FREE** copy of **LIBBY'S Scouting Catalogue**

NAME

ADDRESS





FIVE SHILLINGS FOR *YOUR* LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Visit from the Chief

Dear Editor,

While on a weekend camp with the Durham and Northumberland Scouts which the Chief Scout was to visit, I tripped over some wire and dislocated my elbow. After some injections my arm was put right and I went to sleep on a stretcher in the first-aid tent. The next morning while waiting in the hospital to get my arm X-rayed it started to pour with rain, in fact it came down so hard that some of the tents were flooded. When I got back to dinner the A.S.M. had to feed me for I was not used to eating with one hand and my left one at that. I was let off my work.

The next day the Chief Scout visited us. He asked me about my accident and how it happened. I was very flattered that he should have spoken to me. My mother has been wondering why I didn't go home, but she's not a Scout.

Thank you for an interesting magazine.

Scout Peter Brabban,
1st Dipton (St. Johns).

Michael Bartle Defends Himself

Dear Editor,

I feel that I must defend myself against the attacks on my suggestions for bringing Scouting up-to-date (20/1/62). I am proud to see that we have such enthusiastic members as G. S. C. Porter who will undoubtedly go to camp pushing a trek cart, as in the good old days, rather than use the "soft luxury" of a furniture van. I'll bet that he follows his primitive forefathers and rubs two sticks together rather than use those, "oh so easy matches", to light his fires. I resent the remark about a cigarette as I do not indulge in this disgusting habit. Incidentally, thank you for the tip about the plastic pipeline, the price of which I am enquiring into.

If G. Porter and Paul Haycock would read my letter again, they would realise that the points were purely suggestions with a few practical reasons for them.

In reply to Ronald Johnson, I agree with hint that shorts are best at camp (I have never worn longs or jeans) but the argument was jeans versus longs, not longs versus shorts.

I have slept on a camp bed and am more beautiful for the extra sleep!

To everyone, I still say week-end camps for rough living and wood fire cooking, but Summer Camps for big projects and getting to know "fresh fields and pastures new".

Having just returned from four days "soft Scouting" 1,500ft. above sea level in a ski-hut in snow covered Borrowdale (Lakes) my fellow softies and I would like to report that in between our strolls up Great Gable, Honister Crag and on the last day, before dinner, a three hour conducted tour over the icy landscape, we positively wallowed in the luxury of our stone dwelling. This had an added refinement, i.e. running water - all over the floor (unfortunately this was frozen from about 4 p.m. each day).

We were divided into, Patrols of four and each Patrol took a turn to do the various chores. Each Patrol, therefore, had to cook a three-course meal for sixteen which, when done on calor-gas burners, took half an hour (very little time saved, what!) preparation included.

P.L.(S) Michael Bartle,
4th Redcar.

A Good Turn

Dear Editor,

For the past four years our Troop has done a Christmas good turn to the aged and less fortunate in our town. This good turn consists of the whole Troop carol singing in the town during the week preceding Christmas and then with the money earned, parcels of Christmas Fayre are purchased and on Christmas Eve these are delivered to old and poor people in the town.

This year for the first time a local newspaper made a full page article on it. Through this more people in the town have come to know us.

However to me it has a more important advantage. It has shown some of the adults, who say that youngsters don't appreciate their elders, that they are wrong.

I would like to hear of any other Troops who do similar good turns at Christmas.

Peter M. Smith,
2nd Chatteris, Cambridgeshire.

Wash Your Badges!

I have just read my first copy of "The Scout" and would like to say what a wonderful magazine I think it is. Full of interesting features and exciting stories. Your feature, "Your First Class Test in Pictures", is especially interesting to me as I have just started my First Class. By the way, my New Year's resolution is to order "The Scout" every week and at only sixpence that's certainly value for money.

K. J. Law,
25th S.W. Hear.

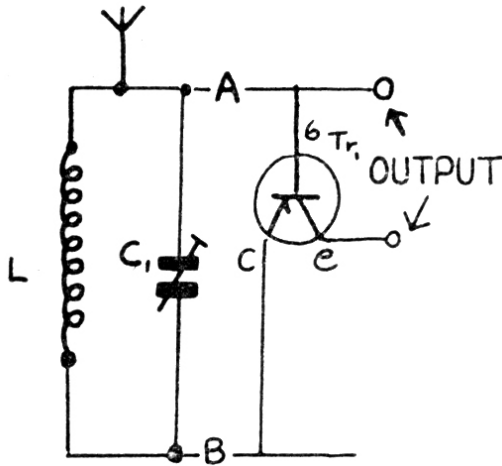
Radio Circuits

Dear Editor,

I have noted with interest the various radio circuits published from time to time in "The Scout".

The transistor, the rich relation of the simple diode, has enabled considerable advances to be made in small light-weight circuits. I may remind the readers that, however, the transistor will act in a similar capacity to a diode. The inherent properties of the transistor enable a diode type circuit to be constructed without resistances, etc.

I therefore submit a simple circuit which works well with a reasonable aerial, whilst an earth is not needed as it has a negligible effect on the performance.



L = Tuning Coil (Medium Wave Coil)

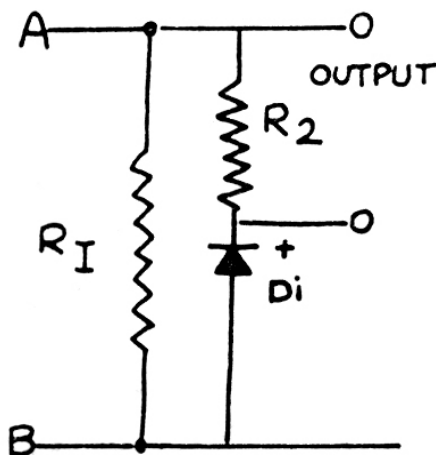
C=250 pf - Tuning Capacitance.

N.B. - C may be 250 pf - 500 pf (0.005 mf).

TR.I = Mullard OC72

Output to a high impedance crystal earpiece.

As a point of interest the equivalent of the transistor is as follows:-



Where R1 is a high resistance while R2 is in the order of 5 to 10K ohms.

P.L.(S) E. Carberry.
Bedford Modern School Troop.

Dear Editor,

This is the first opportunity I have had of writing to "The Scout", and I am glad to be able to do so. In my opinion the best article in "the Scout is Council of 13". I read this page thoroughly every week and, besides enjoyment, I get a lot of advice and tips out of it.

In reply to T.L. R. A. Stevenson's letter in "The Scout" dated 16th September, 1961, I disagree with his theory that badges should not be sewn onto clothing that is worn.

He mentions in his letter that washing damages badges. Well the badges that we get in N.Z. are never even harmed by washing. The only article that I have found unsatisfactory for washing is the Scout cord. Other than this none of my badges are any the worse for wear after washing.

P.L. Craig Little,
Panmure Group, Auckland, N.Z.

Joint Meetings with Guides are a Good Idea

Dear Editor,

In reply to P/2nd(S) R. Shambler's letter ("The Scout", 27th January, 1962) I think that I should say to a certain extent, joint meetings with Guides are a good idea, but they should be kept exclusively for the over - 15's of both Movements, and should not be too frequent. I consider that about six nights a year is plenty, e.g. at Christmas, Halloween, etc.

Last Summer I went to SAGA 61 (The Senior Scout. Guide and Senior Branch Camp) in Perthshire, and at the end of it I think that everyone thought it had been a great success, but although much can be learned by members of both Movements attending such a camp it should not - indeed, could not - replace the Summer Adventure which most Senior Troops have. In any case, there are few Troops large enough for such a camp. and it takes more Scouters and Guiders, capable of instructing in dancing, mountaineering, photography, etc.. than we often easily have available.

I think I can answer the question posed by R. Shambler. Senior Scouts, at any rate, are shy - very shy - of girls, or at least, Rangers. Why else, with all the publicity given to the camp as early as December, 1960 in "The Scouter" should there have been only twenty-one applications by Senior Scouts? There were thirty-two places for us and thirty-two for Rangers. I have it from reliable sources that Guide H.Q. was almost flooded out with requests to attend! I am glad to say, however, that all traces of shyness (if there were any to start with) among the brave few, disappeared after a couple of days.

Q.S. Ian Watson-Walker,
Loughborough (Thorpe Acre).

PS, There is a very good article about SAGA 61 in "The Scouter" for January 1962.

Putting the "Out" in Scouting

Dear Editor,

Recently our Troop went to Raby Park for a Wide Game. It was called Manhunt and one person was given half-an-hour start to put as large a distance as possible between him and the Troop. Then the Troop would try and track him before three hours were up.

Our Troop are now planning a three-day hike and we will only be allowed enough food to fill our pockets. I hope it is a success.

Scout Robert Bumham,
9th Darlington.

P.S. Could we please have more of Skipper Simpson's Diary?

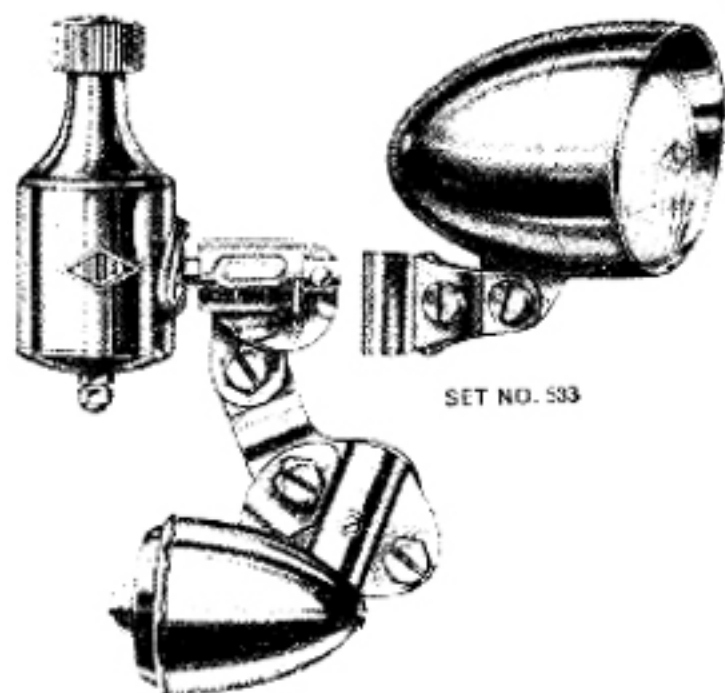
THE LATEST



LIGHTING SET

*a thirty bob job
to last you a lifetime*

COSTS ONLY



SET NO. 533

The smartest job any Scout can do for himself is to fit his cycle with this latest design MILLER lamp. Trim, ultra-lightweight design. Long, brilliant beam even when you travel slowly. Be prepared now that the dark evenings are here. Choose MILLER—the lighting set you can rely on.

- 533 — 30/- 535 — 35/-
- 536 — 40/-
- * 537/H — 50/- less battery

* (has built-in, battery operated horn which gives a clear warning note at the push of a button).

Miller lamps are the badge of a first class cyclist.

30!

COMPLETE

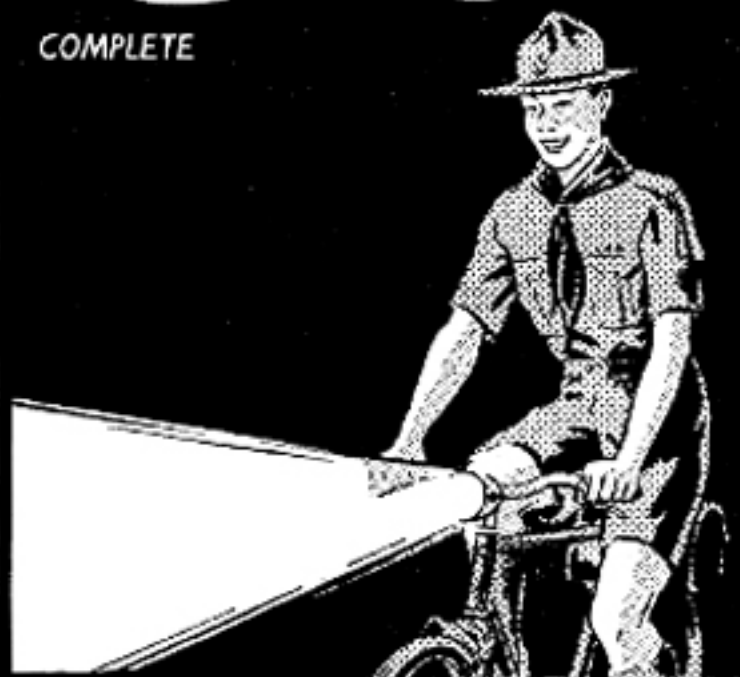


DESPATCH RIDER BADGE:-
"The bicycle must be properly fitted out with front and rear lamp".
(Note to Scouts taking this Test: Examiners appreciate the smartness and efficiency of Miller Cycle Dynamo Sets).



CYCLIST BADGE:-
"The Scout must keep on his bicycle a front lamp and tail lamp in good working order".
(Note to successful cyclists: Miller Cycle Dynamo Lighting sets give a strong white beam at all speeds).
Vide "Scout Badge Series No. 18".

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No. 329 by KWASIN and KENEU

What is it? for Wolf Cubs (2) Result

It was cracked and parched earth,
 Congratulations to the following winners:

- Michael Donnelly**, Billingham.
Sixer C. Henderson, 10th Andover.
Keith Martin, 3rd Greenford.
Sixer Christopher Rainbow, 1st Bromsgrove.
David Roberts, 12th Leamington.
Cub Michael Wakefield, 14th Warrington.

Nature Logs

Once again the Editor has said he will give special prizes for the best Nature Notebooks kept by Wolf Cubs between 1st April and 30th June. He will tell you later when to send them to him. But don't forget to be ready to start keeping your eyes open for interesting birds and insects and flowers and so on, on 1st April.

All you need for this is a notebook or exercise book, or even different coloured sheets you can bind together yourself. Then you need to draw three columns:

When	Where	What I Saw

In the first, of course, the date, in the second, the place, and in the third, what it was you wanted to notice.

Here are some of the sort of things you might look out for: Willow catkins, Sycamore seedlings, celandines in flower, heard the first cuckoo this year, found a chaffinch's nest, saw some blackthorn in flower, a ladybird, elm trees in flower, a foal, a spider in a web, horse chestnuts breaking into leaf, a brimstone butterfly, beard an owl, saw bluebells in a wood, and rooks building nests, dragonflies over a pond, clover in flower, winter wheat spring up, and so we could go on.

Have you a House Orderly Badge? (3)

Washing Up

The washing up of a normal meal will include crockery, glassware, cutlery and probably some pots and pans.

Before starting the business of washing up, it is most important to stack the dishes neatly, and to have a clear space to drain them afterwards.

Method:

1. Remove any scrap food, etc., to garbage bin.
2. Put hot water in any dirty saucepans., etc., and leave soaking - this helps to loosen burnt or stuck food particles.
3. Stack plates, etc., together and sort out the other utensils.

4. Fill the washing up bowl with very hot water. and put a small amount of liquid or powder detergent in the water and whisk up with your hand to make a nice foamy lather.
5. First carefully put any glassware in the water, and wash off any marks, using a dishmop or cloth. Rinse all the soap off under cold water straight from the tap.
6. Next wash all the cutlery, taking particular care (a) to clean between the fork prongs and (b) not to leave knife handles in the hot water for long.
7. Next all the cups and saucers and plates that are not greasy, followed by the greasy plates, and then serving dishes and casseroles.
8. Finally the saucepans should be carefully washed, and a scourer can be used to clean the crevasses.
9. Drain the crockery either on the draining board carefully resting each piece against the next or by placing in a dish rack.
10. Dry thoroughly with a nice clean cloth and put away neatly.

MORE NEXT MONTH



The Pigeon Who Traveled

But where has he arrived at?

If you colour in the spaces numbered 3, 6 and 9, you should be able to find out!

A book to have
The Cubs' Sportsman Badge Book
 (Wolf Cub Book No. 13)
 Price 1s.

THE YOUNG BADEN-POWELL

From the book published by Max Parrish
& Co. Ltd. © Arthur Catherall, 1961

by Arthur Catherall

FOR NEW READERS: As a very young boy, B.-P. - "Ste" to his Family - learns from his grandfather about the adventurous life led by Captain John Smith. B.-P. is determined to be like his distinguished explorer great great grandfather. John Ruskin kin tells Mrs. Baden-Powell not to worry about B.-P.'s ability to work with either hand. B.-P. learns from his brothers how to live as a backwoodsman. The four boys build a boat and travel to Liandago.

B.-P. enters Charterhouse.

He is nicknamed "Bathing Towel". The school later moves to Godalming. Due to delay in delivery there is a shortage of beds in his dormitory. B.-P. leads some friends in search of straw for beds. Going home for the holidays B.-P. successfully tricks the Stationmaster at Guildford and obtains the bell he uses to signal the trains to depart. B.-P. is taken to sea in a yacht owned by his brothers. After a very squally passage they anchor and B.-P. prepares some soup. The soup is burnt and B.-P. is made to drink it all. Returning to school after the holiday B.-P. enters a copse which is out of bounds. He has to hide to avoid being caught by two masters.

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Copse (continued)

The following Saturday B.-P. went again to the Copse. He went early and this time he had string, matches, and a small mug. Again there was silence for a few minutes after he entered, and then the life of the Copse was resumed. The rabbits came out, the birds began to sing, and some came down to look for worms near the roots of the trees.

It was then he noticed for the first time that around most of the trees no grass grew, and especially on the north side there was a green mildew of moss. He wondered why it should be only on the north side, and it was some time before he realised it was because on that side there was never any sunshine.

'H'm! That would be useful if one got lost, and had no compass,' he decided. 'You would always know which side was to the north.'

After watching the rabbits playing for a time he made a snare, setting the loop an inch or so above the ground, and having it dangling from a long, springy stick he had cut from a willow tree. The willow was kept bent by another twig, delicately balanced, so that the least pull on the bent willow would release it and allow it to spring upright.

Half an hour passed with B.-P watching in silence. He had a great thrill at the end of that time, for he saw a weasel. It appeared to lollop along in a sort of rolling motion, and its body seemed to be like a cigar, and all rubber.

For quite a long time it stood within five yards of the watching boy, its little black nose twitching as if it were actually sieving the many smells which the warm, sunny air carried.

Then, as if it had made up its mind, it made straight for a burrow entrance which was hidden from B.-P by an overhang of dead grass. One moment the weasel was there, and the next it was gone. Immediately it vanished a squirrel which B.-P had seen several times while he had been sitting still, broke out into a furious scolding. It came down to within a few feet of the ground, as if determined to see what the weasel was up to. Then, as if suddenly afraid, it went up the tree trunk again almost faster than the eye could follow it. Its angry chatter seemed like a danger signal to all the other occupants of the wood, and a blackbird exploded out of a tree giving its flute-like alarm notes.

A few moments later three rabbits burst out of the burrow in front of which B.-P had set his snare. Down below ground the dreaded scent of the weasel had reached the family, and they were scuttling for the open as fast as they could run.

The first of the three ran straight into the noose. The delicately balanced 'spring' stick was released, and as the noose tightened about the rabbit's neck it straightened.

The noose, already tightening as the rabbit sped onwards, cut off the frightened squeal.

A moment later B.-P had snared his first Copse rabbit.

The weasel came up from the burrow a minute or so later. He was licking his lips, and there was a bright sheen in his eyes. Unlike most animals which live by hunting, the weasel merely tastes the blood of his victim, and it seemed to fill him with an insatiable hunger for more killings.

He went off, looking even more like a long cigar, and was gone for that afternoon. B.-P skinned his rabbit, cleaned it, and then made a very small hunter's fire in a spot screened from every eye. He was sure not even the most curious of masters would come here, for it would mean forcing a way through a bed of nettles on one side, and a thick growth of blackberry bushes on the other side.

Kneeling by his tiny fire, so small and so hot that when a dry twig was put on it flamed with hardly a suggestion of smoke, B.-P roasted his rabbit. He had roasted rabbits before, but always it had been one of his elder brothers who had set the snare. B.-P felt that he was growing up.

'And the next time we go camping I shall set my own snares.' He grinned at the thought of how he could thus prove to Warrington, George and Frank that he really could look after himself.

He was testing a rabbit leg when the watchman of the wood shrilled his sweet warning notes. B.-P had already decided that when the blackbird which was sitting on her second clutch of eggs shot away, calling so desperately, it was a sign of intruders.

Sitting quite still, B.-P listened. This time there was no smell of pipe tobacco to tell him that the intruders were masters from Charterhouse. He looked for a moment at the pieces of turf he had so carefully cut out to make a fireplace. Dare he blanket the fire? He decided he dare not.

The fire was an ideal one for roasting; a bed of very hot embers, burning with the heat and the lack of smoke of charcoal. If he smothered it with turf there would certainly be a pungent smell for a minute or two.

The voices drew nearer, and then he heard:

'I say, can you smell anything?' followed by an audible sniff.

B-P did not wait. Like a hunted fox he slithered through a gap he had made in the blackberry bushes, reached a tree he had already noted as being easy to climb, and was a dozen feet from the ground when the crackling of bushes told him that the men who ruled Charterhouse were quite capable of breasting a way through blackberry thorns if they felt the matter of sufficient urgency.

From fifteen feet up B-P looked down on his little camp fire. Two men had found it. One had taken a risk by walking through the knee-high nettles, and was wishing he had gone the other way. The second master had gingerly brushed aside the clinging branches of blackberry as he made his way through to where the rabbit, looking very small and nicely brown now, hung in its separate parts over the glowing fire.

'Well, I'm dashed,' B-P heard one of the masters say. 'What do you make of this, Weekes?'

No wonder we thought there was an appetising odour. Part of a rabbit.'

Weekes, releasing a blackberry branch fastened to his left sleeve stared down at the fire and the rabbit.

'Think it is a poacher? I mean an ordinary poacher – a man?'

Weekes pondered for a moment then shook his head.

'No, I don't think so. If it was a man why should he bother to cook a rabbit here? He could

take it home and have it by his own fireside. If it was a passing tramp – he wouldn't have taken precautions like this. You see – this spot has been well chosen.'

'I can see that,' the other master agreed. 'Are you thinking it might be a Charterhouse boy?'

'Why not? There are a number of country boys in the school.'

'Couldn't it be a town boy. What about young Bathing Towel, as the boys call him? The redhaired boy. He always seems to be up to some caper or other, and I think this is probably just the kind of thing he would enjoy.'

'But why him in particular?' Weekes asked.

'Well –' and the other pondered for a moment. 'I don't know, really.'

In some ways, he's a kind of lone wolf. He doesn't seem to have any particular friend.'

'You surprise me. I thought he was quite popular. He always seems to be in the thick of things.'



'He is, and I agree he seems to be popular; but you take notice, if you get the opportunity – he never seems to be with any one particular crony. He doesn't go out much with his younger brother.'

'Still, I don't think it could be him,' Weekes murmured, shaking his head. 'You see, he's a

Londoner, born and bred. Now – catching a rabbit, and lighting a fire like this isn't the work of a town boy. A town boy just wouldn't know how to begin. If this is the work of a boy, he is a boy who has been born to country ways.'

'What are we going to do? Take the rabbit?'

'No, no, no; my goodness, no. If you do that you'll frighten him off. He'll realise we've looked at his little hide-out. No, we'll creep – no, we'll walk out of the wood as if we are not worried about anything at all. One of us will not go the whole way out, but will stay where he can watch. Then if anyone comes along – we have him.'

Weekes had lowered his voice so that strain his ears how he would B-P caught no hint of the plan. From his leafy hide-out in the tree he watched Weekes and his fellow master struggle out of the circle of blackberry bushes and nettles, then walk on a little way into the wood, turn about, still talking animatedly, and so on out of sight. B-P listened to the murmur of conversation.

That conversation, however, was being carried on by one man. Weekes was no fool, and when he left his friend in hiding he walked on talking fairly loudly, and altering his voice to answer his own questions.

It was a piece of acting which did credit to a man who loved boys, and knew a great

deal about their ways. He believed that whoever had caught the rabbit and left it so silently when the 'enemy' drew near, would be hiding somewhere, just waiting until the coast was clear.

Ten minutes later Weekes returned silently to the place in the Copse where he had left his friend.

'Has he returned?'

'No, Weekes, I have listened so hard that I don't think a mouse could have changed its socks without me hearing it. There hasn't been a sound.'

'All right, then I think we'll put the fire out – the boy may have taken fright, and we don't want to leave a fire burning. They spread so easily in a dry wood. It's all right. I'll go in. I think my trousers are perhaps more nettle-proof than yours. I'd get a handful of dock leaves if I were you. Rub them on the stings. It takes the fire out of them.' And with that Weekes plunged boldly into the nettle bed, rounded a hush, and stopped in his tracks.

For a moment he thought he had come to the wrong place. There was no sign of the rabbit, and no sign of the fire. What was even more astonishing, there was not a hint on the turf that there had ever been a fire there at all.

'What's the matter, Weekes?' the other master asked, having heard what he thought was a startled exclamation. 'Something wrong?' 'Come here.'

A minute later the second master was standing with Weekes, staring down in equal amazement. Then, bending down and placing his hands on the turf where they had earlier seen a fire, he began feeling about. A moment later he looked up.

'Yes, Weekes, old man, I agree with you. This is definitely not the work of a town-bred boy.'

He began to feel about until his probing fingers found a cut in the ground. A few moments later he had lifted first one then a second neatly cut piece of turf. In the four inch deep trench exposed to view were the hot ashes of a dying fire which, even as they looked, began to glow again now that it was getting air, the loss of which had almost choked it out.

The pieces of turf were carefully replaced and the two masters stood for a moment peering this way and that through the fringe of blackberry bushes.

'I don't know how he did it, Weekes,' the master who had watched said, 'I could have taken my oath that no one forced their way through the blackberry bushes, and certainly no one walked through the nettles.'

'Shall we go?' Weekes suggested, and with a smile added: 'If the fellow who so neatly made fools of us is a Charterhouse boy - I would be quite willing to predict a brilliant future for him - especially if he took up poaching.'

From his hide-out up in the tree, where he had been munching happily at the hind leg of his rabbit, B-P watched through the foliage while the two masters left the Copse.

'I wonder why they didn't look up?' he murmured when he was once more the only human in the Copse.

'Perhaps people don't look up when they are in a wood. Lucky for me these two didn't,' and he grinned. As he slid down the tree and reluctantly buried what was left of his cooked rabbit a thought struck him.

'I'll bet old Weekes will be on the prowl again, next half day, looking for me. And I could have ambushed the pair of them as easy as falling out of the tree.' He chuckled at the idea, but decided such an 'ambush' would not be a good thing.

What did make him smile was the thought that for the future his trips to the Copse would be more exciting, since the masters would obviously be on the lookout for poachers.

Creeping out of the shelter of the trees he made his way back to school on the Godalming side of the playing fields, alternately walking and trotting, and was actually walking in for tea when Weekes and his colleague arrived.

He had watched for their arrival so that they would be sure to see him, and he would have been delighted had he been able to overhear the snatch of conversation which followed, for Weekes said:

'I say, there you are. Isn't that the boy you thought might have been in die

Copse?

Obviously he could not have been the poacher. He could not have got here in time, could he?'

'No, you are right,' the second master admitted.

'But I can't think who else would have been there. Young Powell is the most likely fellow to do a thing like that. Still, as you say, it could not have been him.'

(To be Continued)

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