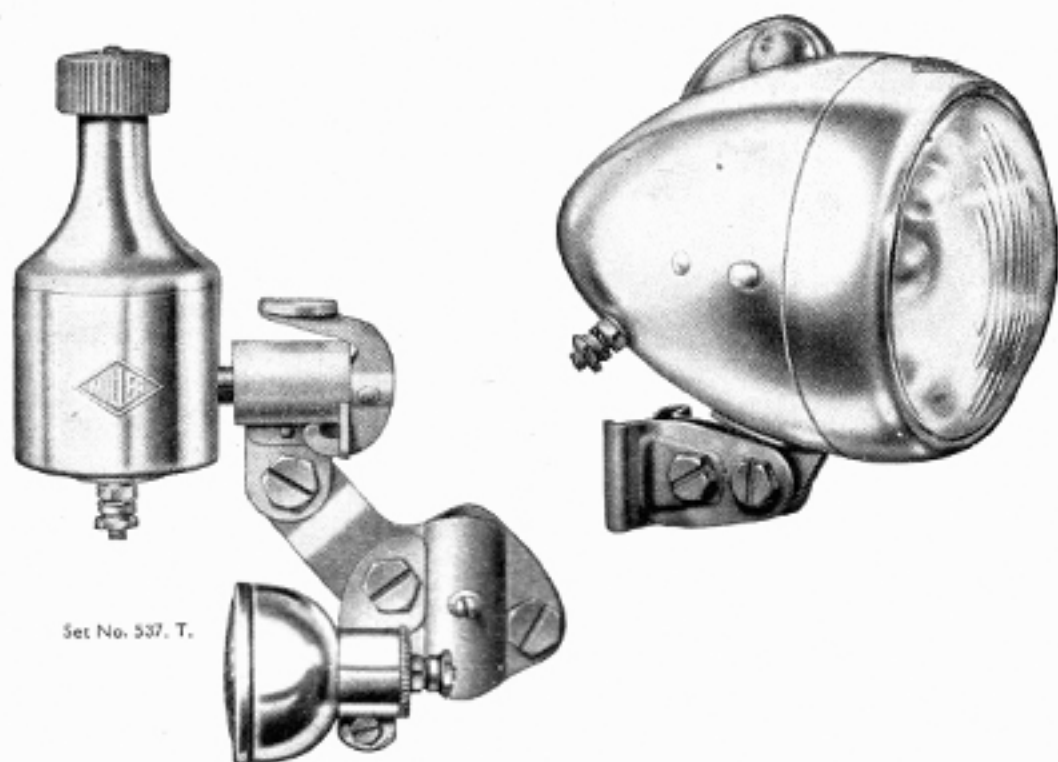




THE SCOUTER

APRIL 1954 9th

THE SCOUTS' SYMBOLS OF EFFICIENCY



Set No. 537, T.

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



CYCLE DYNAMO LIGHTING



DESPATCH RIDER BADGE:—“The bicycle must be properly fitted out with front light and rear lamp.”

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



MESSENGER BADGE: “The Scout must keep on his bicycle a front light and tail lamp in good working order.”

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

Write “Scout Badge Series No. 20.”





THE OUTLOOK

By **THE CHIEF SCOUT**

SOUTING has lost several stalwarts lately in the posts which they have made their own, but, thank goodness, they will still remain with us in other capacities. First, because of his longest service, Haydn Dimmock, Editor of *The Scouter* who started as a boy in a Troop in Musselburgh and was continuously connected with the Movement ever since. He has been Editor of *The Scouter* for more than thirty-six years. He has been co-opted to the Editorial Staff by the Editors of almost every Jamboree newspaper. It was he who was responsible for the pre-war train cruises, for the canoe cruises which have been revived since the war, and for the Soap Box Derby which has become such a feature of the Scouting year and has created such immense interest. He has not been in good health for some time, having been severely gassed in the First War. As an Honorary Commissioner he is determined to find time for the organisation of the canoe cruise, the Soap Box Derby and perhaps most important of all, speaking at Patrol Leaders' Conferences.

There is no one who has quite the same appeal to the boys that he has. I have seen him in action with them not only at indoor conferences but at rallies and camps, and have always marvelled at him. What a gift it is, and how magnificently he has used it for many years. "Dim" is one of those who will always be counted among the great names of Scouting, and it is a relief to us all that he hopes to be able to help us as a volunteer for many years to come.

Lord Glentanar took out his first Warrant in the Movement as Scoutmaster of the 1st Glentanar Deeside Troop in 1923, and in the same year he was appointed Assistant Chief Commissioner for Scotland. Although Assistant in name, he, in fact, was the leading figure in Scottish Scouting, and when in 1930 he was appointed Chief Commissioner there was really no change in authority.

In the same year he was awarded the Silver Wolf.

He has been at every Jamboree and was Sub-Camp Leader at Arrowse Park. Under his leadership Scouting grew and developed, and Scotland were not only host country of the Third World Rover Moot at Monzie in 1939, but were pioneers in the Link-up Scheme, International Patrol Jamborees and International Cub Conferences. It is to Jimmy Crichton and Tom Glentanar that I owe my first vision of Scouting as a world force. I have known him since we were boys, and was proud to serve under him as a County Commissioner for many years. Although no longer Chief Commissioner, he has accepted office as one of my Chief Scout's Commissioners, and I look forward to his assistance and advice in this capacity for the rest of my term as Chief Scout.

Colonel Walton started his Scout career in 1926 as Assistant Scoutmaster in Gloucestershire.

In 1927 he became a District Commissioner in Berkshire; in 1928 was selected by the Chief to be Organising Secretary of the Coming-of-Age Jamboree; in 1929 he was awarded the Silver Wolf; in 1930 he became Assistant County Commissioner for Rover Scouts and was elected a member of the Council and the Committee of the Council, and Headquarters Commissioner for Rover Scouts; in 1931 he was President of the International Conference at Kandersteg and Vice-President of the First World Rover Moot; in 1934 he became a Deputy Camp Chief and travelled with the Founder through Australia and Canada; in 1935 he was Chief Scout's Commissioner, Overseas, and in 1936 travelled through South Africa with the Chief. He has represented Imperial Headquarters as a delegate at every International Scout Conference since 1931. In 1945 he became Overseas Commissioner and in the Coronation Honours became a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, the third member of Scouting to be appointed to this Order since the war, the other two being Mr. Harold Legal and Colonel Wilson. He, too, will remain in the Movement as a Chief Scout's Commissioner. Increasing activities outside as County Councillor and other work have made him anxious to retire for some time past, but he generously consented to stay on until we could find a suitable successor, and how grateful we are to Sir George Beresford-Stooke for taking on this duty.

The last of the retirements is that of the Headquarters Commissioner for Senior Scouts, Francis V. Cowie. To Francis Cowie, this section owes an incalculable debt. As Headquarters Commissioner for Senior Scouts he threw himself wholeheartedly into the development of ideas for the training of the older boys and the development in them of a love of adventure, while appreciating the danger of foolhardiness. Mountaineering, caving and all those other activities which are now so much a part of the work in Senior Troops and for Senior Scouts, owe much of their popularity to him. He has not been satisfied to get others to lead these expeditions, but has made himself familiar with the needs, the dangers and the planning required, and has taken part in the leadership himself both at home, and on the Continent. He has won the confidence, affection and loyalty of all concerned with this branch of our Movement, and will not be easily replaced. Although, however, his increasing responsibilities do not allow him to spare the time for Headquarters Commissionership, he will still remain active among Surrey Scouters and his experience and advice will still be available to us. We have been very lucky indeed to find a man like Laurence Stringer to succeed him, one who has worked with him for several years past, knows the game intimately and will provide the continuity which is so necessary.



“WE GIVE THEE THANKS...”

Sometime ago I wrote of the activities of Scouts in the welcome to Her Majesty in Jamaica. Now I can give you an extract from a letter received from Sir Ronald Garvey, Governor of Fiji:

“In Suva, our capital city, all Scouts paraded in the grounds of Government House on the morning of Her Majesty’s arrival. There were approximately 1,000 on parade, including contingents from Rabi, Levuka and Ba. These Scouts gave Her Majesty and the Duke a most vociferous reception. They lined one of the approaches to Government House, whilst the Girl Guides lined the other, so that there was healthy competition as to which contingent could greet Her Majesty with the greatest show of loyalty. Perhaps I dare not say this to my wife, who takes a considerable part in the Girl Guide activity here, but the Boy Scouts far out-did the Guides in the strength of their reception. Possibly one would have to admit that the male of the species can shout louder than the female.

“At the conclusion of the Fijian ceremony on the first morning of the Royal Visit two Scouts, one Indian and one part-European, shared with the Guides the honour of presenting the Colony’s gifts to Her Majesty and the Duke. The Indian presented a walking-stick to the Duke and a Fijian canoe was presented by the part-European as a gift to Prince Charles.

“During the whole of the two days of the visit Senior Scouts and Rovers helped St. John Ambulance with First Aid, and on the night of the State Ball a detachment was in attendance to assist with the arrangements for the arrival of some 900 guests to the Ball.

“In the country districts the Scouts helped the Police in lining the route followed by the Queen at both Lautoka and Nausori.

“During the whole of the visit the conduct of the Scouts was exemplary, and they assisted considerably in promoting the general success of this memorable occasion.”

Once again they rose magnificently to the occasion and must have impressed Her Majesty With their numbers and bearing. Well done, Fiji!

I attended the rally of the Southern Counties members of the B.-P. Guild of Old Scouts in the Central Hall, Westminster, and it was certainly a most heartening gathering, over 2,300 of them present brimming over with enthusiasm. If anyone doubted the potentialities of the B.-P. Guild their doubts must have been completely dissipated. I do hope we shall make more use of them than in the past, and that they will no longer have cause to complain that Scouters ignore them and their offers of help. They want to help us and they can help us, and they are helping us wherever they are allowed, but they can’t keep up their enthusiasm for ever in the face of rebuffs they have received in some places. It is up to us to keep in touch with them, to help them. The story is told of the Scotsman who “cast his bread upon the waters” after having made quite sure the tide was coming in! The tide is coming in with the B.-P. Guild and some day it will be a mighty flood if we do our part.

In view of the controversy concerning ourselves and Communism that has been going on in the Press it may be as to state that our policy has remained constant throughout the history of Scouting. Sincere acceptance of the Promise and the Law are the rules of the game, which are voluntarily undertaken on entry into the Movement.

This controversy is nothing new; it has been going on since 1922. Shortly after orders had been issued so World Communism to try to take control of the voluntary youth movements by gaining entry and undermining from within, many statements appeared naming World Scouting as the first on the list for this treatment.

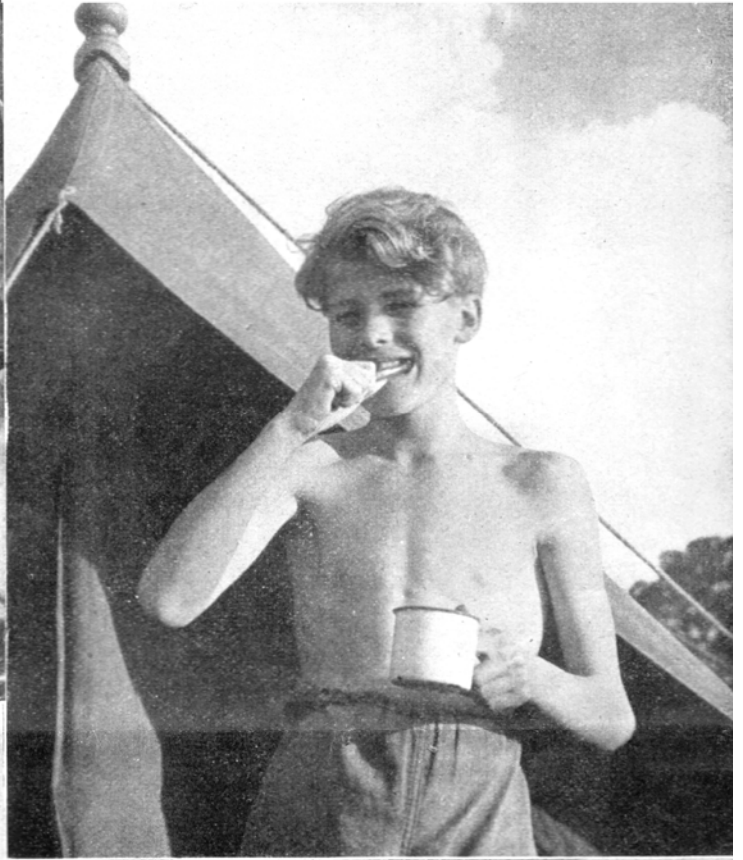
But B.-P. was most explicit in saying that because a boy came from a Communist family or called himself a Communist, it did not mean that we must for that reason turn him out of Scouting. He might, indeed, be in need of our help, and if he was sincerely trying to keep his Promise, then we had a duty to him to help him resolve his problems and see straight. But let us not forget that we have a duty also to the parents who entrust their boys to our care, to the boys in our Packs, Troops and Crews, and to the world-wide Movement, to make sure that we preserve the fundamentals which have done so much, and are doing so much today, to bring sanity to a troubled world, and to provide for those boys and young men something stable when all about is change. We cannot let the interest of an individual outweigh the interest of 5½ millions, and if the individual boy is, by his example or by his word, written or spoken, breaking down those fundamentals, then we must have no hesitation in acting and acting at once.

It may not always be possible to produce evidence acceptable in a Court of Law; we must retain the right - which is implicit in the voluntary principle - to ask him to go, and if he will not go then to remove him. No Group can be compelled to retain a member who is unacceptable to them on any grounds, whether it be for indiscipline or any other cause. No man or boy has a right to be a Scout, any more than he has a right to be a member of a club or sports team or any other voluntary body. He must earn his membership by his personal qualities and obedience to the rules.

In the case of Scouter, I have continuously Warned Commissioners that it is not sufficient that a man should not be unsuitable to hold a Warrant, but that he must be in every respect suitable; a stricter rule than for the boys, because of the greater responsibility and greater potential influence for good or evil of the Scouter.

To sum up - membership of the Scout Movement is a privilege open to all who accept the rules, provided there is room for them and the available man power to train them: the rules are not concerned with what Political Party a boy belongs to, but whether he sincerely tries to keep the Promise and the Law. It is primarily the responsibility of the individual Group to decide whether a boy should or should not continue his membership, and in exercising this responsibility they will take into full consideration firstly, their duty to the Group as a whole, including the parents of the boys; secondly, their duty to try and help the boy himself. This is not witch hunting; it is not McCarthyism; it is facing up to the realities of the situation and the preservation of Scouting for future generations.

ROWALLAN.



“For the young men’s feet are turning to the camps of provided desire and known delights.”



1. CAMP VISITING

Twelve Things I Like to See and Twelve Things I Do Not Like to See

By a **D.C.**

I LIKE TO SEE:

1. *The name of the Troop* at the entrance to the campsite. Not necessarily a triumphal arch - a split log of timber with name burned in, tied to a gate, or stones on grass or anything you can devise. If you are the 21st Mudlikers let the world know you have arrived.
2. *A Scout to welcome me* before I get very far inside the camping area. Yes, I know we are Scouts, and do not post sentries. Quite, but it should be part of a Scout's training to allow no one to enter their camp without being spotted. This welcome and smart salute from any Scout who happens to be observant should be given to the visiting owner of the land or any visitor. What a good impression created. We can't salute clothed in an abbreviated bathing slip? Why not? You are still a Scout, we hope, under your hide. Can it be that saluting is becoming old fashioned? Or would it sound better if we used the word "salutation," for that is what it is.
3. *A Flag Staff with Union Flag* flying at the masthead. Scout pennant, and winning Patrol flag (if not flown in Patrol camp). Couldn't find a suitable pole without "lifting" one from the private wood across the way? Take the sectional one your Troop made during winter activities, "just to be prepared."
4. *A notice board* with Camp routine, Duties, Programme of Scouting activities, Menu, name and address of Doctor, neatly covered with cellophane or a piece of old cycling cape to keep clean and dry. ("I'm afraid we don't do very much in the way of activities in camp; you see this is the only holiday the lads get and I let them do more or less what they like, and have a good rest. Menu - we do Patrol cooking.") Good. The Hawks have noted the Pigeons' menu and are going one better.
5. *Gadgets*. Yes. If they are really useful, strong, and Scout lashings are used in their construction, and are considered as a training item. Generally too much time wasted and too many young saplings destroyed, occasionally with the idea of impressing the visiting D.C.
6. *Orderly lay-out of Camp*. Tents in line or half circle. We are not playing at soldiers, but a camp arranged with some consideration for the "lie of the land" and orderly, tends to make it easier to avoid falling over tent guys in the dark.
7. *Lats*. I like to see quite a lot of things here because they are of importance. A lot depends on the nature of the soil. Two schools of thought: one long trench, long enough to last for the duration of camp, or small pits lasting a couple of days. The soil does rather influence the choice. Solid clay; obviously a long trench. Very deep. Complete covering takes rather a large amount of "large lumps" of unbroken clay. Sandy, you're lucky. Small pits if you like and not so deep, but not so small that they fill before a new one is made. I have seen them overflowing. A screen of some sort. An old piece of tent for shelter against the rain - I know we're tough but this is John's first camp away from home; "bottling" in lieu of getting wet is not too good for him.

A spade, hung up. A toilet roll. A washing bowl with soap on stand.

8. *Cooking sites* with boundary defined (stones if you like). Turf removed in region of fire, large area, and stored. It doesn't matter how much turf we remove, the area around the fire gets trodden down. Too true if all the Patrol or Troop act as assistant cooks. If there just isn't any turf to move, arrange a fire where there is no grass at all.

9. *A Camp Fire site* with a pile of wood accumulating as dead branches are discovered.

10. *First-Aid kit* in Skip's tent or First-Aid tent if you are lucky enough to have one. A clean bowl and a container filled with clean water.

11. *Wheel tin opener*. Doesn't work? If you are "choosy" you will find one that does. Avoids cut fingers and what a number of uses for a tin with a smooth edge.

12. *The natural facilities for training being made use of* whatever they be. Stream, a raft. Ravine, 2½" or 3" rope and smaller lashings for bridge.

(You lose half the "fun" in camp without your rope, and what a lot of "training" you miss.)

A fine bit of country perhaps for First Class hike practice.

And of course you arranged with the local D.C. weeks ago for a First Class hike to finish off Bert's First Class test?

I DO NOT LIKE TO SEE:

1. *Food store* with bread and unpacked food on ground. Jam pots uncovered, with wasps having the time of their lives. No provision for keeping milk cool and fresh. Everything exposed to flies and not protected with butter muslin. (The average fly takes a fiendish delight us beating your time from the lats. to your exposed food - nice thought!) This is when a "gadget" is not a waste of energy.
 2. *Lats conforming to requirements* but toilet roll on ground and wet. Another gadget? One of your nice "smooth opened" tins incorporated!
 3. *Cooks with soiled hands* and no washing facilities at hand.
 4. *Grease pits* containing slices of bread, maybe whole loaves, vegetable peelings, tins, occasionally a general refuse dump. All nicely covered with bracken.
 5. *A dump of dirty milk bottles* sometimes broken at entrance to camp site awaiting collection by the milkman.
 6. *Wood chips* covering a large area and not confined to the one wood pile.
 7. *Cut branches of trees* which obviously should not have been cut. Trees damaged by axes stuck in them.
 8. *Untidy tents* with kit mixed up in heaps. They were quite tidy when you inspected them this morning? Arrange a Patrol race, bathing slips to full dress, at odd times without warning. B.-P. had some ideas on this.
 9. *Candles unprotected* stuck on lids of tins or boxes.
 10. *Camp left unprotected* and unguarded. I know, you arranged a day's outing to the sea. In my own District a Troop had two tents burnt out and all contents destroyed, in a camp left without a guard. Everything, of course, was in order; there couldn't possibly have been a fire.
 11. *A field of thistles*. Just as many as the day you "took over" the site. Ah! All thistles do not propagate by seeding (Country Questions, B.B.C.). All right, but I'll bet you do not know which ones do not. The owner will not be very annoyed if your Good Turn has fallen a little flat by cutting the root spreading type.
 12. *Bedding* looking and smelling as if it never had an airing. What, no clothes line!
- Any more "Likes and No Likes"? Yes, You will know a few more, but one more "Like" which only you, the Skipper, will probably see. Striking Camp and hauling down flag with a "Prayer of Thanks," just because somehow in that spot, by bringing your Troop closer to nature, you made them feel themselves "Nearer to God."

2. A CAMP IN NEW ZEALAND

After spending a very happy week-end camp together last Easter the Pioneer Group, Nelson, and the 1St Waimea Group, Richmond, decided to hold a joint summer camp at Nydia Bay which is situated about twenty miles up the Pelorus Sound from Havelock and recognised as one of the wildest and prettiest places in the Marlborough Sounds of which the Pelorus is a part.

The thirty-three Scouts and four Scouters travelled by truck the fifty-odd miles to Havelock, and from there were conveyed by launch through the most entrancing scenery to Nydia Bay. Willing hands quickly unloaded the heavy gear which was then hauled by the Scouts on a small farm dray to a little dell half a mile away - a very rough road. Several journeys were needed. Tents were pitched in the dark and it was 11 o'clock before the Scouters made a final survey and settled down to rest.

The camp was awakened before 5 a.m. by a chorus of bell birds and tuis, and after an early breakfast, followed by inspection, work on the camp was soon in full swing, each of the five Patrols producing something different in the way of camp furniture and gadgets. Table tops were woven with manuka, *flax* and tree fern, there were altar, trench and reflector fires, while cool airy food stores were built of manuka and fern. Hay boxes were built in the ground and proved most useful, and most of the Patrols made a revolving clothes line.

A full programme of activities included the building of a Bushman Bridge over a small river, a Transporter and an Aerial Runway with wide games, badge tests, competitions, climbing, swimming and fishing. The site was the type of which a Scout dreams, with high bush-clad ranges rising up to 3,500 feet on three sides and on the fourth the sparkling waters of the Sounds which at this point were 1½ miles in width with more mountain ranges on the other side. Several small bush-clad islands dotted about the Sounds added to the general beauty of the scene and a hot sun from a cloudless sky completed the picture.

The country was a hunter's paradise and wild pigs could be heard at night quite close to the camp, while higher up the ranges were innumerable deer and wild goats. Our host, Mr. Bernard Paton, invited the Scouters to accompany him on a pig hunt and a nice little fat porker was added to the menu and thoroughly enjoyed. The type of country can be judged by the fact that although Mr. Paton's farm covers 1,600 acres he runs 150 sheep only, the major part of his income being derived from hunting and trapping. One Scouter, after much effort, stalked a deer which he shot behind the left shoulder. To his astonishment the deer did not blink an eyelid and on closer inspection the Scouter found he had shot a carefully prepared decoy clothed in a deerskin.

Two Scouts were marooned on an island for 24 hours equipped with a billy of water, 12 potatoes, 1 ½ lb. flour, cake of chocolate, 6 lashings, matches, torch, 1 ground sheet and a fishing-line. The rest of the Scouts in Patrols spent 24 hours in the ranges where they cooked their food and slept in bivvies made of manuka and tree fern. For a change some of them slept up trees. The last party settled in their bivvies with storm clouds gathering and awoke to find rain falling. After an early breakfast they trekked back to camp through the drenching scrub and bush, fording a river and a couple of creeks and reaching camp just as a very heavy storm broke, with wind of terrific velocity. The storm lasted for 36 hours without a break and the gusts of wind could be heard approaching as they roared down the gullies like volleys of thunder, but the Scouts weathered the storm and their songs could be heard above the roar of the gale. A sunny day following enabled wet garments to be dried in a very short time.

An amusing interlude was provided by the Weka or bush hen which strolled quite unconcerned about the camp and incidentally stole several spoons and forks with which it quickly vanished into the dense bush. The Weka is about the size of the domestic fowl with rather longer legs. It cannot fly but can outrun the swiftest dog.

A Patrol competition was run throughout the camp, when the friendly competitive spirit produced a high degree of efficiency and the Scouters rarely found anything on the sites which should not be there.



"EARLY ONE MORNING"
(after a night up a tree!)

The Scouters' tent and gear were inspected by the Patrol Leaders, who usually managed to find something invisible to the Scouters' eyes.

Just in case another storm broke the tents and gear were packed the day before the camp ended and the Scouts built themselves bivvies of natural material using native *flax* as lashings. The final Camp Fire was a happy occasion and in the light of the fire the red eyes of the possums could be seen peering from the surrounding trees.

On Saturday the 16th January the Scouts, after marching through the city of Nelson, assembled us Trafalgar Park to see Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. There was tremendous excitement and as the Queen drove slowly past the Scouts turned to the writer and whispered "Isn't she lovely!" Now their own ambition is to become Queen's Scouts.

FRANK D. LACEY,
(formerly G.S.M., 1st Anlaby, Hull).

REMINDER

For every Scout
The Patrol Goes to Camp Patrol Books
No. 5, 1/- (1/2d. post free).

For every Scouter:
Scout Camps by the Camp Chief and
the General Editor 6/- (6/6d. post
free).

32. QUANTOCK FOLLIES

By R. A. ARCHER, JOHN MOORMAN
and ROBERT BRANTON

1. Introduction

The Quantocks are a range of hills about 8 miles long and 2½ broad. They run N.W. and S.E. They have a ridge over 1,000 feet above sea level for almost their whole length, and very close to their S.W. edge. The N.W. half is covered mainly with heather, ling, bracken and gorse. There are deciduous trees in the coombe sides which are steep and run mainly N.E. The S.E. half is covered mainly by forestry commission pinewoods, interspersed with rhododendron thickets, which are thick.

There are very few hedges and one wanders where one likes without let or hindrance. There is a youth hostel at Holford at the northern end, and about a mile south of the centre of the S.W. edge, Crowcombe. Both are fairly large, and have very co-operative wardens.

The valley, 2½ miles wide, which separates them from the Brendon hills and Exmoor, in which Crowcombe Y.H. lies, is everywhere under 500 feet above sea level. The Brendons and Exmoor start a ridge beyond this which runs 25 miles away to the west with only one crossing point under 1,000 feet. There is not so much unenclosed land on them, however. They are both thicker ranges than the Quantocks.

For some years now, Western Somerset Scouts have been in the habit of running an outdoor week-end in the Quantocks. We chose the first of the year, to affirm our resolution to keep the out in Scouting for Seniors, and to assure ourselves that we like it. We try to incorporate other training as well, but this is always the first lesson. The exercises tend to be somewhat competitive, but we never allow the desire to give equal chances to all to interfere with either our fun or our training.

We have often used cars on these schemes in a manner which would be impossible in foggy weather or in deep snow or glaze-frost. This needs alternative plans which must be ready, but we have so far not had to fall back onto them. We do not mind one good soaking per day, but after we have got into the Y.H. and changed into dry clothes, we hope we shall not get wet again till the following day.

A day's work for Senior boys around New Year's Day necessarily includes a good bit in the dark. If we strike a full moon, we sometimes have two night exercises, have supper at 7 a.m. and go to bed, then get up for breakfast at 4 p.m. two days in succession. But two or at most three hours out in the dark on a moonless night is quite enough for boys who have not done a lot of night training. We always have a fairly stiff test of finding the way, or something like it, in the dark. But we think that all night out without a moon would be too much for boys without much night training, and when a number of Troops from three or four Districts combine for an exercise like this there are sure to be a good many without much night training.

The detailed method by which these exercises have been planned may be of interest. During the earlier part of the year the people who undertake it think of any ideas they can and jot them down on paper.

In September, soon after the annual camps have finished, they meet, decide on a main theme of training and the main idea into which this training is to be worked. They then select ideas from the pool which they have worked out, and methods of working them in. There is a limit to both the number and variety of ideas that can be worked into any single year's programme.

When certain ideas have been selected, one of the party is asked to draft the plan onto paper, which is then sent round the party by post and commented on by those who drew it up.

WHY SCOUTMASTERS GROW OLD QUICKLY..!



Next, it gets sent to a Scouter of experience who has so far had no hand in it. He may throw out a few suggestions of his own, but his main function is to try to foresee probable causes of failure.

He may also suggest that the scheme is overloaded, i.e. that an attempt has been made deliberately to incorporate too many lessons. Finally there is a general meeting of all the planners, including the critic. This begins with indoor discussion, but ends by going round the country, seeing the places at which the incidents are to be arranged. The number (and names) of the people required to run the incidents, as well as the gear, if any, and how to get it into position, have to be settled.

It is very necessary that the scenes of the incidents should be very carefully reconnoitred by the person who is to be in charge of the incident. It may even be necessary to run a trial incident with other people. Once, an incident was put on without adequate reconnaissance. It was a failure. We do not, however, consider how Senior Scouts are to find their way from one place to another. Even at night, if they cannot find their way to a grid-reference, we think it good for them to be lost. There are no dangerous cliffs or bogs.

In the meanwhile the name of the person who is receiving entries, his address and the final date are advertised in the *County News Bulletin*. We also like to know how many are going to buy their meals from the youth hostel and how many will self-cook. We do not divulge very much about the theme or plan of the Follies at this stage. We do, however, say if they will require any special equipment. We then make arrangements with the hostels.

There are expenses in connection with this. We usually charge a non-returnable shilling or two as entrance fee. We find that this does not diminish numbers, but it does diminish non-starting entrants. After paying the preparation expenses, the balance of the entrance fees, if any, is paid to the hostel, to be deducted from boys' individual bills. For the Follies of 1953 and 1954 you must await the May and June SCOUTERS.

[to be continued.]

TALKING POINTS

(Second Series)

3. ALL ABOUT BADGES

Rumour has it that They (whoever They are) are going to revise the Badge requirements before long. They have in the my sympathy: there are an awful lot of Scouts and Scouters world, and my guess would be that a good many of them would like to see the tests made easier, and a good many others would want them made harder, and hardly anybody would agree with anybody else about the precise form the changes ought to take. But whatever we think about Badges, we do all think about them.

Sometimes I think one thing, sometimes another. One thought which is ever in my mind is about Second Class cooking, however, and that one does not change. I like porridge, and sometimes I even like twist, but I don't like living on either of these things, at least, not when I can get anything else. (And in these days of packed foods, dehydrated foods, concentrated foods, and, so on, I always can get something else, even in mid-Wales on a wet Sunday.) Now, porridge is a grand breakfast-food, but somehow I nearly always seem to be testing my Scouts at other times of day; mine's a funny Troop, and it doesn't often have a breakfast-time meeting. So I have to smack my lips in dismal mock-enthusiasm over porridge at 3 p.m., or just before suppertime, and that is the sort of experience that makes you think. It has made me think that I would like to see that test somehow modified to allow the Scout to fry me some bacon, or make me a good cup of tea, or concoct a Welsh Rarebit. Then I go on to plan a First Class cooking test as well; I know it comes into the Journey, but that doesn't seem quite the same thing.

When I am well away on this job of re-modelling the tests, I start thinking about Signalling. I like this part of Scouting, personally, but I know there are a lot of people who don't, and I can't pretend that most of my Scouts are very thrilled. I have to admit that I can't see much practical use in it either - especially in Semaphore, which is surely -just about obsolete, isn't it? By the way, does anybody know why the Second Class test is so definite that the message must be sent out-of-doors, when the First Class may be done indoors? One of life's mysteries!

My blood now well and truly up, I start casting rocks at some of the most cherished idols of Scouting, beginning with Kim's Game, an excellent and amusing game, but surely not a test of real observation? It is much more a memory-test, and not a very valuable one because the things remembered need only be retained for a very short time. I prefer the alternative, the Trail; this is real observation, and I know an experienced Scouter who says he can judge a boy better after seeing him follow a trail than after any other single Scouting activity. Then there are those six common trees; I fancy a Scout might pass that test without knowing a single tree, which would be of the slightest use to him in practical Scouting! I'd like that one revised to make sure that every Scout could recognise the trees from which he would get his kindling, his main firewood, his pioneering timber, and so on. And the six birds in First Class: why not add insects, mammals, common crops, or even fish?

What about map-reading? The Second Class test is, literally, child's play; and the First Class test is very vaguely worded. Should not a good Scout be able to draw a decent sketch-map of a route or of a campsite, and might he not also be asked to show that he can cope satisfactorily with compass-bearings? While still in this "Make-it-tough-for-'em" mood, I have been known to laugh hollowly at the "ten nights' camping" requirement for First Class. By the time some of mine have their First Class. Badge up, they've done about ten years' camping! Then I wonder why we don't require Scouts to be able to sew on a button, polish a pair of shoes, darn a sock, mend a fuse, or otherwise demonstrate their ability to be useful and help others?

Bigger and better tests, in fact: but I have one compensating relief, for I would bury with full ceremonial honours the historic Six Exercises - a wonderful thing, in all truth, when physical education in England was neglected, but just another thing for the busy Scouter to test, now that every school has organised P.T. and games in its daily routine.

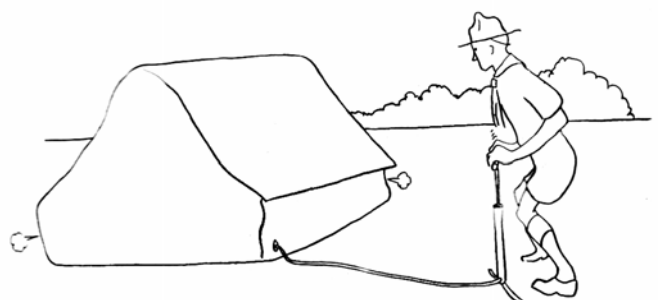
All this seems to add up to making the tests more difficult, doesn't it? I really think there is something to be said for that, too; a boy will often respond far more readily to a real challenge to his energy and perseverance than he will to something which strikes him as a bit beneath his notice. But I have my other moods, too, and sometimes I allow my mind to run on quite different lines. I say then, "The Second Class" tests are designed for the normal, average boy of about 12. They should be easy enough for him to pass with reasonable effort, and he should be encouraged to take them in his stride, get them over quickly, and be well into his First Class by about 13. By 14 he should certainly have the First Class Badge up, and then he can specialise in the Proficiency badges, which interest him.

And there's a lot in that too. If we think of our Scouts as the young creatures they are, we ought not to expect perfection from them, nor ought we to make such heavy weather of their tests that every one is like a school examination. They should be judged by the standards, which a sensible and sympathetic adult can expect of a 12-, 13- or 14-year-old boy.

G.S.M. Jekyll or G.S.M. Hyde? Harder tests or not? I honestly don't know; but I am sure that They do. When They make up Their minds, I hope they will tell us what they believe to be the purpose of the tests, and I hope every Scouter will make a sincere attempt to interpret them in the right spirit. I hope they will not leave us too much freedom, actually; I am not very happy about the idea often put forward that we should adjust the standard of the test to the individual Scout, or Troop. Boys are quick to resent anything they think unfair, and to allow too much freedom to the Scouter to pass a boy who has tried but failed, or fail a boy who has fulfilled the requirements but might have been expected to do even more, sometimes causes dissensions, which are not at all in keeping with Scouting. After all, a boy who fails can always have another shot, and none of the tests - even as revised by G.S.M. Hyde - would be impossible to the average boy who went on trying; and the boy who has an astronomical Intelligence Quotient and learns the Morse Code in 17 minutes, start to finish, can always go on and take the Signaller Badge. So. I hope the revision of the test requirements will include the careful wording of the rules so that Scouter and Scout are quite clear what they have to do, and nobody will feel he ought to do more or less.

I have not yet mentioned my last and greatest Thought on tests. I can hardly bring myself to do so, for the truth is that when I think this one, wisps of smoke begin to come out of my ears, and my face turns a blackish-mauve. But why, oh why, do one's Scouts not know the first thing about a test within a week or so of having taken it? Last week I signalled a message of about five words to a Troop, which included over twenty Second Class or higher Scouts; I won't tell you how many got it completely right, but it wasn't twenty. No, indeed it wasn't! It's not for the want of revision, either; we do play signalling games and the like. I suppose their imagination just hasn't been caught. But it makes me wonder how many boys with Ambulance badges up really know their stuff well enough to be relied on in an emergency, or how many Rescuers really would save that drowning girl. Perhaps there was something to be said for the old idea of re-passing one's tests from time to time. But there were more Scouters to do the testing in those days, I suppose,

G.S.M.



PATROL ANIMALS AND BIRDS:

IV. FALCONS

By MICHAEL BLACKMORE

There are ten species of falcons on the British list altogether, but as six of these are rare or irregular visitors I shall deal only with the four that breed here. They are very shy and long-sighted birds so if you want to study them at close quarters you will have to move as slowly and stealthily as possible. You must also be prepared to make your search away from towns and cities because, with one exception, they avoid thickly populated areas.

I was lucky enough to spend my boyhood in a country district where all our nesting falcons occur. After watching the habits of these aristocrats of the air over a long period I can say without hesitation that they are fascinating creatures, unrivalled for their speed and graceful flight. Although gamekeepers persecute them because they are birds of prey it is only fair to add that they kill quickly and cleanly and that some of them do much good by keeping down vermin.

This is particularly true of the common kestrel, a handsome bird with pale under parts, reddish-brown wings and long tail. Every Scout should be familiar with it because it is the exception I mentioned above. You can expect to find it in or near many of our towns and, quite apart from its distinctive colour, you can easily recognise it by its habit of hovering on rapidly beating wings while it scans the ground in search of small rodents, lizards and beetles. It usually hangs poised in one place for several seconds waiting for some sign of movement below; then suddenly it will drop to earth like a stone, make a capture and bear it away in its yellow talons, or if the prey is very small it may be eaten on the spot.

Today kestrels are by no means uncommon in central London. Somehow they manage to find enough food (mainly sparrows and mice) on bombed sites and other open spaces, and at night they roost on the ledges of tall buildings such as Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. In 1952 a pair reared their single youngster successfully in a crevice in the wall of a well-known hoed overlooking the Strand, and within recent years there have been several other instances of kestrels attempting to breed in inner London.

Our latest and most magnificent falcon is the peregrine. Although most of its eyries or breeding-places are on high and inaccessible sea-cliffs it also breeds inland in mountainous districts. I would not describe the peregrine as a common bird in England but there are pairs at scattered intervals along most of our southern and southwestern coastline. In the wilder regions of Scotland, Wales and Ireland it occurs more numerous and during autumn and winter you may find odd specimens turning up almost anywhere, for then the bird has a habit of wandering well outside its nesting territory.

One of the most thrilling experiences I know of is to see a peregrine hurtling down from a thousand feet at two hundred miles an hour when chasing a pigeon. With half-closed wings it drops like a feathered thunderbolt and strikes the victim a terrific blow with its powerful hind claw. Then with lightning speed it carries off the pigeon to some convenient place for plucking.



PERIGRINE WITH YOUNG



Its wonderful split-second timing and perfect mastery of the art of flight make the peregrine a dreaded enemy, and if it should happen to miss its quarry in the first stoop it will often rely on the impetus of its headlong dive to send it speeding upwards for a second attack.

In the days when falconry was a widely practised sport strict rules were laid down restricting the ownership of peregrines to people of noble rank, for this splendid bird, with its blue-grey back and wings and creamy black-barred chest was regarded as a highly prized possession. Queen Elizabeth I even issued special warrant for the arrest and imprisonment of some unknown persons who had stolen the eyasses (as young falcons are called) from an eyrie, which she claimed as her royal property. Today falconry is carried on only by a few enthusiasts -and the peregrine is protected under the Wild Birds Protection Acts. During the last war, however, licences were granted to certain people to shoot it owing to its unfortunate habit of killing homing pigeons, which were widely used for carrying messages from the occupied countries of Europe. Of course this had to be done to help the war effort but it has had the effect of reducing many of the eyries that were regularly used when I was a boy.

If you want to see our smallest falcon, the Merlin, your best chance of doing so is to visit some open stretch of moorland or sandy heath. Merlins are not uncommon birds in many of our upland districts in the north of England, Wales and Scotland, and they are also found, though less numerous, in some low-lying areas in the south. For many years two pairs used to breed on a stretch of sandhills by the sea near my old home in Devon. They made no nest but laid their eggs in a shallow depression on the ground.

Merlins are very beautiful birds, especially the male, which has slate-blue wings and head and a reddish dark-streaked underside. His overall length is only about twelve inches but his duller brown-coloured female is considerably larger. By the way, it is characteristic of most species of falcons that the cock is smaller than the hen so that when you see them together you can usually determine the sexes quite easily.

Small birds are the Merlin's favourite food and in the open type of country which it frequents you may see it zig-zagging in relentless pursuit of skylarks and pipits. I once watched a cock Merlin chase a swallow for several hundred yards across a moor, but the pursuer was no match for its more agile quarry. There is one falcon, however, that regularly catches swallows and martins. This is the rare hobby, a summer resident which arrives at the end of April from its winter quarters abroad. It is an amazingly fast flier with very long wings and looks rather like a giant swift when you see it in flight.

Hobbies are fond of wooded country with plenty of open heaths. Their main haunt is in southern England, though you may come across an odd pair in some of the midland counties. As a rule they breed in the disused nests of crows and get very excited if you go near their young. Once when I was walking along the edge of a wood where three fledglings were sitting on the branches of a pine tree the old birds swooped so close to my head uttering their high-

pitched shrieks that I thought they might attack me, but their mock show of defiance was merely intended to scare me off their territory. It might have succeeded if I had been a nervous person and it certainly gave me a wonderful opportunity of admiring these lovely falcons at close quarters. They are rather like miniature peregrines in colour except that their thighs are covered with brilliant rufous feathers.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS, 1954

SILVER WOLF

C. F. Dickins, G.S.M., 1st Petersfield, D.S.M., Petersfield.

"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement in Petersfield over a period of 43 years."

Rev. J. M. Lewars, Provincial Commissioner and D.C.C., Province of Calabar, Nigeria.

"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement, especially in Nigeria, over a period of 33 years."

Major R. K. Magor, D.L., President, Essex.

"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement in Essex over a period of 44 years."

H. B. Meredith, J.P., Assistant County Commissioner, East Glamorgan.

"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement in Wales over a period of 17 years."

C. R. Nichols, Chief Commissioner, Victoria, Australia.

"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement in Victoria over a period of 25 years."

Rev. L. D. Sherley-Price, M.A., RN., Port Commissioner, Deep Sea Rover Scouts, Devonport, No. 2 District, Devon.

"in recognition of his services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement, especially with the Deep Sea Rover Scout Section, over a period of 24 years."

A. W. Robinson, Hon. County Secretary, South-East Lancashire. *"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement in South-East Lancashire over a period of 30 years."*

Capt. T. M. Sibly, M.A., Assistant County Commissioner, Gloucestershire.

"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement in Gloucestershire over a period of 46 years."

T. F. Swift, District Commissioner, Norwich.

"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character to the Scout Movement in Norwich over a period of 37 years."

BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN

I. C. Appleton, A.C.C. Yorkshire North Riding

C. C. Bristol, A.C.C. for the Training of Scouters, West Yorkshire

"In recognition of their further special distinguishing services to the Scout Movement."

W. F. Waters, Headquarters Commissioner for Rover Scouts, Victoria, Australia.

SILVER ACORN

D. D. Ash, Assistant Colony Commissioner and D.C.C., Trinidad and Tobago.

F. D. Ayers, G.S.M., 6th Carlisle, A.D.C., Carlisle and District.

G. V. H. Baerlein, C.C. and D.C.C., Manchester.

J. K. V. Bare, formerly C.C., East Denbighshire.

B. M. Beater, D.C., Chertsey and Egham District.

Major-Gen. R. L. Bond, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.C., Guildford, Godalming and District.

Miss D. E. Booth, Asst. Ak.L., Buckinghamshire, Sub-Editor, The Scout.

H. Bradbum, D.C., Eccies.

J. L. Browell, A.D.C. for Scouts, City of Bradford, D.C.C., West Yorkshire.

Miss J. P. Brown, C.M., Dunbar, A.C.C. for Wolf Cubs, East Lothian.

F. G. Colbert, J.P., D.C., Fuiham.

P. Cooke, Overseas Secretary, Imperial Headquarters, G.S.M., 4th Woking (Christ Church).

L. H. Corke, G.S.M., 17th Lambeth (Brixton Prime).

D. R. Crighton, Hon. Area Secretary, East London.

J. Croft, D.C., North Liverpool.

A. H. Crump, D.C., Dudley and District.

E. L. Denny, formerly C.C., Dunbartonshire.

G. J. Dingwall, A.C.C., Sutherland.

Col. C. R. Dudgeon, O.B.E., M.C., D.C., Liphook.

Capt. E. H. Pearce-Edgumbe, R.N., D.C., Gosport.

E. P. Evans, Master, R.R.S. Discovery, D.C.C.

F. R. Eveleigh, G.S.M., 9th Croydon (2nd South Norwood), D.C. Eastern Division, Croydon.

W. H. Fairey, D.S.M., Ripley District.

T. J. Fenning, S.M., Ballymacash, C.C., Co. Antrim, Assistant Chief Commissioner for the Training of Scouters, Northern Ireland.

A. R. Flaskett, A.D.C. for Scouts, Kingston and District.

J. W. Franklin, G.S.M., 11th Walthamstow (St. James).

S. N. Furness, M.A., C.C., Yorkshire North Riding.

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

S. A. Hollebone, G.S.M., 1st Willingdon.

O. W. Holmes, G.S.M., 2nd Otley.

J. Hunter, D.C., Manchester Schools.

H. J. Jones, Chairman, West Ham North.

Capt. C. M. Laing, M.C., J.P., D.C., Haltwhistle District.

H. V. Lawson, D.C., Middleton District

Group Capt. D. Lumgair, D.C., Herford, Assistant Commissioner, British Scouts in Western Europe.

H. L. Maiey, G.S.M., 7th North London (Marquess of Northampton's Own, D.C., Islington).

J. H. Merritt, G.S.M., 40th East Ham, A.D.C., East Ham.

G. Millar, G.S3L, 57th Pershshire (Ratray).

H. L. Mitchell, A.D.C. for Rover Scouts, Huddersfield, A.C.C. for Rover Scouts, West Yorkshire.

F. H. More, formerly D.C., Llanelly.

A. H. Nobin, S.M., 1st Slough, A.D.C., Slough District.

W. N. Paul, Acting D.C., Ilford East, Ak.L., London.

Dr. W. O. Petrie, Chief Commissioner, Nyasaland.

W. Proctor, D.C., Macclesfield and Congleton.

L. M. Pugh, D.C., Sheffield.

H. K. Puttick, D.C., Worthing, A.C.C. for Scouts, Sussex.

Lt.-Col. R. Ropner, M.B., Ch.B., C.C., Ross and Cromarty.

Sir Thomas H. Salt, Bail., D.L., C.C., Dorset.

P. Saunders, D.C., Stony Stratford and Wolverton District, A.C.C. for Wolf Cubs and Ak.L., Buckinghamshire.

H. Scott, Assistant Commissioner for Wolf Cubs and Ak.L., Northern Ireland

Major P. H. Sharpe, formerly D.C., No. 6 District, Devon.

The Lord Somerleyton, M.C., D.L., J.P., C.C., Suffolk.

Ven. Archdeacon A. W. Stonton, B.Sc., S.M., St. Luke's, Simanggang, D.C. Simanggang, Sarawak.

W. H. H. Thorpe, D.C., Fairfield District.

A. E. P. Townsend, S.M., 1st Tillington, A.D.C., Petworth and Pulborough District.

C. J. Twist, Deputy C.C., South-West Lancashire.



	WITH GROUND SHEET ON SOAKED GROUND	UNDERNEATH DOWN BLANKET.	IN DOWN SLEEPING BAG	ROLLED IN WOOLLEN BLANKET
AIR MATTRESS				
DOUBLE UNDERLAYER	1/2 inch	5/8 inch	3/8 inch	
TREBLE UNDERLAYER	3/8	1/2	3/8	1/2
KAPOK MATTRESS OF 3/4 INCH	5/8	3/4	3/8	3/8
KAPOK MATTRESS OF 1/2 INCH	7/8	1	1/8	1/8
KAPOK MATTRESS OF 1/4 INCH	1 1/16	1 3/8	1/8	1/8

Have you ever watched a Tenderfoot, when preparing his bed at his first night in camp? He puts as much as possible on top of himself, and expects to be nice and warm for the rest of the night. And when you observe animals, you will notice that they do not bother about any covering at all, but that they spend quite some time preparing the ground *underneath* them. We might consider this a point which everyone of us with some experience in camp life knows. Moisture is an excellent conductor; so is the earth. Result: all body warmth flows off to the ground. And, as we know, warmth depends on isolation, and the best isolation is dry air, which can be held between some material. So we can see that it is of the utmost importance to have some layers between body and ground.

When we choose our bedding for camp, we must keep the following points in mind: (1) most warmth and least weight; (2) durability; (3) material that does not hold moisture for long, and dries quickly when wet. There is quite a choice of materials, and there are many fabrics on the market, which might suit our purpose.

Swanskin blankets are cheap and durable, but are of little use for covering in camp. They are excellent, however, for use as ground and Camp Fire blankets. They are made of cheap cotton weave, and the blankets are made rough on both sides in order to increase the warmth-isolating properties. This, of course, has the disadvantage of decreasing the strength of the threads by pulling them to pieces. Last but not least, cotton - as all vegetable fibres - is cold, as it attracts dampness.

Woollen blankets are more expensive, but much warmer too. They are also roughened on both sides so as to keep a layer of static air between the hairs of the blanket and thus make it warmer. You can recognise a good woollen blanket, if you are able to lift it in the air, by holding on to a gathering of hairs. When you want to compare the warmth-isolating properties of two blankets you fold them both the same number of times. The highest blanket is the best.

Camelhair blankets are very advisable for use in camp. They are made 80 per cent of camel wool from the belly-side of the animal, and 20 per cent of sheep wool.

They are, alas, very expensive but extremely warm (one goat camelhair blanket equals two woollen blankets). Another advantage is their lightness. A camelhair blanket is only a little heavier than an ordinary woollen blanket.

The best blankets on the market are the *Hudson Bay blankets*, which are wind and waterproof; guaranteed for two generations; but very heavy (a four-point blanket of 72 in. by 90 in. weighs 6 lb.).

It is interesting to know that in some countries campers have considered sleeping in camp important enough to study its why's and how's very thoroughly and scientifically. As the under layers are the essentials for good sleeping, one of these studies was concerned with these.

The heat and isolating properties of air mattresses, blankets and kapok mattresses were measured.

To this purpose the starting point was that most unfavourable condition, soaked ground. The value of the different types of under layers is measured in inches of wool thickness.

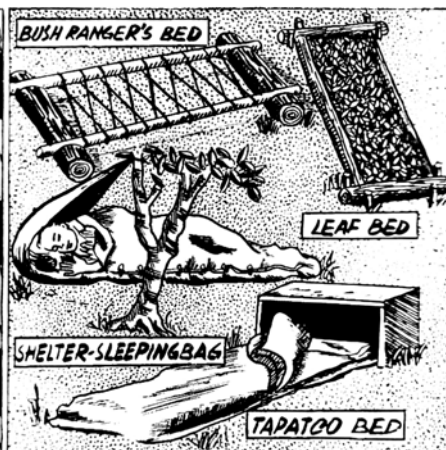
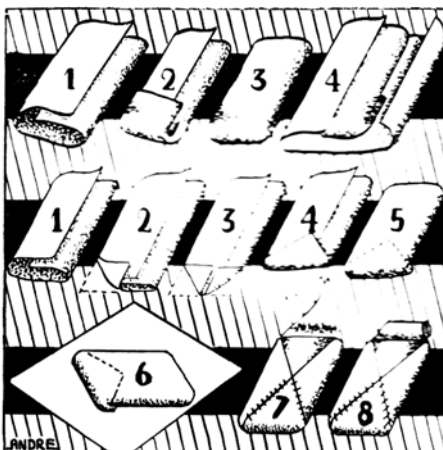
You might be surprised to see in the table in picture (3) that an air mattress is a bad under layer, as its isolation properties are the minimum.

This is because, through the body warmth, the top air of the middle of the mattress, which is pressed down, is heated. Therefore it rises to the higher sides of the mattress, and through this a circulation starts, at which the air in the sides and the bottom part of the mattress gives out the heat which it receives from the body to the colder surroundings. If for still air the isolation coefficient is 50, for moving air in an air layer of three inches (a normal air mattress) it becomes 3. On the other side you will also notice the good value kapok mattresses give in camp use.

TRAINING NOTES

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

4. SLEEPING IN CAMP



We have seen that it is not sufficient to have some warm blankets at your disposal in order to keep warm at night when camping. You must try to get the greatest possible effect of your blankets, and the only way of getting this is by folding them so that sides and foot are covered, and more layers are underneath you than above you. In picture (4) you'll find two ways of dealing with this problem. On the top row you see one method, and on the other two rows another. Theoretically as well as practically there is little difference in these two ways, and it just depends on your personal preference, or tradition, as to which method you use. You can use the first method of folding without blanket pins; the second can only be used when you possess these handy little things.

Camping without a tent is great fun if you know how to "rough it" comfortably. One of the aids to comfort is to make a camp bed, two examples of which are shown in picture (5); these can be made at short notice with a minimum of materials.

The bushranger's bed is made of some spars, and the "mattress" consists of rope, as illustrated. On top of the rope you can put a groundsheet and your blankets. The other model is a leaf bed. The frame is made of spars, and the mattress consists of dead leaves, which you put inside the frame till it reaches a height of about two inches. A seasonable bed, but very cosy and warm.

Shelter beds, which do away with your tent when hiking, are easy to make if you can use your hands. The shelter sleeping-bag is an ordinary down sleeping-bag put in a cover of waterproof material and has a covering above the head.

Another shelter sleeping-bag is the Tapatco bed, which has the same principle as the previous one, the only difference being that the head covering is a metal or wooden box in which you roll your bed when transporting it.

Whatever way you prefer to camp, be it a standing camp, a lightweight camp, or a rough camp, there are six points concerning sleeping in camp which are worth bearing in mind. (1) While camping you also radiate body heat upwards, and this radiation is equal to that when sleeping indoors with open windows. You will, therefore, require the same number of blankets on top of you in camp as you are used to at home. (2) An indispensable friend when sleeping in the cold is your newspaper. If your under layer is too thin, you can put a thick layer of newspapers in between your bottom blankets, and you will not feel any cold. (3) Another very useful piece of equipment to take to camp is an old wadded quilt; a disused one you might discover in your attic or lumber-room. (4) Always look for a dry spot to pitch your tent, preferably on sandy ground, somewhat higher than the immediate surroundings. (5) Whatever you do, keep your blankets, sleeping-bag and ground blankets bone dry. Wet sleeping equipment loses a great deal of its isolation properties. (6) Always, when sleeping on the ground, make a little hip and shoulder hole. They are the finishing touch to happy sleeping in camp.

J. ANDRE DE JONG.

OUR DISTRICT *By* A.D.C.

Our District has been split from top to bottom over the affair of old Hankin's sports jacket, and but for a last-minute gesture by a very gallant gentleman the affair might have ended by getting into the national newspapers, which was the last thing a peaceful District like ours wanted to happen.

It all began when a new D.C. was appointed to take the place of poor old Peak, who had to resign owing to ill-health. A fine fellow in every way, and just the sort of man we were looking for, but naturally he viewed the District with fresh eyes, and noticed a few things wrong that needed altering, and in nine cases out of ten he got them put right in a tactful sort of way that offended nobody.

I can't even say that he was tactless in the matter of old Hankin's sports jacket. The thing (I mean the jacket) burst upon him so suddenly that he was caught off guard, and muttered to Pilberry, the Hon. Sec.: "Does that fellow always wear that monstrous garment on parade?" Unfortunately he spoke louder than he thought, and a couple of Hankin's Rovers overheard it, and the fat was in the fire.

The point is, of course, that Hankin has a peculiar position in our District, won by thirty years of glorious unselfish service he has never been a D.S.M. or a D.C. or an A.D.C.. and is just an ordinary G.S.M. like twenty others in our District, but in a way he is the District, an institution, and that monstrous sports jacket of his has become part of the institution.

Very senior colleagues of Hankin, throwing their minds back into the distant past, tell us that it was originally a sort of grey-green colour with purple stripes, and Hankin first donned it over his uniform as a temporary measure after a bad bout of pneumonia roughly about the time Hitler marched into Austria.

Evidently he found it comfortable, because it has been part of his uniform ever since. He has worn it at hundreds of camps, in rain and sun, and it is now a streaky grey, and much-patched.

Hankin's Rovers took umbrage at the new D.C.'s remark, and when the D.C. visited their Crew he found the

atmosphere so cold that he made inquiries, and somebody told him that Hankin had been in the District thirty years and he had been in the District five minutes, and that if he thought he could get away with insulting old Hankin, he had another think coming.

The D.C. told the fellow who told Jun this that nobody -respected Hankin more than he did, but that the Scout uniform was the Scout uniform, and that wearing fancy sports jackets on ceremonial parades would bring the Movement into disrepute. Unfortunately the fellow he made this remark to was one of those idiots you find even in Scouts who love to make trouble, and he told Bulldoze, Hankin's best pal, that the D.C. had said that Hankin was disreputable.

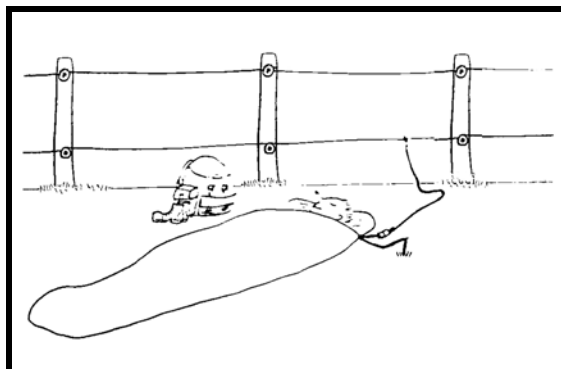
The thing became a major issue, and at the next quarterly L.A. meeting it was known that questions would be asked. Never has an unfortunate man been so unpopular among us as the excellent D.C., and with 95 per cent pro-Hankin it was confidently forecast that he would have to resign.

We hurried through the ordinary agenda, and then Bulldoze rose to raise the matter under "other business." Technically he could have been ruled out of order, as everybody - knew he was going to make a personal attack on the D.C., but the Chairman felt it safer to let him speak.

Actually, however, he never spoke at all, for Hankin rose at the same time, and of course Bulldoze sat down.

"I just wanted to say," he began (he is a poor speaker) "that I called round on my good friend the D.C. last night and had a chat with him, and we both agreed that the appearance of the District on ceremonial occasions would be much improved if all Scouters would set an example by wearing absolutely correct uniform....my old sports jacket will be on offer the highest bidder at our jumble sale on the 10th."

There is a rumour that Hankin's Roves are going to buy it and present it to nation.



TROOP NIGHT—XIV

Patrol Competitions

Do you ever start a scheme and then forget to wind it up neatly? Points' systems seem to be the chief sufferers. Don't let the thing drag on for months or simply fade away, but let the Court of Honour arrange a points' scheme that is limited to monthly, or at the most bi-monthly, "legs." The Troop Leader is the chap to run it, let him record the points and chart them in an interesting way.

Introduce a special inter-patrol competition every so often and add the scores to the regular competition. Boys' enthusiasm is short lived so keep the period of the competition short and don't let it die on you.

Ideas for competitions: models of camp sites or pioneering projects, a Patrol totem pole, a Patrol sign out of ply-wood, a new woggle out of natural materials for every boy in the Patrol, a "new look" for the Patrol corner. If you have a weekly uniform inspection, and every self-respecting Troop does, vary it from time to time. Inspect two different items each week - this helps to focus attention on particular points. Tell the P.L.'s the week before what one of the items will be; the other one is to be a surprise.

Have a deliberate mistake each week, e.g. in your uniform, in the layout of Headquarters - perhaps the mistake one week could be a verbal one. Score a point for first Patrol to pass a written message outlining the mistake to the S.M.

Or a problem a week. Give the P.L.'s a problem just as they leave at the end of the Troop Meeting; answer to be produced at inspection next week, e.g. "Information Please" - one question per member of Patrol:-

1. What have Thomas Cadet and Christopher Circle in common?
2. What was the Englische Spiel?
3. Why do ships fire their guns in salute?
4. What is the area of Pott 4to?
5. What is a clicker?
6. How many railway sleepers to the mile?
7. Where was Robert Owen buried?
8. What have General Grant and Oliver Cromwell in common?

From instructions for a Patrol expedition: "... you may wear just a belt and water bottle if you want."

B.-P. often stressed the value of acting in character training. We use "make believe" to the full in the Pack, but we often neglect it in the Troop.

Try springing either of these two stunts on the Troop; any handy equipment may be used.

Each Patrol to form a static Tableau illustrating an incident in the life of B.-P.

Each Patrol to mime an incident in history that illustrates one of the Scout Laws.

Boys love this sort of thing - if you've not tried it - take the plunge! And Seniors enjoy it too - one of the funniest mimes I have seen was that of two Seniors representing Queen Elizabeth and Raleigh - tears rolled down my face!

Three ideas we're waiting to try - all "town games" for a Patrol.

1. P.L. logs all cars which pass along a street in a given space of time. Rest of Patrol stand by him and then write down from memory the details of the cars. Do the same with passers-by (don't stare too hard).

2. With prismatic compass, map length of quiet street showing all street "furniture" - lamp posts, telegraph posts, electricity concrete posts, 'bus signs, traffic signs, etc.

3 P.L. goes along street and leaves a dozen small beads or marbles in obvious positions; boys follow and note positions of beads.

Grizzly-isms

Stern words are like coins, the more there are the lower their value.

Empty Scouters make the most noise - especially at Committee meetings.

The best help you can give a boy is that which goes just far enough; he travels farthest who travels alone.

Spotty Face

Take a piece of paper one foot square. Rule it off so as to produce sixteen three-inch squares. Prepare six black counters - two big (size of penny), two medium (size of ha'penny), and two small (size of sixpence).

Boys square off a piece of scrap paper in the same way and you are ready to begin.

Lay the counters out in any design you wish and let the boys see your handiwork for thirty seconds. Cover it and ask them to reproduce your pattern on their own squares.

Shorten the viewing time and make the patterns more complicated and irregular - their skill improves with great rapidity.

Idea: Adapt this game to any topic you are tackling. Instead of counters use mapping signs, morse letters, silhouettes of leaves, compass points, etc.





MAPPING

What is the Troop record for Trek Cart drill? Dismantle, over five-foot fence and reassemble. Can you beat 36 seconds?

The only realistic way to teach First Aid is by surprise emergencies. Get the P.L.'s and Seconds used to them during their special meetings and camps, and then spring them on the Troop.

The two important points are that the accidents are tackled seriously and are both realistic and plausible. Arrange for a telephone number and check the messages sent; encourage Patrols to do everything that they would if the emergency were a real one.

Stress doctor and *shock* at the expense of the fancy splints!

"Get behind me.

Each Patrol pins a large sheet of cheap shelf paper on to their length of wall. Armed with a piece of warehouse crayon the P.L. comes to the Scouter and receives the name of an article which he must draw so that the Patrol can recognise it. As soon as article is guessed, number two comes out and gets the next article. First Patrol to finish the Scouter's list wins. So far it sounds like a party game we've all played. But there is a difference - the artist stands with his back to the wall and draws over his right shoulder - taking care never to glance behind him.

Some of the efforts would interest a collector of modern masters!

To keep some idea of relative heights in front of the Troop, paint a vertical strip on the wall - alternate black and white foot lengths, like a "Belisha beacon." Encourage boys to measure themselves (physically) and visitors (mentally) against this strip. Public signs are striped in this way to make the estimation of heights easier.

Three ideas we're waiting to try for signalling and compass games:-

1. Telegrams: Signal twelve assorted letters; Patrols to make telegram message of twelve words with these letters as initials, in the order signalled. Best message wins.

E.g. R S T S S H H T H B O Y:

"Remember send Tom's spare shirt he has tom his blue one. Yvonne."

2. Opposites: Patrols in relay formation facing Scouter.

Signal a compass point to first boys in Patrols, e.g. N.E., boy who is first to signal back its opposite, e.g. S.W., gains point for his Patrol. All first boys go to back of Patrol. Carry on with another compass point.

3. Patrol Game: Stick sixteen drawing pins into a board to represent the compass points. Mark north with a piece of wool. Take it in turn to feel for points called out when blindfolded.

The father of one of our new recruits called to collect his ion last week. (He had forgotten his coat and it was raining hard.) It turned out that he was one of the Rovers who helped to build the Troop Headquarters twenty years previously. Quite a worthwhile investment so far as he was concerned!

Short of a game?

Short of a game? Well, invent one. Yes, I mean you. You can if you try.

Grab a pencil and an old envelope. Sit down and relax. Ready?

There are two different methods.

Number one. Think of any article, e.g. indoors: sheet of newspaper, railway time-table, a jam jar, bundle of old, 0ttire postcards, lengths of old wool, empty syrup tins or an alarm clock; outdoors: a wood, a length of street, the market place, a bill top, the public park or a 'bus route.

All right - you've chosen an article. Now think of ten games using it. The first ones will be old ones but amongst the others will be some brand new ones. Pick out the best of these and give them a trial.

If they work keep them for future reference (and pat yourself on the back); if they fail, forget about them and try one of the others.

Number two. What is it you want to teach? What is it you want to get over? Compass bearings? Map reading? Stalking? Knots? Whatever it is, think out ten games that bring it in. Get out P.O.R. and read the badge requirements. You'll get ten ideas in no time. Then proceed as before.

It's all too simple for words? Of course it is. Take the High Street from the Station to Lloyd's Bank. First you could send... But, wait a minute, you're doing this, aren't you?

Get on with it then - and good luck!

DON GRISBROOK

NEWS FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

SECRETARIES, whether they be County or Local Association, are always kept well occupied, but this month and next is probably their busiest period of the year. What with the Census, Annual Meetings, Bob-a-Job Week, St. George's Day Celebrations, and the like, there is never an idle moment. Group Scouters - busy people, too - can nevertheless do a tremendous lot to ease the burden for these County and L.A. officials by prompt co-operation.

By the time these notes appear every G.S.M. should have completed his census form and returned it to his L.A. Secretary. The forms should have been in the L.A. Secretary's hands by the 3rd April, and he has to get the completed L.A. return to the County Secretary by 17th April. One late return will hold up the completion of the job by the L.A. Secretary and, in fact, can delay a whole County's return to I.H.Q. So, if there should be a Group, which has not yet completed its Forms F and F2, will it do so straight away and get them off to the L.A. Secretary?

And then there is Bob-a-Job. Unless you receive your copy of THE SCOUTER before publication date, the effort will be in full swing when you read this. Again, every Group should pay over the amount due as quickly as possible. Bob-a-Job is very like the Census, one Group slow off the mark in making its payment can prevent the L.A. and the County from finalising their Bob-a-Job accounts quickly. From all I hear, more and more Districts are arranging for these payments to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the L.A. But whether this is the practice in your District or whether you are expected to send the money direct to the L.A. Treasurer, I hope Groups will get the job done without delay.

A Little more information about the Eighth World Jamboree in Canada next year. The Jamboree will be held from August 18th to 28th at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, near the world-famed Niagara Falls. Unfortunately, we are still unable to state the total estimated cost from this country and back again, but negotiations continue about transport and an announcement will be made as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, I hope Groups and Districts are doing something about raising money to help Scouts to attend this Jamboree. From reports we have had, there is no doubt about the enthusiasm of Scouts to join the contingent from the United Kingdom. Let us hope that the efforts of Groups and Districts be such that these Scouts, provided they are qualified, will achieve their ambition.

It may not be known to everyone that the Association owns 11 permanent Camp Sites, comprising over one thousand acres, mostly well wooded, which are available to the Movement all through the year. Most of these sites have a permanent Bailiff and a voluntary Warden who are on the spot to assist and advise when called upon to do so. As may be expected, permanent water supplies and sanitation are provided, and most sites house a Providore, where equipment, books, ice-cream and materials may be purchased. Swimming pools exist on three of sites, and swimming facilities are offered at two more.

Many of these sites are situated in secluded parts of the countryside where wild life abounds, giving ample opportunity for nature study, and Boys' Training Courses in the various "Scoutcraft" Badges are a most popular feature, both in summer and winter. These Courses are advertised regularly in The Scout.

Boating facilities are provided at Great Tower, Windermere, and at Kingsdown, on the Kent coast. At these sites boats may be hires for modest sums, and thus provide yet another exciting activities.

These sites - as are County and District sites - are particularly for the Patrol camps under new P.L.'s.

Leaflets giving full particulars of the various sites, what they offer, and details as to how best to reach them, are available upon request from the Training Secretary at I.H.Q.

A. W. HURLL,
Chief Executive Commissioner.

THE GILWELL LETTER

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand, healthy in most respects, are suffering from a new disease - to be strictly accurate, a disease given a new name - "Recess."

I would not like you to think that the spread of this disease is confined to the Southern Hemisphere, for I suspect it is rife in the United Kingdom, though perhaps under another name.

The complaint stems from the well-established point of origin that Scouts in general and Scouters in particular benefit from taking an annual holiday from Scouting. Now I have always strongly advocated this very thing, but what is unfortunate is that these holidays or recesses are tending to get a little longer each year, and in one part of the world that had better remain nameless now spread over a period of two months: two months of total abstinence from Scouting!

What worries me is that I believe we are enjoying the disease at the wrong time of the year. Scouting is a leisure-time activity; one of the great problems today is to find the leisure time in the boy's busy life. Many of us are closing down in those summer holidays when the majority of our Scouts have the maximum amount of leisure and the minimum of other commitments. Everywhere I go Lam told that it is increasingly difficult for a Scout to find time for Patrol Meetings, special training, Badge classes, etc., and all too often a boy's Scouting consists of one night a week because of the demands made upon him by school and all sorts of other things. Clearly Scouting must not interfere with a boy's progress in matters scholastic, and the plain fact is that the average boy in Scouting is a school boy. He has fairly long holidays, part of which he possibly spends going away with his parents, but he normally has a deal of time to spare in those same holidays. Are we, the Scouters, tending to abandon the opportunities we offer him at the very moment when he is most able to take advantage of them and, indeed, most in need of the provision we make? And if half the Troop is away what a grand chance we have to do something with the rest, even to leave it to the Patrol Leaders.

I know it has been traditional in this country for many years to shut down for a short period after the Summer Camp, and I suppose the tradition has spread to.. other countries, but I hope some Scouters this year will take their recess at a more original and, in my view, a less harmful time of the year, and that every Troop Scouter will at least encourage the continuation of Patrol Meetings and Patrol Camps in the holiday period. -

I am writing this letter on the second day, of my return to England after travelling for the first time completely round the world. Wherever I went I found Scouting in good heart: problems there are, much the same the world over, and I expect there always will be - I hope so, for problems stimulate effort. There was a growing support, a heightening enthusiasm, and a steady increase numerically wherever I went. The problems are quite extraordinarily similar, and I think it is not mere coincidence that within a period of two weeks, in New Zealand, New South Wales, Canada, and back here at Gilwell, I heard the same question put in almost exactly the same words, so at least some of the problems of Scouting seem to be common ground. If the problems are the same and the opportunities are the same, then Scouting itself is the same, and I think it is important that within pretty broad limits it should be the same in whatever place it operates.

I want to say a very sincere "Thank you" to the working parties which have come to Gilwell at week-ends during the winter. Returning after a ten weeks' absence it is easy to see the contribution that has been made to the development of the estate, and I hope there will be in the coming months many offers to help us to keep up the standard for you to enjoy.

Gilwellbury is making progress and will be ready for use by June, I hope.

Finally, if your Troop is within reach of Gilwell, the Deputy Chief Scout will be with is over the weekend 10th and 11th July. Come and meet him.

JOHN THURMAN,
Camp Chief.

LUCK OF THE MONTH By TILE EDITOR

April

This is a lovely month, the palm on the willows, the crab apple in bloom, the chestnuts in leaf like young children awakening early and anxious to show off their ungainly young leaves. And in the sunshine after the swift showers all the houses look as though they've stood themselves out specially to dry.

For Scouts it's the month of beginning again, in the promise renewed, in the rucksack repacked, in the trail retraced to "the woodsmoke at twilight" and to the little tents in the meadows.

Ideas

When did your Pack last go forth on a Nature Expedition? (See that each Six in your Pack has a copy of *Wolf Cub Book No. 7*, called *Outdoor Treasure Hunt*: 120 things for Cubs to look for, and keep a score.)

When did the Patrols of your Troop last go on a practice First Class Journey - if ever? (Yes, that's the way for a youngster to *begin* the last part of his First Class Badge: with his Patrol in his first years as a Scout.)

When did your Seniors last have a Night Hike, being dropped by cars or lorry in a strange countryside at midnight with a map and a compass to find their way towards some pre-arranged Headquarters for breakfast? (I don't believe there's a District anywhere that couldn't find three or four men with cars *and* a sense of adventure to help in such an exploit.)

Any Comments? (1)

A boy becomes a Scout (I think) because:

he's been a Cub;
his friend is a Scout;
there's a Troop at his Church or his school;
his father was a Scout and would like his son to become one, too;
he likes the sort of things he associates with Scouts - camps and hikes and adventures, tree felling and cooking over a wood fire, wearing a uniform with lots of badges....

A boy leaves Scouting (I think) because:

his family moves away and he isn't transferred;
he goes to his secondary school and simply hasn't the time to devote to his Scouting, *which isn't sufficiently compelling to make him try to find the time*;
he has a row with the Troop - which may (or may not) be his own fault;
his ideas change and he prefers a youth club or some young community other than Scouts;
he is disappointed because the Scout reality is a long way off from what his imagination hoped for
he gets fed up with the general inefficiency of the show - having to wait for elusive badge examiners; having to wait for badges to wear after he's passed them; having no decent equipment; having to put up with a 1910 atmosphere in a 1954 show; and perhaps most of all - he hasn't made any progress worth bothering about within what he considers a reasonable time.

If a boy stays in Scouting, which for him, remember, is a game and an adventure, *not* a means of making himself a good citizen or a means of deepening his spiritual life, the good influence inherent in its ideals and methods has a chance. If a boy goes, it hasn't. *We should do, therefore, everything we can to keep him - and* the following questions seem relevant:

1. Are our Second Class tests designed to give the boy of 1954 what he's interested in (which was what B.-P. did in 1908)?
2. Are our Second Class tests designed to get the boy *quickly* on to the wider world of the proficiency badges and a nearer glimpse of the First Class Badge?
3. Do Scouters, train themselves sufficiently in Scouting skills?

After all these years some of them are one-time King's, or First

Class, Scouts - but shouldn't it be necessary for a Scouter to have reached some standard of technical efficiency before he receives his warrant? (However good his character and however strong his sense of pastoral work, neither will be of value to the boys if they don't stay in his Troop.)

4. Shouldn't we try and develop technical training courses in definite subjects? After all, where *can* the new or not very experienced Scouter learn these skills at present? (On Wood Badge Courses, in my experience, many of the Scouters attending have to be taught their Tenderfoot knots.) If the Scouters don't know the stuff, how can we expect the boys to do so, and need we be surprised at the National Average Figures (approximately 29 per cent of Scouts Second Class and 6 ½ per cent First Class).

5. Wouldn't it be worth our while to investigate the possibility of doubling or trebling the Badge Examiners in our Districts? (I'm quite sure this can be done if we will use the occasional services of interested laymen - parents and the like, and I'm sure it's a relevant factor.)

6. Could we stop being so neat and shiny and respectable and occasionally be adventurous and unusual and more like the pioneers B.-P. put before the boy as his heroes?

Well, that's enough for now. Any comments?

New Publications

On May 1st we hope to publish:

Wolf Cub Books:

- No. 9. Modelling for Cubs.
- No. 10. Cyclist Badge.

Patrol Books:

- No. 18. Uniforms and Badges of the World.

Scouter's Books:

- No. 5. It's Troop Night Again.
- No. 6. Special Pack Meetings.
- No. 7. Handicrafts for All.

These are a shilling each (ls. 2d. post free).

At long last, too, there will appear *More Sketches from the Gang Show* (3s.), which we have no doubt will prove as immensely popular as its predecessor. It includes one or two of the old pre-war sketches not previously published in book form as well as post-war favourites such as "Sunday Afternoon" and "Television" - sixteen items in all.

Letters to a Young Rover

I hope you are not being prevented from reading "Letters to a Young Rover" by its title, for here we have first-class writing and first-class thinking: indeed the title could well be changed to "Letters to us all." If you have neglected to read the earlier articles in this series, turn back and read them now. You will not regret it.

And please draw the attention of your Senior Scouts and Rover Squires to them as well.

Our Contemporaries (3)

"...we always looked upon the leader's job as merely one among the many responsibilities which we shared out between us."

Sir John Hunt.

(*The Ascent of Everest.*)

"There is a clear difference between free discipline - which is excellent - and licence masquerading as free discipline. When, a boy comes to my room I will have him knock at the door, stand with his hands out of his pockets, and say 'Sir.' A boy left to himself no more grows into a decent, sensible adult than a plot of land left to itself grows into a garden."

A. E. Eling.

(*Headmaster, Priory Secondary Modern Boys' School Taunton.*)

REX HAZLEWOOD.

LETTERS TO A YOUNG ROVER—IV

DEAR DAVID,

Thanks for your Air Mail written in the N.A.A.F.I. at El Fazid in which you kindly give me permission to go on sending these lengthy and I am afraid sometimes pompous missives of advice. Most people in this world like giving advice, but only the very wise ones ever take it.

After that bit of flattery I must again descend with a bump to give you something of a “ticking-off.” I called round on your old aunt last night to see whether you had been writing to her regularly, and I was glad to find that you had, but very sorry about one item in your last letter, asking if she could “manage to lend you a few quid” because “things were awfully dear in Egypt and the army pay didn’t go far.”

You didn’t tell her what you told *me* in your last letter, that you “had bought a portable wireless, a real bargain for £8 from Sapper Skilly,” or that you “had rather a headache after a wild night out with the boys in Ismailia,” or that you’d “taken up smoking cigarettes because everybody else seemed to smoke them and it didn’t seem sociable not to.”

There’s nothing morally wrong in buying a portable wireless, of course, if a fellow has saved the money for it out of his earnings, and I’m not enough of a puritan to say that “a wild night out in Ismailia” will be held against you as a major crime at the Last Judgment, and as I smoke myself I can’t tell you that you mustn’t smoke. But I’d like to point out that when I called round on your old aunt she was sitting in front of her electric fire on a very cold evening, and that she had only one “bar” going instead of two because “electricity is so dear.” Also that her supper appeared to consist of a cup of cocoa and bread and cheese and margarine, which she told me “she is trying to get to like, because butter is such a terrible price.”

She did not tell me whether she “lent you the few quid” but, of course, I know that she did, and I also know that it made her very happy to slip those postal-orders into the envelope for you. You have meant all the world to her since she took charge of you as a small boy when your parents were killed, and because the sacrifices of love are pleasant, she has never grudged you anything to make you happy.



I don’t suppose you have ever realised how she has gone without things herself so that you could have those little luxuries that mean such a lot to the young. I remember in 1946 when the shares from which her little income comes did not pay a dividend she gave up her own holiday so that you could come with us to your first Scout camp. When you were at the grammar school she had to go threadbare herself so that you could have new blazers before they got shabby, and white flannels for cricket, and all those other extras that help a boy’s pride.

Now that I’ve told you this, don’t you think it was pretty disgusting to ask for that “few quid?” The fact that she enjoyed sending it doesn’t let you out. The time has come when you ought to think about giving her a few comforts, instead of expecting her to provide them for you.

You can only hope to do that, however, if you start studying the dullest and most boring of all the ten Scout laws, the ninth, which informs you, with misplaced optimism, that “a Scout is thrifty.” The old Chief (as you’ll remember from that biography of his I gave you when you got your Queen’s Scout Badge) had much need to be thrifty when he was young himself, and all his great triumphs were built on a foundation of personal thrift. A fellow who lives beyond his income will never amount to anything in this world, because he must always be worrying about money, which is something hardly worth worrying about at all.

In Dickens’s David Copperfield, which I hope some day you’ll read, as it is the third or fourth best book in the English language, there’s a character called Micawber, an improvident type like you are yourself at the moment, but his principles are better than his practice, and he says: “Income, twenty pounds, expenditure, nineteen pounds nineteen shillings and sixpence, result, happiness. Income, twenty pounds, expenditure, twenty pounds and sixpence, result, misery.” That is about the truest thing ever said about personal budgets.

In a later letter I’ll deal with the moral aspects of drinking and smoking, but here I’m only concerned with thrift, and I’d like you to make a note of these figures. If a chap has two pints of average-price beer a day he spends £50 a year on it. If he smokes twenty cigarettes a day he spends £50 a year on them. You’re hoping in about four years’ time to marry that nice girl of yours, and by that time at the rate I’ve suggested (which is what we call moderate!) you’ll have spent £400 on what are, after all, just opiates to soothe the nerves. With that £400 you could put down a sufficient deposit for a building society to advance you enough to buy your own little bungalow of your own, instead of going on the council waiting-list and after a long time getting a house subsidised by more thrifty people. You could also have enough left over to make down-payments on your furniture, and pay for the lot in a short time out of further similar savings. These are startling figures, but you just can’t get round them.

If, however, you decide that the social value of drinking and smoking is something worth while, and there is much to be said on that side, then make strict rules for yourself, and keep them. Smoke a pipe instead of cigarettes, and drink only on “occasions” and not as a habit.

About your expenditure generally, I suggest that for one week you write down an account of every penny you spend, and multiply it by 52, to see what that item is costing you out of your annual pay. Then consider what you can scrap without real hardship. I’ll bet you’ll find all sorts of trivial things on which you’ve been frittering money away which you can cut out, and in a short time you’ll be on the right side. Try and have a bit in the sock when you get home on your first leave to take that old aunt of yours up West to a theatre and a show, treating her as though she were the Queen. That won’t be waste, for people who have scrimped and saved all their lives as she has done enjoy occasional luxury as the rich can never do.

There is another aspect of thrift that I must touch on, and that is what I will call Public thrift. Even those who are most careful of their own money are apt to be wasteful when they are using Public money. The army of which you are a part, for instance, spends many millions of Public money which is lopped off in taxes from the earnings of people at home working in factories and shops and offices.

In my day (and I have a nasty suspicion it is still the same) the army was a most wasteful machine. So long as the "rules" were not broken, nobody ever thought of trying to save expense. I've known a three-ton truck sent a hundred miles to convey a small parcel, because an officer and a few men wanted a day in Port Said and there was no Welfare transport available. Army money never seemed "real money" and nobody bothered about wasting it. But try and remember that if you waste a gallon of army petrol what you are really wasting is the earnings of somebody at home. Some decent old boy has worked an hour overtime, when he was dropping with tiredness, to earn an extra four bob because he needed the money for a new lawn-mower for his garden, and two bob of that has gone in P.A.Y.E. so that you could waste it on army petrol.

Don't ever forget that Public money, in the services or in civil life, is the result of the sweat of somebody's brow.

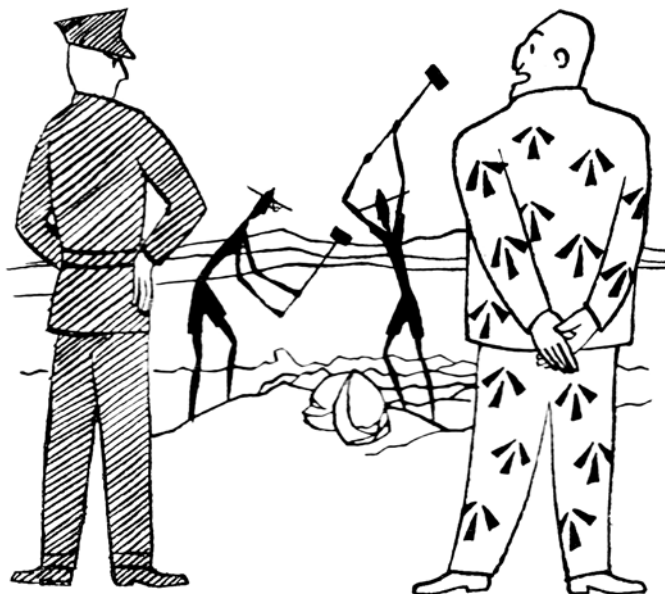
Finally let's look at the whole question of money in a larger way. Money is only a token which represents goods and services, and there are two types of blokes in the world, those who spend more money than they give back in goods and services, who are moral cripples carried by the rest, and those who give more to the world than they get from it, who are those who help to keep the nation solvent and make it great.

Balance your own budget, and don't lean on other people, or on the State more than you can help, and you'll be a citizen who can hold up his head without shame. Or, better still, think of money from the Christian point of view, which is that for any money that comes to us we are Stewards for the Master. If you can in due time get to look at your earnings like that, you'll have no more problems, because you can't possibly spend a penny unworthily when you once realise that every penny you handle belongs to God, for the use of His children at your discretion.

I had better enclose a postal-order for a pound. After all, you're only young once, and it's fine to be young, though middle age has its points, if you have been thrifty enough to have a quid to spare for an improvident young friend whom, despite his multifarious faults, you still rather like.

Yours ever,

A.D.C.



"But it's Bob-a-Job Week"

How many of our leaders seem to choose a partner whose interests seem diametrically opposed to the Scouting which, in many cases, the fellow has grown up in - one of life's mysteries as far as I am concerned.

I wonder how many of us remember the ruling that seventeen years is the permissive age for Squire training. For heaven's sake get talking in your Group Councils and with your own Senior Scout A.D.C.'s and let us reach agreement that we owe this to the youngster going into National Service.

By now you will have read of the training for Rovers as outlined by my friend Bill Waters of Victoria, Australia.

I feel that they have much that we could profit by. Don't just read the article and put THE SCOUTER with the other copies we all so lovingly file: talk over in your Crew in Council and District R.L.'s meetings the points Bill makes and let's get some action, action such as was taken by 12th Nairobi Rover Crew who with mainly Service personnel made a pilgrimage to B.-P.'s resting place. A most interesting account was sent by them to me with a host of photographs. A 15-cwt. R.A.F. truck took them through some delightful country and up 3,000 feet through Mau Mau country. Fortunately there was no trouble, and a wreath was laid, after a short Service conducted by one of the Crew, an experience to be enjoyed by very few and one for those fellows who have made their Service something that will be of lasting value. When they tell the new Tenderfoot in their Group of the pilgrimage and inspire that Crew of whom they become members on their return to Scouting near their home, they will show a profit from their Service. See your fellows take the chance of knowing what can be done when their time comes to don another uniform.

A word of warning, however: see that the fellows themselves do the work. One Rover Leader writes: "I have got a fine crowd of lads who will ramble or camp but only when I go with them." Have the present crowd no initiative? Those of us doing the job often wonder, but how many times is it because the R.L. is so busy seeing the programme is running right that the Squires don't get the true story of Rovering from their leader. Yes, you.

It is still too easy to join a Crew in many cases. These lads are drifting in and if they drift out we say, "Oh, well, he didn't really." Or was it perhaps that we didn't do our job well enough?

Even at nineteen a fellow's ideas are not always concrete. I've known them still a little fluid at twenty-nine.

No talking point this month; you sort one out from you've just read.

JACK SKILLBN.

ROVER ROUNDABOUT

I have been travelling around lately and have been privileged to meet Rovers in Oxford, Plymouth and Croydon amongst others. What I have seen and heard has heartened me greatly. There is undoubtedly a desire in our Section for the revival in both cases of the pre-war spirit and for an active and progressive programme. The demand for programmes already tried and found workable, such as that of the War Office Crew, is very much to the fore and our thanks are due to those working and producing such aids to our advancement. Our younger brothers from the Senior Scouts are keen; let us see that they are not disappointed by us older ones. We discussed the future of Rovering at Oxford and I felt that the fellows now enjoying an education which so few of us can enjoy, have a great chance to put over that cultural side of our training to the Rovers whom they will, in all probability, have the chance of leading later on. This was the avenue which we explored, too, at Plymouth, a town which although badly battered during the last "Bring war to your doorstep" racket, gives one great heart as one sees the improvements in its rebuilding. I know Rovering down in that town will not be in the background in the replanning of a new life for so many of the people there. Here indeed is a lesson for so many of us, to see that the ideals of our Movement are put into the everyday life of the community by our demeanour in office, workshop or whatever place we find ourselves.

In Croydon I met members of the Rover - Ranger section of the Casualties Union; here is an opportunity for co-operation both useful and, indeed, pleasant, as far as the, young Rover is concerned, a chance of meeting very often the right girl.

A CUB ADVENTURE DAY

So many Packs, I find, consider that a day's outing must consist of a visit to some place of interest, the Zoo, for instance, or a museum, so these Packs particularly might try the following idea when they next plan a day's outing.

The outing is based on a theme, and the relevant notes show how it can be applied to the Pack.

1. *A party of explorers travel to Darkest Africa in search of hidden treasure.*

The spirit of the Adventure should be there from the moment the Pack meet. The journey to "Darkest Africa" will probably be made by bus or train.

2. *Coming ashore, they immediately set off on their trek through the Jungle, but as the way is dangerous and the path narrow, they are all roped together for safety.*

Have the Cubs "roped" together in Sixes, with the Sixer in front of his Six.

3. *Night falls quickly in the Jungle, and as only the leaders have torches, the rest have to depend upon their "life lines" for guidance. All the Cubs, except the Sixers, are blindfolded, and are led in this way for a hundred yards or so.*

4. *Presently they arrive at the clearing in which they will erect their base camp.*

Quarter of an hour or so, for each Six to make its own shelter.

5. *Fires are lit to keep away wild animals and to make cocoa.*

6. *As this is dangerous country, they are unable to employ native porters, so they will have to carry their kit themselves— native style. Balance relay race (with plenty of obstacles).*

7. *A witch-doctor arrives on the scene. One of the Old Wolves suitably attired.*

8. *He tells the explorers that his Chief will not allow them through his country, unless each and every man makes him some peace offering.*

A few minutes for each Cub to produce a gift made from anything he can find, e.g. flower necklaces, bows and arrows, stone hammers, etc. There should be plenty of string available from the "stores."

9. *The gifts are presented with all due ceremony.*

Akela will probably be dressed up as the Chief, and can make a lot of this presentation, showing pleasure and anger (native style!) with the gifts.

10. *The Chief gives permission for the explorers to proceed and a party go ahead to blaze the trail.*

One Six goes ahead and lays a trail.

11. *They cross a river.*

A fallen tree is, of course, ideal but pieces of cardboard placed at intervals make ideal stepping stones. (This is only one of a number of obstacles which the explorers would have to overcome - invent your own.)

12. *At last they arrive in the country where the treasure is hidden, but first have to capture a native, who has on him the clue showing how to find it.*

Stalking game. Old Wolf in the centre of a small clearing. Cubs must stalk up to and touch him, without being seen. Any Cubs "named" are killed.

13. *The clue is in code and must first be deciphered.*

Have the clue written in morse or semaphore, and torn into a number of pieces - one for each Six.

14. *The clue reads: THE TREASURE LIES BENEATH THE ANCIENT TEMPLE BELL, WHICH ONLY RINGS WHEN THE WIND BLOWS IT TO AND FRO.*

A small bell should be tied to a tree a little way away, with a length of cotton attached. A hidden Old Wolf should pull the cotton and ring the bell once every five seconds or so. The Cubs have to find the bell (and the treasure) by following the sound.

Notes. - The above is only intended as an outline. Much will depend upon the type of country into which the Cubs are taken. Woods are, of course, ideal. In any case, the whole outing should be made as exciting as possible. Many additions can be made. Here are a few, which you may like to try:

1. Model boat building from twigs and-leaves.

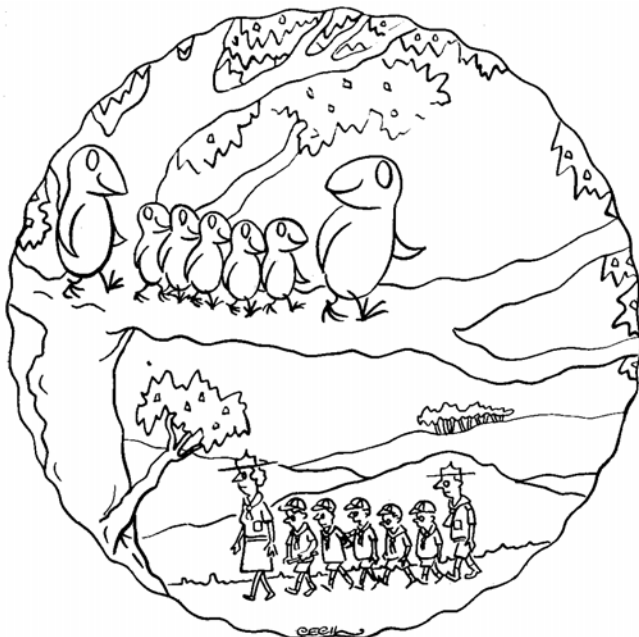
2. Indian war dance.

3. Smoke signals (!)

4. Plaster casts (of manufactured pterodactyl tracks?)

etc. etc. etc. . . . and don't forget, an outing of this kind is just the time for tree and bird recognition.

IAGOO.



THE GAMES CHEST HOOPS

1. SPINNING TOPS.

Gear: One medium-sized hoop per Six.

Purpose: Team work and patience.

Sixes in relay order; hoops a few yards away in front of each Six. First boy runs to hoop and spins it as for "Toilet." Runs back to Six-Second boy runs to hoop and before it falls to' ground must spin it again. (He can watch it spin before touching it.) When once through Six, start again and Six to keep hoop spinning longest wins. If hoop falls to ground, that Six is out.

MARY SMITH.

2. THROUGH THE HOOP.

Gear: One hoop per Six.

Purpose: Fun and agility.

In relay formation, well spread out, each Sixer is given a hoop of ordinary bowling size. On the word "go" the second Cub takes the other side of the hoop and the two pass it over the rest of the Six to the back of the file, each Cub climbing or jumping or diving through the hoop. The Sixer remains at the back, the second runs to the front and, with the third Cub, repeats the process. So on, until the whole Six is back in its right order.

HAZEL ADDIS.

3. QUITE QUOIT!

Gear: A quoit.

Purpose: Team spirit, physical training.

Game similar to netball. The goalkeeper of each team stands in the goal toward which his team are striving. The quoit is passed between members of the team who, on approaching their own goalkeeper, toss the quoit toward him. A goal is scored by the goalkeeper allowing the quoit to pass over his hand and up his arm. In passing the quoit, members of the opposing team endeavour to obtain it, whereupon they pass it between members of their team in an endeavour to score a goal.

A.K. MUSOROVE.

4. HOOP RACE.

Gear: Medium-sized hoop per Six.

Purpose: Team spirit, physical training.

Pack in Sixes as for relay race. First Cub holding a medium-sized wooden hoop. On word "go" first Cub passes hoop over head, down body to feet, and then passes it to second Cub who does likewise, passing it to third Cub and so on until it reaches last Cub who runs to front of Six and steps into hoop, passes it up body and over head. Each Cub in turn repeats. Last Cub runs to front of Six and passes hoop back to next Cub with right hand and so on to last Cub who runs to the front of Six and passes hoop back with his left hand. The next Cub on reaching front of Six passes hoop back over his head to back of Six, when end Cub runs to front and passes hoop back through his legs to last Cub who runs to front of Six. Six finishing first at alert wins.

W. N. PAUL.

5. HERE'S HOOPING!

Gear: One hoop for each team of two Sixes.

Purpose: Physical exercise and agility.

Two Sixes in each team arranged thus:

First Six: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Second Six: 1 2 3 4 5 6

No. 1 in first Six bowls hoop to No. 1 in second Six and then runs to new position beyond No. 6 in his own Six.

No.1 in second Six bowls hoop to No. 2 in first Six and then runs to new position beyond No. 6 in his own Six, and so on until all Cubs have taken up new positions.

The whole procedure is then reversed until No.1 of first Six is back in his original position holding hoop.

C.M. CLUTTERBUCK.

6. PANTOMIME.

Gear: One hoop and ball for each Six.

Purpose: Ball throwing and catching.

Sixes in files. Post at end of course opposite each file. Old Wolf or Cub Instructor stands half-way between each file and post, at right angles to file and holding hoop at his side above the height of the tallest Cub.

No.1 runs with ball, throws ball through hoop, runs under hoop, catches ball the other side, runs round post, repeats throwing and catching on return, hands ball to No. 2 and falls in at rear of file.

Whole procedure to be repeated until No.1 is in original position holding ball.

N.B. - If a Cub fails to catch the ball he has thrown through the hoop he must try again until he succeeds.

C.M. CLUTTERBUCK.

REMINDER 100 Ideas for Pack Meetings

The Scouter's Books No. 4, 1/-
(1/2 post free)

GAMES FOR A HANDICAPPED CUB - VI

It is a grand thing to be able to wheel a handicapped boy to a Pack Meeting, and let him see what the Cubs do. Then the Grand Howl, about which he has been told, the relay races, and the Jungle Dances all explain themselves. So, I hope, does the friendly and happy atmosphere bear out what Akela has tried to make clear.

William was unable, for some time, to be taken to see the Cubs at play in the Pack to which he was attached. It was not always easy to show him a picture of Cubbing that was at all realistic. He was happy, of course, because it was so lovely to have someone playing with him, and finding things for him to do. Only Akela knew what he was missing. His greatest need, however, at that time, was to be encouraged to use his poor weak hands. He had large fat crayons to suit his frail grip, and tried very hard with writing and drawing. When learning the composition of the flag, Akela gave him large cards on which he wrote the countries and the saints, and then these were placed round the room, and the room became the British Isles. Sometimes they made models together, Akela doing the *cutting out*, and William the pasting.

It was the thought of these little weak hands needing something they could grasp, coupled with the wish to show what Cubs do, to boys who cannot attend Pack Meetings, which gave me the idea of making clothes peg "Cubs" - a whole set of them to take with me and illustrate our Pack activities to home-bound boys. When I had made the first six I visited William with them, and he was delighted. We arranged them to run relay races, and used them in other games. We dropped them a lot, but they stood up to this treatment with real Cub-like stolidity, and they have since been to see boys us hospital, some of whom I do hope have, by now, tried to make one or two for themselves.

They are not difficult - this is how they are done:-

Cover top of peg and where knees will show with pink paint.

When dry, draw smiling face! Blue ink stockings. Twist on pipe-cleaner arms as in Fig.1. Make hands of pink felt and trousers of blue felt.

Twist green wool round and round arms and body until they are well covered. Cut off ends of peg and glue to wooden or cork stand (I used some old draughtsmen!) as in Fig. 2. Make miniature cap of green felt which is stuck on with glue, scarf of coloured felt and flags of matchsticks and paper.

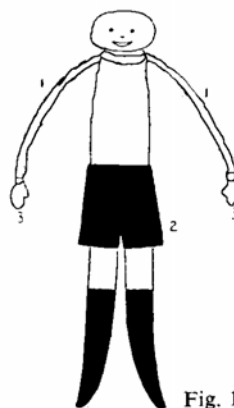


Fig. 1

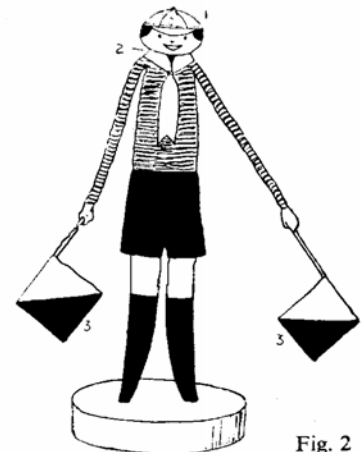


Fig. 2

You will see that there is nothing costly about making a set of clothes peg Cubs. An ounce of green wool provides quite a number of jerseys, especially if you pad the body with a bit of stuff or paper first. To make my Pack even more realistic I added a recruit, wearing a little shirt and pull7over, and a brown cloth cap!

Try one for yourself one day, when you can spare the odd few minutes, and as soon as you see how simple it is, let some of your neat-fingered Cubs join in the fun. If, then a homebound Cub is one of your problems, I do hope that a Clothes peg Pack will supply a happy solution!

A. M. DOUGLAS.

DEAR EDITOR

Appointment of Troop Leaders

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to cross swords with both S.M. Tilly and former S.M. Kemp regarding their comments on the appointment of T.L.'s. First, may I dispute the phrase "to a wider purpose than that of a restrictive field in his capacity of a Patrol Leader." If Patrol leading is a restricted field within the limits of a boy's Scouting then the Patrol System is a sham. Surely the leadership of a group of boys composing a Patrol calls for all the capabilities and energies of any boy, outstanding or otherwise.

The more a P.L. knows, and the more experienced he is, the better he ought to be able to lead a Patrol. It would seem to me to be contrary to such knowledge as we possess of boy nature to state, or imply, that a boy is too big for a Patrol at 15. One can only assume that what constitutes Patrol leading in such Troops is a very pale shadow of the substance B.-P. gave us. Remember, he asks that responsibility be given the P.L.; that the P.L. should train the Patrol largely himself; and that he should lead, in the fullest sense of the word, a gang of youngsters. What average boy measures up to those standards? Yet they are the foundation of Scouting for they are the Patrol System.

A boy of 14 or under is unlikely to have the experience of meeting fellow Scouts from his own county or neighbouring counties. Even less likely is the chance of his having attended any international camps. Whence the broadening of outlook, the gaining of ideas and experience?

It is bad enough that a boy of 15 be made T.L., but to suggest a 14-year-old is practically criminal. It is depriving the youngster of some of the fun and carefree hours of boyhood, and trying to load him with responsibility beyond his years.

To sum up, far from lowering the age of promotion I should like see it raised. If P.L.'s in general were older the standard of Patrol U-4ing would be better, and consequently the standard of the Movement as a whole.

DOUGLAS J. H. MACLEAN,
A.S.M., 7th Wembley.

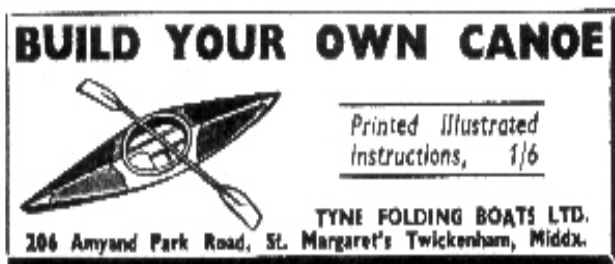
Carrying Packs

DEAR EDITOR,

A pack, when carried high, is clearly going to be less stable than one carried low. With a small load, the difference in stability between the two positions is so small as to be of no consequence. However, I imagine most people prefer to use the low position of the (lightly loaded) rucksack rather than the high position of the army pack because it has a less constricting harness.

With a heavy load, another factor must be considered. A large load, when worn low, will pull the wearer backwards. To counteract this the bearer must lean forward - causing a great strain on the small of the back. But if the large load is worn high, even extending above the head, the bearer can stand upright and walk normally with no strain. A modified form of "Yukon" frame is ideal for this purpose and allows large loads to be carried in comparative comfort. Frames of this type were successfully used on a recent Antarctic expedition and, last summer, by boys in Iceland.

MAURICE DYBECK.



Mountaineering Uniform

DEAR EDITOR,

I was rather horrified at the extreme rigidity of the views on uniform expressed by Mr. A. Jackson of Mill Hill. It appears that neither occupation, weather, nor the remoteness of the place in which he is, can excuse a Scout showing any variation from full Scout uniform, unless he conceals every stitch of it. Even belts have been objected to. If showing any uniform at all, he may not remove his scarf when he is hot, even in the remotest valleys. I am all in favour of uniform being treated as a thing to be proud of, but this is carrying it to a ridiculous extreme.

Let me agree with him that shorts are not and trousers are normally the best nether garment for the mountaineer. In fact boys who show a disposition to climb in shorts should be told that they may come upon an injured person not necessarily of their own party, and have to help. I have twice come thus upon broken legs. It may be disastrous to have to spend the night on a bleak and bare hillside in shorts.

Mountaineers very often start very early on their climbs. They dress warmly to start with, and peel progressively as they warm up. Mr. Jackson's rules would make this difficult for a Scout who had any uniform at all on. They would therefore be a handicap to him. If the Scouts were doing a hike with mountaineering trip it would be worse still. Let us suppose that on the first day they hike out to their base camp. On the second they do their climb, and on the third they go home. They want uniform for the first and last days, partly because they are proud of it, and partly because they do not know how their permit card for casual camping would be received if they arrive in plain clothes. They want Mr. Jackson's "Mountain" dress, which must not include any uniform as they want to peel. They want their tent, cooking gear, bedding and food.. They want their rope, and other technical gear according to the mountain. This is rather a formidable load for boys not followed by a retinue of Sherpas! If any of them happen to be under fifteen, and their uniform therefore includes a Scout hat which cannot be carried concealed, it becomes completely impossible.

All this is presumably necessary in Mr. Jackson's opinion, so that the credit of the Scout Movement should not be lowered by boys in non-regulation clothes mixed up with uniform. I suggest, however, that mountaineering is one of our better forms of character training, and that the boys who practise it are usually a credit to the Movement. The public who are found on mountains, who matter most, have sense enough to think more of us if we let our boys dress for the job, but that it is desirable that the boys should "show the flag" as much as possible, that is to say, should make the fact that they are Scouts reasonably conspicuous. I most definitely approve of Scout uniform being worn down to the waist and trousers below it. It may be covered when cold and peeled when heat makes it desirable. I have confidence in the greater part of our mountains to remain a credit to the Movement in spite of this irregularity in their uniform. I suggest to Mr. Jackson that he is doing less than justice to his Troop, and to himself as their Scoutmaster, in implying that they will be otherwise.

Finally they may be needed to help other people who are in trouble. If they meet a casualty, they may be glad to have their scarves, if of course they are in uniform. Further, if they come upon someone who is lost, or got into difficulties although not yet hurt, Queen's Scout badges may inspire that person with confidence to accept guidance. This sort of thing has happened. It is never possible to say what would have happened if the Scouts had not been there, but it is very probable that someone would have been badly hurt and the mountain rescue people given work.

B.-P. gave us a free and easy uniform and expected us to use it in a workmanlike manner. He often objected to rigid rules. He called Scouting for boys a game. Let us eschew all rigid rules, as he would have had us do, and let us put the training of our boys and the credit of the Movement before anything which we think is a rule. In short, let us keep Scouting for Boys a game.

ROBERT A. ARCHER,
A. C.C. (Senior Scouts), Somerset.

BOOKS

FOR LEISURE READING

Reach for the Sky, by Paul Brickhill (Collins, 16s.).

Have you ever read a book which left you inspired and yet very humble? This story of the life of Douglas Bader had that effect on me.

Don't be put off by the rather uncritical adulations of the first pages. They help to explain his character, his revolt against authority, which led directly to the crash and the final triumph. The descriptions of the gradual realisation of the situation, which he himself had created, the determination, as I see it, to rehabilitate himself, the hours of agony, the self anguish, is so true. The air-battles left one breathless with excitement. Caged and confined as a prisoner of war there is no attempt to gloss over the selfish aspect of the rebellions spirit, which so often worked against the interests of his fellow-prisoners.

In the final chapters we recognise the full development of the man, the achievement of peace at last. He can, by his own example and triumph, give fresh hope to those who are in like plights and for whom the future seems to hold nothing but frustration. Wherever he goes on his business, no trouble is too great, no personal inconvenience must stand in the way of what he recognises as his mission in life, to bring light into the darkness.

It is a story of adventure, but it is far more than that and, in the fulfilment, the quiet patience and understanding of his wife shines as brightly as his own unconquerable spirit.

ROWALLAN

Icebound Summer, by Sally Canyler (Michael Joseph, 15s.).

Miss Canyler's book is a first cousin of *Tarka the Otter* and second cousin of *The Sea Around Us*: you will know at once therefore whether it will appeal to you. Beautifully observed and recorded with an almost ice-cold lucidity, the brief brilliant Arctic Summer awakens before our eyes with all its surging life, its dangers, its callousness and its cruelty, with Eskimos and seals, lemmings and bears and foxes, whales and gulls and caribou as inhabitants. This is a charming and fascinating book, and Mr. Henry Kane's line drawings give it an added distinction.

R. H.

The Mendips, by A. W. Coysh, E. J. Mason and V. Waite (The Regional Books, Robert Hale, 18s.).

What a pleasant and informative series this is! Our friend Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald is the General Editor and the three men he has assembled to write this book between them are an admirable team.

The chapters have an historical bias which I personally found very pleasing; sufficient detail is given of industry past and present; and there is a most attractive chapter on caving which all the growing number of spelaeologists in the Movement are advised to read.

This is in fact a quite fascinating book whether you know the Mendips well or not, and the twenty-five full-page photographs are a delight.

Highly recommended.

R. H.

Ways of the Ant, by John Crompton (Collins, 15s.).

Anyone intending to start studying ants will find this book stimulating but not all that he requires, for it will not enable him to name his captures and the account of British ants, in an appendix, does not mention all of them.

The author has set out to write a book for those who enjoy reading about natural history, and he describes the more spectacular activities of ants, their slave-making, harvesting, mushroom-growing and so on, ranging over the whole world for his material and even including the White Ants or Termites, which are not related to the other ants.

He writes in a racy, informal style, which, never degenerating into the loose slang of some "popular" writing, is admirably suited to the purpose. Mr. Crompton has fulfilled the task that he has set himself with considerable success.

T. T. MACAN.

The Queen's Government, by Sir Ivor Jennings (Pelican, 2s.).

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ceylon here gives us 150 pages of succinct information about the Monarchy, Parliament, the Cabinet system, etc., together with a delightfully detached account of the growth of Parties and the value of the Party system. Worth buying for every Rover and Senior Scout library, and individual chapters would make an excellent basis for a course of talks to Seniors. Here is easily-digested information on vital subjects, dealt with without bias and with complete freedom from any sort of propaganda, except propaganda for the British way of life.

D. H. B.

Tumult in the Clouds, by Andrew Cunningham (Peter Davies, 10s. 6d.). Those who loved such films as *Appointment in London* will, I think, like *Tumult in the Clouds*, which is a documentary revel about intruder operations and night flying, and itself would make an excellent film. Mr. Cunningham (who left the Service in 1946 with a D.F.C. and the rank of Squadron Leader) has used his memories well and translated them into an exciting story.

R. H.

TECS

As far as detective stories go Mr. Hare has been in the First Class Honours List (brief though it be) for practically all of his career. *The Yew Tree's Shade* (Faber, 10s. 6d.) is a perfect example of the English detective story at its best, featuring (as they say) Mr. Pettigrew whom it is as pleasant as ever to know. Hasten to read it.

Mr. Wills was an obvious candidate for First Class Honours with his first book *Live Bait*, a story of the greatest intelligence, which you should read if unfortunately you missed it. If his three latest books - the last one is *Food for Fishes* (Dakers 9s. 6d.) - haven't yet sustained that first splendid effort, they remain unusual and should not be missed: this last, too, though it never compels belief, has a macabre quality of its own.

Miss Ngaio Marsh has occasionally been right at the top of the class - but her latest book *Spinsters in Jeopardy* (Collins, 10s. 6d.) is a sad disappointment: too little detection, too much novel and far far too much of Chief Inspector Alleyn's wife and precocious six-year-old son: "I like being in a train more lavishly than anything that's ever happened so far." All the best detectives leave their wives at home.

R. H.



WHERE IS THIS? (4) (Answer next month)

The March photo was of the corner of the Memorial Chapel at Roland House showing Roland's sword

SCIENCE

Explorations in Science, by Waldemar Kaempffert (Gollancz, 12s. 6d.). Whether we like it or not, the professors have cracked a lot of atomic nuts under conditions of the most publicised secrecy at every dramatic performance; and, although equally exciting things are happening in most other branches of science, the bangs are receiving most of the world's attention because, from any point of view, they present the most immediate problems in the realm of ethics as well as in practical life.

Our youngsters are having adulthood thrust upon them at a frighteningly early age; and, it seems to me, only a fair degree of converseance with the nature and implications of modern research can help them to prepare for the very different world into which they are growing. Very many of their daily problems will be ones upon which older codes, however sincere, can provide very little guidance. Somehow, they will have to discover ways of bringing the philosophy of life into step with the increasing speed of technical advances, if the latter are not to overwhelm the humanities. In this, as in all other things, Aristotle's observation "Knowledge extends intuition" becomes increasingly evident in its truth.

Far too many people, without scientific experience, believe that science is "too difficult to understand" and in this they reveal the defects of earlier ideas of science masters at school rather than any inability on the part of themselves. In the last twenty years, the essential *simplicity* which lies behind all scientific knowledge has become revealed by extremely intimate scrutiny of matters which, at first, seemed trivial. It is probable that those who have always had a bent towards scientific discovery sensed this earlier in their lives than the others, and this may account for the interest which took them beyond the stage of stealing sulphides with which to stink out the Geography room. In this book by Mr. Kaempffert, science editor of *The New York Times*, the author has, to a very remarkable degree, retained this simplicity without "writing down" to his reader.

Ritchie Calder, of our own *News Chronicle*, in his preface to the Gollancz British edition, refers to Mr. Kaempffert as "the dean of the craft of science-writing, the master of our livery," and very rightly draws attention to the author's awareness of the social changes which result from scientific trends. What he does not mention, but which seems to me quite as important, is that the author has wisely avoided any attempt to give his reader little snippets of a wide range of information. He writes, instead, at length, upon several matters (some, such as the possibilities of Space-travel, Supersonic flight, Ciphers and Codes, will delight the heart of certain boys) in a lively and informative manner, with the knowledge that beneath the differences of detail are fundamentals common to all. In spite of the directness of his style and his use of a language really comprehensible to the non-scientist, I think that specialists will find little to criticise in his explanations of their subjects. Some of the most recent discoveries have been discussed in the section devoted to Atomic and Solar Energy, and that concerned with living organisms. When an index is omitted or inadequate, it tends to suggest that the author expects no one to refer to his work after its first reading. In this case, the very excellent one should be considered as a model by many other authors. **JOHN VICKERS.**

SCIENCE FICTION..

Some of you will have come across Mr. John Christopher's Max Laothern in a remarkable story called "Balance" in *Best Science Fiction Stories* (3rd Series) published by Messrs. Grayson who now give us in *The Twenty Second Century*, by John Christopher (9s. 6d.) a volume of twenty stories, five around this very pleasant and cultured inhabitant of the world of the fairly distant but hopelessly remote future. I recommend these stories not only to all science fiction addicts but also to all who like good unusual short stories. For Mr. Christopher is certainly unusual but he's also plausible. His other stories are good enough but how we miss Max Laothern. More Max Laothern, please Mr. Christopher.

Mr A. E. Van Vogt in *The Weapon Makers* (Weidenfeld & Nichol 9s. 6d) continues the story he began in *The Weapon Shops of Isher*. It's rather too abstruse for my taste. **R. H.**

The Science-Reader's Companion (Ward Lock, 15s.) is a welcome addition to the reference shelf and useful for anyone who does any intelligent reading today and is likely to come across such terms as Psychology, Brinell Hardijess Member, Antibiotics, Sulphonamide Drugs and so on. There are interesting photographs and many line drawings.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain & Europe

Roger Peterson, Guy Mountfort, R. A. D. Hollom

"The finest thing of its kind that I have come across, and will be a joy to every bird watcher. Its price is 25s. but I can honestly say that its value is far greater."- LORD ROWALLAN

* For the first time, *all* the birds of Europe are found in a pocket guide.

* Illustrated by the world's finest bird artist, Roger Peterson.

* Over 1,200 recognition pictures, 600 in colour, of both sexes.

* 400 unique maps of winter and summer distribution.

"**Easily the most authoritative** and best illustrated pocket bird book ever published." DATLY EXPRESS. 25s

Now's the time for FINDING NESTS

BRUCE CAMPBELL

"Not just another bird book. It breaks new ground and gives information which would have been dangerous to give even before the Second World War. A most useful book."

LORD ROWALLAN 40 illustrations. 12s. 6d.

FOR CUBS AND SCOUTS

The Faber Book of Children's Verse, i.e. verse for children not by them (12s. 6d.), will no doubt give pleasure to many youngsters whose tastes are in that direction. The compiler, Janet Adam Smith, writes: "there is no poem in the book that has not been liked by children," but some of the poems included haven't, one suspects, been liked by many children. Mr. T. S. Eliot has six poems included, which, considering the omissions, seems a little overmuch.

How's Your Pet? by L. Hugh Newman (Phoenix House, 10s. 6d.) is based on a series of talks broadcast by the author, and will be in great demand for school and other young people's libraries.

Captain Smith and the Pocahonias, by J. M. Scott (Methuen, 9s. 6d) is an expertly written life of that great sailor whom B.-P. admired so much and as exciting a yarn as any boy could wish for. Should be brought to the notice of your Scouts, who should, if they can't get it for a present, put it on their library lists. Highly recommended.

The Little Steamroller, by Graham Greene (Parrish, 7s. 6d.): mostly bright jolly pictures in a modern idiom with sufficient text by the distinguished novelist. Grand for the pre-Cub age.

Messrs. Chatto and Windus are to be congratulated on a new series of *cheap* modern classics, *The Queen's Classics*. Stoutly and attractively bound in blue with a scarlet label these books at 4s. 6d. each would make excellent gifts for young people. The first titles are:

The Prince and the Pauper, by Mark Twain.

in Hazard, by Richard Hughes.

**Pocahontus*, by David Garnett.

Maidens' Trip, by Emma Smith.

They Lived in County Down, by Kathleen Fitzpatrick.

**Living Dangerously*, by F. Spencer Chapman.

The asterisked titles are particularly recommended for Scouts.

FOR THE S.M.'s LOGBOOK

27. A CAMP FIRE GADGET

A Camp Fire in the Scout H.Q. on a winter's evening aims to catch something of the atmosphere which thrilled so many during the summer months. The lights are out, the Scouts sitting round huddled in their blankets thinking back to camp and the songs they sang there. But the fire, which is warming their dreams, is so often dead; it is an electric bulb, hidden beneath a mass of sticks and coloured paper. Here is a gadget to bring that fire to life, to make it flicker and throw moving shadows into the trees which the Scouts can all but see around them. It is a simple gadget and is easily made.

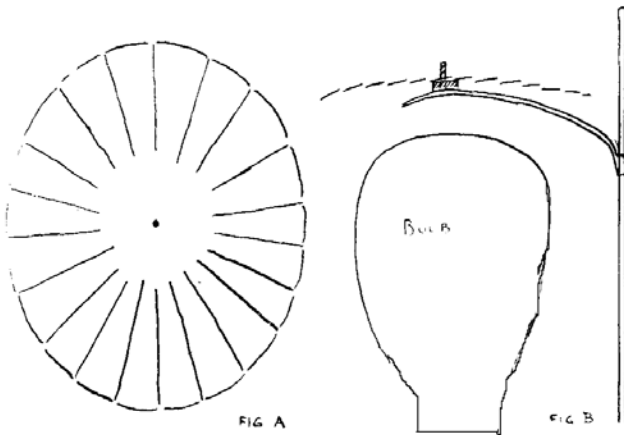


Fig. A. A circular piece of tin with sectional cuts and a hole the exact centre. The sections should be twisted slightly, all in the same direction, the amount of twist regulating the speed at which the tin revolves.

Fig. B. The tin revolves on a pin, fixed on a bracket above the bulb. It is essential that the tin should be immediately above the bulb and that the latter should be very firm. As the bulb becomes warm, the hot air will rise and cause the tin to revolve. Mirrors under the bulb will also help to send up a stronger reflection.

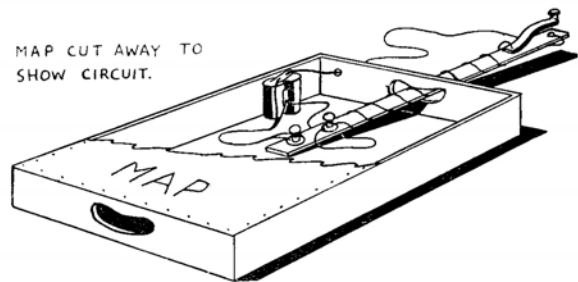
BRYAN SAVIGNY.

28. BOMBS AWAY

The first requirement is a large hand-drawn map, say 3j ft. x 2j ft., with a scale as desired. The map may be of anything. Ours, for example, was a large naval base, with shipping in and out of the harbour, warships and merchant-craft, an Army fort, coastal defences, aerodrome, marshalling-yards, main roads and railways, etc. The greater detail and time spent will add a large amount of interest.

Next we manufactured our "plane." A long lath of wood was found, to which at one end we screwed two bakelite 2~5 bulb-holders, at the other end we fastened a morse-key. The first bulb was linked by a permanent closed circuit to a battery. The second bulb was linked similarly, but the circuit was broken at the morse-key.

The map was then pinned on top of a large cake-tray and the "aircraft" passed through the open side, so as to "fly" under the map, and we were ready to commence.



The Scouts were chosen two by two to act as Navigator and Bombardier respectively; they were told the position of North in relation to the map (N was altered every few "flights"), and were asked to name their target. They were then reminded that the target must be reached before the enemy (another Scout) had counted thirty seconds and that the Navigator must give to the person operating the "plane" at least three directions that were not cardinal-points while navigating the "plane" to the target.

As the aircraft began to move, the first bulb, lit constantly, traced its course upon the map, shining through the paper from underneath.

The position of the second bulb was a matter of guess-work, the Bombardier having to estimate its distance from the aircraft bulb, and -press the morse-key immediately it was under the target.

K. H. POOLER,
S.M., 22nd Wigan.

NOTES AND NEWS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND YOUTH CONFERENCE

A Youth Conference with the theme of "The Christian Answer" is being organised by the Church of England Youth Council and the Overseas Council of the Church Assembly. It will be held at High Leigh, Hoddesden, Hertfordshire, from August 21st - 27th, 1954.

The Boy Scouts Association has been asked to nominate a small number of delegates to the Conference, and applications are invited from members of the Movement between the ages of 16 and 25 years who are members of the Anglican Communion. The Conference fee will be £4 15s. 0d. and includes a motor coach trip to Cambridge. The Chairman will be the Bishop of Willesden. Ample facilities for recreation will be available.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Relationships Secretary at I.H.Q.

WOOD BADGE COURSES

Gilwell Park

Cub Courses

- No. 128 Sunday, May 9th—Friday, May 14th
- No. 129 Sunday, May 30th—Friday, June 4th
- No. 130 Monday, June 21st—Saturday, June 26th
- No. 131 Monday, July 12th—Saturday, July 17th
- No. 132 Monday, August 2nd—Saturday, August 7th
- No. 133 Monday, August 23rd—Sunday, August 29th

Scout Courses

- No. 229 Saturday, May 15th—Sunday, May 23rd
- No. 230 Saturday, July 3rd—Sunday, July 11th
- No. 231 Saturday, July 17th—Sunday, July 25th
- No. 232 Saturday, August 7th—Sunday, August 15th
- No. 233 Saturday, August 14th—Saturday, August 28th. (To be held in the Lake District. Scouters (5) specially invited)
- No. 234 Saturday, August 21st—Sunday, August 29th
- No. 235 Saturday, September 11th—Sunday, September 19th

Rover Courses

- No. 11 Saturday, June 12th—Saturday, June 19th
- No. 12 Monday, July 26th—Monday, August 2nd

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:* Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, Chingford, E.4.

County Courses

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

London (Gilwell Park)

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

Scout, 5 W.E. Sept. 11th

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

Cub, Cont. July 18th—23rd

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

Scotland (Fordell)

Cub, Cont. July 26th—3 1st Cub, Cont. Aug. 23rd—28th Scout,

Cont. July 10th—15th Scout, Cont. Aug. 7th—15th

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

Cheshire West (Overchurch)

Scout, 4 W.E. May 22nd (incl. Whitsun)

Apply: I. H. V. Milton, 178 Liverpool Road, Great Crosby, Liverpool, 23.

Somerset (Stogursey)

Scout, 4 W.E. June 12th

Apply: H. D. Sleigh, 13 Charmouth Road, Bath.

Yorkshire West and Central (Bradley Wood)

Scout, 4 W.E. May 22nd (incl. Whitsun)

Scout, Cont. June 5th—13th

Apply: J. E. Wilson, Grinkle Dene, Linton, Nr. Wetherby, Yorks.

Cub, 2 W.E. July 24th (incl. August Bank Holiday)

Apply: Miss G. Barker, 17 Victoria Mount, Horsforth, Leeds.

COUNTY EVENTS

1st—2nd May Somerset Rover Moot, Bath.

5th—9th May Cycle Hike Competition, Huntingdonshire.

22nd May Wolf Cub Rally, Kimbolton Castle.

22nd—23rd May Middlesex Rover Moot, Gilwell.

29th.—30th May Midland Counties Rover Moot.

I.H.Q. SPEAKERS' VISITS FOR MAY

1st—2nd Derbyshire County Conference Lt.-Col. M. S. Adshead

1st-4th Jersey A. W. Hush

2nd Hove District. St. George's Day Service J. F. Coiquhoun

7th Doncaster Dinner K. Stevens

8th Northern Ireland Scouters' Conference Sir Rob Lockhart

8th Maitby Dinner K. Stevens

8th—9th P.Ls' Conference, Grendon, Northants.

Lt.-Col. M. S. Adshead

11th Leicestershire Annual County Dinner A. W. Hush

14th—18th Manchester and South-East Lancashire

Sir Rob Lockhart

18th Oxford University Scout and Guide Club Mrs. H. I. Addis

22nd Huntingdonshire Wolf Cub Rally Mrs. H. I. Addis

22nd—23rd Middlesex County Rover Moot Brig. J. J. Sloan

29th Welsh Scout Council Col. J. S. Wilson

B.-P. Guild Visit

16th Northern Counties B.-P. Guild

"Witan," Durham

Lord Baden- Powell

SERVICE ROVER CREW

The 7th Farnborough (Service) Rover Crew has recently been reformed under the leadership of the Rev. Alan H. Gibson, A.D.C. (Rovers) Aldershot District. Meetings, consistently well attended since formation, are held every Tuesday evening at 8.30 in St. Alban's Church Hut, Marlborough Lines. Any Rover serving in the vicinity will be welcomed at these meetings, as will non-service Rovers who would like to visit the Crew.

COWPUNCHER'S CAMP

As last year Mr. Ross Salmon, an old Harrow Scout, has generously offered free camping facilities on his farm in Devon and tuition in the arts of cattle ranching, lassoing, whip cracking and the like, from August 7th to 21st, to ten Senior Scouts or young Rover Scouts who are interested in horse-riding and horses and if possible who know something about riding. Any interested Scout should write to Mr. Ross Salmon, do The Training Secretary, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

TRAINING COMMISSIONERS, KENYA

It is probable that vacancies will occur on July 1st, 1954, for two Scout Training Commissioners for work in African Areas in Kenya. Preference will be given for a Scouting background or similar previous experience and also a knowledge of Swahili. Inclusive salary between £650 and £850 according to age and experience. Normal tour four years. House allowance payable if house not provided. Six months' leave with pay at end of full tour and passage home and back if re-engaged. Car mileage at Government rates when travelling on duty. Forms of application may be obtained from the Overseas Secretary, Imperial Headquarters.

YOUTH HOSTEL'S ASSOCIATION COURSES

Three Countryside Courses and one Hillcraft Course are being held between the period July 3rd to September 4th. Full particulars and application forms are available from Advisory Officer, Y.H.A., Welwyn Garden City, Hens., on receipt of stamped addressed envelope.

AWARDS FROM 31st DECEMBER, 1953, TO 3rd FEBRUARY, 1954

CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT.

G. A. French, S.M., 3rd Ashby.

"In recognition of his courage, fortitude and cheerful devotion to duty despite a great handicap."

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (MERITORIOUS CONDUCT).

A. Marshall, Wolf Cub, 4th Becontree (St. Vincent's Own).

"In recognition of his untiring efforts and devoted nursing of his Mother during a long illness which finally proved fatal."

SILVER ACORN.

R. R. Parkhouse, D.C., Alexandria District British Boy Scouts Association, Egypt.

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

BAR TO THE MEDAL OF MERIT.

Cheshire East. - J. Pott, A.D.C., The Goyt and District.

Sussex. C. E. Harvey, G.S.M., 2nd Worthing, A.D.C. (Senior Scouts),

Worcestershire. - Miss G. Bache, A.C.C. (Wolf Cubs).

Wales.

Cardiff. - I. P. Davies, R.S.L., 7th Cardiff, Hon. Treasurer, Cardiff North.

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

MEDAL OF MERIT.

Buckinghamshire. - J. E. Wood, SM., 12th High Wycombe (Union Baptist).

Cheshire East. - G. W. Morrell, G.S.M., 2nd New Mills (Derbyshire), D.S.M., The Goyt and District.

Derbyshire. - C. A. Brown, G.S.M., 1st Horsley Woodhouse (Sitwell's Own).

Hertfordshire. - Miss L. A. Griffin, C.M., 3rd St. Albans, D.C.M., St. Albans and District.

Isle of Man. - J. C. Burns, G.S.M., 1st Malew; B. C. A. Hartley, S.M., 1st King William's College.

North-West Lancashire. - R. Waters, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Furness District, Ak.L.

South-East Lancashire. - K. A. Colbourn, G.S.M., 1st Davybulme; Miss A. Milhench, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Leigh and District, Asst. Ak.L.

Leicestershire. - E. A. Johnston, C.M., 6th Hinckley (St. Francis); S. W. Malpus, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Hincidey and District.

Liverpool. - F. P. Robinson, G.S.M., 9th Fairfield (186th Liverpool, St. James West Derby).

Norfolk. - H. Boardman, A.C.C. (Sea Scouts).

Northumberland. - H. J. P. Breckons, D.C., Whitley Bay District; G. D. Wingate, D.C., Bedlingtonshire.

MEDAL OF MERIT.

Surrey. - J. B. Bennett, A.T.C. (Rover Scouts), Croydon and District; G. F. Davidson, G.S.M., 1st Mortlake; D. F. Mills, S.M., 10th Croydon, D.C. Croydon and District (Western Division); C. W. Robinson, G.S.M., 2nd Mitcham (Christ Church); E. L. Thurley, G.S.M., 12th Mitcham (Methodist); E. G. Watts, D.S.M.(S), Croydon and District (Eastern Division).

Sussex. - H. J. G. Collis, G.S.M., 6th Eastbourne (Ascham), D.C., Eastbourne District, A.C.C. S.-E. Area; E. G. Evans, S.M., 23rd Eastbourne (All Souls); C. Newman, formerly G.S.M., 3rd Shoreham-by-Sea; H. A. Newman, G.S.M. (St. Luke's), 13th Brighton

Warwickshire. - H. P. Mitchell, S.M. and G.S.M., 21st Rugby (New Bilton); J. K. Waydelin, SM., 2nd Dunchurch (Bilton Grange); E. G. Wilcox, G.S.M., 1st Solihull, A.D.C. (Scouts), Solihull.

Worcestershire. - Miss R. Rimmer, C.M., Areley Kings, Ak.L Central Yorkshire. - D. R. Blagden, G.S.M., 23rd Wakefield (Sandall Methodist); E. Mason, G.S.M., 10th Wakefield (Lupset Church); H. Pickles, G.S.M., 5th Wakefield, D.R.S.L., Wakefield.

Yorkshire North Riding. - Rev. Father O. I. Lambers, O.S.B., D.C., Ampleforth.

West Yorkshire. - J. Copley, A.D.C., Bradford (East Division); Miss D. Jennings, C.M., 22nd Bradford East (St. Clement's), D.C.M., Bradford

Wales.

Cardiff. - Miss F. B. Rook, C.M., 21st Cardiff, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Cardiff North.

West Glamorgan. - C. L. Lewis, SM., 23rd Swansea (Dimvant); A. W. Pyett, R.S.L., 5th Swansea Valley (Ystalyfera), D.R.S.L.,

Scotland.

Aberdeenshire. - J. K. MacPherson, formerly G.S.M., stoneywood.

Fife. - Mrs. A. K. S. Johnston, C.M., 72nd Fife (2nd Meshil); T. Percival, R.S.L., 42nd Fife (Largo), D.R.S.L. Wemyss and Leven.

Perthshire. - Mrs. M. B. Fleming, D.C.M., Dunblane and Menteith.

Northern Ireland.

Belfast. - S. T. Gray, G.S.M., 49th Belfast (Ballycairn); W. Moreland, S.M., 49th Belfast (Ballycairn).

Overseas.

Southern Rhodesia. - Rev. W. J. E. Butler, A.D.C. (Training), Mashonaland; C. L. Cook, D.S.M., Mashonaland.

Tanganyika Territory. - R. W. F. Rice, Asst. Area Commr., Innia and District.

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

AWARDS FROM 4th FEBRUARY TO 3rd MARCH, 1954 GILT CROSS

A. Sinton, Patrol Leader, 11th Midlothian (Penicuik).

"In recognition of his gallantry and prompt action in saving a child from a sewage pit, and on a previous occasion assisting to recover the body of a child from the same pit, Penicuik Sewage Works, Midlothian, 9th October, 1952."

I. G. Thompson, Patrol Leader, 1st Birtley (St. John's).

"In recognition of his gallant attempt to rescue two boys who were drowned in the River Wear, Chester-le-Street, 17th May, 1953."

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (GALLANTRY).

A. Eames, Scout, 1st Radlett.

"In recognition of his gallant attempt to recover the body of a man drowned in the River Thames, Marlow Bridge, 17th August, 1953."

BARS TO THE MEDAL OF MERIT.

London. - Miss F. E. Cook, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), St. Pancras; R. H. Jan'is, G.S.M., 16th Beckenham (Holy Trinity, Anerley). Hon. Treasurer, Beckenham and Penge; R. E. Peters, A.D.C., Beckenham and Penge

Edinburgh and Leith. - J. N. Briggs, A.C.C.; T. Henderson, A.C.C. (Rover Scouts).

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

Imperial Headquarters. - A. W. E. Thompson, Clerk, I.H.Q.

Cumberland West. - Mrs. M. E. Clark, C.M., Haverigg, St. Luke's.

Devon. - W. H. N. Hearn, G.S.M., 24th Plymouth. D.S.M., Plymouth and District; Mrs. N. F. Warne, C.M., 27th Plymouth (Compton Methodist Church).

Essex. - R. 3. R. D. Amesbury, formerly C.M., 3rd/4th Westcliff-on-Sea; I. B. Aylctt, B.E.M., A.D.C. (Scouts), Romford and District; F. H. Elflein, G.S.M., 1st Elm Park (St. Nicholas); Mrs. G. M. Johnston, C.M., 2nd Dagenham, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Dagenham; T. L. Johnston, G.S.M., 2nd Dagenham, D.C., Dagenham; A. E. Occomore, Chairman, Squirrels Heath; 3. F. W. Perrin, G.S.M., 1st Westcliff-on-Sea, D.S.M., County Borough of Southend-on-Sea and District (Central); Miss M. V. Pocock, C.M., 3rd Grays (Parish Church), A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Thurrock; J. 3. Reynolds. S.M., 40th Epping Forest (St. Michael and All Angels); A. C. H. Robinson, S.M. and A.R.S.L., 9th Westcliff (St. Paul's).

Hampshire. - Mrs. H. M. Matthews, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), City of Portsmouth (Portsmouth Division).

Hertfordshire. - L. E. Gill, G.S.M., 1st Cullley; E. G. C. Goodbody, S.M., 1st Barnet; Mrs. N. Robertson, A.C.M., 1st East Barnet, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Barnet, Potters Bar and District; D. F. Shirley, G.S.M., 1st Berkhamstead.

North-East Lancashire. - N. Tattersall, G.S.M., 5th Rossendale ('runstead), D.S.M., Rossendale Valley; J. Finch, S.M., 25th Rossendale.

North-West Lancashire. - (J. Angus, S.M., 25th Barrow-in-Furness

(Abbey Road Baptist); T. H. Biddulph, 6th Barrow-in-Furness (St. Mark's); 3. B. Daly. C.M., 16th Barrow-in-Furness (St. Mary of Furness); Rev. M. D. Grieve, S.M., Urswick; L. O. Williams, Hon. Secretary, Barrow-in-Furness.

South-East Lancashire. - J. A. Schofield, G.S.M., 1st Shaw.

London. - J. H. Artingstall, G.S.M., 43rd Beckenham (5th West Wickham), Hon. Secretary, Beckenham and Penge; A. J. Bagnall, A.D.C. (Senior Scouts), Ilford West; E. M. Chaplin, C.M., 163rd North London; W. T. J. Clift, G.S.M., 34th Beckenham (Elmers End); W. F. Court, A.D.C. (Scouts), 14th Lewisham North; M. G. Dixon. A.S.M., 4th Enfield (St. Andrew's); G. T. Dunbar, G.S.M., 1st Wandsworth, D.C.M., Wandsworth, Putney and Roehampton; C. 3. Faraday, G.S.M., 5th North Lambeth (Hawkstone); F. L. Gandolfi, formerly G.S.M., 34th Camberwell; Miss K. E. Gay, Hon. Secretary, Wolf Cub Sub-Committee, Beckenham and Penge; D. F. Goodheart, S.M., St. Margaret's, Putney; Mrs. A. Harman, Badge Secretary, Lewisham North; Miss V. V. D. Hoy, A.C.M., 61st North Lambeth (St. Anselm's); 3. C. Hunterman, G.S.M., 20th West Ham (St. Paul's); H. J. Keating, G.S.M., 105th North London; E. B. Mansfield, G.S.M., 15th Ilford West (St. Andrew's), A.D.C. (Scouts). Ilford West; A. A. Mathews, Vice-Chairman, West Ham (North); S. G. McFarlane, S.M., 10th Chelsea (St. Columba's Church of Scotland); S. G. Nickels, Chairman, Ilford East; F. Nunn, A.S.M., 5th North Lambeth (Hawkstone); Rev. Canon H. H. A. Sands, G.S.M., 61st North Lambeth (St. Anselm's); Rev. C. R. Secar, G.S.M., 66th North Lambeth (St. Mary-the-Less); G. A. Smith, G.S.M., 196th London (Southgate the Bourne), A.D.C. (Scouts), Wood Green, Southgate and Friern Barnet; Miss H. A. Smith, C.M., 21st Barking; A. F. Spencer, G.S.M., 10th Beckenham (Christ Church),... Col. T. Tivendale, D.C., Muswell Hill and District; H. S. Vandonsse, - G.S.M., 14th West Ham (St. Peter's), A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), West Ham (North); C. V. Williams, Chairman, St. Pancras

Manchester. - A. H. Self, GS.M., 250th Manchester (St. Mary's, Droyliden).

Middlesex. - H. Pleasants, G.S.M., 21st Harrow; H. G. Walker, G.S.M., 19th Harrow, D.S.M., Harrow and Wealdstone.

West Yorkshire. - W. Akroyd, G.S.M., 11th Halifax (West End, Methodist), D.S.M., Halifax; C. B. Asquith, S.M. and G.S.M., 2nd Heckmondwike, A.D.C., Mirfield and Heckinondwils Oiasriect; F. H. Thomas, C.M., 1st Pudsey (Parish Church).

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

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

Appointment of Chief Scout's Commissioner

The Chief Scout has appointed the Lord Glentanar, D.L., to be one of his Chief Scout's Commissioners.

Open Groups - Use of Church Names in Registered Titles

The Committee of the Council has considered the use of church names in the registered titles of Open Groups and feels that this is generally undesirable because:-

- (a) it is misleading to the public;
- (b) it might prevent some boys who are members of other churches being allowed to join the Group, although registered as an Open Group;
- (c) the arrangement might prevent the church concerned having a Sponsored Group of its own at a later date when there might be a new incumbent; and
- (d) the possibility of an objection by a new incumbent to the name being used, which might prove difficult to answer.

In future cases, therefore, the following alternatives will be offered:-

- (i) to be registered as a Sponsored Group and subject to Rule 180(1);
- (ii) to be registered as an Open Group with no reference to a church name in the registered title.

St. George's Day Scouts' Owns

At this time of year, I.H.Q. receives many inquiries from Groups and Districts for advice about Scout Funds which might benefit from collections at Scouts' Owns. Special objects which are suitable for these gifts are:- Roland House; the B.-P. Memorial Fund; the Benevolent Fund. Roland House is particularly deserving of consideration this year.

Business and Legal Notes for Scouters

An attractive folder containing the first nine of a series of informative leaflets prepared by the Legal Adviser is now available from the Scout shop, price Is., postage 2d.

APPOINTMENT TENT & FLAG MAKERS
TO THE LATE KING GEORGE VI

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*Everything for the Camper
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In the interests of better and cheaper camping we have introduced many new lines to our range for this season, which maintain the high standard of "Ben Edge" yet are at most attractive prices.

Example: Down filled quilts from £2 0s. 6d. Don't delay. Send today for your copy of our 1954 Catalogue (5/- Discount to Club Members)

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Branch~. East cheap, E.C.3 Manchester Falmouth

Cancelled Warrants

The undermentioned have failed to return their warrants, despite application having been made by Imperial Headquarters:- Mrs. Dorothy May Bryan, formerly C.M. 24th Burton-on-Trent Group. Frederick James Westbrook, formerly G.S.M. 10th Wallasey Group.

C. C. GOODHIND,

Administrative Secretary.

CLASSIFIED

COMING EVENTS

Somerset Rover Moot 1954. May 1st and 2nd at the Norwood camp site, Bath. Guest speaker Jack Skillen. Details from: C. Wassell, 11 Prior Park Cottages, Widcombe, Bath.

Welcome to Wiltshire for the Annual Rover Moot, May 8th—9th, at Calne. Splendid panel of speakers, all meals provided. Programmes from R. T. Kemp, 31 Brittox, Devizes. (S.A.E. please.)

The Manchester/S.E. Lancashire Joint Rover Moot, 1954, will be held at West Lodge Camp, Lyme Park, Disley, Cheshire, during the weekend May 22nd—23rd. Details from S.E. Lancashire County Office, Gaddum House, 16 Queen Street, Manchester, 2.

Midland Counties Rover Moot, May 29th—30th; Applications close May 1st. Barrie Clark, 23 Wordsworth Road, Coventry (stamp, please).

Are you coming to the N.W. Kent Rover - Ranger Conference in Bexleyheath on June 12th—13th? Applications *must* be in by May 1st to Mr. W. Hunns, 45 Percy Road, Bexleyheath.

Northumberland Rover Moot at Dilston, June 12th—13th. Full details from S. Cox, 83 Appletree Gardens, Newcastle upon Tyne, 6.

Book the date! Eastern Counties Rover Moot 1954 at "Belchamps" (Southend's camping ground), June 12—13th. There's a packed weekend of events awaiting you, with the focus on sport. A host of well-known stars are coming - Cycling, canoeing, judo and archery are just a few of the many sports to be demonstrated. More interesting news later, but send now for full details to Ken Greenwd6tl, 25 Poplars Avenue, Hawkwell, Hockley, Essex.

ACCOMMODATION

Cotswolds. Holidays in early 17th century house. Homely atmosphere. Ideal walking country. Good packed lunch, hot evening meal. Frequent buses from Stroud. Terms 4 gns. weekly. July - August 4½ gns. No extras. Mrs. Noble, Weavers' Cottage, Nailsworth, Glos.

C.M. and A.C.M. getting married July require unfurnished accomodation about ten miles radius Morden, Surrey. Akehurst, 4 Merton Park, Parade, Kingston Road, S.W.19.

Buckmore, Park camp site, over sixty acres of ideal Scout camping country. Accommodation for Pack holidays and Cub camps. Write for illustrated leaflet. Hon. Camp Warden, Boy Scouts Association, Buckmore Park, Chatham.

Scouters wishing to marry seek flat in the area Sutton to Ashted. Offers to Box 182, THE SCOUTER.

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.

Scouter offers newly built bungalow on cliff top on the South Coast, with access to the beach. Four bedrooms. Modern fixtures. Tiled bathroom and kitchen. Wood block floors. Garage. Verandah. About j acre of flat garden with additional extensive sloping cliff face to high water level. Price £3,500, of which up to £2,000 may remain on mortgage if desired. If more land is required, two adjoining plots (very suitable for orchards or greenhouses) are obtainable. Box 181, THE SCOUTER.

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.

Manager/Buyer wanted. Applications are invited from experienced and competent Scouters not over 45 years of age in starting and organising projected Supply Service division of Boy Scouts International Bureau. Sale of clothing and the like not contemplated. Applications in writing, giving experience and salary required to: The Secretary, Boy Scouts International Bureau, 132 Ebury Street, London, S.W.1.

Applications are invited from qualified men teachers, and others with a wide experience of camping, for the posts of Wardens and Assistant Wardens. The Wardens are required to take charge of standing canvas camps for boys during the summer. If qualified teachers, they may, in the close season, be employed as assistant teachers in schools. Assistant Wardens would help the Camp Warden during the summer and during the close season may also be appointed as Assistant Teachers in Schools. A knowledge of countryside activities, canoeing and sailing would be an advantage. Salary as Burnham Scale plus a special responsibility allowance. Non-teachers would be paid at an equivalent rate according to qualifications. Application forms (which should be returned as soon as possible) and further particulars may be obtained from the Director of Education (P.T.), County Education Offices, Stafford.

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, 8. 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. **"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: Nametapes. Send postcard to Stacy Ltd., 99 Kingsland High Street, London, E.8.

Lady C.M. uniforms made to measure from 68/-. Dress, shirt, battle blouse and skirt; proofed gab., etc. Send S.A.E. for patterns and self-measurement form to Miss Puttock, Upcotts, Everton, Lymington.

Theatrical costumes and accessories. Costumiers to the London Gang Show. Special rates of hire to Troops for all productions. West End Costumes (Peter Dunlop), Ltd., 18 Tower St., W.C.2. Temple Bar 6806.

Rover has been able to arrange with Lloyd's Underwriters specially reduced premiums for private and commercial motor insurance for warranted Scouters. Apply Rover Scout Mills, 59 - 60 Corahill, E.C.3.

Screen Printing. Print your own posters, Group notices, magazine covers, etc., with the C.L. Screen. Complete outfit from £4 10s. 0d. Write for details to C.L. Screens, 33 Wellington Avenue, Hounslow.

Haulage of camping equipment. Licence to carry anywhere. F. G. Tester, Ardingly, Sussex. Phone: Ardingly 258.

When camping in the Launceston area, Cornwall, why not let an old C.M. supply your needs in Groceries, Provisions, etc. We shall be pleased to hear from you. R. W. Allen & Son, 5 Newport Square, Launceston.

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.

Xmas cards. Write now for complete details of raising funds by selling Xmas cards to Dept. "5," The Harris Distributing Co., Britannic House, 991119, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.

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.

Trek Carts! Tubular steel, unused, rubber-wheeled, Paratroop hand trucks. Particulars free. Only £5 15s. Od. Greens, 502 Albert Street, Lytham.

200 tents for sale, various sizes, i.e. bell tents, ridge tents, marquees. All ready to erect. List on application. Yeo Bros. Paull Ltd., Martock, Somerset.

Lightweight green rotproof Patrol tent, 10 ft. by 7 ft. by 6 ft. 6 in., £10. Black's "Good Companions" Hike Tent, £5. Commando Rucsac, £3. All in fine condition. Together with quantity of good pioneering rope, tent pegs, cooking utensils, £25 to clear. Apply The Parsonage, Salfords, Redhill, Surrey.

Black's "Good Companions" lightweight tent, flysheet and groundsbeet, with aluminium pole and pegs, £10. Field, 11 Oak Tree Gdns., Bromley.

DUPLICATING AND TYPEWRITING

All classes of duplicating and typewriting neatly and accurately executed by Guider. Prompt delivery, special terms to Scouters. Alert Typewriting Bureau, 1 Peasmarsh, Gillingham, Dorset.

Advance Duplicating Service. Prompt accurate work. Mod. charges. Scouters 10 discount. S Warwick Av., S. Harrow, Middx. Byron 4730.

Guider undertakes all classes of Typewriting and Duplicating at reasonable prices. Mrs. Cox, 121 London Road, Ramsgate.

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approx. 6' 6". Width 2' 3". Large pillow
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Waterproof base. Zip
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Size packed 12" x 9"
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**FREE! Super Air Pillow
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2 PAIRS POST FREE

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Zip opening. Slant
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Usual price 70/-, Waist 21" to 27".
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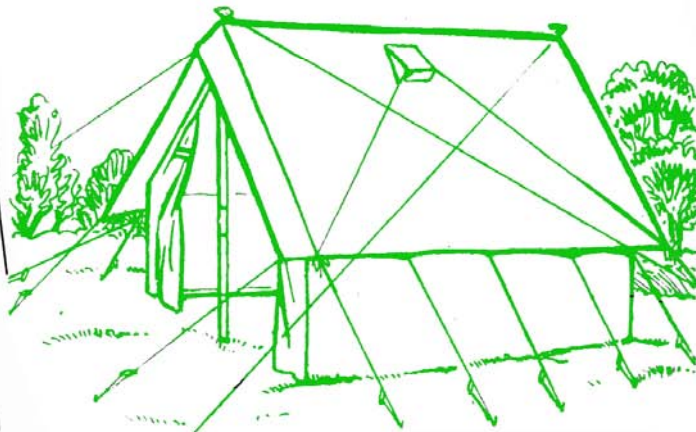
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A hardwearing tent at a truly economical price. Made from strong 8 oz. green "Certent" proofed cotton duck. Supplied with jointed upright and ridge poles packed in valise. Tent with all accessories packed in a separate valise. Size: length 9 ft., width 7 ft., height 6 ft. 6 in. with 36 in. walls.

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They sell on their merits, carrying our guarantee of satisfaction. Their qualities for hard wear and long life are known to Scouts throughout the world. We still get good reports on these tents purchased over 20 years ago—and still in service.

GILWELL HIKE

A renowned week-end tent, the name Gilwell is its recommendation. Made from improved lightweight green Egyptian Cloth. Size: length 6 ft. 6 in., width 4 ft. 6 in., height 3 ft. 6 in., with 9 in. walls.

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	Price	Packing & Post
Sisal Cord, 3 strand, 1 lb. ball	2/6	1/-
6 lb. ball	14/3	1/10
Sisal Rope, 1/4 in. dia., white, red or blue, per yard	2d.	Extra
Billy Cans, nest of three, aluminium	18 9	1/4
Billy Cans, nest of three, tin	8 6	1/4
Canvas Buckets, wedge shaped, 8 1/2 in. x 6 in.	6 -	6d.
11 in. x 10 in.	7 11	7d.
Hobo, one man canteen, aluminium	10 6	1 -
Lanterns, Hurricane, Gremlin 10 in.	5 11	1/2
Rucksac, Atlas, steel frame	53/8	Free
Sleeping Bag quilt, 6 ft. 3 in. x 5 ft.	67/6	Free
Carborundum Stones, pocket size	1/6	3d.
large size	4/6	3d.

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