



# THE SCOUTER

JANUARY 1954

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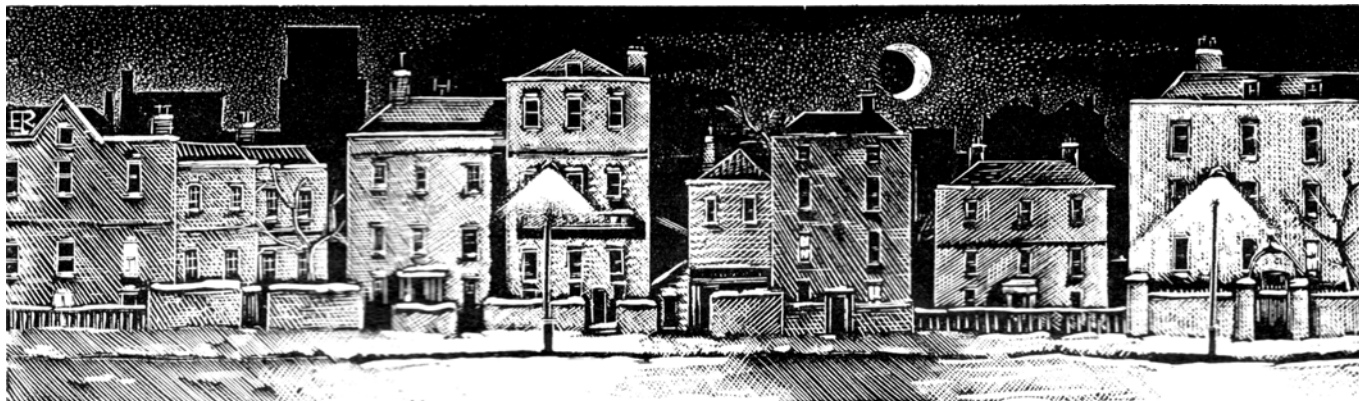
# Be Prepared - Be Refreshed!

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GOOD TASTE**



## THE OUTLOOK By THE CHIEF SCOUT

NINETEEN-FIFTY-THREE with all its historic memories is now past, and what will the New Year bring? At the El Alamein Reunion, the Duke of Edinburgh gave us a challenge. "We are often urged," he said, "to show the same adventurous spirit of the first Elizabethans, but there are examples in our own life-time which are just as worthy, and which we can all remember. The spirit of endurance which our people showed in the dark days of the war, the triumphant spirit which carried you through Alamein and the desert and more recently the unifying spirit which bound us all as brothers at the Queen's Coronation this ..... So tonight I would say this to you, look ahead, and keep alive within you the spirit of endurance, triumph and unity which is our greatest heritage." That seems to me finely put, and something that needs saying and not only saying but doing. We forget so quickly. We were united, what are we doing to keep that union firm? We can always come together in the face of great events, but how pitifully soon we forget and get back to our own petty squabbles. Let 1954 at least be free of them.

*THE GANG SHOW*, which was honoured by the presence of Princess Margaret, once more has come and gone. The old originals and the fathers and sons received a great thrill when the Princess shook hands with them. A full description appears elsewhere; but how thrillingly effective was the singing of "Swanee River," with its peace and beauty of tone and diction coming between the more exuberant parts of this colourful scene, and how wholly delightful was "Love, love, love." And Dinky Rew assured me that the egg shampoo he received each night was doing his hair a lot of good! It was a wonderful show to celebrate the twenty-first birthday, worthy in every way of the occasion. Can one say more?

The following letter has been received from Her Royal Highness's Lady-in-Waiting:- *"Her Royal Highness could not have enjoyed the evening more, and bids me say that she thought the whole Revue was excellent from beginning to end.*

*"It was a particular pleasure to the Princess to be with you for the Gang Show's 21st birthday celebrations, and Her Royal Highness hopes you will convey her warmest thanks to all those who helped to make it such a happy and memorabk evening."*

WE broke new ground in having a mid-week presentation of Royal Certificates, and also in having this take place in the Goldsmiths' Hall. Curiously enough, when they were searching for a suitable spot it had been forgotten that I was myself a Goldsmith. This building is the fourth ball to house the Goldsmiths. It is only a little over one hundred years old, and was badly damaged during the War.

The Guild of Goldsmiths, from which the company sprang, was in existence many years before A.D. 1180.

Unfortu-nately there wasn't much time to see the Plate, as we had to hurry off to a dinner at which two of the new Queen's Scouts spoke exceedingly well in proposing my health and replying to the toast of themselves.

*Once again thank you all for Birthday and Christmas Greetings. I have done my best to acknowledge every one, but in case I have missed out any please accept my apologies.*

ROWALLAN.

I shouldn't have liked to do it at their age, and I wish all proposers and repliers could be as audible and as brief. It confirmed my own opinion that they were just about the best lot that I had seen at any of these receptions, and I hear that the last lot of the year at Greenwich, where I was unable to be present for family reasons, were also most impressive. Queen's Scouts *do* set a high standard, as they certainly ought to do.

In this connection some people imagine that a boy need only pass the badges required in *P.O.R.* and the Royal Certificate follows automatically. I have been questioned about this again and have hastened to repeat what I have said on many occasions. that however many badges a boy may win, if his honour is not to be trusted, if he is not loyal, if he is not clean in thought, word and deed, the clear implication of the Law is that he is not a Scout; still less, therefore, a Queen's Scout. There is always the danger that we look at the thing from a legal aspect, but I hope we shall never have a case coming before the Courts as to the qualifications required and their satisfaction. There was an occasion when I removed a King's Scout Badge from a boy's arm, and I shouldn't hesitate to do so again if I thought the need arose. He may have passed the badges, but he was quite obviously not even a Scout, let alone a King's Scout. Loyalty alone has wide implications, end by the time a boy reaches the age when the Royal Certificate is in sight he should obviously interpret loyalty much more broadly than-when he first makes the Promise "to obey the Scout. Law." No, at every stage of the Scout journey we must consider not only "Has he passed the tests?" but, "Is he a Scout? Is this standard sufficient for him with his social and educational opportunities, or would B.-P. have demanded more?" Queen's Scout is the highest attainment in Scouting. and it is a betrayal of those who are real Scouts, and a betrayal also of the public and the Movenient, if we allow the bonus article to slip through. May 1954 be a year 'of wide horizons and a true understanding of B.-P.'s methods and ideals.

I RECENTLY spent a profit able day down at Oxford St. Stephen's House had invited members of the two other Theological colleges to come along for my talk in the afternoon, and in consequence we had a good audience to whom I was able to speak at length and answer questions later. A large proportion of them were members of the Rover Crew or had been Scouts, but there were some, at least, who qere new to the game. I was heavily tackled on one subject. I had been talking about the lack of standards and the adoption of false standards at the present time by so large a part of the community, and gave two examples, one the cheers that welcomed an actor at his first appearance after conviction on a criminal offence

the other the welcome given to a man who had been found guilty of cowardice in face of the enemy. There was a time when convictions of this nature would have entailed hounding from the stage, just as cowardice in the face

of the enemy was regarded as one of the most despicable crimes. The new psychology seems to have changed all that, and I was accused of lacking in Christian charity, on the plea that the sentence of the court-martial was remitted on the grounds that he should never have been called up. That he should never have been called up is perfectly arguable, but that under all the circumstances, he should receive, according to the papers, a hero's welcome, is nauseating. Personal responsibility has been abandoned by a certain brand of psychologist, who would have us believe that it is always somebody else's fault. Surely to adopt such an attitude is to become fatalist. The Christian doctrine of free will is based on personal responsibility. It is too easy to say "it wasn't my fault" when things go wrong. We may sympathise with such people, but to turn things topsy-turvy as a result of our sympathy is, and must always be wrong, and we in Scouting must see that tolerance and sympathy do not glamorise the abandonment of Christian virtue. It is so easy, through apathy and lack of moral courage, to deceive ourselves.

Captain Bevan has done a fine job in Oxfordshire since he became County Commissioner, and has fought against ill-health with great courage. Now he has retired, and I was able to combine with my visit to St. Stephen's the farewell to Bob Bevan and the welcome to Kenneth Anderson, who has a life-time of Scouting in many directions to help him in the County Coinmissionership. The meeting was held in the hail of a big school with an overflow in the gymnasium, and I was told by the Headmaster afterwards that it was a talking point for Scouts that the thousand Scouts had left behind them less than the usual leavings of a Rigger XV. Not a bad performance, I thought, and a credit to their Scouters.

I HAVE received some very interesting figures from Glasgow, where an analysis has been made of the average strength and ages of different types of Groups.

## SCOUTERS AND THE B.-P. GUILD OF OLD SCOUTS

The objects of the B.-P. Guild of Old Scouts are:-

- (a) To keep alive among its members the spirit of the Scout Promise and Law.
- (b) To carry that spirit into the communities in which they live and work.
- (c) To give active support to the Movement as far as their other responsibilities will allow.

Although help to the Active Movement is placed last, it is none the less of great importance. In his "Outlook" for November, the Chief drew attention to the need for closer co-operation between the Boy Scouts Association and the B.-P. Guild. The Guild certainly wants this, with support and encouragement from Scouters at all levels, especially from the Group and District, where the active work is done. The Guild is autonomous for constitutional and financial reasons, but it and the active Movement are surely both imbued with the same ideal - to make Scouting for boys flourish. The Guild is really a continuation of Scouting, or a logical conclusion if you prefer it, where a grown man has pledged himself to carry the spirit of the Scout Promise and Law into everyday life, and to repay to Scouting, as and when he can, something of what he has got out of it. If the old Scout is to be of value in this respect, and is to retain his interest, he must be kept in touch with Scouting today, and must be encouraged to help in the many small ways in which he can take some of the work off Scouters' shoulders.

To get and maintain this close touch, a Guild branch affiliated to the Group is the ideal, and Mr. Hurl. in the December SCOUTER, has appealed to Scouters to try to form branches in their areas. The G.S.M. will doubtless throw up his hands in horror when he reads it, and will ask how on earth he can take on anything more. He need not despair. All he need do is to select a suitable man to start a Guild branch, and tell him to write to Guild Headquarters at 25, Buckingham Palace Road; he will be given all the necessary information, the name of the nearest District Organiser, and of the County Organiser. Once firmly established and (except constitutionally and financially) a part of the Group, Scouts from the Group will tend automatically to pass to the Guild when they have finished their active Scouting, and even probably after coming back from National Service if they do not intend to return to the Rover Section, or become Scouters or Instructors.

It is interesting that in every case those Groups which have their own Headquarters come out best in average strength, Scouter strength, percentage over 15s, percentage Second Class and percentage First Class, and 23.8 per cent of the Glasgow Groups are in this happy position. There are certain categories of Groups which show up very badly, and which no doubt will receive special attention.

I had heard a lot about the improvements to the Scout Shop in Glasgow. In the old days it was certainly very cramped, and not worthy of a strong and flourishing Association, but what a change now! "Of course, if you are rich you can do all sorts of things which you can't do if you lack the money!" But the point about this is, that it has hardly cost them a penny. All the work has been done by voluntary labour, mostly in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons during last winter, by Scouters and Old Scouts coming along to give a hand. Why last winter? Because Scouters and Old Scouts ought to get out in the summer evenings; so they closed down until the winter came round again. If there are any people who say "It can't be done" in answer to any request, just tell them to have a look at 21 Elmbank Street in Glasgow, and then go home and think it over. Why don't we make more use of our old members, not only in badge examining and badge instruction, but in advice on Headquarters as well? They are only too anxious to come along as those who have tried have found out.

I have just heard that Colonel C. P. Jayawardana, our Chief Commissioner in Ceylon, has been appointed Equerry to Her Majesty during her visit to that country this year. This is a fitting tribute to the service he has given for so many years to the boys and will be appreciated, not only by Scouts but by all interested in work among young people.

ROWALLAN.

The G.S.M. will feel that he has a body of men behind him, ready to give practical and moral support in many ways. This was clearly foreseen before the Guild became autonomous; an I.H.Q. pamphlet of 1950 said:-

"This Branch is distinct from the three sections of the Group and does not come under the control of the Group Council or the Group Committee. The Scoutmaster, however, is looked to to exercise some slight supervisory control. This must necessarily be the case as the welfare of the Group as a whole is concerned."

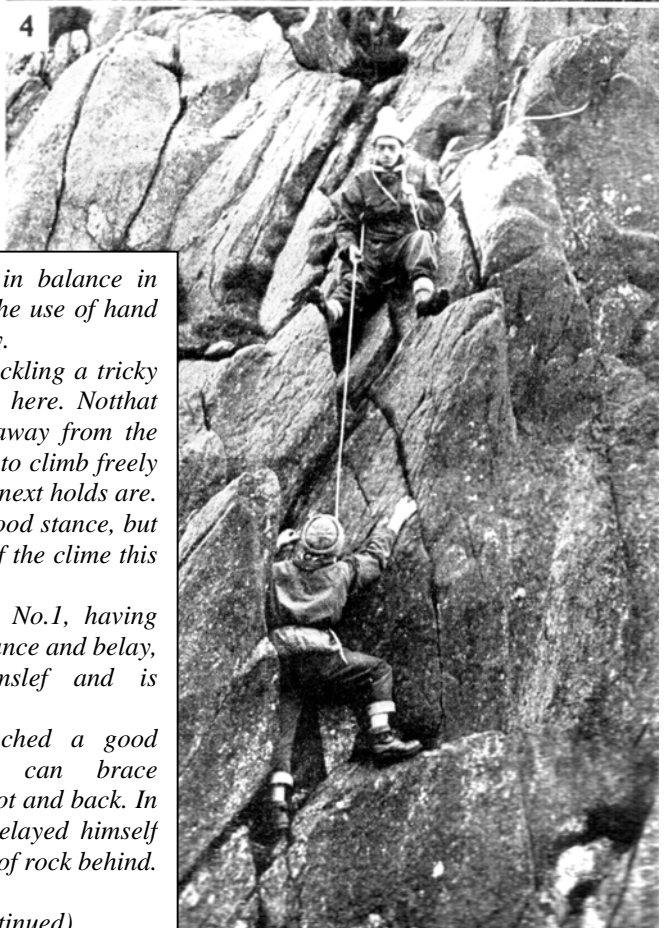
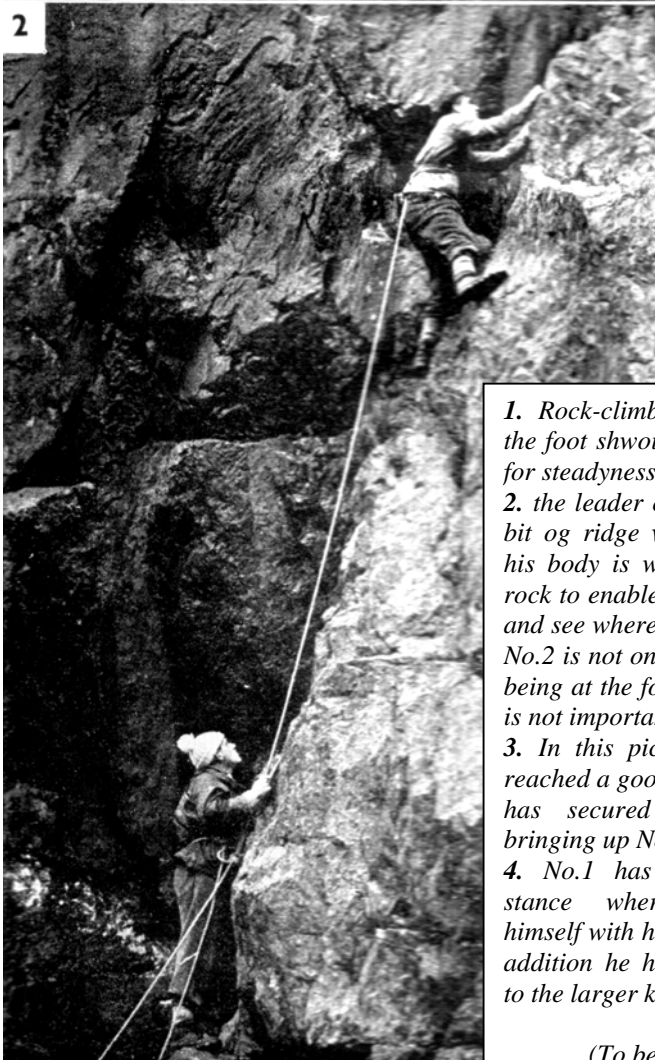
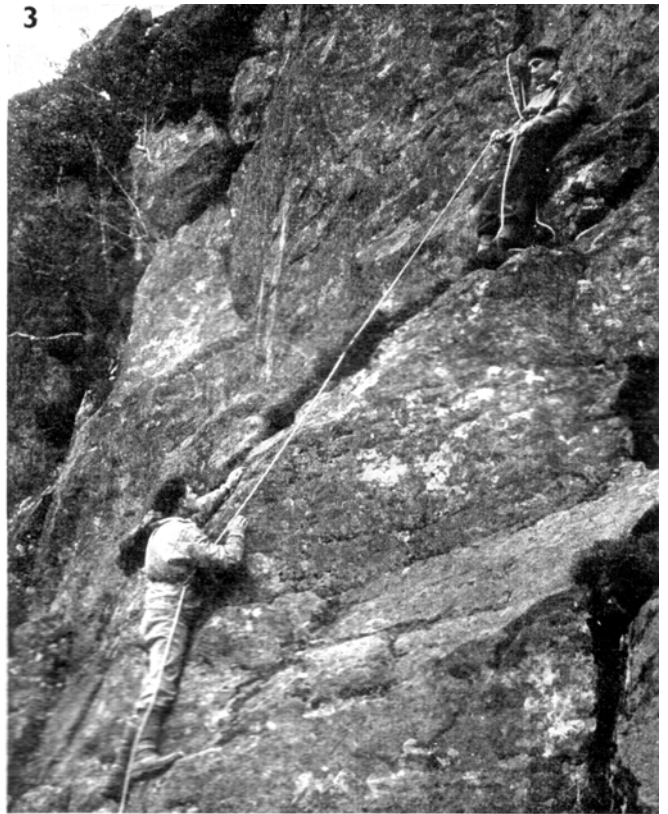
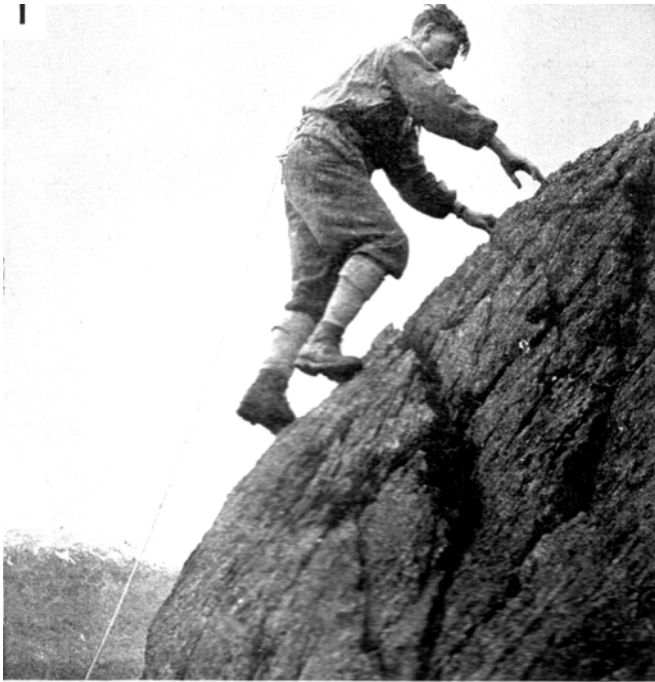
Perhaps "supervisory control" is not the correct expression now that the Guild is autonomous, but the principle is the same. The G.S.M. is the man who will benefit from a strong Guild branch behind him, so it is to his advantage to help members in every way he can, and to encourage a flow of young blood from the Group to the Branch.

Although the Group branch is the ideal, it is not always possible. Many Groups are not strong enough to form a branch, and others may have been disbanded, leaving their ex-Scouts in the air. It will therefore be necessary and desirable to have District branches to absorb these, to keep their interest alive, and to direct their energies and service into District channels. As the fortunes of Groups fluctuate, so members of the District branch may leave from time to time to form Group branches. Similarly there must be branches in large factories, and in such bodies as the Houses of Parliament, Police, Post Office, etc.

There seems to be a fear in some circles that the Guild as it grows may try to usurp the functions of Group committees, etc. Surely this is a confession of weakness. A strong Group should not fear a Guild branch composed mainly of ex-members of the Group. If such a situation exists, there is something wrong with the Group - or the branch. But why look for trouble before the experiment has been made? It is rather like refusing to have a doctor in the house for fear that one day he may advise that an operation is necessary. Let us all get together for the common good of - the Boy.

E. E. MOCKLER-FERRYMAN.

**Next Month:** The obligation of the Guild to help the Active Movement.



*1. Rock-climbing in balance in the foot showing the use of hand for steadiness only.*

*2. the leader is tackling a tricky bit of ridge work here. Not that his body is well away from the rock to enable him to climb freely and see where the next holds are. No.2 is not on a good stance, but being at the foot of the climb this is not important.*

*3. In this picture No.1, having reached a good stance and belay, has secured himself and is bringing up No.2.*

*4. No.1 has reached a good stance where he can brace himself with his foot and back. In addition he has belayed himself to the larger knob of rock behind.*

*(To be continued)*

# VOLUNTARY YOUTH LEADERS

IN the spring and summer of 1951 Mr Peter Kuenstier, the South Africa Research Fellow in Youth Work, University of Bristol, asked a large number of voluntary youth leaders to answer a questionnaire dealing with their personal circumstances in relation to their youth work. Replies were received from about 5,000 leaders, including 2,122 male Scouters, in England. Among them were Commissioners, Group Scoutmasters and Scouters in charge of Sections, but not Assistants.

The results of the survey have now been published in a booklet entitled *Voluntary Youth Leaders* (University of Bristol Institute of Education Publication No. 5) by University of London Press Ltd., at 2s. 6d.

The organisations which co-operated in the survey were the Boy Scouts Association, the Girl Guides Association, the Boys' Brigade, the Girls' Life Brigade, the National Association of Boys' Clubs, the National Association of Mixed Clubs and Girls Clubs, the St. John Ambulance Brigade Cadets, the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs, the Church of England Youth Council, and the Young Christian Workers. Scouters represented 69 per cent of the men from whom replies were received.

The full report is worth reading, but some of the figures relating to Scouters are of special interest, and are mentioned below.

The report calculates that some 300,000 adults give some time to helping with a youth organisation; of these about 100,000 are leaders in charge of units. When it is remembered that there are only about 6,000 professional leaders who are full-time or part-time workers, it is clear that it is the voluntary people who are vital to the continuance of the Youth Service.

The figures, which follow, are expressed in percentages, unless otherwise stated.

## Age of Leaders

The Scout figures are:- Under 20: 2; 21-24: 19; 25-30: 27; 31-40: 28; 41-50: 18; over 50: 6. We compare favourably with others as regards the youthfulness of our leaders. Forty-eight per cent are under 30, compared with 21 per cent in the Boys' Brigade. Twenty-four per cent are over 40, compared with 50 per cent in the Boys' Brigade.

This links up with –

## Length of Service

Pre-1920: 4; 1920-24: 5; 1925-29: 11; 1930-34: 11; 1935-39: 16; 1940-44: 17; 1945-50: 40. As would be expected from the age figures above, the B.B. have 61 per cent recruited before the war, compared with our 43 per cent. We seem to have maintained a steadier flow of new recruits since the war.

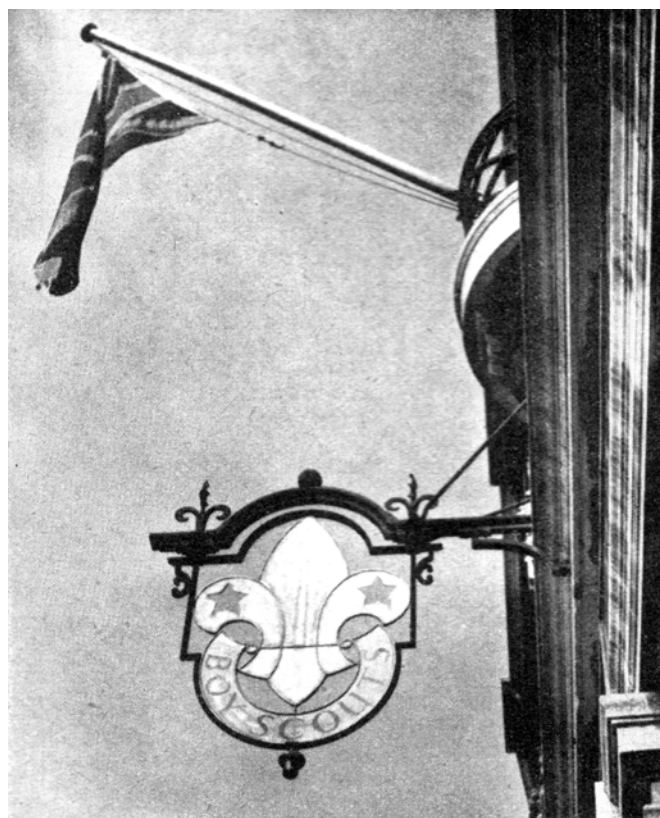
## Marriage

Fifty-seven per cent of Scouters were married, 43 per cent single. The Boys Brigade, on the other hand, had 83 per cent married and St. Johns Ambulance 86. It is a tribute to Scouters' wives that 39 per cent of the men were already married before they undertook youth leadership. Forty-two per cent of the Scouters have several children, and 33 per cent one child.

## Education

Women leaders in the Girl Guides and other organisations have a better education record – but more of them are school teachers. Of the Scouters, the type of full-time education last attended were:- Elementary, 42; central, 3; secondary, 37; private, 4; public, 2; college or university, 12.

The figures differ pretty widely as between the various bodies. We may contrast the St. John Ambulance figures:- Elementary, 66; central, 10; secondary, 21; private, 0; public, 2; college or university, 1.



WHERE IS THIS? (1) (Answer next month)

## Employment

The figures for Scouters are:- Industry, 42; clerical and secretarial, 16; retail and commercial, 12; civil service, 3; professional, 8; scholastic, 11; Church, 1; agriculture, 3; student, 3; none, 1. The figure for industry is surprisingly high, but not so high as in the case of several other bodies. But while they beat us there, we are ahead of them in the professional and scholastic spheres.

## Hours of Work

Scouter figures are:- No reply, 8; under 35 hours, 3; 35-39 hours, 14; 40-44 hours, 39; 45-49, 26; 50 and over, 10.

Seventy-five per cent stop work by 5.30 p.m., but about 50 per cent leave at 5.30 or later, leaving little time for travelling home, getting a meal and changing before starting their Scouting.

## Holidays

Sixty-three per cent of Scouters get only one or two weeks' holiday; 13 per cent get three weeks.

## Attitude of Employers

Thirteen per cent of employers were unaware that their employees were engaged in Scouting. Of those who knew, 75 per cent were favourable to it, 24 per cent were neutral, and only 1 per cent negative.

## Attendance at Youth Work weekly

There are some interesting contrasts between organisations in the number of attendances made weekly.

	No Reply	No. of times weekly					
		1	2	3	4	5	More
B.S.A.	1	42	39	13	4	1	0
B.B.	1	5	24	38	22	8	2
N.A.B.C.	4	15	25	23	16	7	10

We are predominantly once- or twice-a-week workers, but we see from a later table which gives the number of hours spent weekly that a good deal of time is spent, as we know, in preparing for meetings, seeing parents, attending Committees, etc.

	No reply	Hours spent weekly on youth work				
		Under 4	Over 4—8	8—12	12—16	16
B.S.A.	3	12	51	22	6	6
B.B.	3	2	45	28	15	8
N.A.B.C.	3	5	22	21	22	27

#### ***Journey to Youth Work from Home***

Ninety-three per cent of Scouters live within half an hour of their youth work, and 62 per cent are within 15 minutes.

#### ***Recruitment from the Ranks***

For the first time, we have some information as to the proportion of Scouters who are recruited from our own ranks. No less than 80 per cent are so recruited., compared with 24 per cent recruited from those who belonged to different organisations, and 13 per cent who had had no previous connection with any. The figure of 24 per cent is much higher than I should have guessed. I wonder from what organisations they came. The total of the three figures given above is more than 100 per cent, because some leaders were members of more than one organisation.

Our figure of 80 per cent is outstanding: the nearest other body is the Boys' Brigade with 54. The N.A.B.C is only 21.

#### ***Method of Recruitment, when not from the Ranks***

Recruited at work, 14 per cent: at a rally or meeting, 3; by personal contact, 24; by Church contact, 43; by family contact, 9; by a friend, 7. We have always said that you can't get leaders by appeals at a meeting. Personal contacts do the trick nearly every time.

#### ***Cost per annum***

Twelve per cent of Scouters were unable to reply to this question. Of the remainder, 6 per cent spent under £1; 42 per cent from £1 - £5; 27 per cent from £5 - £10; 17 per cent from £10 - £20; 7 per cent from £20 - £50; 1 per cent over £50. Considering the cost of uniform and camping, it is a relief to know that 75 per cent spent £10 or less.

#### ***Training***

Forty-four per cent of Scouters have attended one course only; 19 per cent several courses; 37 per cent none. We cannot feel satisfied with these figures, when we bear in mind that the Scouters who answered these inquiries exclude any young Assistants.

#### ***Hobbies and other Interests***

Scouters are often accused of having one-track minds. It is therefore a relief to find that only 10 per cent confess to having no hobbies or other interests, while 31 per cent have one, and 59 per cent more than one. Of those who confess to having another interest (90 per cent of the whole) only 17 per cent included Church, Chapel or similar activity among such interests. This is puzzling, as about 50 per cent of our Groups are Church-sponsored. Can it be true, to so great an extent, that Scouters of Church-sponsored Groups are not interested in their Churches, or was there some confusion in answering the question? It may be that some Scouters thought that they should not include Church among their interests unless they were doing some other job for the Church in addition to Scouting.

#### ***The Future***

In looking ahead, Mr. Kuentler makes one or two points which will secure our hearty approval. On the question of leisure, he says: "The result is that more people have leisure, but each has leisure in smaller 'doses.' It is not therefore surprising to find that, in general, those organisations which tend to make the largest claims of time upon their volunteers are also the organisations which complain most bitterly about the difficulty of getting new recruits to leadership." And again, quoting from Mr. John Trevelyan's report on the future of voluntary activities in the new hospital service, he writes: "We

## AS NEW YEAR DAWNS

by  
**HUBERT BLORE**

Teach us to give, and keep our hands from taking.  
Teach us to serve, and not to seek reward.  
Teach us to humbly build, and in the making,  
Of some small corner of Thy Kingdom, Lord,  
By thought and care, by toil and strength demanding,  
Teach us the peace that passeth understanding.

Give us the will to help our younger brothers.  
Give us a bridge to link us with our youth.  
Give us the secret art of leading others,  
And sight, to seek through mists of doubt for truth.  
And having given all these precious things,  
Give the humility true wisdom brings.

Keep us from fear and timid indecision.  
Keep us from pride, and ceaseless lust for fame.  
Keep us from selfishness and narrow vision.  
Spread wide the breadth and grandeur of the game.  
When others falter may we not condemn,  
Lest we should judge ourselves by judging them.

And if at times, we too being men, should stumble,  
On those ten rocky steps that form the Law.  
If ropes should slip, and precious footholds crumble,  
And mists should hide the path that lies before.  
When tasks seem fruitless, and all efforts vain,  
Stretch out Your hand, and lift us up again.

believe that there are a good many people who would readily give some voluntary service if they were asked to do so, but they would include not only people who could give a considerable amount of their time but also people who could give only a little time. . . . It should be emphasised that the busy worker who can give only a little of his spare time is wanted as much as the independent person who can be used extensively."

We have for years urged Scouters to find lay people to take over secretarial and other jobs, and it is good to get support from Mr. Kuentler. He quotes Mr. Basil Henriques: "A leader is used to dealing with people not things," and goes on "It might be possible to find someone, not needing the temperamental virtues and manifold interests of a youth leader, who might effectively cope with the 'things,' while a number of voluntary youth leaders could use their limited leisure time to the full dealing with 'people'"

On the subject of leadership by youth, he says: "It is noticeable that it is either the organisations which have a dominating motif—religious or vocational or both, or those which deal chiefly with children of school age, which make most use of young people themselves as leaders; there is often a tendency to split the group up into smaller and more manageable units, such as patrols, if the whole group itself is not already a small one."

The Scouters who, more than two years ago, spent some of their leisure in filling up Mr. Kuentler's questionnaire will be glad to know that their labours have been turned to good account. The Scout Movement as a whole should be grateful to Mr. Kuentler for his very able study, and should look carefully at his figures. in the light of local circumstances, to see what lessons can be learnt from them.

J. F. COLQUHOUN.

# EXTRACTS FROM AN AMERICAN NOTEBOOK

By JOHN W. S. HEARLE, A.D.C.C., Manchester

*January 7th.* Clemson College, South Carolina. Discovered S.M. of local Troop on the staff of the department in which I was to spend nine months.

*January 13th.* Visited Troop Meeting, in a log cabin provided by the College. The boys were less shy than British boys, but courteous, and very interested in Britain and the British Royal family. Favourite game: British Bulldogs. The Troop was planning a circle hike for Saturday.

*January 21st.* Refused to take over Explorer [Senior Scout] Post as I had not the time to do the job properly: but went along to a meeting - one boy present. D.C. turned up to say that he had found a new Explorer Adviser.

*January 26th.* District Meeting. How like home The same problems and the same characters! Finance was on the agenda: Oconee County (520 boys) was expected to contribute \$3,000 (£1,000) annually to the Blue Ridge Council - which made Bob-a-job seem a very small amount.

*February 4th.* First Explorer meeting with Max Sparks, the new Adviser. Five boys. Evidence of slackness in the past, but boys were anxious to do things, and full of suggestions. Max Sparks told how a knowledge of Morse had saved him from being stranded on an island all night when out fishing.

*February 23rd.* For use when hiking: melt wax in bottom of tin, put in rolled-up newspaper, pour on more melted wax, and leave to cool. Will burn for a long time, and tin does not get hot.

*March 11th.* Explorer Post, now up to eighteen boys, met to organise Crews and elect officers. We asked each boy to write down the names of three others whom he would like to be with, and a clear pattern of "gangs" emerged so that we could form Crews naturally. The Post elects a Senior Crew Leader, a Secretary, and programme Committee chairmen (Indoor, Outdoor, Service, and Social), and the Crews elect their Crew Leaders.



AMERICAN SCOUT EATING A KABAB

*March 24th.* Court of Honour, which is a district meeting of Scouts where advancement is recognised and badges presented. Sixteen of our Explorers achieved the rank of Explorer Apprentice.

*April 1st.* Explorer [Senior Scout] Troop has now reached twenty-five box's. This success is due to three things:

(a) Concentration on progress in badge work, passing the Explorer Apprentice tests, and giving the boys a sense of achievement.

(b) The obvious effort and time which Max Sparks is putting in to organising. and getting to know about the job, for example the careful records which he is preparing. The boys see that he means business, and that when he does not know about something he finds out. And so they back him up.

(c) The Apprentice test: "Invite a friend ... to attend an Explorer meeting." Almost everyone who has been invited has ended by joining the Post.

*April 10th.* Regional meeting. Nearly a thousand present from four States covering an area as big as Britain - one Council's representatives had an aggregate of 40,000 miles. Some remarks:

"Old Scout Executives do not die, they pass into immortality by loving boys."

"Everyone in a business is in the public relations department."

"The man who neglects his job in Scouting cheats a boy."

"Big adventures alone cannot do the job: the Explorer Post must have a programme of its own.

"Boys from the mountains are more attracted by the Okofenokee swamp than by the Appalachian trail."

"We only have three Explorer Scouts to ten Boy Scouts."

*April 13th.* Bob-a-job is world news: the *Atlanta Journal* has a picture of a Scout cutting the hedge of the Soviet Embassy.

*April 18th.* Visited Alan Buster (who was in England with the U.S.A.F.) in Houston, Texas. He is too busy to run a Troop, but is helping on a new personal coaching scheme in which he works with a new Scouter and so trains him.

One afternoon the local Scout Executive phoned Alan and asked him if he would take the training session at a meeting that night. Subject: "Planning ahead."

*May 1st.* In the last two weeks I have visited three textile mills, two conferences and one Government laboratory, and at each place I have met Scouts. At the annual inspection of Avondale mills, Scouts were busy doing many jobs - incidentally this was a good example of how an inspection encourages good work and a happy spirit whether it be in a camp or a mill. The boiler house shone like a silversmith's shop.

*May 24th.* At church, an American Bishop praying "... especially at this time for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth preparing for her Coronation."

*June 28th.* Asked eleven-year-old Paul Stanford what they did at Scouts. His reply: "Have fun!" A useful reminder.

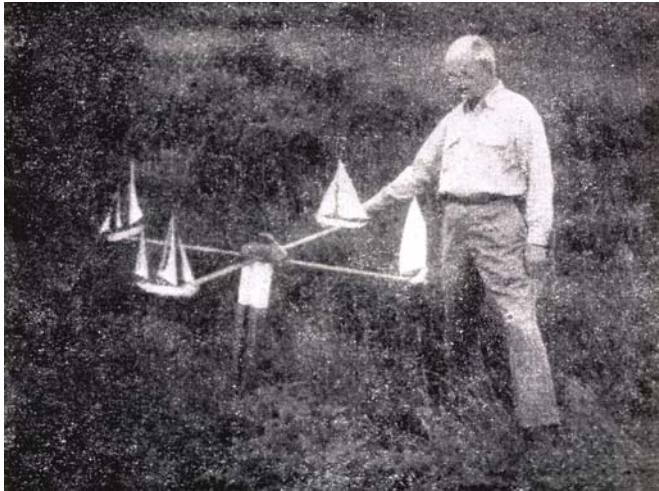
*July 18th.* Visited Bill Slesnick (a Rhodes Scholar at Camp Androscoggin in Maine). This is a private boys' camp (£250 for two months) at which Bill was one of the Counsellors. A beautiful spot on an island in the middle of a lake, equipped with sailboats, tennis courts, dark-rooms, canoes (Bill was to lead a 150-mile, 11-day trip through the wild Allygash country), rifle range, baseball pitches, camp theatre, swimming area, basketball, etc. Camps like these (not all as expensive or as lavish) are spread through the States, so that there is a lot of competition for Scout camping.

*July 20th.* Monhegan Island, which has a plaque to John Smith (one of B.-P.'s heroes) who laid here with two vessels in 1614.

Saw an interesting gadget. Four model sailboats, with different rigs, mounted at the ends of pivoted cross-rods, which were spinning round in the wind as the boats tacked, went about, sailed before the wind, and gybed.

*July 24th.* A too short visit to the 2nd Canadian National Jamboree - a supreme example of Scout friendliness, a welcome everywhere, and a great many boys coming up to talk to me.





## OUR DISTRICT By A.D.C.

SPILLING runs a Troop in a town about ten miles from us, and when he was over here last month to give a yarn to our Rovers he invited me to visit his own Rovers and inflict them similarly.

"And you can take a look at the Troop first," he said, "they meet at 7.30 and the Rovers at 8.30, 50 if you call at my place for a spot of high tea at 6.30 we can make quite an evening of it."

I got to his house at 6.25 and waited on the doorstep until 6.50, when he came rushing down the garden path full of apologies.

"Frightfully sorry to be a minute or two late," he said, "but I met a chap I hadn't seen for years and we began talking about old times, and . . . "Not at all," I said.

It was 7.10 by the time he got the meal ready, but he didn't seem in a hurry, so at 7.25 I hinted that if the Troop met at 7.30 we had better get going.

"We needn't rush," he said. "My A.S.M. is pretty sure to be there to start them off. Do you know my A.S.M.? Quite a bright lad named Jingle. I'm rather proud of him, as a matter of fact, because he is one of my own products. I've had him ever since he was a Cub. I think it's nice when you can breed your own A.S.M.s, because they sort of get into your ways. He works for the local Electricity Board."

Then he told me a long yarn about how he had got Jingle his job on the staff of the Electricity Board, and gave me a lecture on the Grid system, and told me all about a book he had been reading recently about the life of Edison.

It was just five minutes to eight when we eventually arrived at the Scout hut, and in a thin drizzle of rain we found a score of patient Scouts waiting damply in the street.

"Nobody opened up?" said Spilling to the Troop Leader. "Where's Jingle?"

"He hasn't arrived yet, sir," said the Troop Leader.

At that moment, however, Jingle came up.

"Frightfully sorry I'm late, sir," he said, "but some neighbours dropped in, and I couldn't get rid of them, and I didn't bother very much as I thought you'd probably be here to open up."

Once the meeting started it was not at all badly run, and I was quite enjoying being torn to bits in a game of British Bulldog when Spilling reminded me that it was nearly 8.30, and that the Rovers would be already assembled, and eagerly expecting us in their adjoining den.

I replaced my scarf and effected a few emergency repairs, and we adjourned to the Rover Den. The Rover Leader was there to receive us, but nobody else.

"This is too bad, Pipchin," said Spilling. "Here is Captain Bugface come all this way to speak to the Rovers, and when he gets here he finds an empty room. And Captain Bugface, let me tell you, is a busy man!"

Spilling's took me aside and said that Pipchin was not a bad sort, but as he wasn't one of his own products, of course he hadn't quite got into his ways yet.

Spilling's products, the Rovers, drifted along in ones and twos, and by the time we sat down at 8.55 there was quite a good audience. I should have liked to start my talk right away, but Spilling felt it due to me to give the Rovers a bit of a ticking-off for their unpunctuality.

He said he just couldn't imagine what was wrong with the rising generation, and it was impossible to guess where they had learned their unpunctilious and discourteous habits.

Other memories: the impressive, but simple and very carefully timed), flag-lowering ceremony: Toby Spry standing beside his father with his fingers ready in the Cub salute: the smart hats of the Lady Cubmasters: and the excellent trek-cart display by Quebec - simple, rapid, holding the attention with everyone busy all the time, and new (being forty years' old and forgotten).

*July 26th.* Hamilton Station. I happened to be there as the Jamboree Troop returned, assembled smartly on the platform, their uniforms very neat, and then marched off to dismiss. It would have been good at any time, but after a ten-hour train journey on a hot and sticky day (warm humid air flowing in from the Mississippi valley was the weather report it was wonderful. It is good to know that the smartness which we have come to expect in Canadian World Jamboree contingents is shared so much more widely. Though as a Commissioner remarked, "Standardisation of uniform has helped a lot."

*July 30th.* Visited a very nice family in Midland, Michigan. I am coming to the conclusion that American children, though less academically advanced (and Scout test standards may also be lower), are more socially advanced, more courteous, and less reserved than British children.

*August 15th.* Saw fifteen choirboys at rehearsal, only two were wearing shorts - the rest were in T-shirts and blue jeans (which is a very sensible form of dress). In general, shorts are little worn. With the temperature up near 100' F there was considerable comment when I wore shorts, even in a College town. We should remember this and other differences when we are inclined to criticise American Scout uniform or some other aspect of American Scouting. America is not a civilisation identical with our own; there are many differences. We do not expect Indians or Malaysians, nor even French or Norwegians, to behave in the same way as we do; but because they speak almost the same language we are inclined to expect Americans to do so, and, unreasonably, resent differences. America is a land of great hospitality and friendliness; American Scouting has the same ideals as we have; they love the outdoors as we do; their boys are warm-hearted and loyal: we should never let differences of method mar our brotherhood to them. In the Troops the same rule applies: where there is good leadership there is good Scouting.

*September 30th.* Past the fascinating New York skyline, and into the Atlantic again, leaving behind me many good friends, but taking with me a deeper knowledge of a fine country.

### REMINDER

#### THE SCOUTER' S BOOKS

Price 1/- each (1/2d post free)

No. 1. 100 Ideas for Troop Meetings.

No. 2. The Court of Honour.

No. 3. The Man and the Boy.

No. 4. 100 Ideas for Pack Meetings.

# CAVING – 1

By A.L. BUTCHER, B.A.

I will deal first with the sporting side of caving and its equipment, leaving the scientific aspect for next time. If you have done a little caving and want to know more to become proficient, these two articles may perhaps be some help.

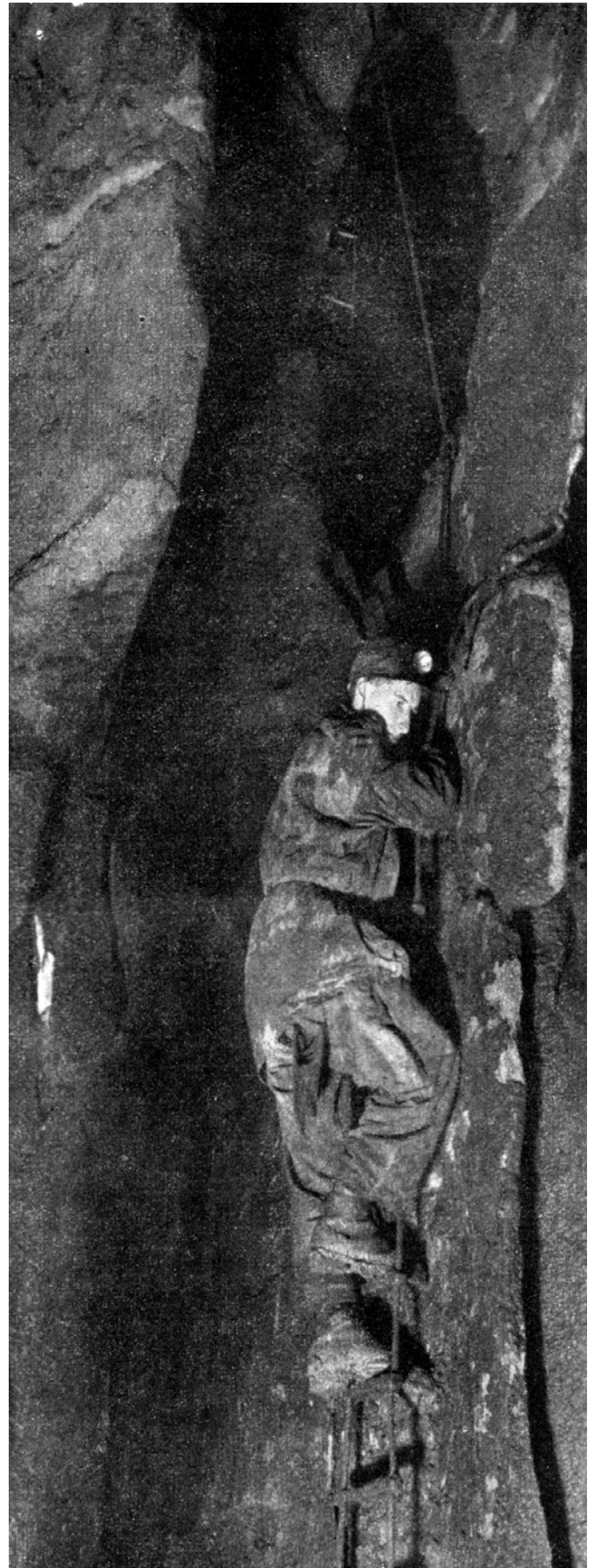
Motives for caving and what you find vary enormously. Casual curiosity started me off: and in a sea-cave on Ramsay Island I came face to face with two large grey seals guarding their furry youngster. Sea-caves, however, are rarely of very great extent, and artificial light is hardly ever needed for their exploration. It was visits to the caves of Castleton which fascinated me, and for about twenty years caving has been my chief hobby. Most of the real caving goes on in the carboniferous limestone of Yorkshire, Derbyshire, the Mendips and South Wales.

It is one thing to explore by cycle-lamp a casually noticed cave-opening, penetrating perhaps a few hundred feet; and quite another to undertake an exploration involving several hours underground, with pools, waterfalls, climbs and crawls. With reasonable care the former should not lead to trouble, but frequently we read of the police being called upon to rescue boys who have lost themselves or had an accident. The usual cause is inefficient lights. If you are interested in caves and fancy the idea of real caving, get yourself an efficient lamp. A powerful electric torch, attached to your belt by a length of cord is the simplest solution. But one so often needs both hands free that it is far better to buy or adapt a lamp which will fit onto a hat, best of all a miner's hat, and keep the battery in a pocket. It is wise too to carry one or two candles, and matches and spare bulbs in a watertight tin. Wear plenty of warm clothes held together by a boiler-suit.

Caving is not a dangerous sport once you know what to be prepared for. There are, for instance, some harmless-looking caves with a low-lying section of passage which fills to the roof after heavy rain. If you have had the fore-thought to take plenty of food and spare clothes perhaps you will not mind being cut off from daylight for a few days. But even if you do not worry and you should, because water does not always drain away at once - other people will certainly do so on your behalf. Two very experienced cavers were trapped several years ago while surveying in a cave in South Wales and were rescued only after fifty-eight hours. They knew of the possibility of flooding and had taken food, spare clothes and cooking gear into the cave. They had also left word where they were going and when they intended to come out, so that their friends knew what to do and were able to divert the stream and release the men. Rain was still falling when they emerged, so that without help they would have had to stay considerably longer.

Nor is caving a game to play alone; it should be organised as a team. If the contemplated trip is a strenuous one, remember that you are limited by the capabilities and stamina of the weakest member. Also when you have penetrated beyond tight squeezes and down awkward pitches, a minor accident may have very serious consequences; assisting, or worse still carrying, an injured man through constricted places is very difficult and very painful for the victim. So the farther you go the greater should be your care. Scree-slopes and foolhardy climbs without proper roping safeguards are the causes of most accidents among experienced cavers; so let novices beware!

To get much satisfaction from a hobby or sport we have to take it seriously; otherwise we never gain sufficient knowledge or proficiency in it. In caving even more than in mountaineering an inexperienced, self-confident dabbler is a real menace, not only to himself but to his companions and everyone else within a rock's bounce—to coin a phrase. Learn your caving under an experienced leader. He can make it far more interesting for you and can get you very much farther than you would progress in the company of beginners. There is also the question of tackle: ropes and rope-ladders. These are an expensive item, and only a well-established club can afford the hundreds of feet of ladder and at least twice as much rope which are necessary to reach the bottom of many Yorkshire systems - "pot-holes" as we call them when they start with or contain extensive vertical pitches, them when they start with or contain extensive vertical pitches.



A SENSIBLY DRESSED POT-HOLER PAUSES ON A SHORT LADDER-PITCH IN THE OLD EAST PASSAGE IN GAPING GILL. NOTE THE UPRIGHT POSTURE WHICH KEEPS THE WEIGHT ON THE FEET RATHER THAN ON ARMS. A METAL ROPE-LADDER CAN BE SEEN ABOVE THROUGH THE WINDOW.

In my opinion the best way to enjoy caving and to become really proficient is to join a good caving club. There you will find enthusiasts who will be glad to show you the most efficient ways of using ropes and rope-ladders underground, and you will find that a great deal more goes on than mere cave-hiking. A great fund of practical knowledge has been built up in the well-established clubs, which you will never benefit from if you try to start on your own from scratch.

If you live in a caving area you are all right; but if your experience has to be gained during camps or other visits, you must have a leader who knows the district and is an experienced caver. You should still enlist the help of a local club to advise you and if possible include you in one of their parties. But do not be surprised if you are told they cannot absorb more than two or three at a time; and most clubs do not accept participants under sixteen.

If you decide to construct your own rope-ladders, make the most of the extensive research which has gone on during recent years. (See (1), (2) and (3).) I cannot here give names and addresses of club secretaries, but if you write to me at Queensbury County Secondary School, Bradford, I shall be pleased to put you in touch.

Members of the Cave Research Group have written a book, *British Caving*, which is reviewed on p. 26. This will give you all the book-knowledge you can wish for, but experience underground is more important than reading. (4).

Finally I think I should mention old mines. The old lead workings in Derbyshire have given me many hours of excellent sport. In the sound vertical shafts the rope-ladder hangs free from all interference and gives easy climbing. But we have to remember that mines are not as safe as caves, and life-lines are essential at all times. Old timber in many places supports tons of rock-filling and a touch may start it running. Lethal gas does occasionally collect in the lowest workings, and still clear pools are sometimes almost invisible. Here, more than ever, an experienced leader is essential.

(1) Craven Pot-hole Club Journal, 1951, I, No. 3, pp.114 -118.

(2) Stoke Pot-hole Club Journal, 1951, I, No. 1.

(3) Transactions Cave Research Group, 1952, II, No. 2, pp. 99 -117.

(4) Routledge, Kegan and Paul, *British Caving*, by members of Cave Research Group (3 5/-).



(photo by the author)

SMOO CAVE, DURNESS, A LARGE SEA-CAVE ON THE NORTH COAST OF SUTHERLAND. A BOAT IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO CROSS A LAKE IN AN INNER CHAMBER OF THIS CAVER.

## THE GANG SHOW COMES OF AGE

By  
A.D.C.



In the course of each year I lower myself many scores of times into seats at places of entertainment, but only on one annual occasion am I quite sure that I will not be bored, and that, of course, is at Ralph Reader's Gang Show.

This year, as ever, all the seats for the whole fortnight were sold long in advance, and before the curtain went up at Golders Green Hippodrome on the first night (November 30th) I glanced at the audience, such a delightfully mixed audience of every degree of education and wealth, all eager and happy and as sure as I was myself that, even if this year's Gang Show were not going to be quite as good as Gang Shows of the past, it would still be so good that when the curtain went down at the end we would feel rather sad that we could not come and see it again next night.

As it turned out, however, the "coming of age" Gang Show of 1953 was right up to standard, and we all owe a debt of deep gratitude to everybody concerned: to the boys and young men who rushed each evening from school or work to play their parts obscurely as just "one of the team," to the luckier individuals who briefly enjoyed the spotlight and acquitted themselves so consistently well under its terrifying glare, to the old stagers with their familiar faces and to Ralph himself, whose contribution to the Scout brotherhood and to the gaiety and morale of the nation over the past twenty-one years cannot be over-valued.

Inevitably now the familiar faces of the older generation will tend to disappear, and quite rightly, to make way for new, younger faces in their turn to become familiar, for the Gang Show's greatest charm must lie in the youthfulness of the performance and youth must be perpetually renewed.

The first item was, almost inevitably, a glance back into the past in the "Songs of Twenty Years" we were reminded of pre-war favourites such as "Birds of a Feather," "These are the Days and (surely the best of all?) "Crest of a Wave." To the younger members of the audience I suppose these were just jolly songs, but for those of us who were active Scouters in the 'thirties they rolled back the mists of the past.

I myself first heard "Crest of a Wave" not in the Gang Show proper, but in the rather gloomy hall of an East London Secondary School, where a Stepney Troop were putting on their own Gang Show, and when I heard the song again I thought of some bright boys whose singing days are done, and who lie under the ocean or beneath the sands of faraway places.

Ralph Reader's songs and sketches were a terrific boon to us in East London in those days. Until he came along our annual concerts were rather uninspired, and after weeks of work they could often result in a loss on the night. Gang Shows, however, even though they might from our limited resources be pale shadows of the original, were always a big "draw," and halls could be filled not for "one night only" but for repeat performances. In those days, no doubt, it was the same all over England, and probably it is the same today.

As I listened to those old songs and looked at the faces of the 1953 singers I had an odd feeling that those fellows who used to sing them, and who died for their country, would have been awfully glad that the Gang Show is still going strong. There isn't much wrong with England in 1953 if it can produce boys who can sing like that, and look like that; it's still the same old England for all our moaning, and it was worth dying for!

Sometimes I think Ralph ought to get some specialist to help write his sketches, but on the whole it would probably be a mistake.

I remember once giving an old fellow a copy of Moffat's excellent revised version of the New Testament, and he said it was very nice, but personally he liked his Bible as it was not "mucked about wiv." I rather think his public feel the same about Reader's Gang Shows, and they are probably right. Ralph is a genius in the same street as Chaplin, and he is best left alone.

I liked immensely "Silent Night," where three Senior Scouts hiking on Christmas Eve take shelter in a wayside cafe, and a baby is born to the wife of a stranded motorist, and they give the baby the presents that they were going to give one another.

Handled by anybody but Ralph Reader the little sketch might have been nauseating, but personally I thought it one of the best things he has ever done.

"One Man Show" was very effective and should be easy to copy in Troop efforts. But probably the most typically "Readerish" of the items in the first half was "The Little Dears" which almost had me and a lot of other people rolling on the floor under our seats. A score or so of angelic choirboys act so exactly like the best (which means the wickedest) choirboys always do, while singing what sounds suspiciously like a hymn, but isn't, that the effect is indescribably ludicrous.

The big musical "production numbers" in the first half "Minstrel Man Comes to Town" and "Brothers of the Sky" are as superb as usual. In these Reader brings out in his boys all the joy of life, all the zest of youth, all the hidden hope of the years to be.

The second half began with a simple idea called "Light and Shade" which depended entirely on grouping and lighting and was a triumph. Of the other small items I think my favourite was "Love, Love, Love," where six or seven small schoolboys sing of their sufferings under the infliction of Cupid. Nobody but Ralph Reader would dare put on an act like that.

"Covent Garden" was a too-easy skit on grand opera, which went down with the audience, I thought, a good deal better than it deserved.

"Boat Race Night" and "Sailing On" were the Gang Show at its happy, gay, colourful best. Then alas! came the Finale, and with another burst of song all was over until 1954.

There was a call for "The Chef" and an ancient white-bearded man brought on a huge cake and scattered portions of it among the audience, and then pulled off his beard, and revealed Ralph himself, looking very happy that things had gone off so well, and not nearly so tired as one would have expected.

We started to applaud him as he deserved, but he stopped us and diverted our attention to the fact that Anna Neagle and Herbert Wilcox and Odette Churchill were in one of the boxes.

There was terrific applause for these stars, of course, well-deserved enough, but I had a feeling that somebody ought to have pushed Ralph aside and taken charge after that, so that we could have really shown him what we thought of him. Instead, with true Scout modesty, he allowed just one more chorus and then had us on our feet for "God Save the Queen."

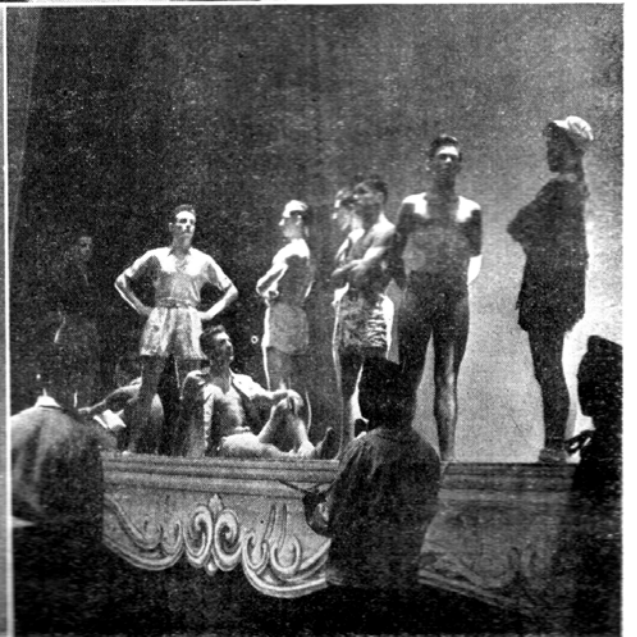
Even the National Anthem seemed to take on a new significance with a hundred-odd splendid specimens of the Queen's young subjects to lead it from the stage. We left in the firm conviction that things were pretty hopeful for the Great New Elizabethan Age. I hope that the Movement will never underestimate what it owes to Ralph and his selfless endeavours to entertain us, and while entertaining, to inspire us.



*The Gang Show, 1953!  
Top line: "Love, love, love" and Ralph Reader at rehearsal.  
Bottom line: "Silent Night" and "Light and Shade."*



*In the middle: Dinky Rew (in "One Man Show") and John Stiles, the principal pianist. Their awards by the Chief Scout are gazetted on page 31.*



## Rope Ladders (2)

The story so far: the sheet-man-bend-harness ladder is difficult to make and lacks A rigidity. An easier and more efficient ladder has been produced. Now read on. Man-harness ladder: For this you will need a rope X six times the length to be climbed.

Double it; the two ends will hang down and the loop will be at the top. One foot from the top, on the left-hand side, make a man-harness knot with a seventeen-inch loop. Carry this loop across to the right-hand side - but not at right angles. It is going to be tied to the right-hand side two feet from the top of the ladder. To do this make a second man-harness knot in the right-hand side, and pass this loop through the first loop. In this way the first rung is completed.

The second loop (also seventeen inches long) comes across to the left-hand side and is fastened to it by passing the loop of a third man-harness knot through it. This third knot is, of course, made two feet below the first knot and passed over the right-hand side, being attached to it by the fourth knot - two feet below the second.

As you will have realised, the rungs are not horizontal, but "zig-zag" down the ladder. This helps matters when you climb because the feet are placed in the corners of the rungs and thus keep the sides rigid. There you are: how about the Patrols trying the two ladders and then inventing a third?

## Murder Story

Turn the whole meeting into a murder case. Work out a crime in its full (and gory) detail; and then recruit your helpers - corpse, witnesses and suspects. Let the plot be complicated but plausible and sprinlke it throughout with red herrings so that the case needs some cracking. (Read a Peter Wimsey first to get you into the right mood!)

1. Murder takes place in a small room adjacent to the Troop room. Door to this room is propped ajar and Troop crowd round to listen to the crime being committed (observation: sound).
2. Patrols inspect scene of crime in turn. They take notes, measure corpse, find fingerprints (dealt with very conveniently in the previous week's programme) (observation: sight).
3. Patrols take it in turn to interrogate witnesses and suspects. Record interviews and theories. (Tact, patience and ingenuity.)
4. When each Patrol has decided whom to arrest, they apply to the C.I.D. (S.M.) for warrant (weighing arguments).
5. The Troop sets itself up as a Court, complete with Judge (T.L.) and Jury (six youngest boys of the Troop). Each of the prisoners is tried independently as a separate case. The P.L. prosecutes his own prisoner on behalf of the Crown and the prisoner nominates his own Defence Counsel. Carry out as far as possible the full procedure of a civil court. If two or more Patrols settle on the same prisoner then they combine in an attempt. to find him guilty (acting and citizenship).

With careful planning the whole evening can be most interesting and illuminating - and very amusing. especially during the Court scenes. One verdict was "accidental suicide"!

After a picnic lunch at Watendlath, Tony, who was a quiet, tidy boy, put the four empty pilchard tins into a billy which was hanging from his rucsacs.

# TROOP NIGHT

## A SCOUTER'S MISCELLANY

### X

Later we treated ourselves to a lavish tea Keswick's smartest restaurant. As Tony picked up his rucsac to leave, four empty tins skated across the floor to disappear under the customers' tables and horrified glances.

\* \* \*

### Why do boys leave?

In a survey of youth movements conducted in Leicester recently, it was found that Scout Troops, in common with other movements, have their greatest leakages at eleven, thirteen and fifteen. This is not news - but some of the ideas that came out of the survey are perhaps worth repeating.

**ELEVEN-YEAR-OLDS.** - The changeovers at school and in the Group coincide; this proves a double upset.

Idea: One Guide Commissioner faced with the same difficulty suggested that no Brownie be transferred within six months either ways of the school changeover. Result: less leakage. How about abandoning this idea of bringing up Cubs in the autumn; it's too close to the beginning of the school year.

**THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLDS.** - At eleven and fifteen we recognise that the boy is growing up and needs a fresh approach. Does a boy develop between eleven and fifteen? Of course he does - we must advance with the boy, offering him fresh delights all the time.

Idea: After twelve months in the "Scouts" the glitter and sense of mystery have worn a little thin: the "sameness" of Troop activities begins to bore the boy. We must watch this and work on a long term - four year - programme. so that there's always something fresh turning up. We must not assume that once a boy is infected with due Scouring fever that he is suffering from a life-long disease.. Aim at Second Class in the first twelve months. Quick progress at the outset means that the treats ahead are displayed early. Once Second Class has been completed, he can branch out along the lines that appeal to him most and gain several badges before moving on to First Class. Lack of progress is the cause of many of our avoidable leakages.

**FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLDS.** - BOYS don't change overnight. It doesn't happen that one day they are boys.. and the next young men. But so often when they leave school that is the idea they have. We mustn't shatter their dreams - a few months in the workaday world does that only too quickly. - For the first six months of working life we must "handle with care."

Idea: Boys don't develop as fast as one another. Watch carefully and transfer into the Senior Section at the right moment. Some might well start joining in the Senior's six months before their fifteenth birthday, whilst with others it might be better to wait until the fifteenth birthday is some months behind, before moving them up.

Remember, leaks occur at the joints - especially in hot water pipes.

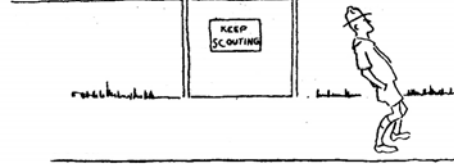
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### Grizzly-isms

It isn't the problem boy that produces the problem Troop; it's the problem Scouter.

\* \* \*

A ten-minute visit to Mike's home will explain his actions far better than an evening with a psychology text-book.



You can't plough a field by turning it over in your mind.

**Two ideas for the outdoor meeting**

**STALKING.** - Patrol v. P.L. The P.L. goes ahead and hides in a certain wood; he must remain undiscovered for a given period, say twenty minutes. Capture by touch. He *may* move if he wishes, but if caught within the time limit, he is made to stand a round of lemonades.

**COOKING.** - Members of Patrol arrange to cook, say, twist or potatoes or stew or custard. Time limit for meal, which includes lighting the fire. At the agreed time, each proceeds to eat what he has cooked.

Take indigestion tablets with you!  
Perhaps this is the right moment to tell them the story of B.-P.'s first cooking-adventure with the stew!

**A year's memories**

Glistening moonlight on a frosty February night when the P.L.'s crossed new country with a compass....

Being still awake at dawn and hearing the wood pigeons in the pines....

Bright watery sunshine between showers at Whit-week and the P.L.'s cheerfully battling against the elements....

Excitement fighting against tiredness on the long train journey to Switzerland; the eager faces at the first sight of the snow capped peaks....

Sleeping out under the larches to show a Patrol whose kit had not arrived that it could be done....

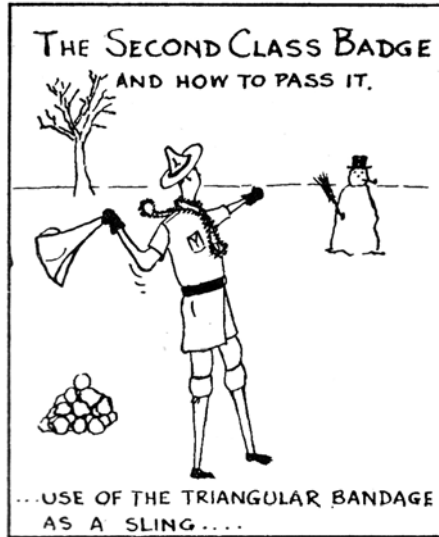
Crossing the snow-covered moors as the sun was setting, with another two miles to the twinkling light of the Hostel in the valley below....

The brief note of thanks -"for all you've done," in the Christmas card - from the boy who nearly left.

Yes - it's worth it.

**Kim's Game**

Play it the original way - with stones. Collect a dozen assorted stones and play in the usual way. After seeing the film of Kim one of the boys said that they'd "an awful cheek using a Scout game in the story and then calling the boy Kim just to make it fit in." I must have slipped up somewhere!



Have you tried Kim's Game with silhouettes? You can use anything topical or anything that fits into your training programme - ships (Sea Scouts), dogs, cars (difficult), 'planes (Air Scouts), railway engines, trees, birds or historical figures.

At Whitsun the Troop usually camps on a large estate and the Court of Honour plans it as a training camp so that the summer camp, always held farther a field, will be attended by 100 per cent campers.

Each year there is a heated discussion about which of the two available fields the Troop should camp in. Field A is the better of the two and the one that the Scouters would choose - so they let it be known, quite casually, that they would prefer to camp in field B.

The Court of Honour always chooses field A.

**Piggy**

Chalk a rectangular "sty" on the floor, against a bare stretch of wall - so that the wall forms the fourth side. Troop divides into two teams; one team crowds into the sty (there should be just, enough room for all to crouch on the floor) and the other team stands by with a football.

Aim of the "farmers" is to throw the ball at a "pig" in the sty and catch it on the rebound. Each throw that ends with the ball in the farmer's hands scores them a point.

Aim of the pigs is to retain the ball when it is thrown at them. If they can do this and so deprive the farmers of their point, they shout "Piggy!" and race out of the sty. Sides are reversed and the new farmers begin to score. Highest scoring team, after six changes, is the winner. Very popular, when they're in an energetic mood! Note: Just as successful out of doors - mark out the four sides of the sty.

Two ideas we're waiting to try - both "outdoor games" for a Patrol.  
1. Day or night. Position boys in wood. Keep perfectly still for fifteen minutes (quite a feat). Record all animal and bird life, take a pile of reference books for checking afterwards.

2. Night. Large pasture field - preferable with an uneven surface. Decide upon bounds (hedge or field?) Boy (will o' the wisp) sets off with torch and proceeds to hide in field. The aim of the rest is to catch him by touch. Will o' the wisp must shine his torch for five seconds in every thirty. If he's not caught in five minutes, he's the winner.

DON GRISBROOK

**ME by FRUD**



## NEWS FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

Just over two years ago I wrote about a Scouter from Manchester who had emigrated to Australia and had been thrilled by the fact that some of the local Scouters called on him and made him welcome on his second evening in his new surroundings. I thought of this the other day when I saw a letter from another 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. This seems to me to be a two-way business as, no doubt, the newcomer, as was the case with the Manchester Scouter, will be delighted to find some friends quickly. I hope, therefore, Commissioners will let the Overseas Commissioner at I.H.Q. know of any departures for other parts of the Commonwealth and inform the International Commissioner of any Scouts or Scouters going to foreign countries. There will be no delay in issuing the appropriate letter to the traveller and, in the Commonwealth, the headquarters of the country concerned will be notified at the same time.

In this column last May I mentioned some excellent scholarships that are open to boys who have lost one or both parents. I have heard that as the result of that paragraph two scholarships have been awarded to Scouts and I am asked to say that others are available. Any Scouter who knows of a boy who has lost one or both parents and whose family is not too well off and would like further particulars of the scholarships should write to the Commissioner for Grants at I.H.Q. who will be pleased to supply details.

You may remember that under "Notes and News" in THE SCOUTER for September, 1952, we were told that a Fund had been opened to erect a new altar and baldachin in St. Paul's Cathedral, to replace the high altar totally destroyed in the war, as a memorial to the men of the fighting forces from the Empire overseas who gave their lives in the two World Wars. Members of the Movement were invited to send contributions, however small, to the Treasurer of the Fund. We have heard that a number of contributions have been received from Patrols and Groups, generally at the rate of a penny or two per member and these gifts have been greatly appreciated. The committee of the fund is anxious that as many people as possible should participate so they welcome small donations. The Fund is still open and anyone who has not yet contributed and wishes to do so should send his gift to the Treasurer, Mr. C. V. Allen, Lloyds Bank Limited, St. James's Street, London, S.W.1.

A couple of Scouts on their First Class hike last summer had an unusual challenge as to whether or not they were prepared for any emergency. They had just pitched their tent for the night when they heard what they thought was a cry of a bird; they investigated and under a hedge found a sack covered in blood. When they opened it, to their amazement, they found a baby bleeding profusely. One of the Scouts looked after it while the other ran to the nearest farm. The farmer hurried to the scene and took the baby back to the farmhouse saying that this was no job for young boys. The Scouts accepted the advice but felt that more should be done and tried to inform the Police by dialling 999. They discovered that all telephones were out of order owing to a recent gale, whereupon they obtained transport to the nearest Police Station. They were there within a few minutes and after some questions returned to the place of the incident with the Police who, with the two Scouts, searched the surrounding countryside for clues. Fortunately, one was found and the person responsible for the crime was arrested.

The Chief Constable in his report stated that the action taken by the two Scouts undoubtedly saved the life of the child and was correct in every detail. He added that they dealt with the situation better than many adults would have done.

Scouters everywhere must feel encouraged by this example of Scouts not only knowing what to do but doing it.

A. W. HURLL,  
*Chief Executive Commissioner.*

## THE GILWELL LETTER

These last few months at Gilwell have been exciting. We have spread Gilwell's wings and extended our boundaries. If you look at a map of the estate - and that should not be too difficult because there must be at least thirty thousand imps of Gilwell spread over the world - you will see a sort of bite called Gilwellbury taken out of the north end of the estate, and it is that bite we have managed to buy and add to the property.

Many years ago, before the Scout Movement owned Gilwell, that particular portion, about ten acres in extent, was sold and a house and two cottages built on it. Unfortunately, the vendor at that time placed in the hands of the owner of Gilwellbury certain protective rights which made it almost impossible for us or, indeed, anybody else to use about twenty-five acres of the Gilwell estate except for grazing (an activity never prominent in the Scout curriculum). As you may imagine, this has been a source of annoyance and something of a handicap. When, therefore, Gilwellbury came on the market I.H.Q. immediately decided that it should be purchased and added to the Gilwell lands, partly to protect the estate we already have, for we might have been faced with a housing estate, a remand home, a commercial caravan site or, indeed, a host of unpleasant possibilities too dreadful to contemplate.

The danger is removed; the property is ours and, as the years go by, we shall gradually put it to good use. The immediate thing I want you to know is that the main house which comprises twelve rooms and, significantly, was built in 1908, will be used as an annexe to our existing hostel accommodation. In past years, because of the numbers on training courses and the visiting staff we have had to accommodate, we have often had to refuse accommodation to people who would have liked to stay at Gilwell for a few days or even a few weeks, but now there will be room for the wife or husband you otherwise leave at home. Next summer (I hope by Whitsuntide) we shall be able to open our new annexe and provide this additional accommodation, and I hope the Movement will not be slow to take advantage of it. It seems to me a perfect situation and I hope we can create an ideal atmosphere for, say, a District Commissioner who would like to have his G.S.M.s together for a weekend or a County Commissioner who would like to get his team round him.

I want to say a very sincere "Thank You" to the many Scouters who followed my suggestion of providing a chair for the Storm Hut. We have had enough money to purchase the first hundred chairs and I have taken a chance and ordered the second hundred in the hope that there will be other Scouters who would like to provide a chair for this very lovely building.

As a matter of fact, we had to get the chairs because I have persuaded Ralph Reader and the 4th Harrow Scout Group to bring Ralph's new play to Gilwell on Friday and Saturday, 9th and 10th, April, 1954. I saw *The Story of Mike* in Harrow in the early autumn last year and I enjoyed it so much that I am convinced more people will want to see it than could possibly get in at Harrow. The booking office will be open on 1st February and tickets will be available at 7s. 6d. and 5s. Although I cannot promise anything about the weather, the cast of the play will be camping at Gilwell and there will be a Wood Badge Course in residence, but still plenty of room for other campers, not to mention the annexe which, although it will not be completely ready by then, will at least provide a water-tight roof for the less hardy.

We have just completed our first Scout Promise and Law Course and it was a great encouragement to have over two hundred applications. You can look out for more of these courses in the 'counties later in 1954.

Lastly, by the time you read this I shall be in the midst of the Australian Training season and I hope those of you enjoying a restful winter at home will spare a thought for the poor Camp Chief sweltering under the summer suns of the southern hemisphere!

A Happy New Year to you all.

JOHN THURMAN  
*Camp Chief.*



## LUCK OF THE MONTH by THE EDITOR

### January

January is the gateway of the year and as we come to it we come armed with our new resolves, to cast old sins away, to be, in the months ahead, more considerate, more charitable, more compassionate, less pompous, less self-important, less malicious. But armour may rust, unless day by day we care for it by prayer, by thinking on these things. Lord, wilt Thou cast out from us all that is shoddy and mean and unwholesome and unworthy of Thy love. Wilt Thou sustain us in doing whatever tasks may be ours in the Movement to which you host called us.

January is a moody month of high winds and floods and sudden frost and tumult of snow.

But tranquil, secret, concealed  
In wood bedraggled and in flooded field  
Summer lies sleeping.  
No man can wake her yet,  
But that she will come again  
Do not forget.

Do not forget - and January is the time to kindle enthusiasm about the summer-camps-to-come, by yarning of other camps and showing snapshots, by reading camp logs of other days, by a one-thing-a-week instruction-series on the art of camping. A half-hour in a Troop Meeting poring over photographs and logbooks and maps is not time wasted: we must get away from the idea that Troop Meetings have only one pattern and most of that must be games. I agree that the first ten and the last ten minutes should have their own definite design but, within that frame there should be infinite variety - of method as well as content. "Summer lies sleeping" - but it won't be long, and a boy is only a boy once, and a summer's opportunities missed is a summer gone for ever.

### Ideas for the Month

**FOR ROVER SCOUTS:** Have an anthology evening. Each Rover to contribute a brief reading (limited to three or four minutes) in prose or verse, or illustrate by means of a gramophone record some given theme, e.g. Water, Fire, A Journey, Wit and Humour.

**FOR SENIOR SCOUTS:** Talk over the caving article (which Seniors should previously have read) and consider the rock climbing photos in this issue. Make sure every Senior Scout can tie a middleman's knot, a bowline on a bight and a man-harness hitch arrange a speed contest and a championship for these three knots.

**FOR SCOUTS:** Persuade local meteorologist or shop manager selling meteorological instruments to bring along instruments to demonstrate their use and explain them to Scouts. Patrols to keep composite weather records for one week, making their own rain gauges.

Scouter should suggest how other records can be obtained. (On Notice Board: pin details of Weatherman's Badge without comment.)

**FOR CUBS:** This month's "not-in-the-tests activity" might be tying up parcels well, a most useful and practical good turn for Cubs. Provide brown paper and string and various-shaped objects to be tied up. (For guidance see Wolf Cub Books No. 1, p. 6.) Then persuade a local postman or post office worker to come and give a five-minute talk on what happens to the parcel when it gets to the Post Office, etc.

### Re Skittle

DEAR EDITOR,

As Skittle's C.C., I am delighted to learn from A.D.C.'s article in the November SCOUTER that the 19th have been fortunate enough to acquire him.

I am not a boastful man, but it is most noticeable how quickly things improve in a District which is fortunate enough to obtain the services of a Manchester Scouter - particularly in the South.

A.D.C. omits one very important point. Before allowing Skittle to come into contact with the Troop at all, Bagshaw should have asked the D.C. to find out Skittle's past history. This could have been quickly obtained either by putting an inquiry through to I.H.Q. on one of those delightful Business Reply Forms, or by contacting our very efficient County Office, In this way it would have been possible in a matter of days to ensure that it was safe to allow Skittle into contact with the Troop.

When such simple machinery for checking on a man exists, it seems extraordinary how often one learns quite by chance that a known "wrong 'un" or a fool has been helping a Troop unofficially for months. After all a G.S.M. may not want to put a man up for a warrant for a month or two, nor may the acting Scouter be sure he wants a warrant with that Group, until a period of trial has elapsed. Bagshaw needs a "rocket!"

"SKITTLE'S COUNTY COMMISSIONER."

Dear EDITOR,

I refer to my letter of the 3rd November, re Skittle.

You will undoubtedly know that there is a 5th Scout Law, which has something to do with a Scout being courteous.

As a C.C., it is my job to show an example in all the Scout Laws, including the 5th. In consequence I had the decency to send a copy of my letter to you under reference, to the Deputy C.C. of S.E. Lancashire.

Sir, I feel it may interest you to see with your own eyes (*below*) the scurrilous reply. I have had to cut off the signature and a P.S., which I felt might bring a blush even to the face of the Editor of THE SCOUTER, hardened though he must of necessity be.

In his favour, I am glad to note that the Deputy C.C., S.E. Lancashire, has made a clean breast of Skittle, in spite of several dirty cracks.

I warned you that anyone in S.E. Lancashire needed watching. I do not except the Deputy C.C., who needs the censor's pencil towards the end.

SKITTLE'S C.C.

[Enclosure]

DEAR SIR,

After consulting our lawyers it has been decided to take the matter of your letter of the 3rd November before the next general assembly of the United Nations.

We do not wish to create another Trieste but will have no alternative to call on the people of South-East Lancashire to rise up and go forward together and sweep the Mancunians into the plains of Cheshire where they rightly belong.

Skittle had four warrants and three previous convictions and was a most esteemed member of this county, indeed he was much sought after.

When his departure was announced, there was a thanksgiving service which indicates what our people thought about him. Indeed a great crowd of well-wishers saw him off at the Station and ensured that the door of his compartment was locked to ensure his safe arrival. The County Commissioner made a farewell speech in which he felt that it would be the wish of all that Skittle would go far. His Deputy said that as an ex-soldier he gave him the soldier's farewell with much feeling.

DEPUTY C.C., S.E. LANCS.

Our Contemporaries (1)

"It is much easier to applaud sentiments of good will towards coloured visitors than to invite them to tea."

Educational Supplement, Nov. 20, 1953.

REXHAZLEWOOD.



FLEUR DE LYS SAYS

Have you talked over with each individual Scout (or Cub) his Scouting target for 1954, or at least yarned to your Troop (or Pack) about having a target?

because

He is more likely to reach his destination if he knows where he is going.



# PATROL ANIMALS & BIRDS: I. THE BAT

By MICHAEL BLACKMORE

[Photos by Eric Hosking]

Few people like bats. Their skinny wings and mouse-like faces certainly give them rather a grotesque appearance, but they are really most interesting creatures when you get to know them. Much of the prejudice against them comes from our comparative ignorance about their habits and this is hardly surprising because they are not very easy to study in a wild state. As everyone knows, bats come out at twilight and spend the day asleep in caves and hollow trees, or under the roofs of houses and behind pieces of loose bark. Indeed, you can expect to find bats in almost any place that gives them a good chance of avoiding detection, provided that it is reasonably dark and dry. I once found a colony of Pipistrelles or common bats behind an advertisement board on the wall of a building in the main street of a country town. I often used to stop to read the advertisements but never suspected that over a hundred bats were concealed at arm's length in the narrow space between the board and the uneven surface of the wall to which it was nailed. Then one day I heard a high-pitched squeak, so I pushed a twig behind the board. Immediately the whole colony of Pipistrelles swarmed out from their hiding-place and flew down the street in broad daylight - to the horror and surprise of several people who happened to be passing at the time!

Everyone is familiar with the old saying "blind as a bat." Bats certainly have eyes, sometimes quite prominent ones, but they seem to rely more on their powers of hearing to find their way about at night or in the pitch darkness of deep caves. The name given to this wonderful faculty is "echo-location." When the bat flies it sends forth a constant stream of short wave-length-squeaks far above the range to which our own ears are attuned. These sounds or vibrations are reflected back to the bat's ears from surrounding objects thus enabling it to estimate its exact position. It tracks down its prey by the same method. The invention known as radar works on a somewhat similar principle except that it makes use of electromagnetic vibrations.

Although you have probably heard people refer to bats as being half-mice and half-birds, they are true mammals and bring forth their young alive. Scientifically they are called *Chiroptera*, a Greek composite term meaning literally "hand wings." You can get quite a good idea of the structure of a bat's wings if you imagine your own fingers greatly lengthened and covered with a fine membrane of skin stretching from your shoulder above to your ankle below, leaving your thumb free.

Bats are not related to mice. For one thing their teeth are quite different and more closely resemble those of shrews and hedgehogs. Some naturalists think that bats have evolved from a prehistoric form of tree-dwelling shrew and that they gradually learnt the art of flight as a result of various structural changes. But whether you believe in the theory of evolution or not, we know from their fossilised bones that bats existed over sixty million years ago, which means that they are much older than mankind.

One often hears that if a bat gets into a woman's hair it will become so entangled that it cannot be removed until the hair has been shaved, but I have yet to meet anyone Who has suffered this fate. Several years ago, when I was exhibiting some live bats at a lecture, I offered a large reward to any lady who would volunteer having a specimen buried in her hair - if the bat stuck there. After a nervous pause one brave member of the audience came forward and there was an expectant hush when I put one of the bats on her head and piled her long hair over it. But the animal just crawled out and nothing would persuade it to cling to her tresses!

It was a convincing way of showing my audience that there was no truth in the story.

Bats make interesting and unusual pets, but because they are difficult to feed in captivity and need a great deal of attention I would not advise you to try your hand with them unless you have plenty of spare time and unlimited patience. I once - had a pair of bats that became so tame that they used to fly down and settle on my hand or shoulder at feeding time.

I allowed them plenty of liberty by keeping them in a large unoccupied attic and used to take them with me whenever I went for a holiday because none of my friends knew how to look after them. After I had had them for seventeen months they escaped one night through a window which had been left open owing to my carelessness.

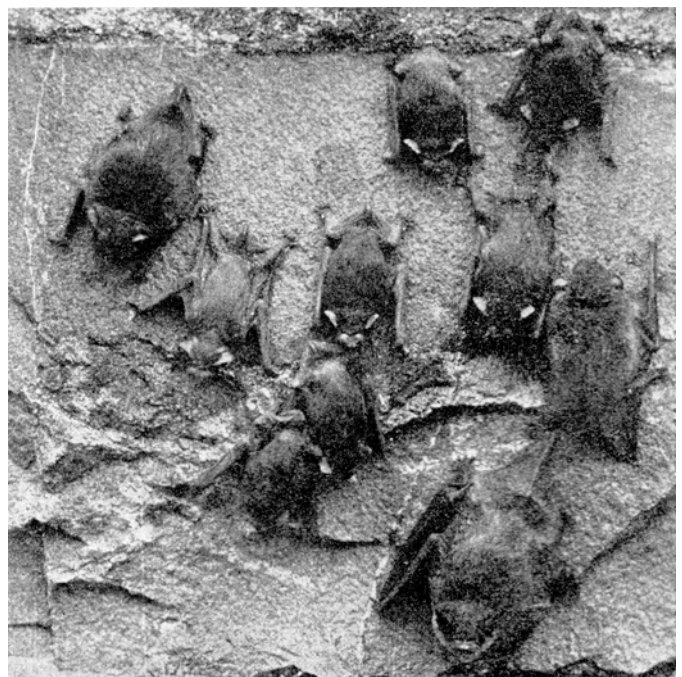
A fortnight later I was lucky enough to recapture the female when she flew into a neighbour's house, but as the days went by I began to give up all hope of ever seeing the male again. Six weeks afterwards I happened to be exploring some cellars under an old castle where I had originally found the male bat. Suddenly I heard something fluttering in the darkness; I knew that it was a bat (the place was full of them), so I stood quite still and waited. Then the bat flew towards me, circled round my head a few times, and settled on my hand - it was the escaped male!

It was surprising enough that my pet should have recognised me after being at liberty for several weeks, but it was even more surprising that he had managed to find his way back to his old home, which was nearly four miles away from my house, after a long period of captivity.

I must admit that this incident sounds highly improbable, even fantastic; and I can hardly blame you if you dismiss it as a "tall" story. But I have told it exactly as it happened and its truth can be vouched for by several witnesses.

From time to time I have kept other specimens in captivity and I once managed to breed a noctule bat. This is the largest of our British species (there are twelve altogether) and it has a wing-span that sometimes reaches fourteen or fifteen inches.

The noctule is fairly common in England and Wales and is easy to recognise, because apart from its large size it has narrow wings and flies much higher than other bats. It comes out early and you can often see it hunting at sunset on summer evenings in company with swifts and swallows. Noctules eat large numbers of beetles and are especially fond of cockchafers. Since all our British species feed on insects of one sort or another they are useful creatures and help to keep down pests; so next time you hear someone saying what repulsive animals bats are please try to put in a good word for them!



# I. KEEPING RABBITS AND GUINEA-PIGS

The first pet I ever had as a boy was a black and white rabbit and I well remember how pleased I was to receive it. For a first pet a rabbit is certainly a very good choice.

These animals have been bred in captivity for so long that they are well adapted to life in a restricted space and do not pine for freedom. Nevertheless it is very important to give them hutches of a good size and before you buy a rabbit you should prepare a cage for it. A rabbit hutch should not be smaller than 3 feet 6 inches long, 2 feet 3 inches wide and 2 feet high. This will allow your pet to take enough exercise and provide room for youngsters if you keep a breeding doe rabbit. In a family hutch you must make a sleeping compartment at one end with only a small entrance so that it is fairly dark inside. It is also a good idea to fix a shelf about six inches wide, half the way up the wall of the hutch. When the young rabbits worry their mother too much she can jump up here and so get a little peace.

It is important to see that the door fits well, but don't make it so tight that it refuses to close if the wood swells in damp weather. On the other hand there should not be wide gaps anywhere in the cage or it will become draughty, and although rabbits are hardy and can stand any amount of cold they hate draughts and damp. If you decide to keep your butch inside a shed or garage the greater part of the front of the car can be covered with wire netting, but an outdoor hutch should have only the centre of the door open in this way or it will be too windy, and the roof must have a waterproof covering. When you have made the hutch paint it all over with creosote and allow this plenty of time to dry before you introduce the rabbit.

There are a great many different breeds to choose from and you must decide whether you would prefer a large rabbit or a fairly small one. Personally I like a rabbit of medium size and if you want one just as a pet you wouldn't do better than select one of the so-called fancy rabbits such as the English or Dutch rabbit, the tiny white Polish rabbit or the Tan rabbit which is very prettily marked with tortoiseshell patches.

It is better to approach a reliable rabbit breeder than to buy yourself an animal from a pet store. Make certain that the rabbit you choose is healthy for a sick pet is difficult to cure and not much fun to look after. Here are some of the signs you should look for. A rabbit in good health has glossy fur which should lie down smoothly and not stand out from the body. The eyes should be clear and bright and the nose clean and dry. The animal should look lively and alert and not sit moping in a corner of the hutch. Always look at the ears to see that they are quite clean inside. The rabbit should be well covered with flesh and feel firm and solid.

Before taking your rabbit home you must find out what kind of food it has been having and how often it has been fed. It is very easy to upset a rabbit, by suddenly changing its food and meal times, so for a few days at least you should carry on with the same kind of feeding as it has had before. Then if you wish to change over to something different you can do so gradually, day by day. If you have a fair sized garden a pet rabbit will not cost you more than at the most a shilling a week to feed, at any rate in the summer.

In winter when grass and weeds don't contain so much nourishment you have to give your pet more concentrated food such as bread, bran or oats. For its size, a rabbit eats a great deal and it needs a lot of bulky food to keep healthy. A medium-sized full-grown rabbit requires a pound of fresh vegetable food each day as well as about half a pound of mash and two or three ounces of hay.

A small rabbit will eat a little less, but a large one, such as a Flemish Giant or Belgian Hare, quite a lot more. A breeding doe with a *family* to feed will eat almost twice that amount - in fact it is practically impossible to overfeed her.

In cold weather I've found that most rabbits like to start the day with a warm mash and it is quite simple to make. Make a mixture of bran, crushed oats, meal or middlings and just moisten it with hot water. Don't make it too wet, it should only be damp and crumbly. Give it to your rabbit while it is still warm. If you can't manage this kind of mash give cooked mashed potato mixed with bread crumbs or failing that a nice hunk of brown bread only. At mid-day you can give some fresh green stuff such as cabbage leaves, turnip tops, carrot tops, beetroot leaves or kale and a piece of carrot, parsnip or other root vegetable and then in the evening a good handful of hay. During the summer you can cut down on the mash and give more green food instead.

All garden vegetables, except onions, leeks and beans, are suitable for rabbits. Root vegetables should be scrubbed clean and you must be careful never to give anything that is covered in mildew, rotten or frosted. Among the wild plants dandelions, clover, hedge parsley, milk thistle, coltsfoot, groundsel, plantain, shepherd's purse, vetch, yarrow and dead nettle are the most useful. Never give too much of one kind but try to gather a nice mixed bunch. Dried nettles which no longer sting in this state, are a fine food to store for the winter, and any kind of grass, including lawn clippings, can be dried for hay. Don't give your pet buttercups, bluebells, nightshade, bindweed, poppies, hemlock, toadflax or traveller's joy. Most wild animals have the sense not to eat poisonous plants but domesticated rabbits have lost their instinct for the right kind of food.

Guinea-pigs are amusing little animals and like rabbits they are easy to feed and care for. The best way to house them is in an outdoor hutch which should preferably have a concrete foundation to keep out rats. A case five feet long and three feet wide will allow plenty of room for a family of guinea-pigs and the enclosure need not be more than eighteen inches high.

Make a proper sleeping hutch at one end, about two feet by eighteen inches with a nesting compartment for the babies and mothers and fill this with clean hay. From the hutch a small doorway should lead out into the run. It is a good plan to have a roof over at least half the outer run so that your pets can exercise even in rainy weather. Do not build the cage in a very hot sunny place for guinea-pigs prefer the shade.

Cavies should be fed in just the same way as rabbits, although naturally they need much less food and unlike rabbits they do not require drinking water if you give them fresh green stuff and root vegetables. They breed very rapidly and if you buy a pair, or a boar and two sows, you will soon have large families of young ones. Baby rabbits are born naked and blind - and don't leave the nest for three weeks, but young cavies begin to run about a very short time after they are born. If you take good care of your pets you will quickly rear enough to be able to give some away to your friends.

Looking after hutch pets is not a difficult task but there are a few important things you must always remember. Keep your animals very clean and dry, feed them regularly on good wholesome food and see that they have enough space, light and air. If you stick to these rules it is unlikely that you will ever have any trouble and your pets should remain healthy and contented.

L. HUGH NEWMAN.



It is a fact that primitive and pre historic people started to draw before they ever thought of writing. They undoubtedly made the first - as we call them nowadays - panorama sketches, as these are the reproduction (now on paper) of the view obtained by an observer, from any given point.

Panorama sketching has little or nothing to do with art, but should be a business-like representation of the landscape. It has, therefore, a describing function, and not an aesthetic one! This means that everybody who is able to write, can make a panorama sketch, which fulfils the purpose for which it is intended. The only talent required is some observation power and the knowledge of the fundamental rules of panorama sketching. For the remaining part it is only necessary to practise and practise. In general a panorama sketch is made when one wants to conserve a certain impression of the landscape. Further more such a sketch might be required to obtain a good idea of the surroundings of the camp site, or to illustrate and clarify the log. It is easier to sketch objects in profile than it is to draw them in perspective, and therefore it is better to start by sketching in profile.

When drawing a panorama sketch it is well to keep the following points in mind. (1) Always draw from left to right. (2) Do not be afraid to draw a firm, continuous line, and not a feathered and undecided one. The picture below illustrates the right and wrong way of drawing your lines. (3) Draw only what is required considering the nature of your sketch; in other words: every line drawn should give an idea as to what it represents. (4) Give the sketch depth by drawing objects further away smaller and with a thinner line. (5) Work with contrasts.. For instance a tree in front of a house, the latter being thatched, should be left white. (6) Do not go into too much detail. If you want to draw a forest, it is better to do this with one general outline, rather than drawing all trees individually.

Now what materials do you require when panorama sketching? First of all, of course, a not too soft pencil (H or HB); then a sketch book with carbon paper, to retain a copy for yourself; a rubber; a compass to find the correct directions after sketching, and a service protractor.

Before commencing it is extremely important to decide what extent of country is to be included in the sketch. The maximum suitable area to draw is 30 degrees of arc. In order to decide this, hold a service protractor about 11-12 inches from your eyes; close one eye, and the section of country blotted out by the protractor is then the area to be sketched. If you hold a service protractor 11 inches from your eyes, it subtends an angle of about 25 degrees.

## TRAINING NOTES

*[These notes are intended as a basis for yarns on parts (Only) of certain badges or of Scout training.]*

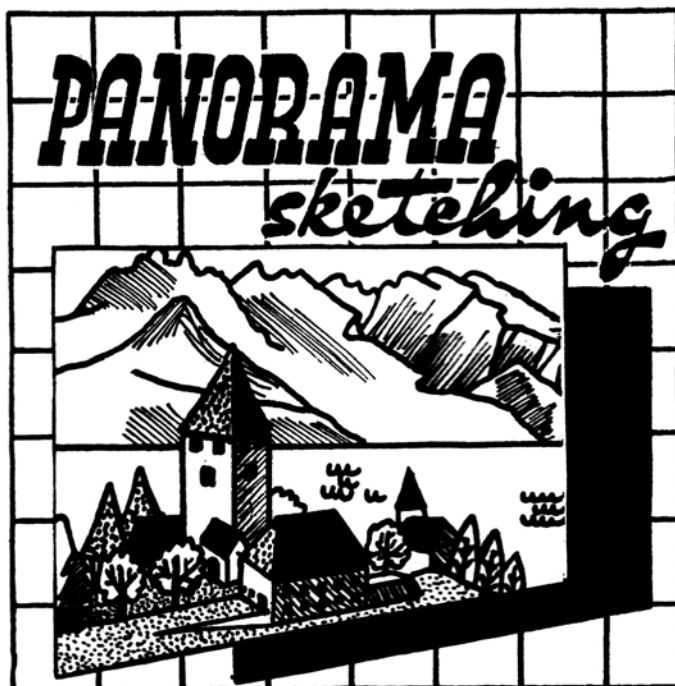
### 1. PANORAMA SKETCHING

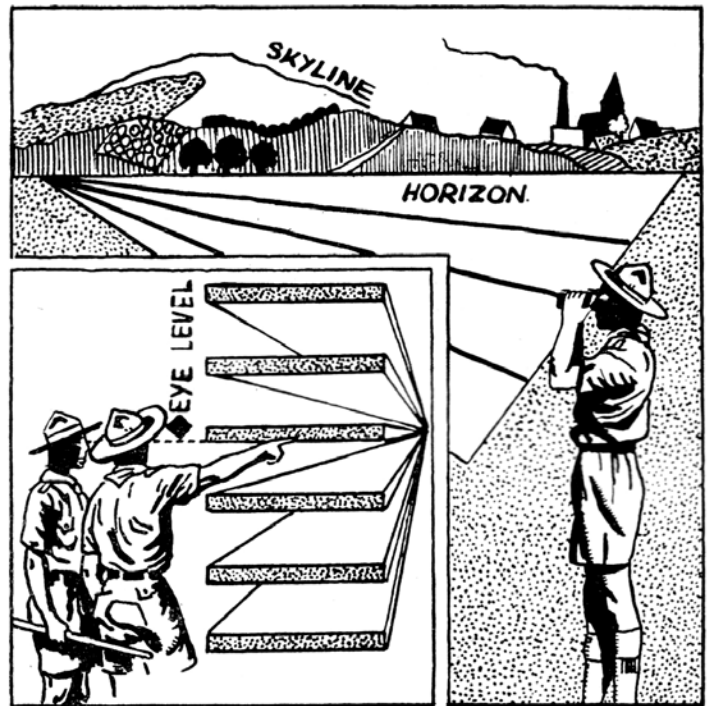
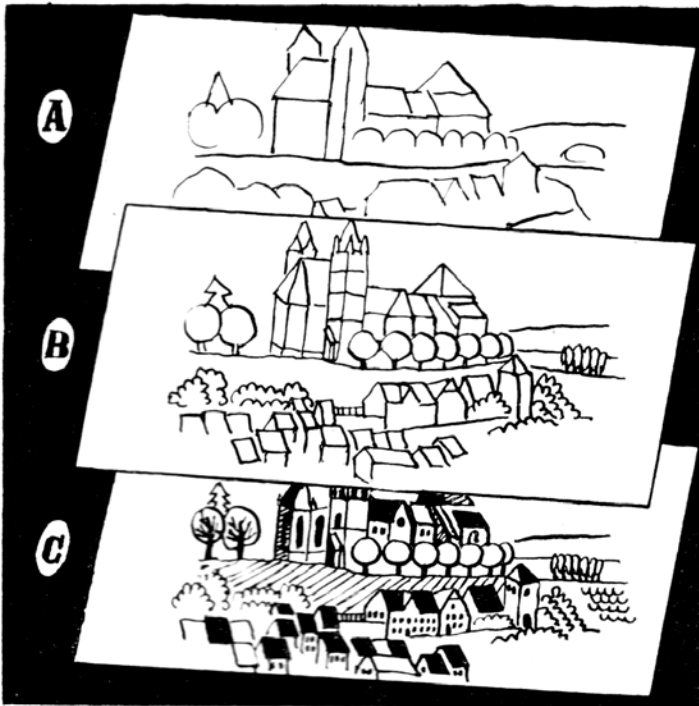
The best way to see only the outlines of your objects, is to sketch these lines with your eyes half closed. (3) Avoid shadowing as known in art sketching, but do not be afraid to use a light hatch. (4) Take your position at a reasonable distance from your object. (At least three times the height.)

In order to give a panorama sketch a touch of reality, and above all to make it easier for any viewer to "read," perspective should be introduced. This means that objects are drawn as we see them, and not as we know they are. Looking to the smaller inset on p. 19 (top), you will see that the horizon is at your eye level. This means that the higher your position is, the wider is your horizon. Lines above the eye level run down towards the horizon, and lines beneath run upwards. The points where parallel lines meet at the horizon are called vanishing points. If the plane on which the parallel lines lie, is tilted, either up or down, the vanishing point will appear to be similarly raised or lowered. Thus the vanishing point in the case of lines running up hill and away from you appear to lie above the horizon, while if running downhill will be below the horizon. Vertical lines remain vertical when drawn in your sketch, and horizontal lines remain practically horizontal, although the ends will in theory tend to the horizon. The further away objects are, the smaller and less clear they will seem.

In an endeavour to draw the objects in a panorama sketch in the right proportions compared with the field, two methods can be used. The first one we will call the "method of comparison," consisting of the following five steps: (1) Measure the height of the principal objects by holding a pencil vertically with sharpened end pointed upwards at arm length from your eyes - closing one eye -and move your thumb along the pencil until it is level with the bottom of the object. (2) Do the same for the horizontal measurements; the only difference being that you hold the pencil horizontally. (3) Now sketch the found comparisons as the base of your panorama sketch. (4) The lesser important features are sketched in by rough estimation. (5) Last but not least, work in the details required to make your sketch fulfil its purpose.

The second method is the "Grid method". You need for this a little frame (inside measurements could be 3 inches by 5 inches) in which you make holes at 1-inch intervals.





Now pull a thread through these holes; in this way making a grid, and attach a nylon cord in the middle of the lower side.

When using the frame, hold the loose end of this cord in your mouth, which enables you to keep the frame at the right distance. Use squared paper for the sketch, and draw what you see through the squares of your frame.

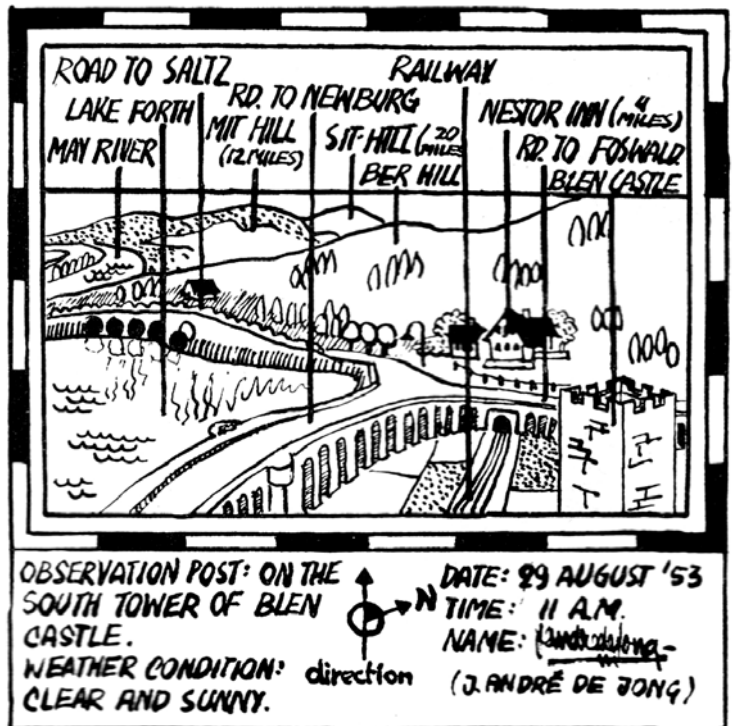
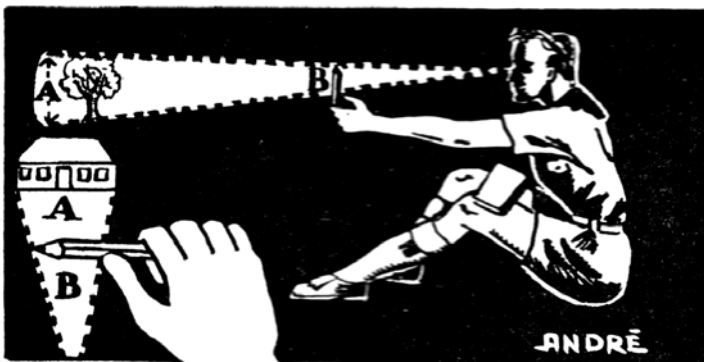
There is a conventional way of representing features in panorama sketching, which might save us a lot of time. For instance trees, woods and churches are always indicated by outline only. In towns and villages rectangular shapes denote houses, with indication of towers, factory chimneys and outstanding buildings. For cuttings and embankments use the conventional map signs.

Railways are indicated in the distance by a single line, and in the foreground by a double line with small cross lines, representing the sleepers. It remains only to add the written information to your sketch.

That is: above your sketch the names of the most important points and their distance from the observation post. And below: an arrow, indicating the direction of viewing and a north point.

Furthermore a description of the place where the sketch is made; an indication of the weather condition at the time; the date and time of finishing your sketch and your signature and name.

J. ANDRE DE JONG.



# LETTERS TO A YOUNG ROVER - I

Dear DAVID,

When you came round for a cup of tea last Sunday I meant to have a serious talk with you about a lot of important things, as it was the last time I would see you before you went to Egypt, but somehow I never got round to it. It was partly because Squiffy and Joe dropped in and started yarning about the ideal site they have found for the Troop camp next summer, and partly because when it comes to the point I always find it difficult to give advice to a young fellow, even a chap like you who I've known ever since he was a Cub.

I feel horribly guilty at letting the chance slip, particularly in your case, as since your parents were killed in the accident I have always felt a special responsibility towards you, and you have always at least *seemed* to value the odd bits of advice I have plucked up courage to give you from time to time.

So that is why, at nearly midnight, I am writing you this long letter. I'm sitting in my old armchair in my room that you know so well, with three walls lined with books (did you ever return Conrad's *Lord Jim*, by the way?) and the fireplace wall covered with photographs of the Scouts I have known since I first became an A.S.M. in 1927. The smaller armchair on the opposite side of the hearth is empty, but I seem to see you sitting there, in various uniforms. First as a Cub, then as a Scout, then as a Senior, then (for such a little while) as a Rover, and lastly as a sapper in Her Majesty's Corps of Royal Engineers.

Do you remember that evening, just after your eleventh birthday, when you were enrolled in the Troop and took the Scout Promise? Old Hankin was the Scoutmaster then, and Pat Williams who died in Korea was your P.L. "I promise on my honour," you said, "to do my best to do my duty to God, and the King. . ."

What I meant to talk to you about this afternoon, and what I'm going to write to you about tonight, is the first part of that promise, your duty to God. And in a way I have a dearer field where you are concerned than I would have with some boys, because if you were already a member of any Church I should have to be pretty guarded in what I said. Quite rightly, when a Scout belongs to a specific Church, his Scout Leaders are in honour bound not to do or say anything likely to weaken his allegiance to that Church. But you, like so many young fellows today, are what may be called a "vague" Christian, with a careless and (dare I say it?) rather smug contempt for organised religion.

I know perfectly well that you would feel insulted if anybody suggested you were not a "Christian," and I know you intimately enough to be sure that you have always done your best to obey the Ten Commandments and the all-important eleventh commandment about loving your neighbour as yourself. If you were sitting opposite me now in that other armchair, pretending to enjoy puffing at that new pipe of yours which doesn't seem to keep alight for five minutes together, I know that at this stage you would say:

"I think that a chap can be just as good a Christian without going to church."

Maybe he can, in some cases, but not, I think, in many.

Let me give you my own experience. As a boy I never went to church, or only so very occasionally that the services made no impression on me, but when I was about sixteen a friend of mine induced me to go with him to his particular church one Sunday evening, and within a short time I had become a church member and a Sunday school teacher, and this Sunday school teaching led directly to my becoming a Scoutmaster. For about seven years the church was the centre of my life. I attended morning and evening service, taught in the Sunday school, ran Scouts, collected for the missionary society and so forth. I think perhaps I almost overdid it, if you am overdo a good thing.

It is also long ago that looking back I can judge myself in those churchgoing days as if I were another person, and so there is no thought of boasting in my mind when I tell you that in those years I came pretty close to being a real Christian. I had very high standards of right and wrong, and though, being human, I went astray occasionally, I was always fighting to be my best self.

If, for instance, on Saturday I did something I knew was wrong, the Sunday services, when I knelt in the presence of my friends and in the sight of God, would remind me again of the standards from which I had fallen, and I would try to make the next week worthier than the last.

Then, when I was about twenty-three, I moved to another town and to another job, and for a bit it was physically impossible for me to go to church on Sundays, and in that place I never joined a church at all, and rarely went to any sort of service except perhaps a Scouts' Own or an Armistice Service.

I went on like this for some years. I was still busy helping run Scouts and engaged in other work of a useful character for the community, but I drifted into thinking, as the young fellows of your generation are so apt to think, that "a chap could be just as good a Christian, whether he goes to church or not."

Looking back I can see that my own life proved that this was nonsense. The lack of that weekly reminder of the high standards that Christ demands of His children began to show itself in a gradual falling-off in my moral standards.

I had never been a teetotaler, and now I found that to make up for the loss of the fellowship I had enjoyed in the church community, I spent more and more of my time in public houses. My new friends were most of them not bad fellows, but they had lower standards: they told dirty stories, and their attitude to sacred and beautiful things was different.

Then the war came and I was swept up in it like everybody else, and in 1944 I found myself an officer in charge of African troops in the Middle East, and the first night I joined them something happened as important to me as what happened that evening when I was sixteen and my pal took me to church with him.

We were in a tented camp at Quassassin, between Cairo and Ismailia, and our officers' mess was a big E.P.I.P. tent, lighted by hurricane lamps.

I was playing poker with four other officers, and drinking more gin than was good for me, to overcome my nervousness in the strange surroundings, when suddenly from outside the tent came the sound of men singing a hymn.

I knew the tune so well, it was "Jesu, Lover of my soul" and the sound of it took me back over the years to my first day as a Sunday school teacher, sitting with a dozen impish boys in that shabby suburban church.

We white officers were drinking gin and playing poker, and the black Africans from Buganda were singing hymns in their tents, hymns that had been taught their fathers by long dead and forgotten missionaries who had left their bones to rot in Africa for Jesus Christ's sake.

I learned a lot from those African Christians. There were humbugs among them, as there are in the English churches, but the best of them were saints, and it was clear that for most of them Christianity was a living force, as it had been with me in the old days.

Silvester Kikomeko, Alexander Katangola, Christopher Henry Malavu . . . how their names come back to me across the years! Between them they led me back to Christ, and to a renewed belief in organised religion and regular worship I'm so sure now, and I wish I could help you to be sure, that if you can be a good Christian without going to church, you can be a much better Christian if you have that weekly reminder which regular worship gives you.

You'll be a better man if you link up with a church and worship regularly, and if you "break bread, in remembrance of Him."

So much for you. But the Church of Christ, to me, seems like a great army mobilised to fight all the evil and cruelty and ugliness of the world.

I like to think that each denomination of the great Church is like a battalion of that mighty, army (and it is all to the good if the members of each battalion think they are the best battalion of the lot!) with its own destined part to play in the battle. Christ needs you in that great army.

It would be a very happy day for me if I heard from you that you had done "your duty to God" by joining some battalion of that army. I'd naturally like you to join my own battalion, which I, of course, think is the best, but so long as you are fighting somewhere in the line I shall be satisfied.

Just two final words on this subject, for the fire has gone out and I'm getting cold. Don't be put off from joining an organised church because you find a few humbugs and whited sepulchres in it. They are the ones that somehow catch the public eye, but you can take it from me, having had a long experience of both, that the churchgoer is on average a much better citizen and Christian than the pub-crawler or the non-churchgoer. "By their fruits ye shall know them," and you'll find that in any town it is the churchgoers that do most of the social and charitable work. I'll never forget that when I was a Scout Commissioner in East London we had thirty-five Troops.

Thirty-three of them were given hospitality by churches, and none by pubs or Agnostic Societies! And before the Government stepped in ninety-nine hundredths of the Children's Homes and Old People's Homes were run by regular churchgoers of the despised organised churches.

Lastly, let me add that in this letter I have dealt only with the "outward side of the cup." I am not a priest or a parson, and it is not for me to write of the inner meaning of religion, or to analyse faith. All I beg of you to do is to give religion a chance in your own life. Go to all the churches and services you can until you find one that calls to your soul, and then seek out the priest or parson and ask him to help you. You'll never find full manhood without religion, and we shan't build the world we want to build until young men like you join Christ's army, openly and proudly.

Yours ever,

A. D.C.

## ROVER ROUNDABOUT

I have been interested this month by the many reports I have heard from the "Moot Boys" and not the least were those passed on by a Swiss Rover now resident near London who was deputed to pass on this message from the Moot Chief:

"We know that the programme was very loaded, perhaps even too various, exerting and demanding the goodwill and assistance of every participant.

"The results seen from the point of the Swiss Rovers and concerning our friends from all over the world, were - I confess it - really marvellous. The circumstances were as bad as possible, due to the weather, but all our guests helped to do the best in it in a real Rover attitude. We thank them and especially the British delegation who was not only the most numerous but also the delegation that bore all these inconveniences with the best sense of humour and smiling. Swiss Rover Scout Commissioner, Julien Lescaze, wrote in the Swiss *Scouter*: 'Kandersteg proved that Rover mind and attitude is a reality. Against the constant rain, humour, gaiety and enthusiasm helped to beat the difficulties. Our foreign brothers did not come to spend a peaceful holiday in Switzerland, but to prove as true Rovers. The 5th World Rover Moot taught us to believe in the worth of the Rover Movement and in the mission of all young men who are staying faithful to their Promise'."

The other piece of news was from David Walker of Ashted, Surrey, whose notes are self-explanatory:

"After returning from the International Rover Moot, hopes of trips abroad were not expected for another year, but at a Moos Reunion of Home Counties Rovers at Southwark Cathedral, an invitation was received from the Swiss Camp Chief for a Rover to attend the winding-up meeting of the Moot at Berne. Names were put into a hat, mine was drawn out and on Friday, November 6th, I was off to Geneva by B.E.A. Viscount.

"On Sunday afternoon, at the Casino, Swiss Rovers, Centurians and Chief Scout assembled for the official winding-up of the Moot. The Camp Chief thanked all those who had helped in the preparation and management of the Moot. He was unable, though, to give a financial report, as it was not yet complete. He said that of the thousands of tools borrowed for the working parties, only a few had been lost or damaged. Reports from Contingents spoke of the success of the working parties and the excursions. In spite of the weather, the general health of the Camp had been unbelievably good.

"During my short visit I had been more able to understand the difficulties in organising the Moot, and at the end of the speeches I

thanked the Swiss Rovers for a job well done and for making the 5th World Rover Moot so outstanding in our memories of Scouting.

"After the serious business was over the Swiss Rovers were able to enjoy themselves at the tea interval; then came the Moot film. This was produced by a certain soup company and although it contains a few moments of advertising, its length of one hour was enough to show so well the Moot in all its aspects. The British Contingent were well on view and the film was well worth seeing; I hope a copy will find its way to England. After a sumptuous dinner, the President of Kandersteg said a few words of thanks, and the meeting concluded with some Moot recordings and some humorous turns by the Swiss Rovers. I was told that it is hoped to deliver the Moot Albums by the end of January. Thus ended a truly marvellous week-end and I would like to thank Mr. Wattenwyl, Peter Spoerri, Roland Moser and Heinz Stockle for making it so."

What a magnificent memory for David to carry through life, how in the days to come, when so many man-made "crises" fill the national papers, will he be able to tell others, that beneath it all he has experienced that colour, class and creed do not debar a Scout from that which the world lacks, BROTHERHOOD.

Yet, you know, there is always some thoughtless "mug" who spoils it - yes, even in our Movement. Those of you who went to the Moot will recognise this story by an R.A.F. Rover:

"Whilst at the Four Counties Rover Moot in Swindon this September, during the Saturday night my large green Scout pennant with about 30 County badges (the result of some five years collecting) disappeared. Although the loss was given publicity during the Sunday, and at the Isle of Wight Moot it was mentioned again, it has not yet been returned."

You know that there are people who steal, yes steal, things from museums and other public places. They can never show them to anyone who knows their worth and they are the only folk who would appreciate them. This theft comes in the same category; it can't be shown at any other Rover Camp. If it is reposing in a den, I expect the fellows in that Crew to see it is returned, and if the mug has it in his home then I imagine each time he looks each time he looks at it he will feel exceedingly small, about the size of a louse I should think. Send it to me and I'll see it gets back; don't write a note unless it is to the owner.

How nice, therefore, to get a news letter from the National Trust of Scotland which includes a note of how the 1<sup>st</sup> Perthshire (Pitlochry) Rover Scout Crew gave material assistance in spring-cleaning the Pass of Kilielcrankie. They put in 188 hours work during the week of April 6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, clearing fallen timber, painting and repairing seats, cleaning out and painting waste paper baskets and set up a cairn and money-box which brought in £55 within four months of its installation. The example of the Rover Scout Crew at the Pass of Kilielcrankie would seem to show that the tradition of Voluntary Service is still alive, and that a great deal can be done if the necessary energy and will are brought to bear.

We in Scouting owe much to such organisations. What about your Crew doing something?

### Now news from Northern Ireland:

Rover Scouting is making strides along the Trail. The Rover Forum takes place in H.Q., 50 Dublin Road, Belfast, on the second Wednesday evening of each month. This acts as the clearing house for ideas which can go out to all the Districts in Belfast. This has led to a series of inter-Crew visits which have widened and deepened the spirit of Brotherhood and Friendliness.

Yes the Rovers are part of a "Movement" and in spite of the disruption of a war and National Service-the spirit of BROTHERHOOD and SERVICE moves forward.

SOS. from Flt. Lt. Dunstan, Officers Mess, No.90 Gr. H.Q., LAY. Danesfield, nr. Marlow, Bucks. He wants the Service Rovers to discuss the possibility of a periodical news sheet giving names and addresses of Crew officials, programmes. etc., and what a good idea for the newly posted fellows. Send him the "dope" now!

JACK SKILLEN.

# WHAT SHALL WE DO?

Very slowly but nevertheless quite surely Senior Scouting has become established. There are always those in Scouting who regret major change and it is certainly right that any major changes in B.-P.'s original pattern of Scouting for Boys should be examined very carefully before being accepted. But the introduction of Senior Scouting was not a major change in B.-P.'s plan. Many of the more successful Troops had been using some such scheme unofficially for years and B.-P. proposed such an idea as long ago as 1916. Gradually Senior Scouting has become established as a separate section and now there are many good Senior Scout Troops and more starting every week.

One question which is often asked is what is the best pattern for Senior Scout Troop meetings. There is a vast collection of activities to choose from and the question is how best to fit them into one evening meeting a week and a limited number of week-ends. There are, of course, many possible ways and which is the best for any particular Troop will depend on a variety of local circumstances which will differ from one Troop to the next. Here, however, is one scheme, based on a cycle of four successive weekly meetings, which has been found to work in quite a lot of Troops. It is based on the one essential fact that the affairs of a Senior Scout Troop must be planned and run by the Court of Honour of that Troop. If the Scoutmaster plans and runs everything himself and does not share the job with his Patrol Leaders he is certainly not playing the game which B.-P. provided. Here then are suggested programmes for four successive weekly meetings.

## Week I

8 - 8.20 p.m. Some physical activity such as handball, volleyball, gymnastics, boxing, judo or any other game that suits the numbers in the Troop and enables everyone to let off steam. Dress - P.T. kit.

8.20 - 8.30 p.m. Wash and change into uniform. Don't forget the wash!

8.30 p.m. Opening ceremony conducted by the Senior Scouts themselves. It will vary according to the number in the Troop but will be smart, solemn and impressive as any ceremony should be. It may include breaking the flag, prayers, a Bible reading, the reading of the "Scout Law for the night" and always will be followed by inspection.

8.35 - 9.30 p.m. Some practical Scouting activity planned and run by the P.L.'s. It may consist of a series of exercises in various technical Scouting subjects or it may be devoted to a major exercise in a single subject such as pioneering or first-aid. Occasionally someone should be invited to come along and demonstrate a badge such as Handyman or Photographer. The idea here will not be to enable the whole Troop to pass the badge but rather to give everyone some general knowledge and perhaps interest one or two Senior Scouts in pursuing the subject further.

9.30 - 19 p.m. Discussion. The subjects may be social and moral problems of the day or plans for future activities. In September, October and November plans for a major expedition the following summer will play a prominent part.

10 p.m.; Closing ceremony and prayers conducted by the Senior Scouts.

If at 9.30 a hot drink can be served with or without something to eat it probably won't come amiss.

## Week II

Wide game or similar activity. This may be planned and run by the S.M.(S), the Court of Honour, the Rover Crew or anyone else who can be pressed into service. In any ring the changes. It is probably best to finish it with a gathering of the whole Troop not necessarily in the Headquarters. The dress should be uniform unless inappropriate. Here combination with another Troop may be useful.

## Week III

As for Week I except that the period from 8.30 to 9.30 will be at the disposal of the S.M.(S) to set the Troop tests and exercises in practical Scoutcraft. This is the occasion when the S.M.(S) must try and introduce novel ideas and new angles on familiar and sometimes elementary subjects.

## THE SCOUT LA W I. A SCOUT'S HONOUR...

The world has staggered, continents have cracked,  
The standards of our age have drooped; men forge  
New watchwords now - not "England and St. George!"  
But "Each for each," "Our pay before we act"  
Yet through the scum runs like a silver thread  
The tale of men who never turned aside  
From what was highest in their hearts, nor lied.  
When starving, for a piece of bread.

Lord, I am just an ordinary chap,  
Who makes mistakes, takes roads not on the map;  
But I'll remember in the days of doubt  
That I'm Your trusted friend, that I'm a Scout;  
Help me to speak no word not just and true,  
To do a deed I couldn't do for You.  
James Fitzsimons, S.J.

## Week IV

The subject for this week will be exploration and the field is almost limitless. The time and place of meeting and dress to be worn will, of course, depend on the place to be visited. Places and activities worth exploration include;

Council meetings; factories; fire station; police; library; general hospital; theatre; cinema; art exhibitions; concert; dance; museum; places of historical interest; ports and port installations; railway stations, repair shops, marshalling yards and signal boxes; special events; newspaper offices; zoos; various forms of sport.

In addition, quite ordinary places can often be made matters for exploration if visited at unusual times such as the middle of the night. In devising the programme for this fourth week in the series, the Court of Honour may well seek the help of the local branch of the B.-P. Guild with advantage and, probably, to their mutual benefit.

A programme on these lines can be designed for a Patrol of four or a Troop of forty. It need not be slavishly followed but some such pattern makes for good order and discipline in the Troop. The alternative is often a scrappy programme which is bad training and which will certainly not be enjoyed by the Senior Scouts. No boy likes belonging, to a sloppy, untidy show.

One last suggestion - B.-P. instituted the good turn as a fundamental part of Scouting. But the good turn can easily be forgotten unless it is constantly referred to. Why not have a moment in every Troop meeting when each Senior Scout in turn mentions any good turns which he knows want doing? The Troop can then decide whether there are any of their number who can take them on. This gives the S.M.(S) the chance of bringing to the notice of the Senior Scouts help required by other sections of the Group. Scouting is a family business and sections fail badly when they try and work in watertight compartments. If the Pack have a party or an outing, the chances are that the Senior Scouts can help. If the Boy Scout Troop requires a wide game or a site for its summer camp, the Senior Scouts ought to be able to provide it. Many Senior Scouts act as Cub Instructors and in some Boy Scout Troops, Senior Scouts are used as examiners for Second Class Badge tests. Activities such as this help to remind boys of their responsibilities as Senior Scouts.

Here then is one plan which a Scoutmaster can offer to his Troop. There are many others on similar lines. The important thing is that the Scoutmaster should get his Senior Scouts 'busy in organising and planning, so that he has the time to plan his own part of the programme with proper care. In this, as in every other part of Senior Scouting, it is the example of the Scoutmaster as leader which really matters.

FRANCIS V. COWIE



# MORNING WILL COME *By* RALPH READER

This lovely song from Ralph's latest play "The Story of Mike" (which he wrote for the 4th Harrow Group as a tribute to the many friends he has in that Group, and which is being repeated at Gilwell on April 9th and 10th) can be used in many ways in a Group Show.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of six systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Morn-ing will come and the shad-ows de-part Dawn-ing will bring us a song in our heart On the hor-i- zon a glow will ap-pear Warm-ing the day with a boun-ti-ful cheer. Morn-ing will come and the sun will a-rise, Light-ing the dark-ness to o-pen our eyes. Troub-les may find us, we all must have some; All will be well for the morning will come. come. Fine". The score includes first and second endings for the final line of music. The piano part features a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

# SPECIAL PACK MEETINGS - I

Such an unrevealing name - unless you happen to be "in know."

To the uninitiated I suppose it might suggest: an extra meeting or a meeting for complete concentration on signalling or on health exercises? - No. NO. NO.

This is a SPECIAL Pack meeting. Like "special friends" or Special treasures."

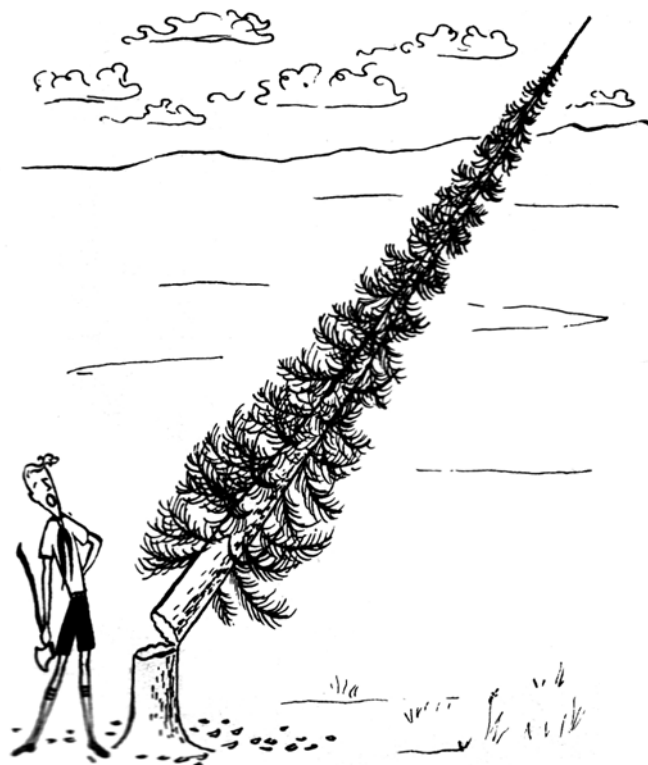
It's the open door to "Let's pretend" - and the biggest pretend of the lot is that we aren't even Cubs at all, any more!

So -" Let's pretend" Treasure Island?

Of course if anything is going to be properly special it ought to be anticipated a bit, and it *must* be dressed up. If you are prepared to do the thing in style and give up another meeting to preparations, you can make a lovely ship of the brigantine type. Borrow some staves and tent poles from the Troop to make masts and spars. Gather a little furniture into a ship-shaped group - with perhaps a couple of tables as poop and foc's'le, and collect a few sacks from a benevolent "husbandman" of some sort! These will make sails, either opened out square or cut diagonally across (you want some of each). Suspend the square ones like curtains from the staves and the triangular ones from cords tied by sheet-bends to their corners. You will need some sisal too for all this. Two masts look well. It's best to find a picture, but don't really attempt to follow it. It will be a help to the imagination to fill in the gaps.

Then you can also make a sea scene, to wrap round the outside of the ship, from paper sacks—opened out and stuck end to end. (Same "husbandman"?) Powder paints will do for this job. Lots of blue and white waves, the wooden planks of the ship's sides and then masses of fishes, seagulls, mermaids, shells, used and all sorts, cut out in paper and painted (or cut out of magazines) and stuck on.

For fancy dress, coloured Tee shirts and pyjama trousers make an excellent foundation, with sashes, hats, scarves, pistols and the rest, according to taste.



"TIMBER!"

Now to work...

The ship is fitting out. The treasure-seekers assemble passing in procession before the harbour-master, or other celebrity. "Old Joe" the pedlar hawks his wares on the pier and everyone buys to his fancy. (Subs!) Earrings, masks and eye patches - mirrors for mermaids or necklaces for cannibal queens, but at last it's "All Aboard" and we up anchor to the rousing strains of "We're Riding Along on the Crest of a Wave."

Here, aboard ship, if time is no object, we can find name and excuse for pastimes of every sort and kind - from shark fishing with the stove hooks to the ceremonies dealing with the crossing of "the Line." More often time is short and a mere boat-race must suffice in which teams are tightly bundled up with a rope like so many kindling sticks and must, in this handicapped state, make their most rapid progress down some set course, in competition with their rivals.

Before reaching Treasure Island, however, mutiny breaks out over possession of the treasure map! - Sixes, numbered 1 to 6, in a circle holding hands, map on the floor in the centre - a number is called and those hearing it race round the circle to their starting point and through this gap to grab the map. A point is scored for their Six by each winner.

Meanwhile the ship has run aground and landings are made (each Six from a different part of the ship) by breeches buoy. A tail is attached to an endless line running from ship to shore - each in turn ties himself (or is tied!) by bowline, to this tail, and is then hauled ashore.

A battle immediately breaks out - fought for choice against a wall background. Teams stand side by side facing the wall, at a distance of 20 yards, each with a flag and a supply of balls. Flags must be kept flying at the foot of the wall - no flag no play. Enemy flags are, therefore, to be captured whenever possible by runners who must carry them round behind the teams, and plant them beside their own. Balls are thrown to hit the wall full pitch - a bounce does not score. Each hit scores 1 if the flag is flying or 2 if an enemy flag is beside it. Flags cannot be intercepted en route. *Any* flag, not necessarily your own, makes scoring possible.

The winners of this game then depart triumphant with "The Map" but leave a spoor of dead leaves (a bag of leaves of any variety *not* growing on the route) to be followed. The waiting, defeated teams are found to have a serious casualty to whom first-aid is rendered before starting in pursuit. The advance party, however, on reaching the point shown on their map as "hidden treasure" are shocked to find themselves face to face with a broody cockatrice, breathing fire! A foolhardy treasure-seeker who goes too close gets his clothes set alight, and the remedy for this disaster also makes his nose bleed.

When the main body of adventurers comes up all differences are quickly forgotten in a concentrated attack on the cockatrice. Research must quickly be made into the habits of birds in general. Investigators join hands and walk round a - circle chanting -"If you come for a walk round the island with me, some odd-looking birds you are certain to see." Akela - "Just now I saw a -" (name of a bird). Each Six then collect tokens to represent the features of the bird named.

E.g. pigeon - grey jacket grey- feathers  
2 sixpences 2 eggs  
white china white eggs  
stick nest of sticks  
pink notebook pink legs  
whistle pigeon cooing (demonstrated later)  
conker peas or corn for dinner!

These "features" score only if no one else has them (or otherwise at Akela's discretion).

Equipped with their fund of knowledge the explorers approach the cockatrice's nest, being most careful never to be seen on the move ("grandmother's steps"). Those so seen are turned-to stone, but a triumphant hero seizes the rope's end from beneath her wing and pulls out the treasure with which he races back to the ship (a series of silly oddments are tied to the rope).

Here the treasure is quickly stowed under hatches and since "seeing is believing" the adventurers have only to make a list of the treasures they saw to claim a resounding success and a fortune for life.

The ship then sails for home once more to "Good-bye, ladies" suitably adapted.

Some of the clever people I know are able to make out a programme for a Pack meeting and put in the time it is all going to take, and sometimes they are even right. When I make my programmes I put down all the things I should like us to do, in the right order, and we do the ones that still seem right in the order we like. We have never yet done all the things I put down and I have never yet regretted having "put" them.

CHIL.

## THE GAMES CHEST: CUBS SPACE SHIP GAMES

### 1. WAR WITH MARS.

**Gear:** Newspapers, string, small bags of flour. Soap and water for afterwards.

**Purpose:** Outdoor game to let off steam and make a mess.

Pack is divided into two teams, space men and Martians, and given a few minutes to make themselves space suits out of newspapers, etc., completely to cover their jerseys. Space men have landed on Mars and are assumed to have parked their space ship behind the line at one end of the field. They are exploring the planet when they are attacked from behind by Martians armed with Death Ray (bags of flour). Space men must reach space ships without being touched by Death Ray.

MARY SMITH

### 2. DESTINATION UNKNOWN.

**Gear:** Nil.

**Purpose:** Sense of direction - and fun.

Two Cubs form a space ship, and a third is the passenger, blindfolded. He boards the ship by placing his hands on the shoulders of the pilot, while the navigator stands behind, grasping the passenger by the waist. The three then set off on a complicated course, through doorways, round imaginary corners, over obstacles, etc., with plenty of bumping up and down and noise effects. When the space ship stops, the passenger must guess where he is.

HAZEL ADDIS.

### 3. SPACE SHIP PILOTS.

**Gear:** Small bell, or bunch of keys which can be rattled.

**Purpose:** Sense-training.

Pilots of space ships have to fly blind, following the course by keeping on a sound-beam.

The Pack is split into two teams, facing each other along the walls of the hall. Each team is numbered off. The Cubs are all blindfolded. Akela stands somewhere in the hall, calls a number and rings a bell at short intervals. The first of the two Cubs to reach his objective, gains a point for his team. Akela should move to different parts of the hall for each two Cubs. If there are a large number of Cubs and the game will take a lengthy time, it is preferable to have only a few Cubs blindfolded at the same time, so that the others can watch.

IAGOO.

### 4. ROCKETS.

**Gear:** Nil.

**Purpose:** Outdoor game.

This game should be played in woodland with a small clearing in the centre. This small clearing represents the space ship and in a large circle in the wood around this space ship (a radius of 200 yards at least) you have one third of the Pack.

## WHY SCOUTMASTERS GROW OLD QUICKLY....!



They are rockets and they are standing on the surface of the Earth.

In the belt of woodland are the remaining two-thirds of the Pack who are working in pairs. They must keep in pairs. They represent the forces of gravity. On a given signal the rockets start off from the Earth and have to get to the space ship. They can be intercepted in the woodland. If intercepted the pair must seize the rocket and haul him back for at least ten yards when he has to return to the Earth and try again.

A. K. MUSOROVE.

### 5. FLYING SAUCERS.

**Gear:** One rubber quoit or rope ring (the latter can be spliced for the Pack by the Troop using rope of approximately in. diameter) for each Six.

**Purpose:** Fun.

The object of the game is to get the flying saucer from Earth to Mars by means of jet propulsion. In order to do this the Six are lined up at one end of the room and Mars is indicated at the other by means of a chalked circle opposite to each Six. Behind Mars stand the space men - one Cub from each Six. The Cubs in turn send off their flying saucer and if this lands outside Mars it is returned to them by the space men. When the Cub has landed his flying saucer on Mars he follows it there and stands behind the space men, and the game continues until the Six have arrived at their destination. Points are awarded to Sixes for their order of finishing. G. B. and M. L.

### 6. BUILDING THE SPACE SHIPS.

**Gear:** A milk bottle and a box of matches for each Six.

**Purpose:** To teach skill with the fingers, also patience and self-control.

The Cubs are lined up in Sixes, with a milk bottle and a box of matches placed at a distance from each Six. The Cubs run up in turn and place a match across the open end of the milk bottle. The Six which has built, the highest space ship in a given time is the winner.

W. M. PEIRCE.

# BOOKS

## EXPLORERS

*The Bombard Story* (Andre Deutsch, 12s. 6d.).

There can have been few years when so many first-rate books of adventure and endurance have been published as during Coronation year, and few of these stories have been more stirring than *The Bombard Story*.

Here was a man who wasn't forced into hardship by circumstance, but who was so obsessed with the idea of proving that it was possible to exist on the harvest of the sea for sufficient time to enable the castaway to reach the shore, that he deliberately forced himself into the position which has brought suffering and death to so many hundreds of thousands of men and women in recent years. It was not, in his view, foolhardy, for it was carefully calculated. By laboratory analyses he had satisfied himself that the necessities for sustaining life in both quantities and qualities were there in the fish and the plankton, and that salt water, taken in limited quantities, need not lead to disaster. The question of morale alone remained and no laboratory could test that.

An initial mistake in navigation led to days of anxiety as the land which should have been there failed to appear. His anger at the misleading statements in the handbooks, his despair as his health began to suffer, the wind which should have blown steadily failed day after day, and then at last the ship with the news that he still had 600 miles to go - after 53 days. How wonderful a fresh-water shower bath was, and then the remark by one Officer to another, "You have to hand it to the French, they will try anything." A quick mental calculation showed him it might well mean another 20 days of desperate suffering, - but his spirit and his patriotism had been roused by that remark, and he left the ship and was alone again in his tiny raft until the final triumph.

To his courage and determination many thousands who have never heard his name may well owe their lives. We, who know his story, can salute and marvel at a very gallant gentleman. Not perhaps a book to enjoy, much of it is too poignant for that, but a book full of inspiration for all of us.

**ROWALLAN.**

*British Caving: an introduction to Speleology* by members of the Cave Research Group (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 35s.).

Let me say at once that this weighty tome - weighty both in fact and in content - ought to be made available for every Senior or Rover Scout interested in caving. Its price probably prohibits its personal possession by most young men (I say "probably" because my experience of young men is that if they want something enough they manage to get it, whether it's a motor-bicycle or a squeeze-box), but many of them can afford (if they're willing) or persuade a relative or friend to give them (if they're not) this quite essential book for all budding or actual speleologists. A book like this is "equipment" and G.S.M.s should inform their Group Committees of the fact. The literature of caving is far from extensive and the Cave Research Group of Great Britain are to be complimented on their achievement in producing this fine book - especially as they have beaten the Cave Research Group of U.S.A. to it!

You will want to know of what exactly the book consists. It has 470 large pages, 87 diagrams or figures or maps, 48 plates of excellent photographs, 18 chapters with Appendices on Caving Code and Ethics, and lists and a glossary. The material is divided into two parts, *The Science of Caving* and *The Practice of Caving*, and I feel that the second half will be read more avidly by our enthusiasts than the first, which is extremely learned and needs both concentration and the experience of reading seriously, and takes for granted at least a grammar school level of education. This is obviously a monumental volume which will be a standard work for many years to come. Caving does not appeal to all but it ought to appeal to Scouts for it requires initiative, self-dependence and courage and that finest of curiosities which stirs always in the heart of all explorers.

I hope all Scouts who are already cavers or all who hope to be will be able to borrow or buy or have access in some way or other to this book.

**R. H.**

*The Ascent of Everest*, by John Hunt (Hodder & Swughton, 25s.).

The story of the Everest Expedition of 1953 has now been narrated - in straightforward, lucid, orderly prose - by its leader, accompanied by eight colour and forty-eight black and white photographs with appendices (Equipment, Oxygen, Diet, etc.) by other members of the expedition. There is a simple, splendid chapter by Hilary.

This is the official account of the journey, the ascent, the return, of the triumph which was built on the courage and experience of the past and the courage and organisation of the present. It is a sober report, well done, of an historic achievement, of an almost impossible task superbly organised and carried out. One of its greatest virtues is that it helps to dispel the feeling that invaded one after seeing the film that, with such detailed and intricate organisation, there wasn't all that to climbing Everest after all! But Sir John's account tells of perils only just outwitted, and shows clearly that in the end the valiant and "true-blue steel-straight" character of the men engaged was the decisive factor.

The publishers have produced a quite lovely book, which all who can should possess.

**R. H.**

## LEISURE READING

*The Boy from Greece*, by James Kinross (Murray, 8s. 6d.).

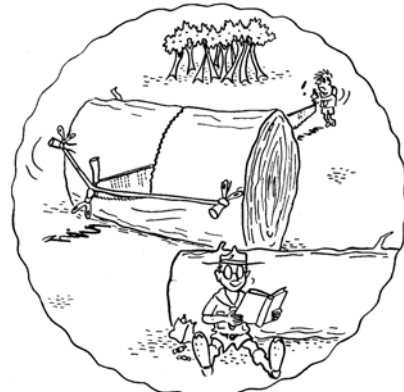
This story was written first for broadcasting, and has been "on the air" twice. You may have heard it. It is about a gallant little boy, and it is true. You may once have heard his voice, too, for he was chosen to take part in the Queen's Round the World Broadcast on Christmas Day, 1952.

Vassii Vello, a Greek boy severely mutilated, when only eleven years old, by the explosion of a hand-grenade, accepts his handicaps with splendid pluck, and gradually overcomes them. "When I say I'll do a thing - I'll do it" becomes his motto - a motto which might well inspire other young people and help equip them to face life.

Vassili, practically sightless, his right hand blown off, and his left leg gravely damaged, comes to England, with a party of Greek children, for hospital treatment. The story of his bravery is written with moving simplicity. We see, through the gropings of a blinded child's mind, how he fights his battles, finds his friends, responds to kindness, and settles down to a new sort of life in a new country.

Also, clearly depicted, do we see the part grown-ups play in helping to restore his confidence, and overcome his disabilities. The book is of supreme value to anyone who wants to help suffering children, and does not yet know how. It should also prove of value to any who are interested in youth work at all, and it tells a very fine story.

Most boy heroes in story books are remembered chiefly by their scrapes and adventures as vigorous, healthy young people. This boy hero will be remembered and admired for his adventures in ordinary everyday living - the triumph of being at last able to see a tea-leaf in his cup; that breathless moment waiting for his new "band"; the pride of achievement when at last he learns to find his own way about out of doors; the painfully slow attempt to learn the alphabet by fitting each letter. Yet his burning desire to "get on" never makes him selfish, and we find him ever ready to help a fellow sufferer, both in hospital and at the school for the blind to which he is eventually sent. If all this strikes you as too commonplace, don't read it - but you will be missing an experience. A. M. D.



**Russell Sprout...the brainy Scout**

*The Wind and the Caribou*, by Erik Munsterhjelm (Allen & Unwin, 12s. 6d.).

At about the time the great American depression was giving dismal birth to such songs as "Brother, can you spare a Dime," Erik Munsterhjelm made his way to Edmonton in search of employment and relief from Californian sunshine, only to be driven by that economic blizzard into an even colder and more northern physical climate.

His book recounts, in straightforward narration, the tale of two long winters spent trapping in Northern Canada, a way of life into which the author graduated swiftly, and with scarcely a backward glance at civilised comfort forgone. His daily round, was that of any trapper; patient waiting at a "house" for beaver, frantic fire-lighting to avoid frostbite after accidental immersion in some treacherous lake, trail blazing, portaging, endless trap-laying, endless labour, endless snow. It is all here, from the "debunking" of popular impression of Indian stoicism to the misery of dancing attendance on the unpredictable wanderings of the eagerly awaited caribou.

The value of the work rests not on literary achievement, but on the unveiling of the hardships and the compensations accruing to those who set themselves against nature's more elemental forces. Its appeal is to those who still retain some spirit of adventure.

L. A. W.

*Backroom Joys*, by Justin Richardson (Harvill Press, 7s. 6d.).

What is good enough for *Punch* is usually good enough for me and many of Mr. Richardson's verses have appeared in that journal. He has now collected them with many more into a glorious little book for the bedside of the guest-room and the odd few minutes. The author has a pleasant wit and his book is one hilarious debunk of all that is humbug. Poetry? No; verse? Yes, of the Ogden Nash type (and what higher praise could be offered than that). It is one long chuckle from start to finish and I am delighted to have it.

OLIVE THURMAN.

*Fishing for Beginners*, by Maurice Wiggin (Phoenix House, 8s. 6d.).

This is a quite delightful book. It is written by an obvious enthusiast and is well written and entertaining. My only slight complaint is that the publishers have chosen a very small type and, pursuing my usual custom of reading in bed, I found it a strain to the eyes. Nonetheless, it is a tribute to the author that I went on reading.

The book is full of sound commonsense and I can thoroughly recommend it to any budding angler.

J. T.

*Crash Kavanagh*, by Anthony Richardson (Max Parrish & Co. Ltd., 15s.).

Phew! What a man!

Thirteen plane crashes in mid-air and seven into the ground: one thousand seven hundred parachute descents: a hundred and seventy-five car collisions; a thousand crashes through walls of flame- The list goes on . . . and on.

This incredible story of Reg "Crash Kavanagh should satisfy even those with the most insatiable thirst for thrills and spills. It is the inside story of how a so-called crazy Irishman made an exhaustive study of calculated risk and cashed in on the danger of death.

Commencing with the account of his running away to sea at the age of twelve this 256-page book follows every step of Reg Kavanagh's colourful and fascinating career as the world's greatest stunt man. It prickles with excitement from start to finish. It bubbles over with the sheer exuberance of a dare-devil youth who from a tender age was ready to try anything tough and dangerous at least once. To him an untried stunt was a challenge which just had to be answered.

All told, Reg Kavanagh estimates he has spent six of his forty-three years in hospital and the list of injuries he has sustained reads like the log of a casualty clearing station. If it's thrills you're after, *Crash Kavanagh* is the book for you. E. G. W. WOOD.

## NEW NATURALISTS

*The Herring Gull's World*, by Niko Tinbergen (Collins, 18s.).

Niko Tinbergen has worked since 1937 with Konrad Lorenz whose remarkable and well-loved book *King Solomon's Ring* you will remember.

Lorenz in his Foreword writes: "He has been observing and analysing the behaviour of the gull family for decades" and the result is this delightful, precise, friendly, scientific book, the latest of the "Special" volumes in the New Naturalist Library.

In his concluding chapter the author writes: "I know people often wonder whether it is worth while to spend so much time and energy in watching the ways of wild birds while there are so many urgent problems of human sociology to be solved." But one recalls the Parable of the Talents and to use the talents we have been given, sincerely, enthusiastically and perseveringly, is surely the proper behaviour for any man. Professor Tinbergen writes with the humility of all great naturalists. He records, clearly and persuasively, all that his untiring observation and his special genius have over the years discovered of gull behaviour. His book (like others of the "Special" volumes) should interest readers who do not consider themselves ornithologists: it is quite fascinating, and adorned with fifty lovely photographs and another fifty enlightening diagrams.

*Mushrooms and Toadstools*, by John Ramsbottam (Collins, 30s.).

This beautiful book with its 84 colour and 58 black and white photographs will appeal primarily to those who have an interest in its rather specialised subject "A study of the activities of Fungi." But merely looking at the odd, lovely illustrations will give much pleasure and the Scout reader should borrow the volume to read carefully the chapters entitled "Fairy Rings," "Woodlands" and "Penicillin" at least.

R. H.

## YOUTH MOVEMENTS

*Making Men*, by W. McG. Eagar (University of London Press, 20s.).

Mr. Eagar, a Vice-President of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, is a well-known writer and thinker on the subject of youth, particularly in connection with the boys' clubs. When I found that the sub-title of his new book was "The history of boys' clubs and related movements in Great Britain" I looked forward with unusual interest to reading what he had written.

But the book is not what I expected I think that Mr. Eagar must mean, when he uses the expression "related movements," those Movements such as Ragged Schools, Institutes, Missions and Homes for Outcast Boys, which led up to the present form of Boys' Clubs, and not, as I had supposed, such organisations as Brigades, Scouts and Cadets. At any rate, the latter receive only twenty-four pages out of 432, and if they are "related movements" they are very poor relations.

I would add that this is a very able and interesting book, and one which has required an enormous amount of research. It is, in fact, a well-written social history, detailing the appalling conditions caused by the Industrial Revolution, and showing how early Movements of reform neglected to take into account the needs of adolescents. By degrees a number of men and women, mostly of good birth and education, devoted themselves to work for adolescents in the fetid slums of the industrial towns, by means of Ragged Schools and Institutes, Settlements and Missions. From these roots sprang the first Boys' Clubs.

The book closes with the year 1930, soon after the formation of the National Association of Boys' Clubs. As a piece of social history I commend it, but I could have wished that Mr. Eagar had used his great talents on present problems.

J. F. C.



"Hear he comes - this ought to be good!"

# DEAR EDITOR

“Cecil”

DEAR EDITOR,

May I seek the courtesy of your columns to inform my numerous friends in Scouting that after three years as Honorary National Organiser of the B.-P. Guild of Old Scouts I have returned to active Scouting. The Chief has honoured me by appointing me County Commissioner for Middlesex. I am rather overawed by the thought of following distinguished predecessors like Sir Alfred Pickford (“Pickie”) and Hubert Martin and so fine a County Commissioner as Norman Jeffery, but with the support and help of a splendid County Team one can perchance maintain the high traditions of the County.

I leave my friends in the B.-P. Guild with much regret. There has been so much kindness and loyalty on every hand, but I leave the B.-P. Guild in very capable hands. Lord Baden-Powell, as Chairman of the National Council, Colonel Arthur Young, as Chairman of the National Committee and Brigadier E. E. Moulder-Ferryman, as Assistant Honorary National Organiser, and the National Committee will watch over the affairs of the B.-P. Guild and ensure its progress on sound lines.

Some will wonder why I have resigned as Honorary National Organiser and to prevent any misunderstanding may I say that it has been a heavy task in the three formative years of the B.-P. Guild’s existence as an autonomous body, during which I have travelled many thousands of miles on the Guild’s affairs. As one who still has the daily cares of business it was impossible to do all there was to do and, quite frankly, I am not as young as I was.

My heart has always been in the Scout Movement and the Guild has reached such a position of consolidation and solidarity that the time seemed opportune to take advantage of the opportunity which had presented itself of returning to active Scouting.

The B.-P. Guild can, and will, render great service to Scouting and I am determined that in my County we shall co-operate at all levels. To all my friends in the B.-P. Guild I give thanks for loyalty, co-operation and support and look forward to the continued success and expansion of the B.-P. Guild and much happy co-operation with-the Scout Movement.

CECIL POTTER.

## Cooking in Camp

DEAR EDITOR,

In your August issue, Jack Cox mentions camp cooking under what you term the “Partial-Patrol system” - i.e. one Patrol taking over the Troop cook-house each day in turn. Mr. Cox doesn’t mention three positive advantages of this system; these are:-

(a) The Patrol which is cooking for the day has the honour and privilege of giving a day of service to everyone in camp.

(b) Much of a Scouter’s influence is put across to the boys by their close contact with his personality when they are relaxed, leisured and receptive, and the effect of the odd casual remark dropped by him on such occasions may be immense. Just such an ideal occasion arises when the whole Troop is gathered together at meal times - indeed in a highly decentralised camp it is the only natural occasion, and therefore the only possible one.

(c) It reduces the number of boy-hours spent in preparing meals, releasing these hours for something more valuable. I rate this as important because it puts the whole subject of ~food” into a better place in the order of importance of things generally. Many may disagree here, but after all we don’t live to cook things and eat them.

May I add that the usual arguments advanced about economy and gastronomy aren’t worth a second thought. Good Patrol cooking can produce meals which are just as economical and good to eat. But no Patrol cooking can give us the advantage of the three points I mention, which are of great value.

“MARSH CRANBERRY,”  
S.M.



Sponsoring Authority!  
(drawn by Christopher Grainger)

“The Scout” National Soap Box Derby 1954

DEAR EDITOR,

The Soap Box Derby is becoming increasingly popular, attracting entries from all parts of the British Isles. The area Semi-finals and the grand Finals provide a wonderful “get together” of Scouts and the racing is thrilling and exciting.

The important aspect is that the Soap Box car must be constructed by the boys themselves without adult help beyond advice, thus giving encouragement to those boys who are skilful in the use of tools. As Cubs, Scouts and Senior Scouts can race the car the interest of the whole Group is aroused.

The Soap Box Derby is organised jointly by *The Scout* and Vauxhall Motors Ltd., who generously provide handsome Trophies and cash awards. The Derby is now in its fifth year. The book of rules for 1954 and a booklet of hints on the construction of the car will be sent to Groups which complete the entry form which is printed periodically in *The Scout*.

The Semi-finals will be held in June and July at venues to be announced later. The Finals will take place on September 11th.

F. HAYDN DIMMOCK,  
Editor, “*The Scow.*”

## Carrying Packs

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with interest the letter in this month’s (November) SCOUTER with regard to carrying packs; and I would like to quote from the R.A.F. magazine *Air Clues* (Vol. 6, No. 2), from an item named “Jungle Rescue.” This item specifically states, “experience has shown that packs are far more comfortable and less of a hindrance when carried well down in the small of the back than on a level with the shoulders, as taught by the exponents of ‘square bashing’.” I have myself done some recent hiking and fully agree with this statement.

M. A. HODGES,  
P.L.(S), 1st Milton Group.

## The Curse of the Dixie

DEAR EDITOR,

As the first Boy Scout to sleep at Gilwell (Maundy Thursday, 1919), I may claim to know something about Patrol cooking, with or without Alf Wingrove’s nesting billies, but I am greatly distressed at the Rev. Wybuff’s sweeping condemnation of our old friend “the Dixie.” Whilst admitting that Patrol cooking at summer camp is good Scouting, it can be a great waste of time and quite dull for many a lad who has no knack

or any imagination in the cooking line and therefore please be good enough to let me remind your readers that the dixie represents group cooking which means, in happy Troops, the development of the fellowship of food.

How many of us can look back with great satisfaction on camps where group feeding and cooking was-the thing and how enjoyable were and are those gatherings throughout the day, particularly breakfast and the evening meal - the family spirit is much better than the over-isolation caused by Patrol eating - not to mention the waste of wood - often so scarce, and of food to some extent. Also the rest of the group can be Scouting outside or inside the camp whilst the orderly Patrol looks after “more important” matters and the lads whilst enjoying a day “on” appreciate the two days “off,” and when for so many the summer camp is the annual holiday, it is quite a reasonable attitude for the lad to take.

Finally, odd guy lines, runner and last camp’s “Tide” or “Daz” can still be kept in the friendly dixie, between times.

BLACK WOLF.

## DEAR EDITOR,

"Wybuff" declaims against the use of the dixie and Primus stove in the summer camp. But Patrol cooking in a standing camp is not the only outdoor Scout activity. I have trekked with one or more transport carts, and for such camps wood supplies are rarely available. It is far more important that the Patrol on cook's duty should be able to get a meal ready in the shortest time, while the rest of the party are squaring things up. And for this dioxies and stoves are essential. Last year I could not get a dixie and we struggled with two sets of billies. This year with our party of 21 we were in clover with two dioxies plus two large billies. Central cooking? Certainly, and the only sensible method when on trek. We have no "backwoods" in this country where you can camp and cut wood anywhere you like.

To my mind a far more serious fact is that there seems to be no canteen at a reasonable price, which the individual Scout can buy for himself. The present army mess-tin is even more useless than the half-moon pattern of the South African war. Do your readers remember the Jaarky canteen? Shaped like the flat-bottomed army water-bottle, one could make one's fire and when it was well under way, make an opening in the middle and *stand* the Jaarky on the ground where it could not fall over, and boil water or cook food. The lid provided a cup and inside could be carried, as part of the outfit, a frying-pan or plate with a detachable handle. It was conveniently shaped to carry in a haversack and easier to handle on a fire than the flat, round and comparatively shallow canteens that are now available.

Both before and after the 1914-18 War my Scouts had grand times on some rough ground, cooking over small fires with the use of this canteen. Surely, if the Scout Shop can sell a dixie at 4/-, it could revive the Jaarky and sell it at 4/- to 5/-. With the nest of billies, you must add a frying-pan, because you can't use the lid as a frying-pan and at the same time as a lid.

REY. B. W. MACKIE,  
A.D.C., North Chilterns.

## Lord Somers' Motto

### DEAR EDITOR,

May I point out a mistake in your description of Lord Somers' Arms? The Latin motto does not mean "Proceed with Circumspection" but "(It is better) to be useful than to be conspicuous."

P. W. DUVV,

*Regius Professor of Civil Law, Cambridge University, County Secretary, Cambridge.*

### DEAR EDITOR,

Another impending apology! Or are you pulling our legs? Lord Somers' motto could be rendered "Unobtrusive Service"; more literally "To be useful (rather) than to be conspicuous" And what more appropriate to the man? I can't tell you how many howlers your version involves! "Proceed with circumspection" in future, please.

CHRISTOPHER STEAD,

*Keble College, Oxford.*

*(I'm afraid I printed what I was given without examination. - R. H.)*

## Forty-Six Years Afterwards

### DEAR EDITOR,

I have been in the Scouts for eight years and for the last year have been a Scoutmaster of a new Troop.

Recently I had my National Service medical. The first person I saw was an elderly gentleman who appeared to be a retired army officer. One of the questions he asked me was about my hobbies. I replied my only one was Scouts.

"Hm," he said, "not very outdoor." When I explained that I went camping, hiking, cycling, etc., he said, "Well, that's not Scouting is it?"

K. W. COLLIER.

## HOW CAN WE RUN A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION? – I

### By J.J. PYTCHES and K.R.R. WILSON

Are you one of those whose interest was aroused by the article "Let's run a scientific expedition" in the November SCOUTFR, and by other similar articles which appear from time to time; but who regretfully abandoned the idea because you felt you had not the necessary contacts and specialised knowledge? We believe that there are a sufficient number us this position to justify a series of articles giving help and advice on the major problems which must be overcome. During the next few months, therefore, we hope to tackle such matters as various important points in the preparatory organisation of such expeditions; mountain camping, cooking and safety precautions; how to get the necessary expert scientific advice and loan of equipment; other special equipment needed and how to obtain or improvise it at reasonable cost; and the elementary medical knowledge necessary for Senior Scouts far from a doctor. After that there may be further articles by others on various types of scientific field-work within the abilities of boys of this age. We do not claim to be experts. All our knowledge has been gained in the last few years. There will doubtless be many real experts who will disagree with much that we say. But we feel that the experiences of two Scouters who were so recently themselves beginners may be of more assistance to the type of reader for whom we are writing than the experts with their much greater knowledge. In the remainder of this article we wish to discuss one or two preliminaries essential to the launching of any scheme of the type we have in mind.

Firstly, the idea must be born. This must take place in the Court of Honour - the more spontaneously it can be contrived the better. A clear-cut outline of the project should then be evolved as quickly as possible. One cannot successfully win support for a vague if promising pipe-dream. There are many ambitious projects which lie open to Senior Scout Troops - travel abroad, mountaineering and canoeing camps, and so forth. Much of what we shall write may be relevant to such expeditions. But the type of venture we have particularly in mind is the sort of expedition in which the Troop uses its camping ability as a means of establishing itself in a difficult and uninhabited area in order to carry out a definite programme of scient-

ific field-work of an original nature. As will be seen in a later article it is not nearly as difficult as it might at first seem to find suitable tasks of this sort. The wilder the area, the greater the field still not covered, and the greater the challenge to the Troop.

Secondly, once the rough outline of the scheme has been agreed, the idea must be vigorously and skilfully sold. The boys will not be easily convinced that it is feasible; and parents will naturally hesitate at the risk and the expense. Much more positive steps should be taken to build up confidence and support than normally. It is really a matter of good publicity on two fronts. On the one hand, details of the latest developments must be given to the boys, and plans and organisation discussed, on every possible occasion. Above all, it is essential that it be, from the first, their expedition. All the work which can possibly be done by them (where necessary with an adult in the background to guide) must be handed over. Finance, food, equipment, even for projects of this magnitude, can all be dealt with in this fashion. If everyone can be assigned a definite task so much the better; thus was the latest Everest Expedition organised. On the other hand, close touch must be kept with the parents by circular or meeting. Never rely on the information being passed back intelligibly and persuasively by their sons. They need to be told clearly what is planned, the cost, the proposed safety precautions, and details of any special equipment which will be needed. This is the only way to inspire the necessary confidence in the capabilities of the organiser and in the scheme as a whole. Their persuasion will probably be difficult, but not impossible. Needless to say, the scheme's educational benefits, both direct and indirect, should be strongly emphasised.

We are well aware that the points outlined above are in a sense very hackneyed. Our excuse for making them again is that, whereas when preparing for an ordinary camp it is not advisable to ignore them, when preparing for an ambitious project of this type their observance is essential. Above all is this true of the "selling" of the scheme. Only if this hurdle is cleared will the expedition become practicable.

# NOTES AND NEWS

## GILWELL PARK

### Commissioners' Courses

The following Courses have been arranged:-

No. 86. February 13th - 14th, Liverpool.

No. 87. March 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, Gilwell Park.

Courses last from 3.30.p.m. Saturday to 4.15 p.m. Sunday.

### Day of Work

Scouters and Rovers in the Home Counties are invited to offer their services between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on February 21st and to come to Gilwell prepared to work on the estate. A sandwich and soup lunch will be available. Old clothes and gloves will be necessary. The Camp Chief will appreciate a card intimating willingness to attend.

**Temporary Assistant Camp Warden** required at Gilwell Park from mid-March to mid-October 1954. The post is resident, single man only considered. Duties will be to assist with the running of the camp site generally and to help in the Providore. Wage £3 per week plus full board and own room.

**Resident Under-Gardener** required; single man only considered. Novice taken for training under experienced Head Gardener. Wage up to £3 per week plus full board and own room.

Applications for all Courses, etc., above to: The Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, Chingford, E.4.

## WOOD BADGE COURSES, 1954

### Gilwell Park

#### Cub Courses

No. 127 Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> (Indoor)

No. 128 Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

No. 129 Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> - Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>

No. 130 Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

No. 131 Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>

No. 132 Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

No. 133 Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Scout Courses

No. 227 Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

No. 228 Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

No. 229 Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

No. 230 Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>

No. 231 Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

No. 232 Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

No. 233 Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> (To be held in the Lake District. Scouters (5) specially invited)

No. 234 Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>

No. 235 Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Rover Courses

No. 11 Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

No. 12 Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> - Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Conditions of entry:* Applicants for all Courses must hold an appropriate Warrant and have reached their twentieth birthday at the date of the Course.

*Applications to:* The Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, Chingford, E.4.

### County Courses

A full list of Wood Badge dates covering the whole of the United Kingdom will be published in the February issue. Up-to-date information about Courses can always be obtained from Gilwell Park.

### London (Gliwell Park)

Scout, 3 W.E. April 17<sup>th</sup> (assembling Saturday mornings)

Scout, 4 W.E. May 7<sup>th</sup> (assembling Saturday mornings except first week-end when assemble Friday evening)

Scout, 5 W.E. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

Cub, 3 W.E. June 5<sup>th</sup>

Cub, 3 W.E. June 26<sup>th</sup>

Cub, Cont. July 18<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

The Rev. Alexander Rowan Macneil, whom readers of THE SCOUTER will know as "Straight Edge," was a Field Commissioner in Victoria. Loved by all his friends, a courageous but humble soul, he will be deeply missed.

In the first World War he won the Military Cross and Bar and finished as one of the youngest Lieut.-Colonels in the A.I.F. After the war he felt the call to enter the Church and was ordained as a Presbyterian Minister. In 1936 he became in Victoria the Headquarters Commissioner for Scouts and the following year Deputy Camp Chief. He was a Chaplain in the second World War and, captured by the Japanese when Singapore fell, was imprisoned in the notorious Changi Camp. There, by his selfless service he gained for himself the undying respect and affection of all his comrades and for his work in organising a Rover Crew within the camp and his whole bearing in life there he was awarded the Medal for Meritorious Service by I.H.Q.

## JANUARY PHOTOGRAPHS

This month's cover is by Robert Denholm of Bo'ness and was taken at Kandersteg.

The pictures on page 3 by J. R. Edwards were taken on Snowdon Group Courses and any Senior Scouts interested in learning to climb might care to attend one of the courses in which case they should get in touch with Canon J. H. Williams, The Rectory, Llanberis, Caerns., N. Wales.

The Gang Show photographs on pages 10 and 11 are by Wilfrid Newton, with the exception of the one of John Stiles, which is by Stanley Newton.

## CLIMBING COURSES

The dates for the climbing courses to be held at Kandersteg, Switzerland, in 1954, are as follows:- No. 26: 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> July. No. 27: 15<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> August. Fees: 125 Swiss francs when staying in the Chalet; 115 Swiss francs when camping in the grounds.

Particulars and forms of application can be obtained from the International Commissioner, Imperial Headquarters.

## COL'S CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Readers are reminded that the closing date for this competition (see page 301, December 1953 SCOUTER) is 31<sup>st</sup> January. Entries to Col's Competition, c/o THE SCOUTER, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

## I.H.Q. SPEAKERS' VISITS

16<sup>th</sup> Jan. Upminster L.A. Dinner J. F. Colquhoun

16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. Somerset County Conference Rex Hazlewood

24<sup>th</sup> Jan. Birmingham P.L.'s' Conference F. Haydn Dimmock

31<sup>st</sup> Jan. E. Glamorgan County Scout Council's Annual Dinner Chief Scout

1<sup>st</sup> Feb. Durham Rover Moot Brigadier J. J. Sloan

16<sup>th</sup> Feb. Cambridge University Scout Capt. A. V. Call. and Guide Club

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.: Oxford City B.-P. Commemoration Dinner

## COUNTY EVENTS

13<sup>th</sup> Feb. Manchester and S.E. Lancs. Rover Conference, Leigh.

27<sup>th</sup> Feb. Cub Scouters' Palaver, Manchester.

## B.-P. GUILD VISITS

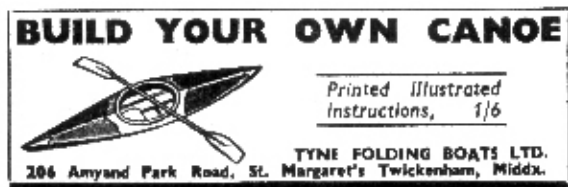
28th Jan. 28th Willesden Branch - Annual Col. A. E. Young Dinner

30th Jan. Swansea B.-P. Guild Annual Dinner Lord Baden-Powell

13th Feb. Southern Counties Get-Together, Chief Scout Central Hall, Westminster

## METHODIST YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Annual Uniformed Organisations Conference of the Methodist Youth Department will be held during the week-end February 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, 1954, at Chigwell (London N.E.) and Scouting is co-operating. Offers to attend will be welcomed by The Association of Methodist Scouters. 27 Hazelmere Gardens, Hornchurch, Essex.





**AWARDS MADE BY THE CHIEF SCOUT OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND EMPIRE AT THE FIFTH WORLD ROVER SCOUT MOOT, KANDERSTEG, 1953**

**SILVER WOLF.**

A. Thalmann, Chief Scout for Switzerland; M. de Wattenwyl, Moot Camp Chief and Federal Secretary, Switzerland.

*"In recognition of their services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement especially in connection with the 5th World Rover Moot, August, 1953."*

**SILVER ACORN.**

J. Lescaze, Rover Commissioner, Switzerland.

*"In recognition of his specially distinguished services to the Scout Movement especially in connection with the 5th World Rover Moot, August, 1953."*

**AWARDS FROM 8th OCTOBER TO 25th NOVEMBER, 1953**  
**"CORNWELL SCOUTS" CERTIFICATE.**

D. Cady, Wolf Cub Sixer, 7<sup>th</sup> Muswell Hill (Methodist); R. K. Lambert, Wolf Cub, 24th Clapham; A. Frazer, Scout, 65th Belfast (Belfast City Hospital); A. Longley, Patrol Leader, 4th Woking.

*"In recognition of their high standard of character and devotion to duty."*

**CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT.**

T.I. Pattullo, Rover Scout, 50<sup>th</sup> Edinburgh (Morningside Parish).

*"In recognition of his courage, fortitude and devotion to duty during a long and painful illness."*

**SILVER CROSS.**

M. L. Cheshire, Scout, 1<sup>st</sup> Brierley Hill (Bank Street Methodist).

*"In recognition of his gallantry in rescuing a boy from drowning in a canal lock. The rescue necessitated swimming down, fully clothed, in 40 feet of water, Brierley Hill, 25th July, 1953."*

R. H. Cuthill, Patrol Leader, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dumfriesshire (Moffat).

*"In recognition of his gallantry in rescuing a man from drowning in a rough sea, St. Bees, Cumberland, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1953."*

N. Robinson, Patrol Leader, 3rd Bury (Woolford Methodist Church).

*"In recognition of his gallantry in remaining in a wrecked train and saving the life of a child after a collision which threw the train over a viaduct into the River Irk, 50 feet below. Manchester, 15th August, 1953."*

**GILT CROSS.**

F. T. Moore, Scoutmaster (Seniors), 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandgate.

*"In recognition of his gallantry and prompt action in saving two people from a burning house, Hythe, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1953."*

M. Tandy, Patrol Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Cuddington (Warspite).

*"In recognition of his gallantry in rescuing a youth from drowning after a dinghy had capsized, River Thames, Surbiton, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1953."*

**LETTER OF COMMENDATION (GALLANTRY).**

B. M. King, Scout, 1<sup>st</sup> Cuddington (Warspite).

*"In recognition of his prompt action and presence of mind in assisting to rescue a youth after a dinghy had capsized, Surbiton, 21st June, 1953."*

K. Judd, Wolf Cub, 9th South West Leeds (Beeston Hill Baptist).

*"In recognition of his prompt action and presence of mind in giving the alarm to other members of the household when their house caught fire in the middle of the night, Beeston, Leeds, 22nd August, 1953."*

B. D. Stacey, Patrol Second, 33rd Kensington.

*"In recognition of his gallantry in saving his friend from drowning after their canoe had capsized, River Thames, Windsor, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1953."*

**SILVER WOLF.**

Sir Hilary Blood, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., Chief Scout, Island of Mauntius.

*"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement in the Gambia, Barbados and Mauritius"*

**SILVER ACORN.**

J. W. Stiles, G.S.M., 47<sup>th</sup> Hackney.

*"In recognition of his specially distinguished services to the Scout Movement."*

**BAR TO THE MEDAL OF MERIT.**

**Durham.** - C. Hymers, A.D.C., South Shields.

**South-East Lancashire.** - Miss N. M. Lindsey, Hon. Secretary for Wolf Cubs, Bolton and District.

**London.** - W. G. Doyle, A.D.C., East Ham; F. G. Smith, A.D.C. (Scouts), East Ham.

**Warwickshire.** - C. J. Mullis, A.D.C., Kenilworth and Leainington; F. C. Rowe, D.C., Solihull.

*"In recognition of their further outstanding services to the Scout Movement."*

**MEDAL OF MERIT.**

**Bristol.** - L. C. Rickwood, A.D.C. (Senior Scouts), Horfield and Filton District.

**Derbyshire.** - H. B. T. Schwabe, A.D.C., Ashbourne and District.

**Devon.** - Dr. E. S. Hawkes, Deputy Chairman, Budleigh Salterton; Major M. M. Sharman, T.D., Hon. Secretary, Exmouth.

**Durham.** - Miss M. Ashburn, C.M., 26<sup>th</sup> Gateshead (St. Johns); I. E. Miller, A.D.C. (Rover Scouts), South Shields; T. T. Johnson, G.S.M., 1<sup>st</sup> Shadforth; W. L. Taylor, S.M., 40<sup>th</sup> Hartlepoons; A.D.C. (Senior Scouts), Hartlepoons and District.

**Hampshire.** - Capt. H. 3. Everett, M.C., D.C., Fareham District and Bishop's Waltham District, D.C.C.

**Hertfordshire.** - G. C. Sandwith, G.S.M., 1<sup>st</sup> Stevenage.

**South-East Lancashire.** - J. Moss, G.S.M., 9<sup>th</sup> Chadderton (Busk Stree Methodist).

**Liverpool.** - Miss M. M. Evans, C.M., 18<sup>th</sup> Wavertree (342nd Liverpool. Wavertree Baptist Church Sunday School), A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs). Wavertree; F. S. Kelly, G.S.M., 7<sup>th</sup> Wavertree (Liverpool College). A.D.C., Wavertree; R. C. Pedder, D.C., Wavertree; Mrs. M. Parry, C.M., 20<sup>th</sup> Crosby (310<sup>th</sup> Liverpool, St. Michael's, Blundeilsands), A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Crosby and District; E. Richardson, Hon. Treasurer, City; E. S. Skeaping, Chairman, Wavertree.

**London.** - W. A. Amanet, G.S.M., 10<sup>th</sup> Walthamstow (St. Gabriel's Own); H. E. Booker, S.M.(S), 4<sup>th</sup> Lewisham South (1<sup>st</sup> Hither Green); A.D.C. Fyfc, G.S.M., 18<sup>th</sup> Hampstead, A.D.C. (Rover Scouts), Hampstead; J. M. G. Martin, S.M., 4<sup>th</sup> Lewisham South (1st Hither Green); J. W. Mills, R.S.L., 173<sup>rd</sup> North London (St. Paul's, Winchmore Hill); J. C. Rew, G.S.M., 4th Holborn (Bioomsbury); H. C. B. Rye, A.D.C., East Ham.

**Manchester.** - E. Foden, G.S.M., 207th Manchester (Whalley Range Methodist).

**Middlesex.** - F. C. W. Samuel, formerly R.S.L., 1<sup>st</sup> Whitton.

**Northumberland.** - S. A. Nicholson, formerly D.C., Benton and District. North Stallordshire. - K. Bowyer, C.M., 2nd Leek; A. E. Jackson, G.S.M., 4th Leek (St. Luke's).

**South Staffordshire.** - J. K. Davies, A.C.C. (Training), D.C.C.

**Suffolk.** - J. O. Milner, D.C., Stowmarket, Asst. D.C.C.

**Surrey.** - Mrs. N. L. Hunter, C.M., 1st Richmond (St. Matthias), A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Richmond and Barnes; J. P. Marshall, Hon. Treasurer, Malden and Coombe.

**Warwickshire.** - Major It N. Yarde-Martin, formerly D.C., Warwick District, D.C.C.; Major A. St. J. Masters, D.C., Kenilworth and Leainington; G. F. Yates, D.C., Warwick District; D.C.C.

**Scotland.**

**South Argyllshire.** - D. MacPherson, formerly County Chairman. *"In recognition of their outstanding services to tile Scout Movement"*

## HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

### Chief Scout's Commissioner

The Lord Forbes, a Chief Scout's Commissioner, was Called to Higher Service on 27th November, 1953.

L.H.Q. Appointments and Resignations

### Resignations

Headquarters Commissioner for Senior Scouts - F. V. Cowie, M.B.E.

The Committee of the Council places on record its deep appreciation of the outstanding contribution which Mr. Cowie has made to the Senior Scout Section.

Assistant Headquarters Commissioner for Relationships (Y.M.C.A.) - G. Rex Gifford.

The Committee of the Council places on record its appreciation of the long service in connection with Y.M.C.A. Scout Groups rendered by Mr. Gifford

### **Warrants - Probationary Period for A.S.M. and A.C.M.**

In order that warrants as A.S.M. and A.C.M. may be presented before departure for National Service, the Committee of the Council has decided that the probationary period for such warrants may commence at the age of 17 years 8 months, which will enable warrants to be issued without delay on the eighteenth birthday.

### **Scouts Under 15 - Headgear**

The Committee of the Council has decided to seek the views of the Movement as to the desirability of permitting Scouts under 15 (other than Sea and Air Scouts) to wear the beret and a request for these views will be circulated in due course.

In the meantime, the official headgear for Scouts under 15 (other than Sea and Air Scouts) is the Scout Hat, and no other form of headgear is permitted.

### **H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught's Challenge Shield, 1954**

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 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1954; for the Overseas teams, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1954.

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, "Codrington 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.

### **Cancelled Warrants**

The undermentioned has failed to return her Warrant, despite application having been made by Imperial Headquarters:- Mrs. Eleanor Audrey Mackay, formerly C.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Biaghams Group. C. C. GooDfuNu, Adrim~.suwive Secretary.

## **CLASSIFIED**

### **COMING EVENTS**

**"Fortieth Revue, 1954,"** February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. 8p.m.; Matinee 13<sup>th</sup>, 3p.m. Fourth edition. Presented by 40<sup>th</sup> Chingford Group. Produced by "Mac." Stage Manager: Alf Wingrove. Ticket order forms from E. J. Gathercole, 129 Drysdale Avenue., Chingford, E.4. Manchester and S.E. Lancashire Rover Conference, 13th-14th February, at Leigh, Lancashire. For particulars apply to the County Secretary, SE. Lancashire County Scout Council, Room 33, Gaddum House, 16 Queen Street, Manchester, 2.

**The 50<sup>th</sup> Severn Kings Group** presents "Great Oaks" by Ralph Reader so the Schoolroom, Seven Kings Road Methodist Church, Ilford, at 7.30p.m. on Saturdays, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February, and at 8p.m. on Fridays, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February. Remember our productions of "Skipper" and "We'll Live Forever"? Tickets from H. G. Pusey, 70 Ripley Road, Seven Kings. or L. E. Stringer, 56 Quebec Road, Ilford, Essex. (Phone: Valentine 5440).

**Wootwich District Rover Moot**, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>. We have arranged an attractive programme. Rovers are coming from many parts. Why not you? Details from Rover Sec., H. Stock, 69 Heathwood Gdns.. S.E.7. Manchester, S.E. Lanes., E. Cheshire Cub-Scouters' Palaver, February 27<sup>th</sup>, from 2.30 - 9p.m., St. Clare's, Victoria Avenue, Blackley. Manchester. Speaker: Ken Stevens (Gllwell). Cub demonstrations. Games and folk dancing for all who will.

**Sowerby Bridge, Nr. Halifax.** Rover/Ranger Conference, March 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, 1954. Good speakers, dance, camp-fire, special Sunday service, etc. Application forms and full details from Mrs. Smithies, 5 Popular Avenue, Sowerby Bridge. Numbers strictly limited.

**Three Counties Rover Moot** in Hertfordshire. Provisional date June 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

**Scouter recently married** requires unfurnished rooms urgently. Box 174, THE SCOUTER.

**Summer holidays.** Scouter and wife require accommodation near sea. Offers with full details to Stocker, 19 Kingsmead Road, London, S.W.2.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

**The Church Army offers** a Free Two-Year Course of Training, with small allowance, to suitable keen Christians, between the ages 18 - 30; Church of England communicants. After training, a salaried post is found as an officer in the Church Army (Mission Vans, Parish Workers, in Youth Centres and Men's Hostels, etc.). Apply to Captain J. Benson, 55, Bryanston Street, London, W.1.

**The Y.M.C.A. invites applications** from men between 21 and 30<sup>th</sup> train as General Secretaries. Qualifications and experience required in religious, social educational and physical activities with youth. Write giving full particulars to Personnel Secretary, National Council of Y.M.C.A.s, 112 Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

### **PERSONAL**

**Wigs, Perruquiers, Any Production,** lowest rates. Make-up materials. S.A.E. with inquiries. "Bert," 46 Portnall Road, W.9. LAD: 1717.

**Happy Scouting to all in 1954.** And make your Scouting happier with a well-fitting pair of Dover shorts in best English cords. Write to Ossie Dover (The Cycling Tailor), 160 Kensington. Liverpool, S. Phone Anfield 1683. S.A.E. for patterns and prices.

**A. S. Vaissiere Bugle and Trumpet Makers.** "What," never heard of us? Well now is the time to get in touch with us in regard to your instruments that need repairs. You will never regret the day. Note our address: 16b, Georges Road, Liverpool, 6. Phone: Anfield 3343.

**Camping, Nottingham Boy Scouts Association.** Camp site of 250 acres, woodland and open country near Sherwood Forest. Particulars from the Warden, Walesby Forest. Walesby, near Newark, Notts.

**Advertiser, single, would assist** part time in Club or Hostel work, London area, in return for comfortable living accommodation. Some experience youth work. Good personal references. Please trite Box 175, THE SCOUTER.

**Pennants designed and made to order.** Submit your rough design for an estimate. Any colours, any size. Details from: Publicity Dept., Radion (Rayleigh) Ltd., The Broadway, Pitsea, Basildon, Essex.

**Raise Funds** by selling the ever-needed pencil. inscribed to your requirements, including Scout or Cub block. Write for details to G.S.M. W. Short, 34 Wesley Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth.

**May we help to dress your show?** Blue and red shirts - fluorescent dresses, etc. Send S.A.E. for list - 33<sup>rd</sup>/52<sup>nd</sup> Epping Forest South Boy Scouts, 142 Clayhall Avenue, Ilford, Essex.

**"Scout-Ink" Catalogue No. 35.** 32-pages illustrated. Group Progress Records: District Records: Certificates: Camp Bank Cards and Forms: Envelopes and Postcards: Posters: Programme Blanks Letter Headings: Duplicated Magazines: Receipt Books: Compliment Slips: Birthday Cards: Rubber Stamps Badges: Armlets: Rosettes: Nameetapes. Send postcard to Stacy Ltd., 99 Kingsland High Street, London. E8.

**Wanted second-hand I-lb. Jam Jars.** We are prepared to collect quantities of 300 dozen and upwards south of a line Aberystwyth - Birmingham - Ipswich, and are prepared to pay 8 - a gross for clean jars with labels removed and 6/- a gross for dirty jars. J. Long, Whitchurch, Hants.

**France: Camping tours** by truck to beautiful Dordogne ~alley arranged. Group or individual enquiries welcomed. S.A.E. Box 177, THE SCOUTER.

**Photography.** Contact prints 3d. Postcards 7d. Half-plates Is.3d. Other prices on request. Hayden Carr, S.M.(S), 7 Baenheim Place, Brighton.

**Rover Scout Mills is now able** to arrange at Lloyds insurances for Group Headquarters at advantageous rates. Inquiries invited. 59-60, Cornhill, E.C.3.

**FOR SALE**

Reconditioned ex-Army huts, and manufactured buildings. Timber, Asbestos, Nissen Type, Hall Type, etc. All sizes and prices. Write, call or telephone, Universal Supplies (Belvedere) Ltd., Dept. 93, Crabtree Manorway, Belvedere, Kent. Tel. ERITH 2948.

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