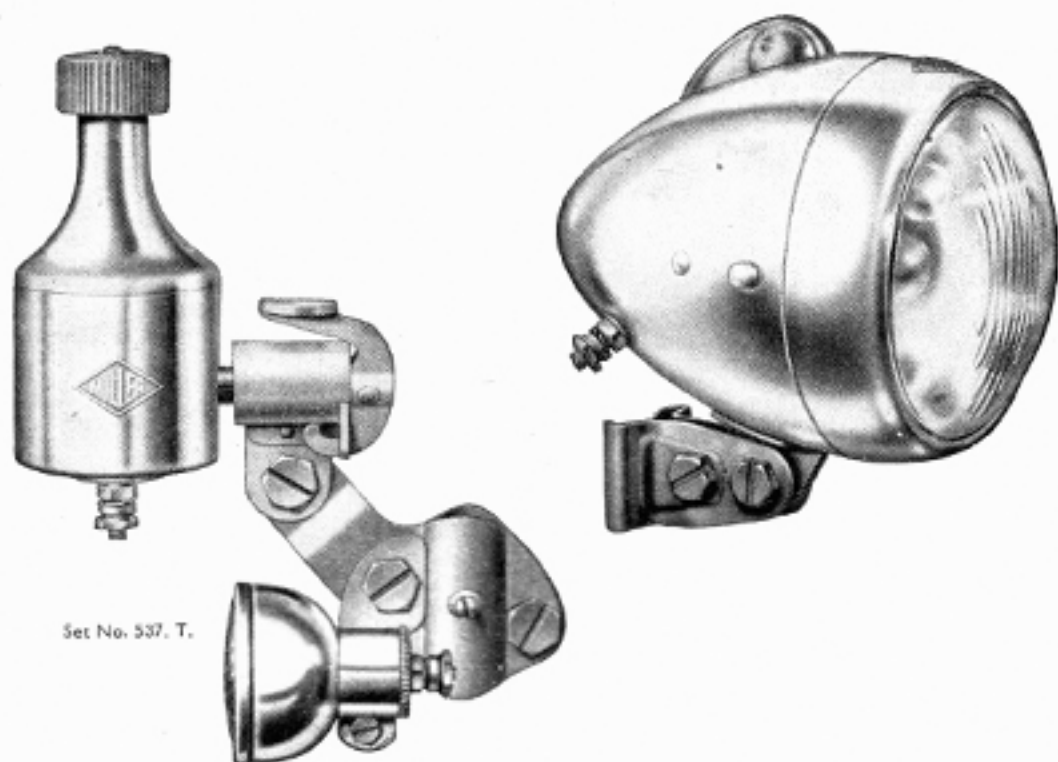


THE SCOUTER

NOVEMBER 1954



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THE OUTLOOK

By THE DEPUTY CHIEF SCOUT

What a busy month September this year seems to have been! (I am writing this at the beginning of October so I am not so far behind time as you might think!) To start at the end of the month and work back; we had the Chief's departure on his two-month tour in the Far East; the annual meeting of the International Committee; the National Conference at Filey; a conference of County Chaplains at Gilwell; and, also at Gilwell, a conference of the International Training Team. In addition the Chief and a small delegation, of which I was a member, visited Sutton Coldfield, and, in consultation with a most co-operative party of local officials, decided on Sutton Park as the site for the 1957 Jamboree and Rover Moot.

Most of these events have been reported in one place or another in this or the October number of THE SCOUTER; but there are certain aspects of some of them to which I wish to invite attention.

First, the Chief's tour. I know he has with him the good wishes of us all for a successful and happy journey and a safe homecoming. I am sure too that we all hope that he will not find his trip too exhausting. In any case I have good reason to believe that he is going to take a proper rest from Scouting when he gets back. I ask all concerned to abstain from asking him to undertake any activities before May 1st, 1955.

Of Filey, the Chief wrote to me, "It was quite the happiest Conference I have ever attended . . . and I feel quite sure that if they approach the problem of leakage in the same spirit they will add immense strength to the Movement and raise the quality of our Scouting and our services to the boys beyond measure." *There's* a challenge for us all. In letters and conversations many of those who attended the National Conference have paid tribute to the spirit which prevailed at Filey. Let us try to preserve it and bring it in to all we do.

The Meeting of the International Committee went well, I think. I wonder if we in this country fully realise that Scouting in many countries is not nearly so well established as it is here?

In such countries Scouting matters which we regard as commonplace are often new.

Nearly all, perhaps all, other National Scout Associations look to our Association for a lead. Can we not do more to help them or to help the International organisation to do more for them? More money would of course enable more to be done but that is another story.

What I do suggest is this. With so widespread a family, information and guidance can obviously most easily be provided by the written word. It is for that very purpose that the magazine *Jamboree* exists.

Its present circulation is lamentably small. Language is of course one difficulty. Look at the list of the fifty-seven Member Associations and work out in how many of the countries concerned is English likely to be read easily and with pleasure by a majority of Scouters. But couldn't more of us take in *Jamboree* regularly, and couldn't some of you with ready pens sometimes contribute to it? I know how many are the demands on Scouters' time, but *please*, some of you, "have a go."

I was fortunate enough to attend the Conference of County Chaplains from September 7th to 9th. It was a happy and successful event. One thing I wish to stress. It became-obvious during the conference that there is still room for considerably closer co-operation between Commissioners and County Chaplains. I ask both County and District Commissioners to give this matter their attention.

Finally, a word of the Leakage Report, so brilliantly presented by "Koko" at Filey. Now that the Report is in your hands I hope you will "get down" to studying its application to your own Groups, Districts and Counties, not in a spirit of despondency - there is no reason for that - but with the determination that if weaknesses are disclosed they will be remedied.

I had hardly finished writing this "Outlook" when I heard with deep regret of the death of Mr. Arthur Coote, Assistant Headquarters Commissioner for Handicapped Scouts since February, 1951. He had a long and distinguished record of Scouting from 1923 onwards.

Starting, that year, as a District Commissioner in the North Riding he later held a number of appointments, amongst them those of County Commissioner for Derbyshire and Deputy Camp Chief at Gilwell.

He was awarded the Silver Acorn in 1946 and the Long Service Decoration in 1947, and the Silver Wolf in 1950.

For the last two years he has been ill but despite this went on with Scouting as long as he possibly could.

In his death the Movement has lost a good friend and valued Scouter, and our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Coote and his family.

ROB M. M. LOCKHART.



SCOUTING AND THE HOME

By HENRY J. G. COLLIS

Assistant County Commissioner S.F. Sussex, and Headmaster of Eastbourne College Preparatory School

Brother Scouts, first I bring you the most grateful thanks of the boys of my school. They think it is an absolutely magnificent idea that on the first day of term they should be at Eastbourne and I should be in Filey.

Now in this vast subject of Scouting and the Home I want also to introduce the School. I thought we might look at it, as we are here in a theatre, on a theatre background. Shakespeare told us that all the world is a stage, so will you try and imagine for a moment that the youth of your community, wherever it is, is up on a gaily lit stage; that at the back of the theatre are the theatre managers and their wives who represent the parents - those with a proprietary interest; that in the wings is the prompter - he might be the parson, ready to help them with their lines, to keep them on the rails if he gets the chance, and perhaps rather a timekeeper as well, for the very sands of time sometimes run out in a parson's eyes; and there down in front of the stage in his shirt sleeves is the distraught producer, the poor old schoolmaster, who is trying to produce a show to further the moral, physical and formal education of that company of young people.

Suddenly from the back of the audience there rushes up on the stage a chap in shorts. He has a bootlace round his neck and a gleam in his eye and that gleam can only say one thing "Are you saved? If not, Be prepared and join the 3rd Tootle." You can imagine the chaos that would actually result if such an interruption in the production as that took place. And yet, you know, that isn't really too fantastic a picture of the way some Scouters try to force themselves on communities which they are in all honesty anxious to serve. They forget, I think, that the production is an extremely full-time business. The modern boy, we know, has more money: he therefore has more interests; he therefore expects as a result of these interests a very much higher standard in any other activity which he is prepared to undertake. He may accept something slipshod for a trial but for no longer. If he is going to give his service to anything else in the short breathing space which that production will have he has got to be very, very sure of it first and that sureness will come, not by a direct appeal to him, but from much wiser sources than that.

Of course, I know many boys come of their own accord but I am not so much concerned with these for the moment. I am concerned rather with the approach of the average Scouter trying to raise a Troop, build up a Troop, or maintain a Troop under certain difficulties. Well, then, he must approach the three principals of this production that we have just had a glimpse of. He is going to interrupt them and when he interrupts the producer, that producer is going to be extremely busy. He may be trying to draw one boy into the limelight, shove another down into the orchestra pit for a while to play second fiddle, and to do the hundred and one things a schoolmaster does. Which group should come first? Well, I have no doubt in my own mind who is the wisest, for not very long ago a small boy was asked to write down what were the necessities of life and he answered in one word - parents! How true that is, because after all, at any rate in the initial stages, they are extremely important to our line of business. Without parents I don't think we should have a great number of Cubs or Scouts.

Let us imagine we are approaching a parent: we are going to try to study that parent a little bit as we hope through that interview to help the Movement by interesting the boy, or shall we say arousing the interest of the boy, and keeping him. A casual interview is better than a formal one. In the case of a parent one wants to know first to what category he belongs. Here are just half a dozen groups. There is the co-operative parent, and all said and done we have got a great number of co-operative parents in the Movement. I think we sometimes forget how many we really have.

They give us the strengthening confidence which must at times be the great motive power of anything that we are able to do. We must approach them in all frankness.

We must share little personal problems with them in relation to their boys and even what seems a petty thing like nail-biting can be a point of contact with the co-operative parent. That may seem insignificant but I can assure you it isn't.

The danger, of course, with the co-operative parent is that you gradually bring them into closer and closer contact until you feel at the end that they are almost too much a part of the Troop. When I was in America two years ago I visited a lot of Scouts and Cubs and I remember in Chicago I was shattered because in the Cub Den there seemed about twenty parents. It was one of the nights when they had to come to the Cub Den and the Akela, who was doing nothing at all, said to me: "We have, of course, an attendance Trophy." I said, "Oh yes, which lot of Cubs get that?" "Oh, it entirely depends on the number of their parents who turn up!" I felt that was going a little far. There is not a great deal more to be said about the co-operative parent, but God bless them for their support.

Next we might take the critical parent. Years ago, just before the Michaelmas term was due to begin, a father burst into my study brandishing a school report, one which we had composed with considerable labour two months before. It was an extremely tiresome interview because he started off by pointing out that one comment was entirely illegible and we spent some time deciphering it. It read "He must learn to write more clearly!" That set us off, at any rate as far as I was concerned, on a bad foot. Then he threw the report down on my desk: "Do you know that put my wife to bed for a month?" I am afraid I was rather frank with him and replied: "I can only say quite frankly, - may I just break off for a moment to say that those two words are the most useful words in any moment of crisis. If you have trouble with a parent and you use the words "quite frankly" the parent inclines to you. If the parent is playing an opposing role, he or she has the feeling that you are throwing down your barriers and are going to come over and be really confidential and friendly. So I started - " Quite frankly, I think you ought to be ashamed that you can allow your son to waste your money and our time, and unless there is a great improvement in his work this term somebody else will take his place next term." The improvement in that boy was quite remarkable - due very largely to the cooperation of the parent which was got by this rather brutal means.

We can't quite use these in the Movement but I do submit that we might be a little wary and we might try remembering that attack is so often the best method of defence. If a parent gets at you and says "why does John always get home so late: why does he dawdle on the way?" You might say "Quite frankly, it's strange how all the other Scouts seem to want to get home.

So I would submit very seriously that in the case of the critical parent you might tactfully and kindly take a little war into the parents' camp. It is for the good of the boy after all.

The next group is the disinterested parent and you have already heard a word or two about how disinterested parents can cause leakage and so on. A very difficult problem indeed. The only thing that we can do in Scouting is to struggle as hard as we can to find some point of contact with that parent to do with the Movement which we can discuss with the parent in direct relation to his son. There may be some point in the boy's development that you have noticed that you think the father must be interested in. He may like to have your observation, for instance, that he seems to have grown up rapidly and that a change is now coming when he is going to incline to the father rather than the mother. If it is the father he will like that one. If it is the mother, well, you must be careful!

I am certain Scouters can interest the disinterested parent a very great deal more than many of them think they can if they will strive to find some point of contact, then make an early meeting, happen to drop in unexpectedly, and wonders may ensue.

Another line with the disinterested parents can be how it helps Scouts for their National Service that comes afterwards.

You might happen to have with you a copy of *The Scout* containing the articles on Modern Weapons.

Then there is the interfering parent. Well, well, I have only one answer for the interfering parent. Ask her to run a jumble sale. And, you know, it does work. It works because she usually isn't the most attractive of personalities, and when she goes round with her little barrow or pushcart collecting those odd objects for the jumble sale, people are so anxious to be rid of her that they will go through the old man's wardrobe much more quickly than if she was an attractive person. Let me add at once that I have also known highly successful jumble sales run by parents who are most charming and far from interfering.

The next parent - the retiring parent. That is an entirely different problem from the disinterested parent, and I have met so many Scouters who have made the mistake of classing them together. The disinterested you have got to get talking on a topic of mutual interest. With the retiring parent you have got to take the line that they are letting down John. They won't mind being told that if they are told it at the right time and in the right way. If you put to them: "You know, John is very proud of you actually and it is an awful pity that you never turn up to our Parents' Days. Quite frankly, I think he would do even better if you were there. I know he feels it - although he would never tell you that." The last bit is rather important! you must take that line, the line that through their self-effacement they are having an adverse effect.

Then we have those who are separated. There we can help a very great deal. I have known parents held together or even brought together again by their mutual interest in the School. Some even put up a show in order to try to create for their boy an appearance of family unity. In that case the school is playing an invaluable part and it might well be that you have parents on the brink of separation whom you, through this wonderful Movement, can draw together. If you can use your cards rightly you can put to them "For John's sake come along - together." It might be that over the years there is just a chance that coming together half a dozen times a year may possibly make them see that they can live once more together. Scouting can at times achieve that. Alas, we have too many parents who think the opposite way. They ignore the lack of security and lack of serenity that they are ensuring for their young people. One parent drifts away and the Movement can do a tremendous lot for the boy who is left.

Here are six classes of parents taken rather at random. Will you remember that the right sort of home can be found in every class and walk of life? People sometimes forget that. The right home is there whatever the means, whatever the surroundings if the right spirit is there and we can through Scouting bring to these right sorts of home a wonderful increase of what I can only call the *Dear Octopus* spirit. We can increase the fun, the enthusiasm, the adventure of that home and then over the years as the family grow up they will all the more be irresistibly attracted back to that home as the spirit of that wonderful play *Dear Octopus*. Scouting will have made still another contribution to the good of mankind.

The approach to parents is so important and I only hope that these six groups we have covered may give you food for thought on how to approach the many people whom we haven't had time to cover.

Now, the schoolmaster. I know there are several of my ilk here and I hope they will forgive me if I remind them that we form part of that group which has been called transient and embarrassed phenomena. You cannot possibly get a vaguely interested boy right on to your side, in view of this hectic production on the stage, unless you get in addition to the parent the head teacher to back you. With the parent I suggest you make it a casual approach: with the schoolmaster I do implore you to think quite differently. He is a strange man: he attempts to get on with his fellows; in some ways he has a sort of Peter Pan mind. He puts on a veneer of over confidence.

He knows nothing very often; therefore that top dressing is an essential stock-in-trade. He has the ghastly occupational disease of knowing he is always right. He has the firm conviction that he does certainly know better than most of the other people he meets.

Those are unfortunate characteristics. Don't go suddenly to him and try to get that five minutes' chat about whether he would like to interest the boys in his school in your Troop. He is used to organising other people's time and can certainly organise his own.

I know that many a schoolmaster would far rather in a day of twelve interviews put aside half an hour by appointment for you rather than spare five minutes when he is about to blow up a miscreant. So do tread carefully. He is going to be, if he knows nothing about Scouting, hard to convince. He is going to think of various old criticisms that have arisen over the years; he is going to wonder if we are all very immature because we run around in shorts: he is going to wonder at the value of the Movement when we expect such low weekly subscriptions. If the Movement was worth anything we would charge more.... He won't see beyond that. He may have listened to the criticisms of ill-informed people. How are you going to convince him?

You are, certainly not going to convince him by talking in airy-fairy terms of the spirit of B.-P. It will do nothing. What he will want are some practical results or at any rate some way in which he can achieve those practical results. I would suggest that Scouters might very well, and some probably do it already, have a little card printed themselves, composed by themselves which they give to every Scout when he joins them asking him to keep it in his diary and perhaps look at it once a day. I am, a tremendous believer in mnemonics, mainly because I know what the word means now, and if I have a dictionary I can spell it! If you don't know what a mnemonic is it is a vertical word with sentences beginning with each of its letters.

You might produce for this head teacher a little card and say "Well this is how we try and bring it home to our boys. I thought you would like to look at this and see if you would agree with our way of doing it. We wondered whether you would like to see if any of these ideas fit in with any of your own views on training for leadership."

As a very simple mnemonic, we will take the word "Scouting."

S - sense. Under the word "sense" I would take three. Sense of duty - duty to parents, so often forgotten in these days, duty to school (remember you are seeing the head teacher), duty to the Movement. One can enlarge on that indefinitely but that will be the first sense. The second sense - sense of purpose. How many of our young people today, owing to having too much money, treat life like a merry-go-round. They thoroughly enjoy it while they are on, but where do they get off? - just where they got on. I often think the boys at the School come along at the beginning of term as though we were starting a new variety show, and I feel like saying at the end of term "Its been lovely to be playing in Eastbourne again. Thank you for being such a wonderful audience." There is a lack of a sense of purpose in so many youth activities, of the lesser type anyway (not the national ones, of course), and that must be brought home early. It will appeal to any head teacher worth his salt. This should be apparent in everything we do.

The other sense is a sense of humour, the greatest passport to happiness in the world - save one. A sense of humour can save young people just as it can save adults. Some years ago a boy was sent to me after breakfast for flicking an ink pellet at Matron. She was wearing a white coat and it had been a lovely shot. It was what I heard described to someone afterwards as a "wizard shot." Somehow I had to keep a straight face because Matron didn't think it was as funny as I did. It was just before Prayers and I had no time to apply the gym shoe, which is the normal thing for such doings, until after Prayers. I thought it would also give me time to compose myself slightly. After Prayers, the boy came up. As he came into the study he seemed to have a smile on his face. They don't usually when coming for this type of treatment. So I said; "What are you grinning for?" "Well, sir, I listened to the lesson in chapel today." Then I had one of those ghastly mental blackouts and couldn't remember a word. So I tried the old schoolmaster's gambit of "Well, tell me what it was about so I can see if you can remember it right." Then he said, and this is absolutely true, "Well, sir, it contained these words 'There is hope for thy latter end.'" Well, I hope you agree that I was right to shake him warmly by the hand and let him off. That boy is now at his Public School and as I told his present headmaster I think he will go a long way.'

Then we come to *C - courage*. Any head teacher would like to know that we in Scouting train for adventure and courage - that we want our boys to dare to do right. We may not be able to encourage them very often in restricted areas but still it must be there.

I think one of my greatest thrills was when my own son who is a Patrol Leader went last week on his first long train journey by himself and I got this rather smudged postcard after he had arrived: "Everything went as to plan. I lost my ticket at Birmingham." (I showed the card to Fred Hurrill just to substantiate what I said.) (I hope he doesn't always lose his ticket but there was a spirit of adventure there all right.

O - honour - and here I am afraid I cheat a little. And if by any chance any of you should use the word "honour" for "O" don't explain it to the Scout when you give him the card. It is such fun to see how he takes it. Some will whisper in corners and tap their foreheads. Others just say "Well, of course, he didn't go to our school."

Honour I want taken in two senses, the honour that means that when a Scout does give his word of honour we know that it is an absolutely firm promise and that we can trust it through thick and thin. Any head teacher vaguely connected with young people must see that it is a most wonderful characteristic to try to develop. The other kind of honour is to honour adults. In a sense it comes under sense of duty in the first one. To honour those who have borne the heat and burden of the day. There is nothing more tragic than to see young people being unkind to those who are old and I am quite sure we could do something under that heading of honour to bring home to them that to be dishonourable is to be discourteous and the other way round.

U - unselfishness, because that surely is one of the essentials of our Movement and again the person to whom you are saying it must be pleased to know that you are trying to encourage unselfishness. We should think of some story of unselfishness and put a word or two on that card to remind the boy of that story. It is better to pick a story relating to someone of his own age. Here is a story which I find does seem to go home with boys and is a true one.

A boy of twelve in 1942 broke his back while riding. The doctors couldn't do anything for him. All they could do was to deaden the pain. One day when they had failed, after he had had a particularly bad spasm, he said to his mother "Wasn't it jolly lucky that the pony wasn't hurt - only me." I shall never forget that story myself and those two words "only me" at the end. He died a few days later and I somehow feel that in his case a fine spirit rode on in majesty. That kind of story does tend to live in the twelve-year-old's mind because it happened to somebody of about his age and size.

T - together. A great many people who know nothing about our Movement misunderstand us and think only of our jolly get-togethers like this, and unfortunately confuse the two things unity and uniformity. That is a point you must bring home to the headmaster - that unity is the very keynote of our organisation. It must be. We wouldn't be here today if it wasn't. Unity not uniformity. If you get uniformity you will kill initiative in every possible way. The Movement would inevitably topple and fall. Unity is a grand fellowship in which we can share our hopes, our anxieties and our disappointments.

I - initiative. I think we do want to explain here to head teachers that we are unlikely to cut the place to bits. There is a tremendous antipathy to sheath knives. I think they have got the impression sometimes that we are going to get tough with them. By initiative we mean doing the right thing first; that is what we are trying to bring out: not being impetuous. I shall never forget going round late one night and hearing a Patrol Leader say "Well, you will jolly well get down again and pray for a fine day to-morrow." I must admit that in my own prayers that night I did hope that the Almighty would grant us a fine day on the morrow because of that Patrol Leader's faith. That boy's faith must have been immeasurably strengthened next morning when, thanks be, it was fine.

N - nature. There you have got to tread very carefully because the old-fashioned headmaster still thinks that we are a Tarzan type of Movement. He envisages us swinging on ropes from one bough to another or erecting in his grounds aerial runways which he will have to declare officially open. But any sensible schoolmaster or schoolmistress will see that in our love of nature, our love of the open air, our love of the countryside, we are furthering one of our greatest national heritages.

G - God. We mustn't let these adults think that we are a "pi" Movement. They are a little afraid of us occasionally for that very reason. We want to try to bring home to them that our object is to emphasise to our Scouts unobtrusively that there is a Power in whose strength they can have complete confidence whatever happens. That put very simply to any adult will dispel any fears he has that we are going to overdo the religious side.

So much for the approach to the schoolmaster. If you can try and work in a card like that, I think you will find that most of them will tend to come a little bit more round to your way of thinking and may say a word or two at next Assembly to encourage Scouting.

Now the Parson. It is very very difficult not to forget him sometimes because by the very virtue of his role he tends to be tucked away out of sight and does not want to push himself forward. He might very well come to our Troop night sometimes to say prayers. We might ask him to run the Service for us, not try to run our own. This year I shouldn't think there would be many Harvest Festivals but in any case we must, from our first approach, emphasise to him that we want him to play a really live part in the life of the Troop. We want him to convince our Scouts that they are to grow naturally into manly Christians, not just pay lip service for effect. We hope, of course, that they will respect him and in very many cases they will do so quite naturally, but some parsons, as you know, are so unobtrusive and mild that they have rather to be brought out into the limelight, a thing the prompter may not want.

Once or twice I have had the privilege of serving on the selection boards for C.A.C.T.M. Commonly called "Cactum"). You know, you live with these groups of ordinands for a few days. Each of the selectors has to interview every candidate for half an hour. I have asked whether these men have got an interest in youth work. I can tell you in absolute honesty that I have on every occasion come back immensely encouraged by the replies they have given me. So if a clergyman seems to be holding back, do not think he is disinterested. If you make an approach to him you will find again and again that used in the right way he will give invaluable support.

I hope that it has been shown that with these three principals on our side this production of young people on this stage might change from something like "the rivals" to "the good companions." We might get a spirit of fellowship on to that stage which will also attract other young people who may be sitting in outer darkness. When we have got our own Scouting into that production it can be a 'shining light to others and as they go on through their life, even after active Scouting has had its day, they will have that wonderful feeling not that they are just strutting and fretting their hour upon the stage but that up there in the gods there is a Light shining to guide them - a Light which leaves no shadows.

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SUTTON PARK

By **J. R. M. RAMSHAW**

District Commissioner, Sutton Coldfield

To many the name of Sutton Coldfield must already be familiar, associating it as they will with the wonders of television; for here on our northern boundary we have one of the great chain of masts and transmitting stations which bring this miracle of modern science to the fireside.

It is not of modern things with which we are here concerned, but of a priceless heritage, the gift of a king, which the wisdom and foresight of a beneficent bishop has caused to be preserved through over four centuries of time for the lasting benefit and pleasure of the people.

Here, in the very heart of England, is a lovely enclosed park of more than 2,400 acres, zealously preserved in all its natural beauty which, by the generosity of the Mayor and Council has been placed at the disposal of the Boy Scout Movement for the holding of the Jubilee Jamboree of 1957.

Words cannot describe the beauties of this vast park with its rolling moorland, its lovely woods and placid pools, that at all times of the year and in all weathers, give shades of colour and scents of earth and heather to warm the heart of any who may wander through. Here is a paradise for the naturalist, with an immense variety of plants and trees, insects and birds, many of them rare.

There are no formal gardens, avenues of trees, or planned effects to catch the eye, although with the passing years alterations have been made to meet the changing needs. Roads have been surfaced and prepared for motor traffic, and provision made for many recreations, yet these have not changed its vital character, and there is no sense of strangeness when one finds beneath the covering ground the well marked contours of a Roman road built more than eighteen centuries ago, sweeping majestically - straight as an arrow - through the park.

The Romans came, they built their road and then withdrew. Later the Saxons maintained for over three hundred years a great forest, or Chase, in this area, which was used by their kings as a hunting ground, and it is thought that here at the "southern" end was a lodge or village. With the Norman Conquest this Chase was still preserved by the Crown until, under the reign of Henry I, the estate of Sutton, following an exchange of lands, passed to the Earl of Warwick.

For a further three and a half centuries the estate remained for the most part in the possession of the Earls of Warwick, prospering with the times and ever popular as a hunting ground. Fortunes changed, however, in the fifteenth century. During the bitter struggles of the Wars of the Roses much timber was felled to further the campaigns and, when in 1487 the estate was resigned to Henry VII it was greatly impoverished.

It was to be through John Harman, a native of Sutton - later to be known as John Vesey - who at this time was rising to prominence in the Church and also in the favour of the Court, that Sutton was to benefit so greatly.



ROAD FROM THE HARTOPP GATE TO THE TOWN GATE

By 1519 when John Vesey was consecrated Bishop of Exeter, he was already established as one of the king's closest advisers and favourites; thus it was that knowing the plight of his native town, he sought and gained from Henry VIII a charter.

By the Charter of 1528 the king granted to the inhabitants the Chase, Manor and Lordship and decreed that henceforth the town and village be "accounted, named and called the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield" and constituted the Warden and society, which governed the town until the grant of a new Charter by Queen Victoria in 1886.

Whilst by this most gracious act the king had secured the future of the town, Vesey, who by then was once more living in his native town, was not content, and set about with a restless energy and the wealth at his disposal, to protect and develop this precious gift, a task which he was to continue until his death. His many works for the town included the improving and enclosing of the park, the paving of the streets, the building of bridges, the restoration and enlargement of the church and the founding of a Grammar School which bears his name and which to-day possesses a flourishing Scout Group.

Due no doubt to the munificence of the king, the Tudor Rose was adopted as the seal of the Warden and Society of Sutton Coldfield and this, with the addition in quite recent times, of a bishop's mitre, remained the seal and badge of the Royal Town until the granting of a Coat of Arms less than twenty years ago. The Tudor Rose has come through constant usage to be a very personal symbol of our pride in our great heritage and of loyalty to the Crown, and for this very reason the Sutton Coldfield Boy Scouts Association adopted it as their own emblem at the Coronation of our most gracious Queen.

This is no common pasture which has been placed at our disposal, but soil which kings have trodden; a piece of land steeped in history and breathing the very spirit of our race. It is upon this treasured ground that the people of the Royal Town will welcome Scouts from the world over as they come to celebrate the Jubilee and pay their tribute to the memory of their Founder.



LONOMORE POOL

The Boys' Brigade President (Lord Maclay) wishes to thank sincerely the 1,500 Scouters, assembled for their National Conference at Filey, for their kind message of good wishes on the occasion of the Founder's Centenary, and reciprocates the views expressed. The message will be communicated to the Brigade Executive at their next meeting, and will be much appreciated.

Selections from
NOTEBOOK FOR A YEAR

19. By NOMAD

October. - Gone are the camps; gone are the boys; and the moorland streams have borne away upon their bosoms the echoes of many happy days. But the in eradicable memories remain: memories of good times; of cricket and other camp games, and of Wide Games; of camp fires, of the scent of these; the cadence of the boys' voices; and of smoke rising towards the starlit heavens, along with the cry of the questing owl.

Now we are busy, or should be, overhauling our camp gear, seeing that tents be dry and properly folded for storage; and cooking gear cleaned and polished - even if this was done when striking camp, it needs to be done again.

November. - The falling leaves, the fogs, and signs of approaching winter make us appreciate all the more our Troop Headquarters; and in the warmth (I hope!) of these we are busy with our work of qualifying for Badges - which reminds me of what an S.M. overheard. Two Scouts lashing for their Second Class Test: 1st Scout: "I'd like to shoot the man who invented this Test." 2nd Scout: "You can't do that." 1st Scout: "Why?" 2nd Scout: "He's been dead for years." 1st Scout: "Oh, he isn't that feller who comes to see us." (The D.C.!)

December. - Continuing the good work, gaining Badges, or failing to pass some Test: the rough with the smooth: and it is necessary for boys to remember Bruce and the Spider, of whom, and of which, they should have read. Games of various sort, and jolly evenings. After one visit by the D.C., who had given the Troop a pat on the back for their keenness and good turnout; one Scout to another, "It's the first time that he hasn't found something wrong with us." So we approach Christmas; and on Christmas Day the receiving from a Pack of an almanac for the ensuing year; made by the Cubs themselves, and with their best wishes.

We have our parties, when "A good time is had by all"; the tables groaning under food of all kinds, provided by the Group Committees; and when the meals be over we wonder as to where it has all gone, and how the boys are able to join in the active games which follow. However, we ourselves once were young.

January. - In comes the New Year, the time (though there should be many others) when we make so many good resolutions, which we so often find so hard to keep. Interspersed with Troop work we have our inter-Troop football matches, often in bad weather; but what does that matter, excepting to the poor mothers who have to see to the cleaning of shirts and shorts.

At one Troop Meeting, after saying a few words to the boys, I asked for "Any questions." One diminutive Scout put up his hand and asked, "Please, sir, are you the head of everyone?" Very complimentary; but I told him that I was just a Scout, as he was, and that although I had certain things to do there were many above me.

February. - Nature is waking up and the birds are beginning to sing. This seems to be reflected in the boys who, though not having hibernated during the last couple of months, appear to be taking on a new lease of life; and subscriptions towards Camp come rolling in. The Cubs, too, are doing well, and are peering round in their observant way. One told me that their lady C.M. had a photograph of me. I said, "Are you sure?" as I did not remember having had a snapshot taken with the Pack. He answered "Yes." I asked the C.M. about it. She said Oh, no, the photograph which I have is one of the Founder."

"Some have greatness thrust upon them"; but -it gives you an insight to the minds of these young boys. It behoves a Commissioner to be very careful in his words and acts: Cubs and Scouts, innately, and by virtue of their training, are very sharp Scouts, eyed and sharp eared.

March. - And still the good work of Scouting goes on. A Gang Show, and I went into the wings for a time. I saw three small Scouts talking together in an undertone and eyeing me. Finally one came to me and said, "Please, sir, are you a Commissioner?" I replied, "Yes, I am: will you shake hands with me?" Which they did - with much dignity.



THE WOODCARVER

This month, to add to other activities of -mind and body, I.H.Q. sent us a questionnaire about the Scout hat; as some might think whether to bear the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or by opposing, end them - in favour of a beret.

In the course of debates amongst Troops, some reasons were asked for in support of the different opinions; and in one case when a vote had been taken, and most were in favour of the beret, and only two or three for the Scout hat, the S.M. asked why the minority had favoured the hat. Two of the replies were, "My brother gave me his," and "My mother bought one at a Jumble Sale." This about finished March!

April. - And on the 12th saw my first "Swallow" of the year - a sand-martin.

Now we are on the Job - Bob-a-Job - and the poor D.C. is about stony broke, after finding tasks for a succession of Cubs and Scouts, each one of such succession volunteering to do "Anything." And well they did what they were asked to do. It was a pleasure to see them, clean, tidy and well turned out, with their smiling faces shining with good cheer, willingness and soap.

As it be a *sine qua non* that the boy earn the money, no doubt the Scout who cleaned out three pig sties and a hen house, and received a shilling, was of the opinion that he had earned it, and, like the Village Blacksmith, had earned (also) a night's repose.

May. - Troops are now getting out at night, which is as it should be; and studying the countryside, and the- heavens, by night as well as by day. Those who do not knock about at night do not know what they miss, and how much they have yet to learn of their surroundings and of nature. The once-a-week Troop Evening indoors leaves much to be learnt in Scouting. In addition to this, and by the help of it, the qualifying for Badges still goes on.

June. - Coronation - and bonfires. The selling of the Coronation programmes and the weather bad: but we got through all right - and no programmes to return (general rejoicing by all concerned - here and at L.H.Q., etc.).

One Troop went out on the moors to see the bonfires; and took a compass bearing to reach home - camp. The bearing unfortunately was not too good, and as they had not a luminous compass they kept on striking matches to look at the compass. In fine, they got lost, and finished up at a rushing stream. The water was about two feet deep, but, not daunted, they took off their shoes and stockings, rolled up their shorts, and, like the Israelites, were successful in getting across; the S.M. and older Scouts shouldering those who would have been head over ears. They finally reached camp about 2 a.m. after a very long trek; made themselves some cocoa and turned in. No one any the worse; and all the better for a really good bat at Scouting, and a useful experience.

At one camp on the moors the S.M. was suddenly taken ill in the evening; and, after sending, by two of the boys, to the nearest small country town, some five miles away, was taken home by ambulance. S.O.S. received by the D.C. Another S.M. motored out to the camp - eleven p.m., and as everything was all right, and there were some bigger boys in camp, after satisfying himself left them to it. The S.M.'s illness was of short duration (I think that he had eaten something not too wisely), and at about noon next day he turned up at the camp, and found the Scouts having a good feed. He was very pleased at this, and said "You are having a jolly good dinner: what did you have for breakfast?" The reply was, "This is our breakfast."

July. - Great activity in preparation for Camp. Tents, bedding, and kitchen gear, and things in general, being overhauled - and looked for! The S.M. goes through his First Aid box and wonders if, and hopes that, he has enough of this, that and-the other.

Seated on the ground one day in a camp I was talking to some of the boys, when a boy came up to me with a pan in one hand and a spoon in the other, and asked if I would taste what was in the pan and tell him what I thought of it. I tasted it, and said "Oh, it's passable." Shortly after, the S.M. came over to me and said "John Smith says that he has qualified for his Cook Badge." I, not knowing what he was talking about, "Really." He, "Yes; he says that you have just examined him and passed his cooking."

August - And camps springing up like mushrooms: one day the land almost bare; the next dotted with tents, and the boys making their presence felt, and, as is their wont, taking over things in general.

The time of the First Class Journey is here, and very interesting it is, and many are the incidents therein. Upon checking the Log of one Journey which I had set I was very much struck by the recurrent words "Called for a drink of water." As too much water be not to the good for walking, and as I could not understand how the boys could be wanting so much, I made inquiries of the participants. The answer was, "It was so hot." Unfortunately the start of the Journey had coincided with the start of a heat wave, I had not arranged this! and was sorry about it; otherwise I would have somewhat cut down the distances.

On another occasion I called upon the farmer who had kindly by arrangement with me let the boys bivouac on his land, to see if he were satisfied. I had visited the bivouac during the preceding night (02.00) and went to the field with him. He could not show me where they had camped, and when I pointed out the place to him he could not believe that it had been used. Upon leaving, early in the morning, the boys had called to thank him, but he was too busy with his harvest to go then and see the camp site.

September. - Camping dwindling, but still some belated ones. On one occasion, when I went to see a Troop who were striking camp, to see if they were getting away all right, and to say au revoir and good-bye, their transport had not arrived - and did not appear for an hour.

It was a beautiful day, blue sky and warm sunshine; so we all sat together on the grass, and the S.M. asked me if I would give the boys a talk upon Natural history. This I did, and the boys were very interested, and asked innumerable questions - more particularly, probably, as they were a town Troop.

I was gratified - or shall I say "touched"? - to receive a few days later a letter written on behalf of the Troop conveying their good wishes and thanking me for what I had done, and saying how enjoyable it was. A small thing, perhaps but a happy memory; and one of those incidents which help to make Scouting what it is.

So I close my Book;
But Memory's eye,
With its retrospective look,
Sees what within the pages lie.

OUR DISTRICT

By A.D.C.

Purling, G.S.M. of the 33rd, dropped in to see me last night, looking pale and haggard. He was so distraught that he filled his pipe from his own pouch instead of cadging from me, as usual, so I knew that he was in a pretty bad way.

"It's our Annual Show," he groaned. "We put one on just before Christmas every year, as you know, and as soon as the summer camp is over the thought of the thing haunts me. I just don't happen to have the knack of organising a good show, and my A.S.M.s are equally un-Reader-like, so though we all wear ourselves to shadows over the thing it is always a bit of a flop."

I would have liked to say a kind word and reassure him, but truth forbade it. Sitting through the Annual Show of the 33rd is a grim task. In my long years in the Movement I have seen hundreds of dreadful Group Shows, but nothing else to equal Purling's annual effort. One occasionally gets a quiet chuckle from the serious items, but the comic stuff brings tears to the most hardened eye.

"I simply can't lay my finger on what's wrong," he moaned. "Other Troops seem to manage to put on good shows... take the 44th for instance. Young Dowlton's show last year ran for five nights, and people enjoyed it so much they went again and again.."

Oddly enough young Dowlton of the 44th dropped in soon after Purling had departed. He wore a bereaved look.

"I've lost Eddie Toop," he said dismally. "His father, like a fool, has been promoted to a better job in the Huddersfield branch of his firm, so of course he is moving the family up there. Some people have no consideration

I felt that Dowlton was perhaps being a little hard on the elder Troop, but did not say so, for he was obviously feeling very bitter.

"Eddie only wanted one more badge for his Queen's Scout," he said tragically, "and now some wretched Yorkshire Troop will get the credit. I've had this Troop six years, and I'm rather weak on badge work myself, not having come into the Movement till I was twenty, and I've always been ashamed not to have a Queen's Scout, when Purling has at least two or three every year. So I've been wearing myself to a shadow helping Eddie along. I knew if I got one Queen's Scout others would follow, but now that Eddie has been snatched away when practically ripe the whole future looks dark and bleak..."

I smiled.

"Purling is weak at running shows," I said, "and your Troop is weak at badge work, while you are good at shows and Purling knows how to get chaps keen on badges. I suggest that you let Purling invite your Seniors to join with his for badge work for a few months, and invite some of Purling's chaps to take part in your show..."

Of course it was an obvious suggestion, but would Dowlton listen to it? Not on your life! He thanked me for the idea, but said that though he had a great respect for old Purling, he didn't think it would work, and when I mentioned the matter to Purling, he said he wasn't going to have his authority undermined with his boys by a young whipper-snapper like Dowlton.

In Our District I am afraid that a sort of inter-Troop jealousy prevents what might be very useful co-operation in a lot of directions. I hope it isn't the same in your District!

37. EUROPEAN EXPEDITION

A REPORT ON THE ESSEX SENIOR SCOUTS' SECOND EUROPEAN EXPEDITION (2)

(Continued from last month)

Many adventures were to befall those lads during the next nine days, but they went away with the knowledge that should they get into any difficulties, there was an organisation at hand ready to help them. During the time the Patrols were away on their hikes there were always five members of H.Q. staff on duty. Each member of H.Q. staff did forty-eight hours duty during the nine days; the remainder of the time they were free to do as they pleased. Many of them did hikes and made journeys of their own, many Patrols were surprised to receive visits from H.Q. staff at places as far away as Koblenz (150 miles by road).

During all the time the Patrols were away from H.Q. they sent back postcards every other day. These postcards were supplied already printed with the address on one side and on the other spaces to fill in details of the whereabouts of the Patrol and the probable destination next day. There was also a space for remarks, this space being used to advantage by most Patrols. It was from this section that those on H.Q. staff were able to obtain a general picture of the Expedition and were able to tell that all was well. There was great satisfaction when it was seen that all Patrols were having a good time and that they were reporting helpful assistance of the people of the countryside through which they were passing. The general cheerfulness of the postcards kept those on H.Q. staff cheerful.

One section of the Expedition went direct to Namur, and another to Eindhoven in Holland. At both places the arrangements made for the reception of the Patrols exceeded the most optimistic hopes. Thanks are due to Dr. Fernard Genbelle, Rover leader of Namur, and Mr. H. C. Brans and Mr. F. E. Herrman, Commissioners of Eindhoven for their fine example of the Spirit of the Brotherhood of Scouting.)

During the hike the Patrols had a great variety of experiences. One boy had to rescue a member of his Patrol when he got into difficulties.

Many Patrols mentioned the general helpfulness of the people and in particular the men who had been prisoners-of-war in England were most happy to meet someone from England.

Even the Patrol whose guest Scout brought a map dated 1908 (most suitable year) had no difficulty in hiking through the strange countryside, and the same Patrol had a meal cooked for them by a lady who said that she required no payment except that the boys should write to her when they got back to England. This Patrol also spent a day at school with German boys, taking part in the lessons with them, and during one session a member of the Patrol told the class about life in England.

Many Patrols visited the wine festivals in the Moselle Valley and witnessed the ancient ceremonies which date right back to the fifteenth century where all was fun and laughter (and in one case, free win!).

Other Patrols went further afield to Cologne, Bonn and Koblenz, had rides on the river barges, scorned the roads and walked right over the Eifel mountains, camped beside the Rhine, camped on an island on the Rhine, visited Luxembourg City on a day when all the shops put their unwanted goods outside the door and sell them by auction with the aid of loudspeakers and music (a colourful sight but wearing on the nerves!). Several Patrols visited and were shown round Radio Luxembourg.

One Patrol reported that they had no language difficulties as they were able to speak French, German, and Utta Bunkum, the latter being the most useful. Again language difficulties were made light of by the Patrol which wrote: "We have now five sore feet and an excellent French linguist who with the aid of a phrase book can buy us dog biscuits to eat."

Every Patrol had been given a telephone number to ring in case of emergency, and one Patrol reported that they nearly had to use it, as one day while they were hiking through the vineyards one member of the Patrol took a Wrong turning and got lost.

When he did not turn up that night the P.L. went to inquire how much it would cost to 'phone H.Q.

On being told it would cost twenty marks he decided his Scout was not worth that much. Fortunately the missing body turned up before breakfast next morning none the worse for his lonely night.

Although the hospitality offered to our Scouts wherever they went was of the highest order, special mention must be made of the Dutch hospitality which was outstanding. The Scout Spirit is well understood and practised by our Dutch Brother Scouts. It was in Holland that a farmer helped one Patrol by rowing the boys across the river. As the Patrol put it "tres droll," for the farmer was an amusing fellow who, when in midstream, stood on his head in the boat, just for fun.

On the appointed day for the return of the Patrols, all H.Q. staff were back on duty. Patrols reported to the Chateau where accommodation had been found for us by the Luxembourg Scouts in their office. After being registered in, the Patrols were sent on to the camping ground where they were to camp for the night. There they were given tea and sandwiches and were shown where to pitch their tents. Each group of Patrols had a long fire on which they cooked the food which was issued to them by a hard working H.Q. staff. All Patrols arrived back on time except two who 'phoned and gave their explanations; one got back by 10 p.m. and the other next day.

It was on this day that the Deputy County Commissioner for Essex, Mr. V. G. Hines arrived, having flown over to be present during the final stages of the Expedition and his presence was much appreciated by all. His first duty was to open the Camp Fire which was held in the Chateau courtyard and attended by the townspeople, Scouts of Wiltz and those guest Scouts who had returned to Wiltz with the Patrols.

Next day after flag break, and a short Scouts' Own at which prayers were said in thankfulness for the safe return of the Patrols, the boys were free to visit Wiltz to buy last minute presents for Mum, Dad and others. In the afternoon at a special session of all Patrols, the Patrol Leaders gave a brief outline of their adventures during the past nine days. Only four Patrols failed to produce a detailed log of their journey. Some of the logs were of a very high standard but the majority showed no imagination whatsoever and the spelling in many cases was atrocious (this is more a matter of education than Scouting). The winners of the Log Competition were announced at Gilwell on November 8th at an Expedition re-union where photographs and logs were on view.

The arrangement whereby each Patrol was to be accompanied by a Scout from the country visited, worked well, but all Patrols did not obtain a guest Scout, particularly those visiting Germany (one of the reasons for this being that German schools restarted on September 1st in many parts of Germany). The guest Scouts were most helpful, and all Patrols were full of praise for them. One thing arising that could have caused difficulties was that Continental Scouts prefer to hitch hike, and our Patrols had definite instructions not to do so, also in many cases the Continental Scouts preferred to sleep in Youth Hostels. Wherever possible our Patrols persuaded their guests that it was much more enjoyable to camp (and cheaper) and the ban on hitch hiking was observed - with one exception. Several Patrols reported on return that motorists had stopped on their own accord (intrigued no doubt by not being asked for a lift). This experience was confirmed by several members of H.Q. staff who had similar experiences while on their own hikes.

During the afternoon kits were packed and after a reception given by the Wiltz Scouters to the adult members of the Expedition all moved to the Chateau courtyard where speeches of appreciation and thanks to our hosts were made, and Mr. Hines making a fluent speech in French, presented Mr. Eugene Weber with a carved plaque of the Scout badge with the Essex Arms superimposed.

The plaque was carved for us by Ted Gathercole of Gilwell. The gift was much appreciated by the Wiltz Scouts.

After spending the rest of the time in the Chateau and having a meal at the Youth Hostel we left Wiltz at 4.10 a.m. All arrived at Victoria (London) at 9 p.m.

During the Expedition the discipline of the boys was excellent and many people mentioned to me during my visits to the areas in which they were hiking, how very impressed they were by the good manners of the English Scouts. I think it can be summed up best as it was by a letter containing Christmas greetings I received from Wiltz. I quote as written.

We are very glad that your holidays in our scout-city has been so excellent . . . at all times english boy-scouts are welcome here in Wiltz.

"The town-yolk of Wiltz as well as Mr. Weber and myself will keep a very good impression from the english boy-scouts who were so very kind and polit to everybody.

"Thanking you once again for the nice present you gave us on the good-bye evening. It is hanging in the reception room of the chalet Belvedere so that everybody can see the artistique skill of the English boy-scouts.

ASTRID SCHNEIDER

Secretary of the scout-bureau Wiltz."



COMPETITION CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN

The Scout Shop will welcome designs and pictures, in colour or black and white, and photographs of subjects suitable for use as Christmas Cards:-

Entries may be submitted in the following three classes:-

(A) Colour, or black and white, pictures depicting the Christmas story.

(B) Colour, or black and white, pictures with a suitable Scouting theme.

(C) Photographs.

Note: Entries under Class A should endeavour combine a Scouting motif and the Christmas story.

All drawings and photographs must be original and I.H.Q. cannot be held responsible for any infringement of copyright in the designs or photographs which may be submitted. This liability must accepted by the competitor and is a condition of entry.

Prizes will be awarded in each class as under:-

1st 6 guineas

2nd 3 guineas

and up to three third prizes of 1 guinea each.

Successful entries will become the property of I.H.Q. and may be incorporated in future Christmas Cards published by them.

Entries will be judged by a small panel of experts each class and their decision will be accepted final.

Entries to be addressed to the General Manager, Equipment Department, Boy Scouts Association, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W. 1, and marked "Christmas Card" on the cover, to arrive at I.H.Q. by 21st February, 1955. Please note carefully that an addressed envelope must be enclose for any entry which is required to be returned to e owner if unsuccessful in the competition, and that all entries should have on the back the competitor's name address.

Everyone taking part agreed that the Expedition had been a great success and well worth while. Thirty-three Patrols of Senior Scouts had been enabled to hike on their own on the Continent. They had found that the people they met were most friendly and anxious to help. They had sampled new foods, new drinks and had got to know something of how other people live. They had proved to themselves that one does not have to have a lot of money to travel abroad, and for most of them it was a great adventure, opening out an exciting future when other visits will be made.

Essex is proud to have done just a little towards starting that flood of young men visiting other lands, which is so necessary for the development of International friendship and understanding, and we are sure that the expansion of our Scout Brotherhood will be given an impetus by such visits.

STAN WINDSOR, A.D.C.(S), Southend.
Expedition Leader.

PATROL ANIMALS AND BIRDS

By MICHAEL BLACKMORE

XI. THE SQUIRREL

Until about sixty-five years ago we had only one kind of squirrel in Britain - the red squirrel - but since then we have had to take a second one into account owing to the introduction of the grey squirrel from North America. However attractive this little alien may look it has proved itself to be an unmitigated pest and it is probably true to say that only the rat and the rabbit are a greater menace to agriculture.

The red is the smaller of our two squirrels and it is certainly the more handsome, especially during late spring when its body fur becomes bright rufous in colour. At this season it has a long bushy tail and conspicuous ear-tufts of pale white or creamy yellow but the hairs soon fall out so that by July or August the tail looks very ragged and the ear-tufts disappear altogether. After the autumn moult they grow again but the new winter coat is much darker than the summer one and only the head and limbs retain their rich chestnut colour. Except for the underside, which is white throughout the year, the rest of the body is now deep brown with a tinge of grey in it and the term "red" squirrel no longer seems appropriate.

On the continent of Europe the tails and ear-tufts of the red squirrel do not fade in summer but over there you find two distinct colour forms of the animal. When I was in Switzerland last May I saw several dark brown, almost blackish, specimens as well as the more familiar red ones. There is such a difference between the two that you might easily imagine them to be separate species. In fact they are merely an example of what scientists call "dimorphism," a word meaning literally "two forms."

Now if you happen to see a black squirrel in England you can be sure that it is a melanistic specimen of the grey and *not* the red squirrel because the latter has only one colour phase in this country. Black examples of the grey squirrel are rather uncommon but I mention them because they do turn up sometimes. There is a tame one in the London Zoo at the present time.

It has often been said that the more robust grey squirrel kills our native red species. The reason behind this accusation is that during the first twenty years of the present century the red squirrel began to disappear from many of its haunts, while at the same time the grey increased rapidly and took over much of the territory formerly occupied by the other.

Occasionally the two species have been known to fight with each other, but there has never been any conclusive evidence to show that the grey squirrel was directly responsible for the decline of the red. In some places they existed side by side on terms of mutual toleration, but even more significant is the fact that the red squirrel also decreased in areas that had not been colonised by the invader at all.

There is no simple explanation for the decline in the red squirrel's fortunes. It seems likely that some epidemic disease greatly reduced its numbers or it may have gone through one of those periodic cycles of depression that are known to affect various kinds of animals; possibly a combination of both circumstances affected it. At all events, the red squirrel gradually, started to increase again after 1920 and to-day it is not uncommon in parts of East Anglia and the north, but it does not seem to be re-establishing itself in those districts where the grey squirrel is abundant.

One factor is probably helping the red squirrel. It likes fir plantations in preference to the mixed woodlands where the grey makes itself at home and in recent years the Forestry Commission have planted many square miles of conifers in various parts of Britain, thus providing the conditions which the red squirrel likes best. Of course it does a certain amount of damage to the bark of young trees and therefore foresters have to keep it under control; but a carefully planned policy of preservation within reasonable limits ought to be practicable, especially in forestry areas where red squirrels are rare or are only just beginning to come back again.

No such concessions are advisable wherever the grey squirrel exists. It destroys not only the bark and tender shoots of trees (sycamore and beech seem to be special favourites) but it also eats cultivated fruits, grain crops, bulbs and flowers. I shall never forget seeing a large bed of tulips that had been completely ruined during a raid by these animals. The stems of about three hundred tulips had been bitten through and the dying blooms lay everywhere. As far as I could see the squirrels had made no attempt to eat the plants and it looked like a case of destruction for its own sake.

Perhaps I need hardly say that both our squirrels are fond of nuts, acorns and pine seeds but if you come across the remains of cones under a fir-tree can you tell which species has been at work? Generally speaking the red squirrel strips the cones more neatly and methodically than the grey.

The squirrel's nest or "drey" is a rather untidy pile of twigs and leaves lined with softer materials such as grass, fibres and moss. It is usually placed in the fork of a tree though you may sometimes find it on top of a flat branch in the open. I have noticed that the grey squirrel also likes to build inside a hollow trunk if it can find one and both species will take over the disused nest of a crow or magpie.

The young are born at any time between January and September (three or four is the usual number) and there are sometimes two litters during the season. The drey is used not only as a nursery for the youngsters but also as a sleeping-place throughout the year.

Some people believe that squirrels hibernate but this is not true. You can expect to see them in- any month of the year, but when the weather is really cold they become less active and may lie up for a few days.



VI. "TAMING WILD ANIMALS"

By L. HUGH NEWMAN

I want to begin this last article in my present series on keeping pets with a word of friendly warning. Please consider very carefully whether you have the time and the patience to care for a wild animal before you embark light-heartedly on the job of trying to tame one. I say this because unwittingly you could be the cause of untold misery to an animal if you fed or housed it unwisely. Just to give you one example of what I mean; it would be extremely cruel to confine a wild squirrel in a small cage as you would a tame rabbit.

Of all our wild animals I think the hedgehog is probably the easiest to tame, and there is no need to keep it in close captivity. In a garden it is a fairly simple matter to tame a hedgehog sufficiently to make it come for food at a fixed time each evening. Keep a watch for a few evenings first, standing very quietly until you find out which route the little animal usually takes.

The next step is to put out a saucer of bread and milk in a place where the hedgehog is bound to discover it. If you repeat this every evening and then stand watching, you will find that the animal comes with great regularity and empties the dish. When he has learnt to expect his evening meal you can move the saucer a little each day until you are able to coax him to come right up to your back door!

But if you have a garden shed it might be a better plan to lead the trail towards this, for in this way you might be able to persuade your new pet to take up his hibernating quarters there. During the coldest months of the year hedgehogs nearly always lie up somewhere, making a snug hibernaculum for themselves out of dry grasses and leaves fashioned into a rough sort of ball. If you provide similar material, and put it in a wooden box turned on end and stood in a dark corner, there is every chance that your hedgehog will choose this place as his winter quarters.

In the early spring your pet will wake up, rather weak after his long sleep, but fresh water and the right kind of food will soon restore him to health and vigour. The natural diet of a hedgehog is a good mixture of earthworms, slugs, beetles and other "tasty" insects, and so it is up to you to provide him with the right kind of food. A captive hedgehog will soon learn to come and take food from your hand, and will also grow out of the habit of immediately curling up into a prickly ball when you touch it. Once it has become really tame you can allow it out in the garden where it will roam around at dusk in all the corners just as it did the year before, and if the door of the shed is left open each night your pet will probably be found asleep there when you go to look for it in the morning.

Young squirrels can make the most attractive pets, but they are such lively little animals that you must be prepared to give them a great deal of space if you want to keep them in captivity. Miss Frances Pitt, the well-known writer and naturalist, has kept - and tamed several squirrels, and she always allows them the run of a large loft in her house. And so unless you have parents who are fond of wild animals as you are I cannot recommend them to you as pets.

It is possible, however, that you may come upon a nest, or drey as it is called, with some baby squirrels inside that are dying of starvation because a gamekeeper has shot the parents. A drey looks rather like a large bird's nest made of twigs, and is usually quite high up in the fork of a tree, and so it will mean a stiff climb to reach it. But I mention this because it is one way of obtaining a baby squirrel if you are determined that this is the type of wild animal you want to try and tame.

If the baby squirrel is very young, it is best to try and find it a foster mother, and a cat with kittens or a bitch with puppies will sometimes accept one of these furry animals as its own. I have known a squirrel reared like this become a household pet, just like the kittens which were its foster brothers.

It ran in and out of the house perfectly free and returned every night to its sleeping box, which was fixed to the back of a door, with a piece of rope dangling down for it to climb up!



HEDGEHOGS ARE VERY FOND OF MILK!

Squirrels will eat all kinds of nuts, berries and seeds. They also like to nibble at crusts of brown bread and toast, and they are fond of bits of apple or carrot. In the wild, squirrels are great raiders of birds' nests for the eggs, and so if you want to give your pet a real treat, give him a piece of hard-boiled egg. Estate owners detest the squirrel because of the damage these animals do to the young fir trees, and so remember that if you are keeping one in captivity it will like nothing better than some pine cones full of seeds to nibble at so that its teeth keep in good condition and do not grow too long.

I have nearly filled my space and have hardly touched on this fascinating subject. Among the other wild animals that you can successfully tame are otters, badgers, and to a lesser extent foxes. All I can do now therefore is to suggest some further reading for you. The most delightful book I ever read about a tame otter is Miss Phyllis Kelway's *The Otter Book*; it will nearly break your heart to read it, but you will never forget this true story of the love of a young woman for her pet otter.

My friend, the nature photographer, Mr. Oliver G. Pike, has written many books about animals, and in his *Nature and Camera* he tells you all about two foxes that learned to regard one particular human as a friend instead of an enemy - as he puts it himself. I liked the story of the tame fox that Freddie Grisewood tells in his autobiography. But again this ends in tragedy, for this animal never learnt to fear dogs, as it was brought up with them and considered they were its equal playmates. And then one day this tame fox escaped from the garden and its scent was trailed by a pack of hounds. When the hunting dogs caught up with the pet fox it turned to play with them and was of course killed in an instant.

I finish this article on a note of tragedy on purpose, for this is what so often happens in real life. You become fond of a wild creature and it either escapes or dies, often through no fault of your own. And so I say, only if you are prepared to accept all the heartbreaks associated with the taming of wild animals do I advise you to try it, otherwise keep to the domestic animals, and even they will give you trouble enough.

[End of Series]

NEWS FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

The report on the Investigation into Leakage has revived several points that have been talked about in recent years; one in particular is the comparatively small number of Scouts who gain their Second Class Badge. A Scouter with whom I was discussing this just after the Filey Conference holds the view that many of our Scouts are trained in their Second Class tests and are quite capable of passing them but, owing to the pre-occupations of their Scouters, they cannot find anyone to examine them. You will remember this point cropped up a few years ago and the Committee of the Council amended P.O.R. 430 to enable anyone authorised by the Scoutmaster - an A.S.M., Rover Scout, Senior Scout, Old Scout - to examine on his behalf. It is a very great pity if this help is not being used.

Nothing can be more frustrating to a Scout than to be trained and ready to pass his tests only to find that no-one has the time to examine him - unless it be the Scout who, having passed his tests, is kept hanging about for his Badge!

From the earliest days of the Movement, Scouters have talked and written about *Scouts* making progress in their tests and lately there has been, perhaps, an even greater emphasis on this fundamental aspect of Scouting and some of the difficulties involved. Very different views are held about the time a *Scout* should take to pass from one stage to the next but I do not think anyone would disagree that the *Scouts* themselves do not want to remain at the Tenderpad or Tenderfoot stage and that they should understand that their Scouters expect them to progress.

In some Groups it seems so easy; tests are passed, a badge awarded and then on to the next lot of tests. But some of us find it not quite so easy and welcome ideas for targets. Here is an arrangement that one Group is trying out which may be new and of interest to some of you: it was to me.

At each stage in his progress - be it Tenderpad, First Star, Second Star, Tenderfoot, Second Class or First Class - the recruit, or *Scout*, is given a small card which lists the tests he has to pass before he can win the next badge. Against each of the tests a target date is given - this is the aim by which each test should be passed. Of course, the arrangement of the tests requires some thought to avoid several of the more difficult - or easy tests - coming one after the other. The decision as to target dates depends upon the ability of each individual *Scout*, and while the scheme should provide him with a challenge, it must and at giving him an opportunity within his capabilities.

If you like, the idea can be extended to incorporate some system of points awarded to his Patrol, - so many points when a test is passed and bonus points when a test is passed by the target date. If you have someone in the Group who enjoys keeping records you can award extra bonus points if a test is passed before target date! If this points system is included in the challenge, it should be made clear that to qualify for bonus points, the tests must be passed in the order stated on the card; otherwise the scheme could produce a mad rush for points by passing the easy tests and leaving the more difficult ones until a later date - in some cases, no doubt, a very much later date.

I hope it does not sound too complicated. Simplified, it just means that instead of giving a Scout a date by which he should gain the Second Class Badge, we give him the dates by which we hope he will have passed the different parts of it.

And having done this, we have our Examiners ready to cope with the customers!

Those who are coming to *The Gang Show* from distant parts may like to know that B.-P.'s Room at I.H.Q. will be open during the afternoons of Saturdays, December 4th and 11th. and that the Scout Restaurant will be open both days for lunches and high teas. There is no need to send prior notification if you intend to visit B.-P.'s Room only, but if you want a meal will you please notify Mrs. Tyler, the Manageress of the Scout Restaurant at I.H.Q., as soon as possible.

A. W. HURLI,

Chief Executive Commissioner.

THE GILWELL LETTER

When, before this year's Reunion, I suggested that members of the 1st Gilwell Park Group might like to present a bulb or two to Gilwell it really did not occur to me that we would have such a wonderful response, both from the people who came to the Reunion and subsequently from literally hundreds of friends from all over the country and, indeed, further afield.

I would also like to thank all the members of the Group for their generous subscriptions which really do help tremendously. At this very moment of writing we are busy increasing the size of the main Camp Fire Circle, which is a somewhat complicated and relatively expensive project. I am delighted not only that we are able to afford to do it but that it has become necessary to do it. Three years ago we practically doubled the size of the circle, thinking, in our innocence, that by doing so we would solve that particular problem for along time ahead, and yet, such have been the numbers at big camps, such as Whilsun, Queen's Scouts Receptions, the Reunion, etc., that even this enlarged circle has become quite inadequate.

Next I would like to say a word about Gilwellbury, the hostel annexe which we opened earlier in the year and which, I am glad to say, seems to be very popular with those who have tried its facilities. I must say, I am very proud of its appearance and its potential value to us.

There are three ways in which any adult member of the Movement can make use of the Gilwellbury facilities. First, for those of you outside the London area who want to stay near London without being in London, well, we can offer you comfortable accommodation at a very reasonable cost. Secondly, for those Scouters who would like to take Courses at Gilwell but do not know what to do with their wife and possibly their family, Gilwellbury can provide the answer and has provided it already for more than a few. I do not pretend that you can attend a Course, have your wife at Gilwellbury and spend a lot of time with her, but at least you have the satisfaction of knowing that she is comfortably housed and within the same hundred-acre plot (except, of course, when you go out on hike!). The third use applies more particularly to those in the Home Counties. Here, in the atmosphere of Gilwell, we can now provide an opportunity for D.C.s to spend a useful week-end with their Group Scouters and team of Assistants or for a Group Scoutmaster to hold his Group Council Meeting away from his own backyard. Quite a number have booked to do this sort of thing and I am sure it can be very beneficial.

Some of you, I expect, have heard that we have been concerned at Gilwell throughout the summer in helping the Royal Air Force with its Recruit Training Scheme.

Over half a century ago the Founder wrote a book called *Aids to Scouting*. He wrote it when he was a professional soldier and saw the need to do something a little more imaginative than was being done for the young soldiers he was concerned with. I suppose it is fair to say that out of *Aids to Scouting* grew Scouting for Boys, our Scouting. Now, in 1954, one of Her Majesty's Services comes full circle and implements a great deal of B.-P.'s practical teaching in its Recruit Training Syllabus. However, that is not quite the end of the story because not only have they accepted the Scout method, B.-P.'s method, but they have come to Gilwell Park, to learn how to make it work through the Wood Badge method, which he also created. I was always taught that the real test of a man's work is what happens when he is no longer there to carry it on. If testimony is needed, here is a tremendous tribute to the life and work of B.-P., and there is also a message for all of us to remember - that we are very rarely in a position to see the full fruits of our sowing but if we do what we believe should be done and do it well, enthusiastically, and with every atom of our skill, then something worthwhile does result.

Sometimes, of course, we do see the results or, at any rate, part of them: I have had a glimpse myself in connection with this R.A.F. training. On the second course for R.A.F. officers was one of my old Scouts, a remarkable coincidence when we envisage the number of officers from which this small course was drawn. This fellow would not mind my saying that he came from very humble beginnings and most of his boyhood was spent in those difficult years of depression, and yet here he is today, an established and quite obviously highly regarded officer in the R.A.F.

He is the first to acknowledge that the spirit of Scouting and the practice of Scouting helped him as much as anything else in his life. I would add only this: he was not an outstanding Scout; he never became a King's Scout or achieved his First Class Badge and, in fact, according to my notes, he is one of those who, somewhere about the age of fifteen, "leaked away" but, nonetheless, he remained a Scout in all things that mattered.

JOHN THURMAN,
Camp Chief

LUCK OF THE MONTH

By THE EDITOR

What can one say good of November - which competes with March, surely, as one's unfavourite month? It has not the berry-ripe wildness of October with its often Indian-summer hours, nor the shining hope and expectation that gives a glitter and a happiness to even the worst December days. Yet even November has its fun and fires and festivals and we must use these as fuel to our imagination. And it can be cosy in den and Troop room, with a fire of some sort or other when songs can be sung and yarns be told.... And soon it will be December....

Passing Thought

In what order of importance to *the boy* would you put the following?

- D.C.
- A.D.C.
- Skip (or Akela).
- L.A. Secretary.
- Badge Secretary.
- Group Scoutmaster.

I should put the Badge Secretary very high indeed. It is a job the D.C. should be concerned to get an absolutely first-rate person to do.

Out of the Mouths (2)

Jim Green (D.C.C., London) told me this coming down from Filey. One of his Cubs, one of these inimitable Cockney kids, was being tested for his Clove Hitch, which he tied correctly. "O.K.," said Jim, "what's it used for?" "Tyin' up cloves," answered the Cub. "Cloves?" said Jim scornfully, "do you know what cloves are?" "Yus," said the Cockney Cub, "fings you wear."

"The Scouter"

It is pleasant to report that the circulation of THE SCOUTER remains steady: it has even increased a little.

Yet when one compares its circulation (just over 34,000) with the 48,061 Scouters, the 2,290 Commissioners, the 13,773 Rover Scouts, and when one knows that it is taken by at least some Senior Scouts, it is only too evident that many who should be regular readers are denying themselves a continual pleasure and recreation, and the boys they try to serve all the advantages that come from sharing the ideas and experiences that adorn our pages. Perhaps I may suggest once more that our regular readers, who have, I hope, had both gain and happiness from their "SCOUTERS" this year and consider their half guinea well spent, should do their best to interest others - Commissioners, Scouters, Rover Scouts, Senior Scouts, Lay Members - in ordering our magazine (either from a newsagent or by subscription from I.H.Q.) and reading it and (as I'm sure they will) enjoying it.

For those leaving for their National Service there can hardly be a more suitable gift than a regular subscription. And by the way I am always glad to see articles - especially accounts of unusual expeditions and games and the like, and especially those dealing with Senior and Rover Scouts. As well I never have enough *good* photographs of Cubbing and Scouting activities and I should like some new cartoonists.

Knot Tying Challenge

I quote from "The Council of Thirteen" of *The Scout* of September 17th (p. 271):-

"A Scout should not only be able to tie knots, he should be able to tie them quickly. How long does it take you to tie the Tenderfoot knots from the word go? Let's have a challenge. You are allowed seven pieces of rope (two for the sheet bend of course) and someone to hold a stave for the round turn, etc. Get your Skipper to time you (with a stop watch if possible) and send in your time to me. **Who will be the quickest Tenderfoot-knot-tier in the country?** Anyone in your Patrol can enter as long as he keeps to the conditions above. All entries you send in should be signed by your Scouter. Competition to last from now till end of year for 1954 Champion. Certificate and prize for the champion and runner-up."

Now I hope every Patrol in Great Britain takes at least one copy of *The Scout* which the Patrol can share, and every Warranted Scouter sees it, too. But for those who don't I repeat the above, for we would like to have an entry from every Troop. Not of course that we shall: even if it is good fun and good Scout training and introduces that competitive element B.-P. was so keen about! Anyway I hope all the *keen* Troops will enter. Entries should be sent either to No. 1 Council of Thirteen, do *The Scout*, usual address, or direct to me before the year's end.

REX HAZLEWOOD.



IN THE CAMP FIRE'S GLOW

A CALL TO ROVERS

British Rovering has been mighty unlucky of late. The advent of National Service, the creation of the Senior Scout Branch of the Movement, the controversy over "Fusion," the lack of a Rover Handbook, and the all-too-frequent changes of the Rover Commissioner at I.H.Q. have caused an accumulation of problems which seem to me to be crying out for solution. Only when these and others have been faced and satisfactorily solved can Rovering, in my opinion, really go ahead to become the virile part of the Movement which B.-P. intended it to be.

Now I am an old Rover Mate myself. I believe in Rovering and I also see a real future for it in the Movement. Hence when Tod Sloan was obliged to resign and no immediate successor was in view I volunteered to take on the job of Acting Headquarters Commissioner. There is an old Army adage which says "never volunteer for anything" and in the Army failure to follow that advice may certainly land the unwary in unexpected and perhaps distasteful situations. But I cannot believe that in Scouting the chap who volunteers for a job is regarded as quite such a mug as in the Army. If he were we should all be pretty hopeless cases! In Rovering we are all volunteers and can, therefore, surely expect to find good friends and willing allies when we try to do our best in the particular job assigned to us.

It is in this spirit that I propose to see what can be done to put British Rovering back on its feet. I was recently told rather bitterly by a very experienced Rover functionary that I had bitten off more than I could chew by taking on the Rover job as well as the International one. He may, of course, be right, for there is certainly no lack of work on the International side. However, until a better man turns up I find myself Acting Rover Commissioner. I take this to mean that I am expected to act, and with your good help and support I am going to do so. Let me tell you something of my plans.

The Rover Advisory Panel

I intend immediately to recommend to the Committee of the Council the reconstitution of a new and strengthened Rover Advisory Panel. With the best advice I have been able to obtain I have prepared a representative list of men with practical experience in Rovering and in Training at all levels whom I propose to invite to share the load with me. Subject to the approval of the Committee I intend to publish the names of the new Panel in the next issue of THE SCOUTER.

It is intended that the Panel shall meet regularly for there is much work for it to do. So to start with I am collecting all the constructive ideas (and all the thorny problems) I can regarding Rovering and shall then place these squarely before the Panel for consideration. On the decisions reached, will be based a practical scheme for the reinvigoration of British Rovering. My confident hope is that the combined wisdom, experience and imagination of the good men and true whom I am asking to serve Rover Scouting in this way will enable all of us in our various spheres to set about giving new flesh and new life to what is only the skeleton of the fine body that British Rovering might be.

The Rover Handbook

One of the most important subjects I shall ask the Rover Panel to consider is the preparation of our much-needed Rover Handbook. Tod Sloan has already done a lot of work at this and I hope that between us we shall be able to produce something that is practical, imaginative and forward-looking and of real service to the Rover Branch. This will, of course, take a bit of time and a number of problems have to be thrashed out by the new Panel before even the lines the Handbook is to take can be settled. But I want all to know that we intend to go ahead with it, but it will inevitably take time.

Ideas

I am anxious to put before the Panel all the good ideas for Rover activities that I can obtain both from home and overseas. I therefore ask Rovers of all ranks to help us by sending me the best practical suggestions you can produce for the improvement of British Rovering. I suggest that you think on the following lines:-

(a) *The Rover Plan.* Is it satisfactory? How would you improve it? How would you set about making more Scouts *want* to become Rovers?

(b) *Rover Training.* How can we make it more vital, more useful, more purposeful? What are *your* most successful activities?

(c) *National Service.* One of the greatest problems of present-day Rovering. How can we best adapt our Rovering to fit in with it?

(d) *"Service in Rovering."* Its place, aims and forms.

(e) *Rover Achievement.* Badges and qualifications; suggestions for steps in a Rover's personal progress.

(f) *International Rovering.* Links with and knowledge of the World Brotherhood of Scouts, and the world around us.

I undertake that all the good ideas you produce will go before the Panel together with the best that I can obtain from abroad.

To sum up

We are getting down to work in an endeavour to put Rovering back on the map where it belongs. We want your support and constructive criticism. We do *not* want complaints about the past or moans about the present. We are out to make the best plans we can for the future. And we want you all to be with us not only in making them, but in making them work.

ROBIN GOLD,

Acting Headquarters Commissioner for Rovers.

THESE HAVE WE KNOWN

HUBERT BLORE

*The scent of woodsmoke in the evening air.
The twilight hush that settles on the hill.
Brown eager faces in the camp fire's glare
And silver moonlight when the world is still.*

*Soft mist that yields before the rising sun.
The matchless chorus of the coming dawn.
The splash of water and the waking fun.
The thud of axes as the day is born.*

*The dappled sunlight in the forest glade.
White bobbing tails along a leafy fence.
Gold rippling corn. The benison of shade,
And croon of pigeons where the wood is dense.*

*High summer's midday splendour, and the hum,
And murmur of innumerable bees.
Grey weathered stonework whence the swallows come,
And church spires nestling in a frame of trees.*

*White flannels moving on a village green.
The smack of wood on leather, and the grace,
Of speeding feet. The pick up, swift and clean.
The crouching slips, the bowler's gathering pace.*

*The church bell calling in the early day,
Where stained glass splits the light in myriad hues.
The gleaming candles as we kneel to pray.
The lych-gate and the immemorial yews.*

*The autumn's painted backcloth in the dales.
Dry rustling leaves beneath the marching feet.
Mist as the evening sunlight sadly fails,
Frost in the dawn as summer beats retreat.*

*White blanket of the snow on tree and ground,
And dainty bird tracks by the frozen lake.
Earth in its winter sleep without a sound,
Waiting for spring to kiss and softly wake.*

These have we known - and loved.

LETTERS TO A YOUNG ROVER - XI

DEAR DAVID,

I am sorry to learn from your last letter that you have a black eye, earned in a quarrel over politics with a "pig-headed idiot." While I am glad that you are at last taking politics seriously, I cannot admire your method of trying to make your opponent see reason. However keen you are on your own ideas, you must learn to respect the ideas of others, and you are a poor sort of Englishman if you cannot argue about politics or anything else without getting violent.

Years ago I remember sitting next to a foreigner at a big dinner in London. He came from a country which we are all inclined at times to envy, but he had so fallen in love with England that he had decided to make his home here. I asked him what he found so attractive about us, and he said it was our "tolerance."

"Take this dinner, for instance," he said, "There's your Prime Minister sitting at the top table, and next to him is his mortal enemy, the Leader of the Opposition. I've been watching them most of the time, and they've been chatting away as if they were the best friends in the world. That they should be polite to one another in their public speeches tonight isn't so wonderful, as it might be just a 'front,' but you've only got to watch them when the spotlight isn't on them to know that despite their wide political differences they respect one another. That sort of thing couldn't happen in my country.

Political life in this country is very far from perfect, but it is a fact that the tolerance that we British have developed through the centuries usually keeps political enmity from developing into hate, and we reap the rich reward of this at times of great national crisis, when the leaders of all parties are able, because they respect one another as individuals, to work together for the common good.

"Tolerance," wrote John Morley, "means a reverence for all the possibilities of truth, it means acknowledgment that she dwells in diverse mansions, and wears vestures of diverse colours, and speaks in strange tongues . . . it means the charity that is greater than even faith or hope."

John Morley was a Victorian, and wrote in the elegant language of his age, very different from the more pungent and snappier English we use today, but what he said about tolerance is worth digesting, for tolerance is one of the finest flowers of civilisation. If we British ever lose our tolerance, we will lose most other good things, too.

Most fellows of your age are so used to the tolerance in our national life that you accept it as you accept the sunshine, and imagine that it is almost as old as the sunshine. Yet if you read the history books you will find that it has only been won, bit by bit, through the generations, and this applies particularly to religious tolerance, the most precious tolerance of all.

Until the Toleration Act of 1689, Nonconformists were often imprisoned for worshipping God in their own way. Until 1829 Roman Catholics could not sit in our House of Commons. And Jews were not admitted until 1859, and "freethinkers" until 1886. Perhaps you think these facts dull, but they mean a great deal, and among other things they ought to mean that we must be tolerant in our attitude to other nations who are not yet so far along the path of tolerance. We in England have been a fairly "stable" nation for nine hundred years, free, at least, from foreign invasion, and able to develop gradually a tolerant democracy. Many nations in the world today have only just begun to grope their way along the same path, and we must not despise them in their "teething" struggles.

We shall not make them tolerant or wise by fighting them, any more than you made your fellow-soldier wise by giving him a black eye. A bit can be done by precept, but much more can be done by example, and that applies equally to men and nations.

Never, however, let your tolerance degenerate into a mere sloppy lack of principle. I was travelling on a country bus in Shropshire last week, and a mother got in with two children, a boy and a girl about five and six. They each had tin trumpets on which they tooted unceasingly. They had a ball which they threw to one another across the bus.

They scrambled over and under - seats, annoying the other passengers, and at last an elderly lady complained to the mother.

"They are only young once," said the mother with a complacent smile. So the elderly lady complained to the conductor.

"Live and let live," he said, "that's my motto."

The attitude of the mother and the conductor might have been mistaken for tolerance, but it was just sheer laziness. Those children would almost certainly grow up to be thoroughly bad citizens, because they were not being taught in their youth to be considerate to other people.

We should never allow tolerance to be an excuse for neglecting our duty to those for whom we are responsible. I actually once saw a Scoutmaster taking some Scouts by train to camp, and one of the small Scouts took a knife out of his pocket, with a screwdriver attached, and unscrewed the ashtray under the window, putting it up on the rack. I asked him why he didn't stop the boy, and he said that he couldn't be bothered! That was certainly an extreme case, but I think a lot of us at times neglect our duty to those in our charge so that we may be called "a good sport" instead of a "fuss-pot."

It is that same desire to be thought to be tolerant that makes us sometimes listen to dirty stories, and even to snigger at them, instead of showing clearly that we do not like that sort of thing.

That same weakness showed itself just after the war when the "black market" was at its height. A fellow would boast that he had got a pound of butter "on the side" from "an old pal" and we would remain silent with imbecile grins and let him go on thinking he had done something clever, when he had really, of course, just joined the great army of cheats and thieves who were keeping women and children all over the country shorter of butter than they need have been.

No, there can be no excuse for tolerance of dirt or dishonesty. Tolerance is a spiritual quality, and should be applied to things of the heart and mind. So long as another man is struggling for truth, we must be tolerant towards him, even if we totally disagree with his ideas. Tolerance should also teach us to judge others with charity. We do not know the difficulties and temptations of others as we know our own. Tolerance is the antithesis of self-righteousness, against which we read in the New Testament that Christ warned us again and again.

He gave us the cure for self-righteousness and the recipe for tolerance when He told us to "remove the beam from our own eye before we tried to remove the mote from our brother's eye," and the world would be much freer of quarrels and wars if we all took that to heart.

The trouble is, of course, that we make light of our own faults, and seek excuses for them, but few of us have enough imagination to find reasons for the apparent faults of others. You find this illustrated on a great scale in the attitude of our newspapers to the problem of maintaining law and order in the territories for which we and others are responsible. If we shoot down thousands of our fellow-citizens in Kenya it is a "military operation against terrorists." I happen to know a good deal about Kenya, and I know that the shooting has been necessary, tragic as it is. If, however, the Russians had to shoot down thousands of their fellow-citizens in the Ukraine, we can be sure that in every newspaper in Britain the action would be described as a "massacre." Don't imagine from my saying this that I have become a Communist. This attitude of one nation to another is much older than Communism, and while I am on the subject of Communism I must just say one word about our attitude to it in the Scout Movement. If we Scouts are to be tolerant, why can't we tolerate Communists in our ranks? The answer is quite simple. The only thing we may not tolerate is intolerance, and Communism is intolerance gone mad.

I hope you'll make friends with the fellow who gave you the black eye. Next time, instead of knocking him down, try listening to what he has to say. If you can find even one or two of his ideas that you agree with, and tell him so, you'll probably be able to persuade him to agree with one or two of yours. If you can make your peace with him, you'll be helping to stop the dropping of the first H-bomb, for peace between nations can never come until there is tolerance between man and man.

Yours ever,

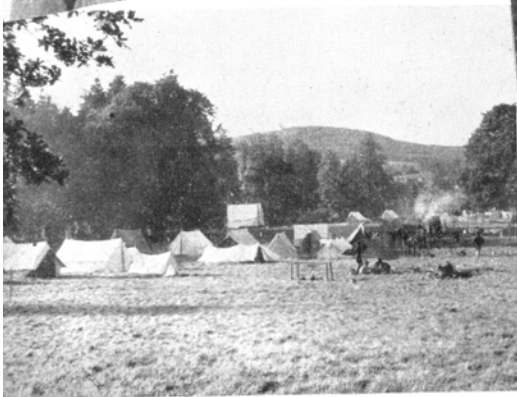
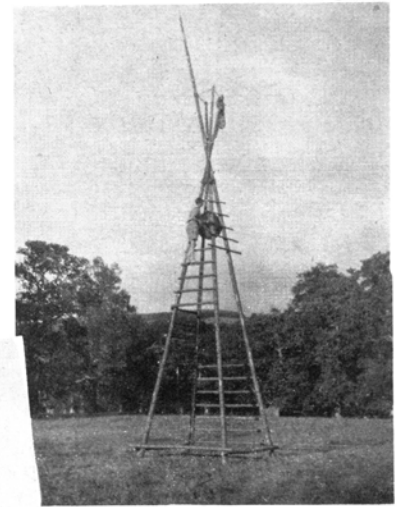
A. D. C.

BLAIR ATHOLL JAMBORETTE 1954

The Fifth Scottish International Patrol Jamborette held at Blair Atholl was a camp which will long be remembered by the six hundred boys from seventeen nations who attended.

The camp was made up of sub camps in which a Patrol of British Scouts was linked up with a Patrol of foreign Scouts.

Sports and inter-camp competitions were held, opportunity was also given for bus tours, pony riding, deer stalking, and hikes for first Class journeys. Conducted tours were also arranged for seeing through Blair Atholl Castle, in which are kept very many ancient relics.



By **JOHN**

A memorable service was held in the Parish Church on Sunday, when six hundred boys tried to get into the church which could only hold four hundred. They were standing in the passages. A truly wonderful sight, to see the youth of many nations worshipping God together.

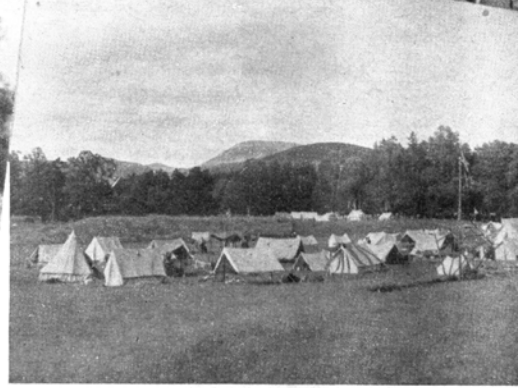
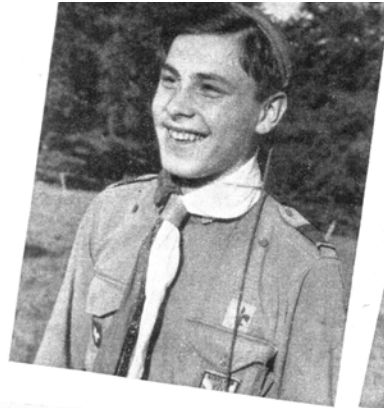
Gen. Sir Rob Lockhart (Deputy Chief Scout) read the lesson in a telling manner.

It was a grand experience for the boys to meet, live with, and talk to so many foreign Scouts, thereby forming many friendships.

Every foreign Scout who could spare the time was taken to the home of a British family for another week.

A first-class idea was the invitation sent to the headquarters of the Boys' Brigade for six of their members to be the guests of the Scouts: two from the cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen were present, and to use their own words it was a great experience.

The good turn to the local people was a shovelling and barrowing of one hundreds tons of earth at the site of their bowling green,



DEAR EDITOR

Queen's Scouts

DEAR EDITOR,

I recently read, with some dismay, in a local weekly newspaper, that a record had been set up in a North London Borough when the District Commissioner presented a Queen's Scout Certificate to a Senior Scout three days after his fifteenth birthday.

From the start I must make it clear that I know little of the circumstances of the award or of the boy concerned save that as a Boy Scout he had a reputation as something of a "Badge Wizard." However, in making this award to him I feel that all involved have struck a blow at the heart of the Senior Scout system, and have set the value of its training at naught.

The Senior Scout Section is concerned essentially with the training of character - more so than any other part of the Movement. It covers a period when the instability of the adolescent boy is giving way to the more mature outlook of the young adult. Much of the task of the Senior Scouter is to guide his Seniors in the choice of standards and in the building of Christian ideals. That he should choose the camp, the hike, the visit to the show, the battle of words in the den, the adventurous expeditions of mind, body, and spirit, for his tools is part of his craft and technique. Perhaps the most important part of the Queen's Scout's qualifications is that of a character worthy of the award. It is a qualification not called for in P.O.R. and yet is one recognised throughout the Movement, Is this not perhaps an example of reading the word rather than the spirit of the rule? Are we justified in awarding the Royal Certificate before we have allowed at least one year in the Senior Section to contribute its share in the formation of the boy's character?

There is a minor secondary issue involved. It is that of the value of a Senior Scout Badge system if members of the Boy Scout Section are allowed or encouraged to prepare and to take "Over 15" badges. This, however, remains insignificant against the main issue at stake in this race for yet another record.

ANDREW G. DICHSONN,
*Secretary, 14th Chelsea Rover Crew,
College of St. Mark and S. John.*

National Service

DEAR EDITOR,

It was with the greatest interest that I read Don Grisbrook's excellent article on National Service in the August SCOUTER. Having completed my period of military training just twelve months ago, I cannot help but agreeing with the writer when he states that "National Service is doing a service to the nation - military and socially." I would like to emphasise the social side of the period of compulsory training.

I was lucky enough to be posted to a unit with a Service Rover Crew and Cub Pack, and never have I spent so many enjoyable days. Scouting in the Services has to be seen to be believed, and may I be so bold as to state that I consider many of our best Crews, Troops and Packs can be found in barracks and camps of units far from the shores of Britain. There seems to exist a spirit of comradeship and loyalty unknown to many civilian Groups, and everyone helps one another to forget the distance between home and unit. I can still remember tramping through snow on a cold bleak Sunday, following a trail of wool. At home this sort of thing just goes down as "following a trail," but to me on that occasion it was an adventure, something different from a "route march" or just another "scheme." I can recall a Rover Investiture in an Army hut; brewing tea over a primus in our "den" which was just a convened loft high over the barrack square, and immediately a glow of happiness springs up inside me. Scouting in the Services has that something extra, which brings home so much closer and makes service-life seem that much further away. If a young National Serviceman cannot find a Scout Group in or near his unit, or if he has not the time to take an active part in one, there are many other things going on around him.

Most units have an Education Centre equipped with a library and reading room.

WHY SCOUTMASTERS GROW OLD QUICKLY.....!

"SMITH, WHEN WILL YOU LEARN TO DISTINGUISH FLOUR FROM PLASTER OF PARIS!"



There will always be a camp church or chapel, and an hour's prayer and hymn-singing on a Sunday makes life seem that so much more worthwhile. In many overseas stations there is the Y.M.C.A. and similar organisations, there solely for the use and enjoyment of the young soldier.

Finally, a word of advice to anyone about to embark on his two years' service. Do not take any notice of those who tell you "life is hard; the corporal is your worst enemy: you'll be glad to get out," etc., etc. Take life as it comes, find things out for yourself, and be active by giving yourself plenty to do in your off-duty hours. National Service may take two years out of your career in life, but it's an experience - an experience that can help you to fashion your whole life.

ALAN J. BROWN,
A.S.M., 9th Weymouth Group.

DEAR EDITOR,

The figures given in the current edition of THE SCOUTER in connection with the 1954 Census provide considerable food for thought. It was, I believe, last year that you permitted some of your correspondents to make observations on the statistics, and, encouraged by this, I am prompted to write a question.

Have you considered the following?

On the official figure of 4.3 Scouters per Group and one Commissioner per 14.2 Scouters, we have one Commissioner for every 3.3 Groups. Or, alternatively, approximately one-third of a Commissioner a Group (!). If my own case is taken, and apparently I am fortunate, having seven Scouters in the Group, we have approximately half a Commissioner (!!). This is truly remarkable.

But the peach, dear Editor, was to read in the same edition under that excellent column "Troop Night," the following:- "When you can no longer see Red Indians behind the trees or hunt Matabele across the heath, it's time to become a Commissioner."

Was it by accident that these two complementary and profound conclusions appeared in the same edition? Or do I detect a wisp of a smile on the face of the Editor?

R. P. PIJTMAN,
Group Scoutmaster.

Can you help?

DEAR EDITOR,

Would you kindly give us a little space to insert a "Want." We have had presented to us a local-made Camp Fire Robe (we don't use Rugs out here). It has nine shades of colour and the boys have worked a number of designs on it. Now they want as many country and county emblems as they can get for the collar of the Robe. I believe they want to offer it to the Nigerian contingent for use at the Jubilee Jamboree.

Emblems can be sent to me or the Scoutmaster, Victor Ene, at Oji River Leprosy Settlement, Via Enugu, Nigeria.

A.F. C. SAVORY,
Regional Scout Commissioner.

The Youngest of the Family

DEAR EDITOR,

Your report of Lord Kilmuir's speech at Filey records a tribute to your great Movement which all of us who work in other Movements for boys' welfare would warmly endorse. But his historical references suggest that *Making Men* should be compulsory reading for Home Secretaries and indeed for all speakers on Youth with a capital Y. "Scouting" you report him as saying, "began in an entirely different age from our own, when . . . Boys' Clubs, Social Centres and other Boys' Movements had not been started; when There were few alternatives to using the street as a playground."

You, of course, know that most of the boys who attended B.-P.'s initial camp at Brownsea Island were selected for him by the Boys' Brigade, which was founded in 1883. The Army Cadets were given official recognition in 1863. The Sea Cadet Corps was formed in 1889. The first identifiable Boys' Club was founded in 1858, when B.-P. had just passed his first birthday and could scarcely as yet show signs of the generous spirit which he always displayed to other Movements for the welfare of boys.

With the exception of the A.C.F., Scouting is in fact the youngest of a fine family of organizations - and is none the worse for that. It has no need to claim primogeniture.

W. McG. EAGAR.

One Man's Meat

DEAR EDITOR,

I was amused at Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald's article "One Man's Meat" in the July issue. I wonder if he has ever eaten grubs? The other day at a Dayak longhouse the main dish was fat white grubs about three inches long and an inch and a half across - the grubs from the sago plant. They were lightly stewed, but no attempt was made to disguise them. They didn't taste at all bad - but the thought, and the appearance.... You pick them up by the head (which is hard and brown) and bite off close to the neck.

ERIC SCOTT,
Assistant Chief Commissioner, Sarawak

Headquarters

DEAR EDITOR,

I attended the Group Headquarters session at the Filey Conference and was a little disappointed that the topics discussed all concerned new headquarters. I could have raised my question but felt that many were enjoying and receiving help from the "new hut" angle. Our Group have recently taken over a redundant building belonging to our local ironworks. We have many small repairs to do but our biggest worry at present is new floors.

The first one we intend to lay is 4(1 feet by 25 feet and new board, runners, etc., are expected to come to a figure about £200 or near it.

We would like a good floor suitable for all sorts of occasions, dances, meetings, etc., and I have wondered if any other Scouter has managed to get over this problem by some new form of flooring such as plastics, hard board, etc., and I would be pleased if they would let me know through your paper, or direct to me, of new ideas and/or addresses of firms who would supply.

L. N. JOHNSONE,
G.S.M., 1st Consett.

BOOKS

TWO GREAT MOUNTAINS

South Cot, by Wilfrid Noyce (Heinemann, 21s.).

Nanga Parbat, by Karl M. Herrlig Koffer (Elek, 21s.).

Sir John Hunt's *The Ascent of Everest* has sold a phenomenal number of copies: Mr. Noyce's ought to sell as many if there is any fairness left in the world. It is sub-titled "One Man's Adventure on the ascent of Everest." It is true (as he admits) that the shelf for Everest books is already rather full but this is a very fine book indeed, and room must be made for it.

Mr. Noyce gives two reasons for writing his book: "The first is that among all the books I have read on Himalayan travel, very few - give the 'inside story,' to use an overworked expression, of a man's life at high altitudes." After mentioning one or two exceptions (among which I was personally delighted to see my beloved *Camp Six and After Everest*, two books that ought to appear on the essential reading of all older Scouts and other intelligent persons), he continues: "Usually I am left, however good the book, with a myriad trifling but persistent questions in my head. What does it feel like waking up? Did he ever change his underpants? What did he actually say to the Sherpas when they gave up, and could they understand?"

His second reason is that "everyone who has been upon a great mountain must feel the need to pay tribute, as it were, by expressing his relation to it in some way." Mr. Noyce is an accomplished writer, a poet as well as a mountaineer, and his tribute therefore must be in printed pages. His modest, sensitive, exciting book does what (to me at least) *The Ascent of Everest* didn't do: it makes me feel one of the party. And this is the value of a book that is and must be a personal book. Sir John Hunt's report is rightly a classic already of mountaineering: but it will be very sad if Mr. Noyce's vivid, evocative book does not rival it both in popularity and stature.

He tells the full story as he saw it from the invitation that came to him over the telephone to the story's happy ending:

*Here be content, the thought:
I have done my part.*

As he tells it, it is as new a story and as fresh as a May morning.

His publishers have produced a beautiful book, with end papers and line drawings by A. J. Veilban and photographs in colour and black and white that rival any I have seen.

I do hope you will read this book for it has the stamp of greatness upon it: I hope that all of you who can will buy it, for it is a book to try and possess as a life-long companion. Give it to yourself (or persuade someone else to give it you) for Christmas.

Wilfrid Noyce is a member of our Movement and we are rightly proud that it is so. Our pride can now, if that is possible, be increased by this further achievement.

Nanga Parbat is the second highest mountain now to have been climbed by man: and fittingly it was the German Expedition of 1953 whose triumph it was, for as we are reminded by Sir John Hunt in a foreword, the mountaineering world, ever since the American-German Expedition of 1932, has considered Nanga Parbat to be Germany's special preserve. He continues: "it is among the first eight or nine summits in the world and, because of its heavy glaciation and the climatic conditions prevailing on that region, one of the most formidable mountaineering problems in the Himalaya."

This expedition was led by the great Peter Aschenbrenner who had been on the 1932 and 1934 expeditions and the first ninety pages of the book deals with this and the other previous expeditions. The remaining pages give the straightforward official report of the 1953 triumph, and most Senior and other older Scouts will need little exhortation from me to get hold of this vastly fascinating book. There is no better reading than that which tells of man's courage and initiative. There are three interesting appendices - about equipment, Hunza porters (which circumstances dictated that the expedition had to use to replace Sherpas) - and about oxygen. There are in this book, too, many lovely photographs both in black and white and colour.

REX HAZLEWOOD.

Mt. Everest Adventure, by John Hunt (Brockhampton Press, 12s. 6d.) This book of 128 pages consists of 150 photographs and maps and a continuing and sufficient commentary by Sir John. It is an attractive companion to *The Ascent of Everest*: or indeed, for younger people, a charming and long-to-be-treasured substitute.

R. H.

LEISURE READING

Tramp Royal, by Sir Michael Bruce of Stenhouse (Elek, 16s.).

Those who enjoyed *Cavalcade*, and I expect there are many of us, will enjoy this account of the years from 1900 to the present day. South Africa, Gallipoli, the Andes and the Odeon all feature and there is much about the B.S.A. Police founded by B.-P. Whilst adventure of the mmd suffices for some, physical adventure will always provide a stronger magnet for others. This is an interesting account of one man's passage through a world that no longer exists. Older Scouts and Rovers will enjoy it without realising that they are doing a bit of social study of the times during which Scouting was founded and developing.

A. M. C.

Mission to Venice, by Raymond Marshall (Robert Hale, 9s. 6d.).

Permit me to introduce you to Don Micklem, real top-drawer American, at home with Colonial Ministers and in the best clubs, with a film-type butler who's good with a sword-stick, and a more likeable ex-Commando chauffeur. Mr. Micklem is about halfway between Bulldog Drummond and The Saint, more intelligent than the first (which isn't difficult) and less self-satisfied than the second. In this, his first adventure, you get all the familiar thriller ingredients nicely mixed, as well as speed, plenty of action and real suspense. What more can you ask? Just right for the idle hour - and especially right for fans, young and old, of Bulldog Drummond and The Saint.

R. H.

Scottish Folk Tales and Legends, by Barbara Ker Wilson (O.U.P., 12s 6d.).

This, the third in the series in the new Oxford myths and legends is again illumined by the drawings, delicate, ever authentic of Joan Kiddell-Monroe. To a Sassenach these tales have the additional claim of being largely unknown: even so they lack perhaps the appeal of their companions of England and Ireland. But not (without doubt) to a Scotsman. Certainly this series of old stories is a lively series and one to collect and treasure. These books are indeed for the young of all ages.

R. H.

THE ARTS

Botticelli; Van Gogh; Renoir; Cezanne; El Greco; Toulouse-Lautrec (Fontana Pocket Library of Great Art, Collins, 4s. each). The Teach Yourself History of Painting. Vol. I. The Italian School; Vol. IV.

The Spanish School (English Universities Press; 10s. 6d. each).

Many of us would like to know more about paintings than we do: we know that we miss much happiness through our lack of knowledge. It seems a pity. Often our pleasure when we stare our way along an art gallery or when we make an effort to visit an exhibition is so much less than it ought to be - and we know it - had we come more prepared.

There is no shortage of books on art today, but most of them tend to be large and expensive. But Messrs. Collins, seeing our plight, have come to our rescue. Here in these Fontana Art Books is value indeed. Let me, since I enjoyed the film *Moulin Rouge*, see what the Toulouse-Lautrec volume offers! Here we are - a frontispiece of the painter: four pages of biography blunt and lucid; 18 colour plates most admirably reproduced and accompanying commentary; 21 plates in monotone. All this costs 4s. for a pocket size booklet. As things go today, you can hardly have anything cheaper. May I ask you to bring these to the notice of your Senior and Rover Scouts - they would make for the latter a whole series of interesting evenings. I have only so far had the pleasure of seeing two of the Teach Yourself History of Painting.

There will eventually be ten volumes.

For your half guinea you get a volume about 9 1/2 in. x 7 1/4 in. with 52 pages which include six in full colour and full page and some 33 other small reproductions in black and white. Obviously you get a sketch and not a full portrait of the School: these books are an excellent introduction. They are plainly but nicely bound.

There you are! How about increasing your knowledge and appreciation of painting this winter, and so increasing your happiness at the same time.

R. H.

Enjoying Paintings, by A. C. Ward. *Going to a Concert*, by Lionel Salter. *Going to the Ballet*, by Arnold Haskell (Puffin Books, 2s. 6d. each).

It is a pity that the author of the first of these new additions to the "Puffin" series did not decide from the outset what age group he was writing for. It is obvious that the book is actually intended for intelligent teenagers, and for adults; but he starts off in a rather patronising, condescending manner, as though writing for children. The word "grown-ups," for instance, should be absolutely taboo in books for people of thirteen and upwards!

Senior Scouts must not be put off by the opening of the book, since it is actually an excellent little work, which will be of the utmost value in helping them to a better understanding and appreciation of art. It is quite remarkable what a wealth of information and advice has been condensed into this book, and how clearly confusing matters are defined and explained.

The second book, by Lionel Salter, is also slightly patronising in tone, and begins rather too much at the beginning. One cannot help feeling that a boy who is sufficiently interested in concert-going to want to read a book on the subject will already know the most elementary things; he will certainly not need to be told what an orchestral score is, or what a conductor is for! At the same time, the kind of things he will want to know - the composition of the orchestra, the elements of form, etc., are all to be found in the book, and are very well explained.

There is no suggestion of condescension about the third book, by Arnold Haskell. Naturally, one's first reaction is: "What! Another Haskell ballet book?" and one wondered whether it would prove to be a simplified version of his larger books on ballet in the Pelican series. Fortunately it is nothing of the kind. The Pelican Book is a serious textbook for people who are already keen on ballet, and want to know the history and technical development of the art. The present work, however, is aimed at those - adults as well as adolescents - who have seen no ballet, or very little-perhaps the odd television programme and are vaguely interested, and want to know what it is all about, and what others find so wonderful in the art.

For such people, this book is exactly what is required, and it is most strongly to be recommended.

PETER TRAXTON.

The latest in the "Learning with Fun" Books

FUN WITH ELECTRONICS

By Gilbert Davey, edited by Jack Cox. This book, a successor to *Fun with Radio* and *Fun with Short Waves* by the same author, deals with the practical uses of electronics and gives designs to make for battery and transistor radios; high-fidelity mono and stereo amplifying equipment; record players; tape recorders; electronic ukelele, etc. Also dealt with are the wider uses of electronics in industry, the services and other aspects of present-day living.

FUN WITH RADIO

By Gilbert Davey, edited by Jack Cox. Here is a book that is easy to grasp. There are many drawings showing boys how to make their own radios.

FUN WITH SHORT WAVES

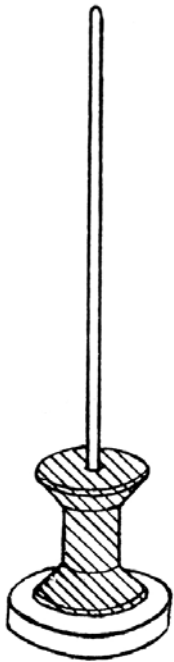
By Gilbert Davey, edited by Jack Cox. This book deals with the decametric or short-wave band and the fun there is in high frequencies for the amateur.

Each book has 64 pages, many illustrations. 12s. 6d.

**EDMUND WARD
(PUBLISHERS) LTD.**

FOR AKELA'S NOTEBOOK

32 FOR THE TOTEM POLE



To do away with the continual worry of remembering which Sixer's turn it is to "do the Dybs" the following scheme has been evolved.

One large plywood "patch" is made for each Six and fitted with a screw eye. These are hung vertically on hooks screwed into the pole of the Totem, the order being changed each week.

Where these are in use the Tenderpads have "made their marks," with coloured map marking pins, on the patches and not on the Totem itself.

When Inter-Six Competitions are run it has been found that a weekly competition is the most successful type for Cubs, and here again the patches come in useful for showing the results.

Incidentally, a simple way of scoring for such a competition has been evolved by providing each Six with a stand (made of a reel, painted the Six colour, mounted on the lid of a Vim tin and fitted with a dish mop handle) on which the "points," consisting of small curtain rings, are slipped.

CORNELIA CLUTTERBUCK.

1W	1NW	1E	1S	1W	4S	2SW	1S	1SW
2S	2W	1NE	4N	1SW	4W	1NW	1SW	1S
1SW	2S	2W	1NE	4N	NW	2N	1E	2NE
1E	2N	4SE	8E	2SE.				

Now try number three and see what you get.

1S	3SE	3S	1SW	1E	1NE	2N	1NE	2NW
1NE	1N	1NE	1N	1NW	3W	1SW	2S	
1SW	3W	1NW	2S	1SW	4S	1SW	1W	
1NE	5N	1NW	1N	1NW	1N	1NW	4N	
1SW	1W	1SW	1W	1NW	2NE	1N	1NE	
1E	1N	1SE	1E	4SE	1S	4E	1NE	3E
1NE	1E	3SE	5S	1W	1NW	4N	1NW	
1W	1SE	2S.						

This should be started at a point fourteen down and eleven from right side.

Well, what is the result? Can you recognise it?

There are many more designs and if you want to make your own, try working them out from the Fair Isle knitting patterns!

DAISY HYDE.

34. "ON ADVENTURES"

Really, these Senior Scouts do a lot of amazingly adventurous things, don't they? To read of their doings brings a real, joyous breath of air to freshen for a moment the stuffy routine one is liable to get into, caged in a town. How I sometimes envy them that peak scaled, that night under the stars! How I sometimes curse the opposite picture I have to live in, a drearily humdrum existence!

And yet I have to admit that it's .not so bad as all that; I do sometimes manage to get away. For example, the other Thursday afternoon (my half day off) I was away in the South Pacific, tramping the sandy shore of a desert island with a company of shipwrecked mariners. Somewhere on that island there lay hidden a vast treasure, and we were looking for the only two people who knew where it was, Long Tom Boney and Black-Hearted Jake. Suddenly, one of them appeared from behind the pine trees, uttered some wild, piratical language, at us, and disappeared again! With rope at the ready, we chased them in and out of the pines till we caught them, and tied them up. Terrified at our dreadful threats, they soon confessed the whereabouts of the treasure, so we found it and - ate it (it was the right kind of treasure!).

When we had discarded our former identity and were once more a gang of Wolf Cubs with their Akela, paddling in the sea, one of us fell in with all his clothes on, so with one of the pirate's headscarves as a loincloth we had an almost naked savage with us for the rest of the day. This incident quickly transformed the Wolf Cubs into savages and me into an explorer whom they were trying to throw down sand cliffs, a hair-raising experience, I assure you.

On Whit Monday last I climbed Mount Everest (a hill just over a thousand feet high near Chipping, Lancashire) with the same intrepid band of brothers. At the end of that expedition I received a request to have another exploration soon - to the North Pole! And regularly on Monday nights I have such an assortment of adventures that it leaves one dizzy to think of them. I have been abducted by crooks planning to poison the whole of the Town Council with a poison which smelt very like a trail of onion; I have walked the jungles of India with Mowgli and his brothers; have ridden the plains with cowboys; have played cricket in the local park with Yardley, Hutton, and other great names of the great game (I remember Yardley couldn't quite make up his mind whether to bat left-handed or not!); and in contrast with these, I have shared in untold excitements with little boys, the first hill climbed, the first lizard, the first escalator.

And when I am back in my little daily round I have to thank these little boys for their lovely company, and think how lucky we are, you and I, to see so closely that magical world of childhood which lies next door to our own, and yet is so far away from most people. And how privileged to help in its development.

You know, I no longer envy those Senior Scouts who go to such far away places, and do such strenuous and adventurous things. For which of them has a record to equal that of my Cubs and me?

DAVID.

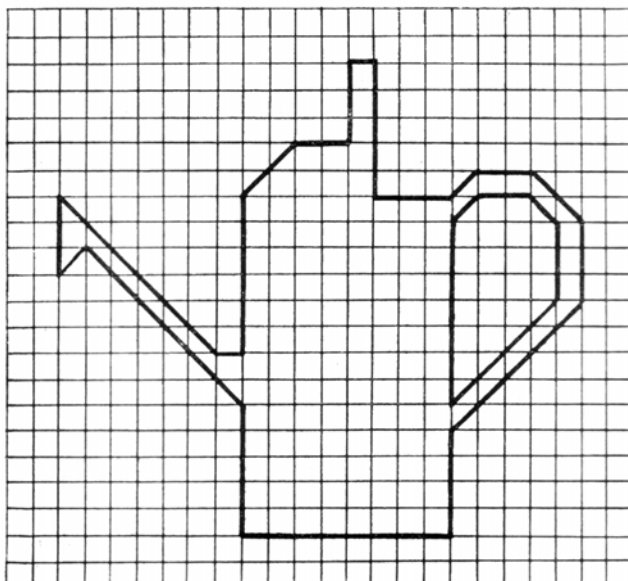
33. COMPASS DRAWINGS

Here is a novel and interesting way of testing your Cubs' knowledge of the compass points.

Each will require a sheet of squared paper and a pencil. The top of the paper should be marked N. Now count down ten squares from the top and ten squares from the right hand side. Make a dot where these points meet to show the starting point. Now call out as follows

1NE	2E	2SE	3S	5SW	4S	8W	5N	6NW
1SW	3N	6SE	1E	6N	2NE	2E	3N	1E
5S	3E	8S	4NE	3N	1NW	2W	1SW.	

Now for the second drawing, turn your paper sideways and count twelve down and four from the right-hand side. Mark your starting point.



35. CUB BLINKERS

To save time in tying up and to avoid undue creasing of scarves it has been found a great help to have a number of "blinkers" for use in blindfold games.

They are easily made by sewing together several layers of thick material approximately 6 x 4 inches and fitting each "Blinker" with a short length of hat elastic, sewn to the two top corners.

THE GAMES CHEST: CUBS

PING PONG BALLS

1. KING PING PONG

Gear: Ping pong ball (and a couple of "spares") and an egg-cup. Throne (or chair).

Purpose: Training in agility and dexterity, also help with Star work.

King Ping Pong sits on his throne, with his orb and sceptre (ping pong ball and egg-cup). His court officials stand behind him (the rest of his Six) and his subjects are busy either at work or play (the rest of the Pack in the middle of the Den).

The King likes to know how his people are getting on, and every now and then a party of court officials is sent out to catch whom they can and bring him to the Palace for questioning. (The King bounces his ball and catches it in his cup, as a signal. Every time he misses, one of his officials gives him the ball back and he tries again. But each time he is successful it is a sign for the officials to rush out and catch as many of the King's subjects as they can, before the "subjects" touch the opposite wall. So all must be on the alert.)

Any subject caught must come before the King and skip ten, tie a knot, identify a flag or emblem, or signal one or two letters, according to his ability. (Tests chosen should be short.)

The tests to be used can be varied. Each week a different Sixer may be King, and this makes a good subject for discussion between the Old Wolves and Sixers and Seconds when they hold a Sixers' and Seconds' Meeting, which is a most helpful thing to do, now and again.

A. M. DOUGLAS.

2. PUFF BALL

Gear: One ping pong ball.

Purpose: Fun and chest expansion.

The Pack lie on their tummies in a circle, facing inwards. The ping pong ball is placed in the middle, and the Cubs blow. A life is lost every time the ball bounces off anybody's nose.

HAZEL ADDIS.

3. BLOWBALL

Gear: One drinking straw per Cub; one ping pong ball to each two Sixes.

Purpose: Team spirit and fun.

Sixes face each other across table (or floor, if not too dirty). Ball on mark in centre. "Goals" marked with chalk. On word "go," opposing teams, by blowing through straws, endeavour to send ball through opposite goal. If it goes off table, replace in centre. Time limit for each "half." This can be played as a knock out contest.

MARY SMITH.

4. WATER CARRIERS

Gear: One deck tennis or other ring and four or five ping pong balls for each Six.

Purpose: Balancing practice.

As a relay with rings carried on heads as water pots with balls inside as drops of water.

C. M. CLUTTERBUCK.

5. OLYMPIC TORCHES

Gear: One 1 in. cardboard cylinder and one ping pong ball for each Six.

Purpose: Agility.

Each Six is spaced along the length of the course, which is preferably out of doors.

The Sixers receive their lighted torches (balls on cylinders) from Mount Olympus and proceed along the course until they hand over to the second Cubs, etc.

Any Six whose torch goes out (ball is dropped) must take it back to the start to be re-lit.

C. M. CLUTTERBUCK.

6. PIGEONS AND SQUIRRELS

Gear: One deck tennis or other ring and two ping pong balls.

Purpose: Agility.

A circle approximately 6 ft. across is chalked on the floor to represent a tree. The ring containing the balls (a nest with eggs) is placed in the centre of the circle.

Two Cubs, Mr. and Mrs. Pigeon, stand in the circle. Four other Cubs, squirrels, are outside.

The squirrels try to remove the eggs, one at a time, from the nest. Any squirrel pecked (touched) by a pigeon, while on the tree, is out.

The winners are those with the eggs at the end of a given time. Fresh pigeons and squirrels then take the places of the original ones and the game is repeated.

C. M. CLUTTERBUCK.

7. BREKKER'S READY

Gear: A 1 lb. jam jar filled with water, teaspoon, egg-cup, ping pong ball for each Six.

Purpose: Just fun, but they must keep wide awake.

The Cubs are lined up in Sixes. At the feet of each Sixer there is a spoon and a ping pong ball in an egg-cup. The Sixers pick up the ping pong ball and place it on the spoon, run with it to the jam jar, drop it in, and return with the spoon to No. 2. He runs with the spoon to the jar, uses it to fish out the ball and runs back to put the ball in the egg-cup again - and so on, until all have had a turn. When the last Cub has returned the ball to the egg-cup the Six stands at the alert and yells "Brekker's Ready."

W. M. PEIRCE.

8. DRAKE'S BOWLS

Gear: Two ping pong balls per Six.

Purpose: Sense training and body control.

Sixes in relay formation. In front of each Six mark out on the floor a chalk target approximately 2 ft. across and at least 8 ft. from Six and mark out five increasing rings. Place a ping pong ball in bull's eye. Each Cub in turn bowls a ping pong ball and endeavours to either hit the bull's eye or make the ball stop in one of the rings. The bull's eye counts six points and each ring from the centre counts four, three, two and one respectively.

W. N. PAUL.

9. PING PONG BATTLE

Gear: Eight ping pong balls.

Purpose: Letting off steam and fun.

No Man's Land is indicated by means of a chalked area of one yard wide drawn across the room and further divided down the centre by a third chalk line. For the purpose of hygiene it is recommended that each Cub is armed with a drinking straw.

The Cubs are divided into two sides and kneel one on each side of No Man's Land. The ping pong balls are evenly distributed on No Man's Land and the battle commences. The purpose is to get as many balls into the opponent's half as possible, and at the end of two minutes Akela calls "Pack" and points are awarded for the number of balls in each half of No Man's Land. The game then continues stopping every two minutes to count the score. At the end the points are totalled up and the winning side is the one with the least points.

GB.ML.

10. CAP-TO-CAP PING PONG BALL RELAY

Gear: Ping pong ball and Cub caps with peak turned up.

Purpose: Fun.

Ping pong ball is put by leading Cub of each team on his cap immediately behind the turned-up peak. He runs round a mark and tips it gently on the cap of the next boy. Winners are the team first finished with fewest points for dropped ball.

Variation: Instead of cap-to-cap tipping ball can be tipped into cupped hands.

ERICA GRAHAM.

11. PING PONG BALL PATTING RELAY

Gear: Ping pong ball.

Purpose: Agility.

Each Cub in turn walks round a mark patting a ping pong ball at least six inches into the air. He counts his pats as he walks. Points off for each dropped ball. Winners are the team first finished with greatest number of pats and fewest drops.

Note. - Careful scoring is needed.

ERICA GRAHAM.

12. PING PONG BALL-ON-STICK RELAY

Gear: Ping pong ball and an elder stick about six inches long from which some pith has been removed from the top so that the ball can be "cupped."

Purpose: Balancing.

Ball is balanced on the stick and carried by each Cub in turn round a mark. Winners are the team first finished with fewest minus marks for dropping.

Variation: Cubs can be given own sticks to whittle and decorate.

Names can be cut on each.

ERICA GRAHAM

THE SCOUT LAW

X. A SCOUT IS CLEAN...

*My son, you're not a white-washed plaster wall
To keep the smuts off - that's not being clean;
No! You're a blade of steel that's true and tall
To flash in fight with all that's low and mean;
You're not a dandy, stalking through the mire,
Catching his cloak up round his careful knees;
No! You're a flame to set the world on fire,
Burn up corruption, cauterise disease.*

*And son, that's not the end of your crusade.
Just as you keep your vigil in His sight,
Young, manly, clean, eager and unafraid,
Please God, you'll ride untarnished from the fight,
And kneel one day before a queenly maid,
And offer her your sword, yourself, her Knight.*

JAMES FITZSIMONS, S.J.

FLASHES FROM FREY

Undoubtedly the bravest man present was the chap in civilian clothes, who risked a fate far worse than death when he tackled the Ak.Ls at the back of the Gaiety Theatre with "Do you mind clearing out? We have some work to do!"

On Friday night Zizera drifted into the Welcome Inn, looking for his colleagues and a cup of coffee - or something! He was greeted at the entrance by a rather worried looking Scot with a large glass in each hand.

In the liquid accents of the north, our kilted friend asked, "Do you drink cider?" The answer being in the affirmative, one glass was handed over with the remark "She no understood my dialect - 'a asked for a shandy an' she gie me twa ciders!" The barmaid hailed from West Yorkshire!

It was very nice cider.

When you get fifteen hundred people trying to do the same thing at more or less the same time, there is apt to be a bit of delay and confusion.

Queues were the order of the day. One coffee break, when the queue was possibly fifty yards long, I saw a Purple Plume move the full length of the coffee bar doing an excellent juggling act with three cups of coffee and a plate of very sticky buns. He had no tray. He reached his table safely and deposited the two cups balanced in his right hand on the table without spilling a drop. The other hand carried a plate of buns with a further cup perched on top. The cup he edged on to the table, the plate he put on a chair while he moved an assortment of surplus crockery. A colleague promptly sat on the chair - and the buns!

One of Butlin's staff paid us a compliment. "Amazin' discipline you've got. When a Chairman raises his hand it's just like turnin' the wireless off!"

Was amused to see an optimistic Scouter mounting guard over a table and three chairs. He was trying to get a fourth to accommodate his party who were in the self-service queue; but every time he moved to secure the odd chair somebody lifted one of the three he had already procured. He had a mild argument with a chair poacher and turned to find that he had lost both the chairs and the table!

Possibly the most delighted Delegate present was our recently appointed Local Association Secretary. During the reaffirmation of the Promise after the Scouts' Own, she took hers for the first time.

When the Chief was informed of this, he gave her the left hand shake and welcomed her into the Movement, thus completing her enrolment.

A more kindly action it would be difficult to conceive.

ZIZERA.

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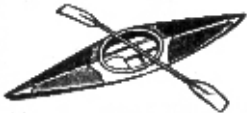
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A SHERLOCK HOLMES QUIZ (ANSWERS)

- (a) A Study in Scarlet.
(b) Beeton's Christmas Annual 1887.
(c) £25.
- "The Napoleon of crime": (Final Problem: Macavity, T. S. Eliot).
- (a) Sarasate; (b) 55/-. [(a) Red Headed League; (b) Cardboard Box)].
- (a) "A sister of Vernet the French painter."
(b) Mycroft. (c) Seven years. (All Greek Interpreter.)
- His initials are J. H.; his first name was John; in The Twisted Lip his wife calls him "James." Hamish is Scottish for James. (See Miss Dorothy Sayers "Dr. Watson's Christian names" in Unpopular Opinions, etc.) 6. 11/6 per day (A Study in Scarlet).
- (i) "Ship's Tobacco" (A Study in Scarlet); "Arcadia Mixture" (Crooked Man); (ii) Bradleys of Oxford Street (Hound of the Baskervilles).
- "You have less frontal development than I should have expected" (Final Problem).
- Threw him over the ropes at the Old Deer Park (Sussex Vampire).
- The Man with the Twisted Lip.
- Seventeen (A Scandal in Bohemia).
- (a) Capital and Counties Bank, Oxford Street (Priory School). (b) The toe of a Persian slipper; (c) The coal scuttle. (d) Transfixed to the wooden mantelpiece by a jack knife. [(b) (c), (d) All The Musgrave Ritual].
- Fencing and boxing (Gloria Scott).
- (a) "That is what you may expect to see when I follow you" (Devil's Foot).
- (b) "Scheming" (Retired Colourman).
Fellow chessplayers please note!
(c) Watson's revolver (Speckled Band).
- Amateur Mendicant Society (Five Orange Pips).
- Montague Street (Musgrave Ritual).
- Irene Adler (A Scandal in Bohemia).
- (a) "Practical Handbook of Bee Culture with some observations on the segregation of the queen" (His Last Bow).
(b) The whole art of detection" (The Abbey Grange).
- (a) The racehorse "Silver Blaze" (Silver Blaze).
(b) Dr. Grimesby Roylott (Speckled Band).
(c) Col. Sebastian Moran (The Empty House).
- (a) Wessex Cup.
(b) Colonel Ross.
(c) Red jacket; black cap.
- Dogs.
(a) "Sherman the bird stuffer" (Sign of Four).
(b) Cambridge draghounds (Missing Three-quarter).
- Mycroft Holmes (Bruce Partington Plans).
- (a) On the occasion Holmes's deductions from Watson's watch (Sign of Four).
(b) On reading Holmes's article on the "Book of Life" (A Study in Scarlet).
- Cocaine (Sign of Four).
- (a) "She did not scream; she made no outcry at all" (Valley of Fear).
(b) Nothing; in the night (Silver Blaze).

W. T. AND LESLEY THURBON.

NOTES AND NEWS

NOVEMBER COVER

This is the last of three studies of Scouts by Stanley Newton illustrating an essential part of the "atmosphere" of Scouting, the first (in September) being "Laughter and High Spirits," the second (in October) being "Planning and Adventure." Now we have "Dreams and Memories."

"THE SCOUT" IN DECEMBER

Beginning on December 3rd The SCOUT will serialise B.-P.'s Paddle your Own Canoe (or Tips for Boys which the present generation will not have seen as it has been out of print for some years. Please tell your boys about it, for every youngster in the Movement should read what B-P. wrote for them.

In the Christmas number (December 24th) as well as a story specially written for us by Arthur Catherall, there will be an entertaining Observation Competition for the holidays which every Scout or Cub can have a try at - and some excellent prizes are offered for the best entries.

MIDWINTER EXPEDITION - NORTH WALES

Applications are invited from First Class Scouts in good physical condition who would like to join the Senior Scout Midwinter Expedition to the mountains of North Wales during the Christmas holidays. The Expedition (now in its seventh year) will be based on the Youth Hostel at Capel Curig, and will begin on Tuesday, December 28th, and end on Tuesday, January 4th, 1955. The theme of the Expedition will be Mountaineering and Exploration. The cost (inclusive of all activities, food and hostel fees) will be 55s. payable on acceptance of application. Full details and application forms from Major H. Seymour Thomas, Oerley Hall, Oswestry, Salop.

SCOUT AND GUIDE STUDENT CONFERENCE

A Conference for Training and Technical' College and University students will be held in the Library at Guide Headquarters on Tuesday, January 4th, 1955, commencing at 10.30 a.m. It will be opened by The Lady Stratheden and Campbell, and the speakers will include Colonel J. S. Wilson, Miss Dorothea Powell and Professor N. Haycocks. Applications to attend should be sent to the Relationships Secretary at I.H.Q.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We would like once again to remind Scouters of the Christmas cards which can be obtained from the Grenfell Association, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. They are very attractive and no more expensive than any other Christmas cards and one has the additional pleasure of that one is helping forward the wonderful medical work of the Association in Labrador and Newfoundland. An illustrated leaflet from the Secretary, price 1½ d.

GILWELL PARK

Open Day of Work will be held at Gilwell on the following date:

Sunday, February 27th, 1955, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Offers of help from Rovers and Scouters, male and female, are welcome. A sandwich lunch will be provided for those who notify their willingness to come. Old clothes and a readiness to try your hand at anything are the only qualifications.

Specialist and Technical Courses will be held at Gilwell Park as follows:-

Specialist Courses

Scout Promise and Law Course (*open to Commissioners, Members of the Training Team and Chaplains*), December 11th/12th.

Group Scoutmasters' Training Course, March 5th/6th, 1955.

Technical Courses. Open to all Scouters of the Troop and Group Scout-masters. Preference will be given to those who have been through the Part 2 Wood Badge Course.

Training and Testing for First Class, January 22nd/23rd, 1955.

Training and Testing for Second Class, February 5th/6th, 1955.

Training and Testing for First Class, February 19th/20th, 1955.

All Weekend Courses assemble at 3.30 p.m. on the Saturday and finish at 4.30 p.m. on the Sunday. The Inclusive Fee for any course is £1. All Courses are housed in the Gilwell or Gilwellbury Hostels and all meals are provided.

Wood Badge Part I

Papers relative to Part I of the Wood Badge are obtainable from Gilwell Park. The fee for the Course is 4s. Applicants should state whether they wish to enter for the Cub, Scout or Rover Course. S.M.(S.) and A.S.M.(S.) should normally take the Scout Course.

Wood Badge Courses, 1955

Cub Courses are open to all appropriate Warrant Holders of eighteen years of age and over:

- No. 134 Monday, March 21st—Saturday, March 26th (Indoor).
- No. 135 Sunday, May 22nd—Friday, May 27th
- No. 136 Monday, June 13th—Saturday, June 18th
- No. 137 Monday, July 4th—Saturday, July 9th
- No. 138 Monday, July 18th—Saturday, July 23rd
- No. 139 Monday, August 8th—Saturday, August 13th
- No. 140 Monday, August 22nd—Saturday, August 27th

Scout Courses are open to all Warrant Holders or Scouters on Probation of twenty years of age and over:

- No. 236 Saturday, April 16th—Sunday, April 24th
- No. 237 Saturday, May 14th—Sunday, May 22nd
- No. 238 Saturday, June 4th—Sunday, June 12th
- No. 239 Saturday, June 25th—Sunday, July 3rd
- No. 240 Saturday, July 23rd—Sunday, July 31st
- No. 241 Saturday, August 13th—Sunday, August 21st
- No. 242 Saturday, August 27th—Sunday, September 4th
- No. 243 Saturday, September 17th—Sunday, September 25th

Rover Courses are open to all Warrant Holders of twenty-one years of age and over:

- No. 13 Saturday, July 9th—Saturday, July 16th

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

COMMISSIONERS' COURSES, 1954-55

The following courses have been arranged and are open to all Commissioners, including Cub Commissioners, District Scouters and County and Local Association officials:

- No. 92 December 4th/5th, 1954
- No. 93 January 29th/30th, 1955
- No. 94 February 19th/20th, 1955
- No. 95 March 19th/20th, 1955

Courses commence at 3.30 p.m. on the Saturday and end at 4.15 p.m. on the Sunday.

Application form and full information can be obtained from: The Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, Chingford, London, E.4.

BOOKS

The 2nd Chailey (Heritage) Handicapped Scout Group, Founders Mill, Chailey, Sussex, would welcome gifts of books in fairly good condition suitable for boys between the ages of 6 and 16 years in connection with a good turn they are organising.

L.H.Q. CAMP SITES

An Observer/Stalker Badge Course for Scouts under 15 has been arranged at Downe Camp from December 3rd to 5th. Cost 10s. per Scout.

An Expedition for Senior Scouts and Scouts over 15 has also been arranged from Thursday, December 30th, 1954, to Wednesday, January 5th, 1955. Fee £2 5s. 0d. per Scout.

Further details of above from the Bailiff, Downe Scout Camp, Downe, near Farnborough, Kent.

A Winter Expedition has been arranged at Kingsdown from December 28th, 1954, to January 5th, 1955. Cost £2 10s. 0d. Further details from The Bailiff, Kingsdown Scout Camp, near Deal, Kent.

FOUND

At Walton Firs camp site on the week-end September 18th/19th, a watch on which is clearly marked the name Parsons. If the owner will write to the Warden, Mr. W. H. Curie, 26 The Pleasance, Putney, London, S.W. 15, arrangements will be made for its return.

PAKISTAN

An Appeal has been made for the people of East Bengal who suffered so arievously in the disastrous flood recently. Financial assistance, food, clothing, medicines, etc., are urgently required. The Pakistan Society has opened a Relief Fund. Cheques and Postal Orders sent in response to this Appeal, which should be crossed, may kindly be made payable to The Pakistan Society's Flood Relief Fund, and forwarded to the Manaeer. The National Bank of Pakistan, 20 Eastcheap, E.C.3, in envelopes marked "Flood Relief." Articles of clothing should be sent to the High Commissioner for Pakistan. 35 Lowndes Square, London, SW. I. marked "The Pakistan Society's Flood Relief Appeal."

POLYAPES MEMORIAL



A Dedication Service took place on Sunday, June 27th, of the Memorial Plaques in memory of the Scouts of the Kingston and District Association who were called to higher service in the 1939-45 war. The Memorial stands in the District's camping ground known as Polyapes and was erected in 1929 in memory of the Scouts who lost their lives in the 1914-18 war.

Any Scouters who are not familiar with this camp sue ma' like to consider it as a possible camping ground for their boys. It is an excellent site consisting of 23 acres and application should be made to The Secretary, 36 Warren Drive, Surbiton. Surrey.

L.H.Q. SPEAKERS FOR DECEMBER

3rd	Birmingham Annual Rover Dinner	John Thurman
4th/5th	Central Yorks Staff and D.C.s Gathering, Waddow.	Col. J. S. Wilson

AWARDS FROM 5th AUGUST TO 1st SEPTEMBER, 1954 CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

T. Cook, Scout, 87th Salford (John Street Boys' School).

"In recognition of his prompt action and presence of mind in saving a child from drowning in the Heaton Park lake, Manchester, 11th July, 1954."

G. A. Dinsdale, G.S.M., 2/249th Manchester (St. James, Moss Side).

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

G. S. G. Wood, Scout. St. Mary's Bay.

"In recognition of his prompt action and presence of mind in applying artificial respiration to a boy who had been rescued from drowning in a sewer, St. Mary's Bay, Kent, 9th April, 1954."

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (MERITORIOUS CONDUCT)

G. J. Keys, Wolf Cub, 1st Winslow.

"In recognition of his courage and fortitude under great suffering."

R. J. Pearce, Scout, 1st Kingswood.

"In recognition of his courage and fortitude under great suffering."

SILVER WOLF

H. R. Matlett, A.C.C. (Relationships), Cambridgeshire.

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

BAR TO THE MEDAL OF MERIT

Birmingham. - Mrs. M. A. Banton, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), South West Birmingham.

Cheshire East. - Mrs. E. Pott, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), The Goyt and District. Asst. Ak.L.

Surrey. - E. S. Richards, G.S.M., 1st Nork (St. Paul's).
"In recognition of their further outstanding services to the Scout Movement."

MEDAL OF MERIT

Birmingham. - A.F.W. Hickman, A.D.C. (Scouts), South Birmingham.

Bristol. - R. H. Boon, A.C.C.

Devon. - H. Menzies, Hon. Secretary, Newton Abbot and District.

Liverpool. - J. Court, G.S.M., 30th Crosby (All Saints).

London. - F. D. Cardnell, G.S.M., 108th North London; G. C. Knox, Chairman, Bethnal Green.

Manchester. - E. Battye, SM., 96th Manchester (3rd Manchester Grammar School).

Somerset. - E. Brockhouse, G.S.M., 2nd Bruton (Sexey's School).

Surrey. - F. C. Bryant, Hon. Secretary, Banstead and District; A. I. H. Clayton, R.S.L., 8th Banstead (Victory).

Warwickshire. - S. A. Bracewell, Hon. Secretary, Coventry; F. H. Shipp., Deputy Chairman, Coventry; A. R. Withers, G.S.M., 38th Coventry; (Warwick Road).

Wiltshire. - A. Fletcher, Hon. Secretary, South Wilts. (Salisbury)

Yorkshire West. - J. Cawthra, A.D.C., Spen Valley.

Northern Ireland.

Antrim. - R. Millar, G.S.M., 1st Muckamore, A.D.C., South Antrim
H. D. Scott, SM., Hillhall, D.C., Lisburn District.

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

CLASSIFIED

COMING EVENTS

Second Southampton Wolf Cub Handicraft Exhibition on Sat., Nov. 27th at 2.30 p.m. in the Marlands Hall Civic Centre, Southampton.

The Snowdon Group will hold its tenth Midwinter programme in Snowdonia. There will be two periods, i.e. Period A (Dec. 27-Jan. 3), and Period B (Jan. 3-10). The charge for A will be 30s. (including cost of New Year's Eve Dinner), and for B, 25s. The registration fee will be 4s. There will be opportunities for mountaineering and Scoutcraft under competent leadership. Numbers will be limited. Send for registration forms (enclosing s.a.e.), stating which period required, to the G.S.M., The Rectory, Llanberis, Caerns, N. Wales.

Wives and Fiancées. A House Party to which Scouters are invited to bring their wives and fiancées will be held at Avon Tyrrell, Bransgore, Christchurch, Hants., over the week-end 15-16th January, 1955. The theme will be "A Scout is Loyal" and the charge will be 35s. per couple from 4 p.m. Saturday to 5 p.m. Sunday. Further details from Dr. J. F. Fisher, D.C. Bournemouth, 125 Castle Lane West, Boumemouth, Hants.

Sowerby Bridge Rover/Ranger Conference, March 12/13th, 1955. Applications to Mrs. Smithies, 5 Poplar Avenue, Sowerby Bridge, from January 1st. Numbers limited: book early.

Advance Notice. The Midland Counties Rover Moot for 1955 will take place on May 21st/22nd at Pydd Covert, Kidderminster, Worcs. Book these dates. Further details later.

Oxford University Rover Crew Camp for Senior Scouts, Dartmoor, August 1955. S.A.E. to N. J. R. Napper, Hertford College, Oxford.

A Kent County Jamborette will be held at Knowle Park, Sevenoaks, from 6th to 13th August, 1955.

ACCOMMODATION

12 Hans Road, London, S.W.3 (Kensington 5951), has been opened as a hotel by Adeline Willis, formerly Warden of the International Guide Hostel in London. Rooms (some with private baths) and breakfast from 17s. 6d. to 25s. Dinners by arrangement. Special weekly terms. Convenient for main line stations, I.H.Q., shopping and sightseeing. Scouters and their families specially welcome.

Comfortable home offered to young Scouter or Rover. Muswell Hill District of North London. Available from 18th Dec. 3 gns. a week. B. J. Hall, 48a, Hillfield Park, London, N.10 (TUDor 5005).

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.

Merchant Navy Training School, Overseas House, Brooks Bar, Manchester. Openings exist for men between 21 and 30 to train as General Secretaries. First essentials: sense of Christian vocation, good education, organising ability in religious, social, educational and physical activities with youth. Write giving particulars of experience and qualifications to Personnel Secretary, National Council of Y.M.C.A.s, 112 Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

Assistant Education Officer (man) to look after library, organise lectures and cultural activities and generally stimulate interest among patients in outside affairs. Experience of club work valuable. Salary £325-£500 per annum according to age; maximum commencing rate £390. Accommodation available for single man. Application form and further particulars from Medical Superintendent, Deva Hospital, Liverpool Road, Chester.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

L.H.Q. Appointments and Resignations

Resignation. - E. P. Mallinson, Field Commissioner, Yorkshire.

Mr. Arthur P. Coote

Mr. Arthur P. Coote, Assistant Headquarters Commissioner for Handicapped Scouts, and a former County Commissioner for Derbyshire, was called to Higher Service on 5th October, 1954.

Cub Instructors

The Committee of the Council has decided that female Cub Instructors, other than members of the Girl Guides, shall wear a Cub Instructor badge on a green beret, and that Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts who are Cub instructors shall wear the appropriate badge of their Section.

Patrol Leaders

The Committee of the Council has decided that:-

(a) Scout Patrol Leaders shall wear, on the beret, a cloth Patrol Leader's badge in silver and red on a green background;

(b) Senior Scout Patrol Leaders shall wear the same badge with the addition of the Senior Scout metal "S" bar worn below the badge. Senior Air Scout Patrol Leaders will wear the Senior Scout metal "S" bar below the Air Scout Patrol Leader's cloth badge.

Notification will be made in Headquarters Notices when supplies of these badges are available.

Gilwell Reunion

The 29th Gilwell Reunion will be held over the week-end of September 10th and 11th, 1955.

C. C. GOODHIND,

Administrative Secretary.

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.

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 Scout Mills is pleased to announce that the American International Underwriters have granted him facilities for insuring American members of the Movement. Apply 59-60 Cornhill, E.C.3.

Wild Life. A 16 mm. sound or silent film depicting the wild life of the British countryside. Particulars of hire from Secretary, L.A.C.S., 58 Maddox Street, London, W.1.

Heating by gas-fired infra-red heaters. Cheapest warmth for halls, etc. Write for details of special offer to Scout Organisations, The "RayHeet"ing Co. Ltd., Leatherhead, Surrey.

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 Cornhill, E.C.3. **Wild Life.** A 16mm. sound or silent film depicting the wild life of the British countryside. Particulars of hire from Secretary, L.A.C.S., 58 Maddox Street, London, W.1.

Christmas cards including a range of Scout cards and stationery. Send stamp for sample book. W. L. Langsbury, King's Head Cottage, Lower High Street, Cheltenham.

Talking Film Shows! Why not have a programme of cartoon films for your Christmas or New Year Party? All ages adore films and I have just the ideal ones to make you rock with laughter. Book now to secure the date. F. Burton, 27 Audley Court, South Woodford, London, E.18. Tel. Wanstead 6202.

Lady C.M. uniforms made to measure from 65/-. Dress, skirt, battle-b blouse and/or shirt. Send S.A.E. for patterns and self-measurement form to Miss Puttock, Upcotts, Everton, Lynton, Hants.

"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.

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.

The Scouts' Friendly Society offers excellent terms for endowment, whole life, sickness and annuity insurances. Descriptive leaflet will be forwarded on application. S.F.S., Roland House, 29 Stepney Green, E.1.

Pennants designed and made to order. Send your rough sketch for an estimate. Speedy and prompt delivery. Details from: P. & R. Publicity, The Broadway, Pitsea, Basildon, Essex.

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Absolutely easiest way of raising funds is by our packets of assorted Christmas cards. Generous discounts and credit terms available. Send 3s. 6d. for sample packet which is returnable if unsuitable. Webb (5), 34 West Road, Cradley, Staffs.

Gang Show or Pantomime? Why not try a pantomime as your next production as a change from Gang Shows? I supply full scripts complete with all comedy, and music score if required, for very moderate fees to Scout Troops. Twelve different pantomimes to choose from, all of which have been successfully staged by Scouts. Full details and advice willingly given. Jack F. Hilton, 90 Candlish Street, South Shields.

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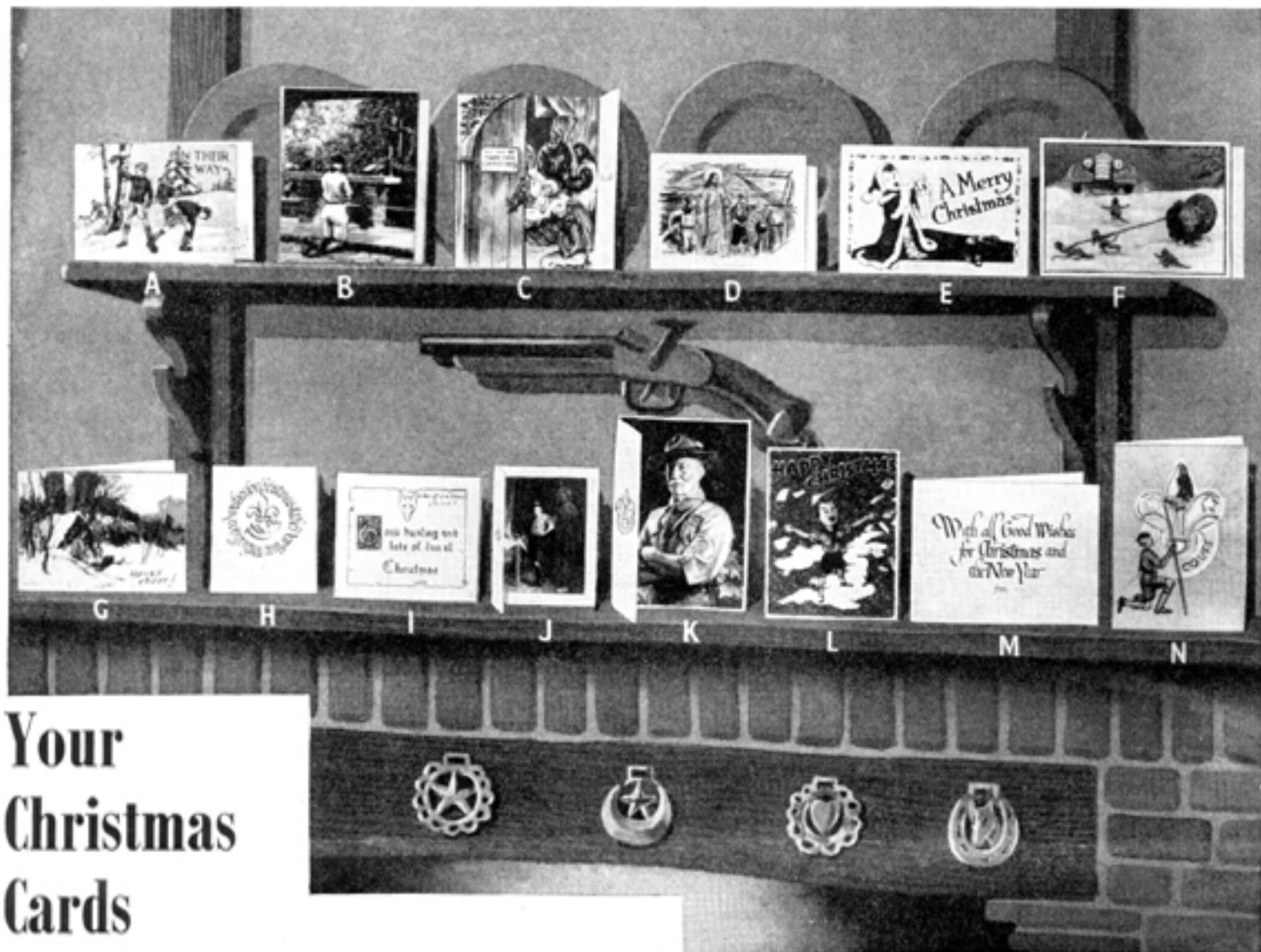
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