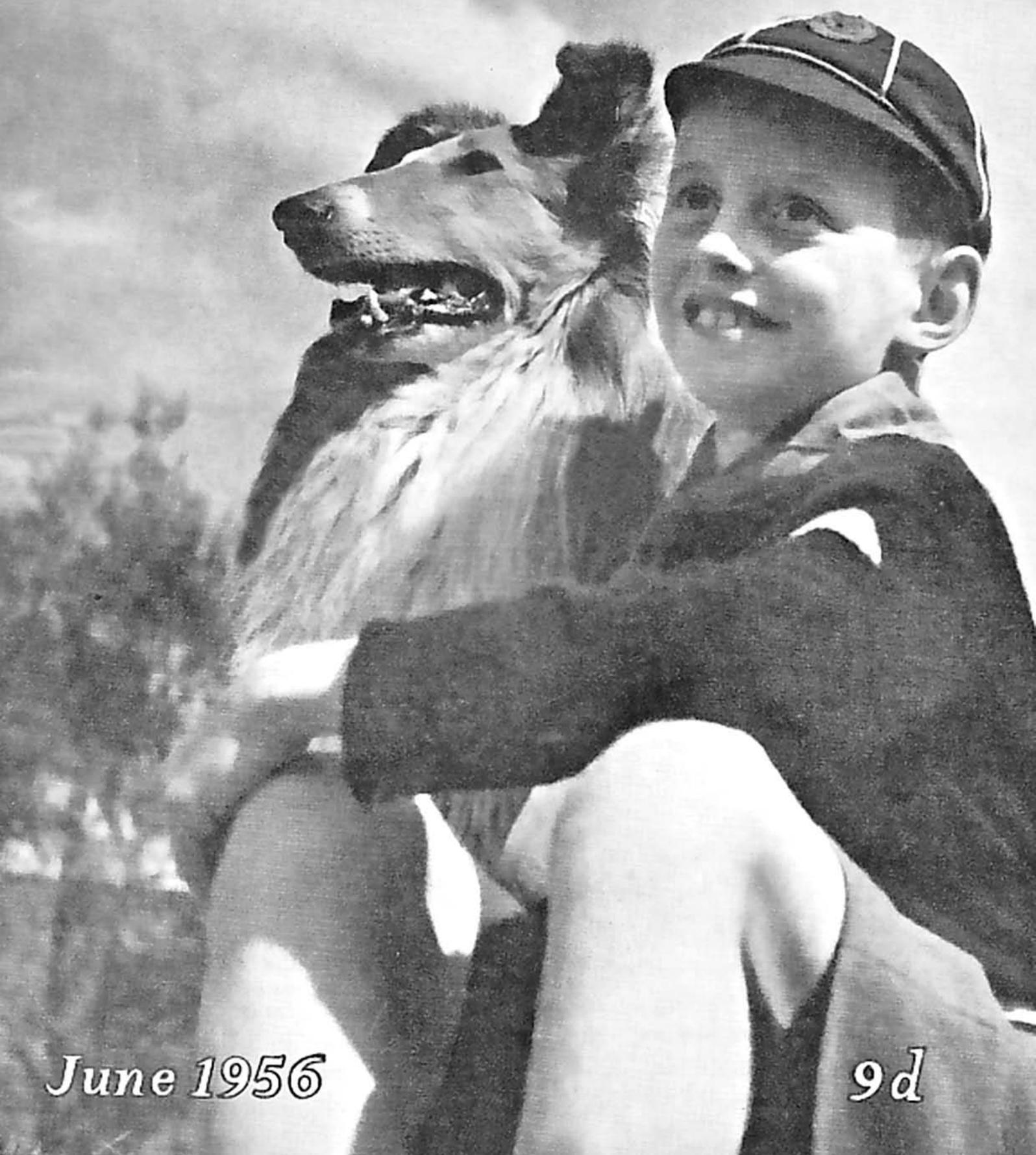


THE
SCOUTER



June 1956

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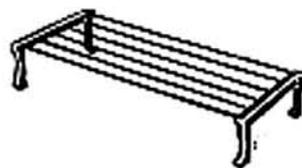
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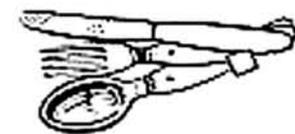
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The SCOUTER

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THE OUTLOOK

Once again there have been one or two cases of people writing in to me complaining about Bob-a-Job. Quite obviously these people have not seen it at work in a well-organised District or Group and every one of the objections that they have raised has been the result of negligence to carry out the procedure which our experience has shown us keeps things straight. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every Troop were run according to Scouting for Boys, with the Patrol System in full operation; and every Pack were run in accordance with the The Wolf Cub's Handbook; every Group had a perfectly functioning committee; every Local Association and County were fully staffed with people who applied P.O.R. humanly and with common sense? To which, of course, all of you will add, and if only I.H.Q. were the same! I don't know what we would do for a grouse then, but we would probably manage to find something to keep us going. But of one thing there is no doubt at all, that all our suppliers of the Scout Shop would have to take on extra employees, and install extra plant, to deal with the extra demand from all the extra Scouts and Cubs which we should keep in the Troops and Packs. I want to say "Thank you" to every Cub, Scout, Senior Scout, Rover, Scouter and Commissioner for their contribution to making this Bob-a-Job a unique success and the finest publicity that we have in Scouting; and that goes too for all those people both in the Local Associations and the Group Committees, and the Old Scouts, who spend so much time in organising it and making it work; and perhaps most important of all, all those people who so willingly give the Scouts and Cubs jobs to do.

I only had one house at my cinema show this year and consequently the takings were somewhat down, but it still enabled me to hand over a bit to the Local Association and to I.H.Q. and so retain my self-respect.

Last year we had a talk with the members of the Head-masters' Conference. In that talk we discussed the various problems connected with running Scouts in public schools. One concrete proposal did come out of it, apart altogether from the immense goodwill towards Scouting that was shown by the members present. It was a suggestion that we should invite public schoolboys in their last year to a kind of explanatory course at Gilwell Park. This was done, and while numbers were comparatively small and less than expected owing to various illnesses, we did have twenty-six fellows drawn from a varied selection of public schools, and these twenty-six were visited by twenty-seven members of I.H.Q.! They had almost all been Scouts at one stage or another of their career, and some of them were still Scouts in their school Group. The enthusiasm was terrific, and it was a real joy to see their reactions to this short course, ending up with attendance in the Quadrangle at Windsor. Several have already asked if they can come back next year! One who had never previously been in Scouting at all has arranged for the Canadian Jamboree film to be shown in his school and has joined up with his local Troop. There is no doubt of the success of the experiment, and it is intended to repeat it next year and possibly extend it to other schools.

By THE CHIEF SCOUT

What can I say about Windsor that hasn't been said already? And yet I honestly believe that this was the best parade we have had. In the past there has generally been one section which has been a bit below par; this time there were about a dozen individuals, and that out of a thousand isn't too bad. Out of every thousand there are always bound to be at least a dozen with no sense of rhythm and who just can't march in step. In the Services we put them in the cookhouse, and keep them there when there are ceremonial parades, but in Scouting we don't do that. One thing that undoubtedly helped was the Band of the Coldstream Guards playing the March Past at about 125 paces to the minute, and this made it easier for the marchers. But it is the constantly increasing standard which Scouting is setting itself, the greater pride in personal appearance and bearing and the knowledge that this great occasion when our Queen honours us each year gives us an opportunity of showing our determination to do our duty to Her Majesty in a way which she herself can see and understand, which is the main factor. Of course we had the Cubs there, and this time there were no little sisters smuggled up to the front through the legs of enthusiastic brothers! They were conscious that this was Cub Year, the fortieth anniversary of this flourishing and ever-increasing branch of Scouting, and their smartness and behaviour were splendid and, to me at least, very moving. If all the Cubs are as smart as that during Cub Week - but, of course, they are all going to be.

SIR CHRISTOPHER MUSGRAVE became D.C. for Lisburn in 1934 and was a natural selection for the Chief Commissionership of Northern Ireland in 1939. His energy, his cheerful sense of humour and his deep faith in Scouting soon won the sincere affection, not only of his own Scouters and Scouts, but of all who met him at our National Conferences and other gatherings. His wise leadership in the post-war years did much to raise standards of efficiency, but even more valuable was his personal example as a "Scout" in the widest sense of the word.

At last the very grave wounds received in the First War took their toll and he was forced to retire to West Meath, loved and respected by all. As one of my Chief Scout's Commissioners he was to have taken part in the last Queen's Scouts' Reception, but died very suddenly the night before. His memory will remain in the hearts of his Scouts.

ROWALLAN.
Chief Scout.

To Keep You Thinking

But why should a man's work be utilitarian? If utility were the only standard there would be no true excellence in work, but only catchpenny toil. To work for love is to set a proper example, and if happiness is the profit, then the example is worth our scrutiny.

ERIC LINKLATER
(A Year of Space.)

PACK NIGHT - XIV

It was just one of those nights!

Everything went wrong. The boiler had gone out and the room was very cold indeed. Two of the lights had ceased to function and gave the whole place a dark mysterious air. Fog was everywhere and half the Cubs and Old Wolves were away and those Cubs that remained had one of THOSE moods on them. One felt rather like Christopher Robin and wondered "how to amuse them today." There were no sneezels and weezels but there were plenty of foggy coughs, and the first game soon broke up and it was quite clear that nothing was going to be done unless something happened and quickly at that. Then it happened.

Michael arrived. He is one of those boys who always has everything under control and is the perfect Sixer. As soon as he saw the disorder he began to help by reorganising the game that had just failed. It was a huge success. Then he went round to the Sixes and collected in their subs, and at the same time arranged what they were all going to do as far as Star work was concerned, and they were soon hard at work. Quickly the night passed and the orderly Pack vanished into the gloom and with a wave of his gloved hand he vanished as well!

Of course you are saying that it is all very improbable, and to tell the truth it is. Michael does not exist, at least not in my Pack and the situation where a Cub has to take command fortunately does not arise. But there are "stranger things in heaven and earth than man dreams of," and if you look a **little** more deeply into your Cubs you will probably be surprised at the things you find out. I do not suggest that you should purchase a couch out of Pack funds upon which the boys can lie in turn while you psycho-analyse them, but just let me try to show you what I mean.

On this page you will see a photograph of Pack activity and will probably remark upon the busy way in which the boys are building bridges and constructing dams in this stream on a Saturday afternoon out, but let me take you deeper into this scene which by fate tells a far greater story than you dream.

It was a lovely Saturday one Easter and we had taken the Cubs to a valley not very far away that is a paradise for them to play in, a place that is so near that very few seem to know of its existence, and yet it has everything that a boy would love in the country side.

Going from left to right I will introduce you to some of the boys that fate has drawn together in this group. The boy at the far end of the bank of wood is Pip. His photo has a special place in this article. He was such a keen Cub and this was his first Saturday out with the Pack. There was nothing that Pip would not do for the Pack and he worked hard at all he undertook to do. He was popular with the Cubs and almost lived on my doorstep, and yet one Pack Night I was there and he was not and he never came again. Look again at his face. That elfin appearance, full of fun and life, keenness and energy, loyalty and love. What made him leave? Was it the lack of activity in the Pack, lack of effort on the part of the Old Wolves to help him reach his First Star in the first year. No, it was none of those or a hundred others you could think of. The reason was that his friends who were not Cubs called him a sissy for being one and his pride was hurt to such an extent that he left. You would think that with a little help from a boy's mother you could get him to return, but as you will know by now, not all parents are really interested in the Cubs for what it can do for their boy, but sometimes because he is out of the way for the night.



And so it was that Pip left and has not, up to now, returned and that light, that fun, that effervescence has gone from the Pack.

Behind Pip stands John who is pointing something out to his Sixer. They are inseparables, like peas in a pod they stand or fall together. But John's story is this. His father was in the Services and his mother wanted John to join the Pack. He was very keen to, as many of his pals were in, but his father would not hear of it and so for several months he was not allowed into the Pack. Then one night, when his father was away in some foreign part John asked his mother if he could join, and his mother agreed to let him and decided to sort it out with dad when he was on leave. He joined and was soon happy with us. During the whole of his Cub life before he went into the Troop he only missed twice, once when he was ill and once when his father came home on the first leave after John joined. His father was livid and sent the boy to bed. His mother was tearful and could not understand why. At the end of Pack I went round to see if he was ill and then I learned the whole story. When his father was a lad he had been in a Troop and had been very happy until he was involved in an incident with some other boys and his Scoutmaster. There was a bust-up and he left the Troop, and even then, many years later, he did not trust the leaders of the Movement. The man he had placed on a high pillar had fallen with a mighty crash, and the boy's dreams were shattered and remained so even in manhood. After much careful talk and an invitation to come to Pack meetings he consented to let John stay and today he would not hear of him leaving, but here is a case of the sins of one generation being visited upon another, pray God it will not happen in this generation.

To the right again stands Jackie. He's the boy putting a half eaten apple in his pocket! Soon after he joined the Pack he was taken very ill and removed to hospital for a long period. During the time he was there the Cubs sent him letters, get well cards, books, toys and lots of other things, and after many visits by Old Wolves he passed his First Star and part of his Second in his hospital bed. His parents were very grateful for the interest shown in their son and helped a great deal. Then came the day when he was able to return to the Pack and insisted on doing the tests for which alternatives had been accepted. Within a week of leaving hospital he was out with us on this trip with orders to eat lots of fruit so perhaps we can forgive him for putting a half eaten apple in his pocket!

Now further to the right. Leap-frog with your eyes over the stooping boy and there stands Tish. The sharp stones under his bare feet are causing the expression on his face, but the expression on my face must have been even stranger when his mother came to me before we went to camp and said indignantly that it had cost over fifteen pounds to kit her boy out for camp. I asked how she came to spend so much and she explained that he had had a new raincoat, underwear, swimming trunks, pyjamas and a host of other things. I told her that she really had no need to buy all those things and she left me, storn in rather a dream. It was later in the year when we were at camp that I found why she had spent so much on Tish. He had never had those things in his life before! Underwear and pyjamas were a mystery to him, but rather than let other people think her son was not clad well she bought them all so that he could go to camp. It was worth all the effort that year even if it was only to get Tish the things that every child should have.

And lastly to the right of Tish, clad in a very clean white shirt and with a towel hanging from his belt stands Peter. Here is a boy who had been brought up on a very high standard of cleanliness and behind his towel is the story of a Cub who went to camp but did not make the grade the first time. He was unhappy and nothing we could do made things any better. Amongst other things there just were not the facilities that Peter was used to. According to rules and regulations we had the lot, but according to Peter We were very far short of the mark. His parents were worried and much as they disliked the idea, and much as I did, they took him home, and we all thought that he would leave but that did not happen.

A year changed Peter a lot and although he did not forget his standards he learned to rough it and yet retain his ideals and follow his teaching. Some would call him a sissy, but I wish there were more boys of his character. Now he has started on the trail to his Queen's Scout and if I know Peter, he'll get there, and soon.

And so you see that there is quite a story to this picture, and there are many ways in which the Old Wolves have been able to help these and other boys on their way to manhood and service, but talking of service and manhood there is still one other tale to be told about this particular Pack Meeting.

Along the top of the valley that I told you about, ran a railway line. I have a horrid feeling that the baulk of wood the Cubs have in the picture is a railway sleeper, but let us forget that and get on with the story! Also running over part of the valley is a public footpath and every so often we saw hikers and picnickers crossing. It was late afternoon and we were playing a wide game of sorts when one boy saw flames at the top of the valley. A train had just passed by and it was probably a spark from the engine that caused it, and it was a very hot and dry day indeed. Quickly the Sixers, Seconds and older boys came with me picking up sticks to beat the fire out and the others stayed with other Old Wolves at a safe distance. The fire spread much too quickly, and soon it was out of hand as far as our small band was concerned, but then came more of the Pack armed with sticks and after three-quarters of an hour the fire was out. The Cubs were black and everyone was exhausted. One Cub was sick through the excitement, but soon we were down at the stream and clean again as the Old Wolves and Sixers had brought towels with them, and we returned home tired but happy and all full of the story of the fire. Later the next week the local "rag" was full of it and the Cubs were thrilled to bits, but what the paper did not mention is, that whilst the Cubs fought the fire for three-quarters of an hour a group of at least twenty ADULTS stood on the public footpath and made no effort to help whatsoever.

I said earlier that the Old Wolves had their opportunity to help these boys to manhood and service. Let us hope that we shall do our work well, and that the boys we train will not be like the twenty who stood and watched, but ready to do their duty and to help others at ALL times.

Since writing of these things we have taken part in a Group Gang Show and it seems to me to be rather significant that three of the boys who called Pip a "sissy" came to see it, on two nights! and furthermore one of them is now on our waiting list - I think Pip will come back now.

BERNARD R. ELSDON.

The names given to the boys are fictional but the stories are strictly true. A great deal more could be told of each one, but I leave you to talk it over and try to decide what you would have done if these had been your boys.

The Chief Scout has designated the week of June 16th-24th as the local point in our Anniversary Celebrations. The tremendous enthusiasm which Cubs and Cub Scouters are showing all over the country should make this a very special week in a very outstanding year. I hope that there is now handing up in your Pack Den a copy of the special message which the Chief Scout has sent to each Cub, and that this will spur on your boys to further endeavour. May Cub Week reach a fitting climax in which every Pack will take part.

E. DENNIS SMITH,
Headquarters Commissioner for Wolf Cubs.

JUNGLE DAYS - X

A NATURE WALK

The Pack decided they would like a nature walk, so one evening recently we met at the appointed time at the gateway to a large wood set out as a park, instead of in the Pack Den.

Two days previously I had been over the ground and planned the walk so that I could notice anything that might be of special interest. I was glad I had done so, because unless the Cubs had their attention drawn, they would have missed a lot.

Some friends living near had told me of the hedgehogs they often found in their garden in the evening that had probably come from the park. They had also seen some in a secluded portion of the wood where the stream widened and where the hedgehogs came down to drink when it was getting dusk. This place I showed the Cubs and said if they came later they might see one or two, providing they kept very quiet. My friends quickly tamed their hedgehog who came each night. They gave him a saucer of milk and were surprised to see he did not stop drinking until the saucer was empty. He soon allowed them to stroke him without putting up his spines. It was only when the cat or the dog came to investigate that the hedgehog curled up and became a prickly ball.

A little farther along the stream in the wood, two of the Cubs darted off to a flat part of the bank and started hunting among the plants. "There are some young ducks," offered another Cub in explanation. Soon they were back with a duckling which did not keep still long enough for us to examine it before it darted off, into the undergrowth and out of sight. The two Cubs told me they had been watching them since the eggs were laid.

As we went along we noticed the trees, a leaf was picked from each. We noticed the bark, colour of the twigs and the general shape of the tree where we could.

The path led over a little bridge where a few boys were trying their luck in the stream, but nothing bigger than a minnow was to be seen. In some parts on the banks of the stream were large patches of balsam as yet only half grown. The large hooded flowers of various shades of pink would be out in a few weeks, and in some places are known as policeman's helmet. Some of the Cubs remembered the flowers and also the fruits which pop open at the slightest touch. Large clusters of small white flowers of chervil were noticed and the Cubs asked if there was anything under the plant they could eat. It was explained the plant they were thinking of was pignut and that we should see some of that later on - pignut being a smaller plant of this type. Various other plants were brought to me with the words "You can eat this." I was indeed surprised at the number of things they had tasted, but they were quite knowledgeable on these points so I did not worry about them being poisoned.

Patches of low plants with pink flowers called claytonia were noticed, and other pink flowers, a little taller and more scattered, were found to be red campion. Certain ornamental cherry trees attracted their attention. "There is nothing in them," said one of the Cubs when he looked at the flowers. Most of these trees would not produce any fruit, I explained.

We then recrossed the stream by a little hump-backed bridge and investigated a patch of ground where at one time had been a fountain. The ground was still damper than the other parts and so we noticed the ragged robin, rushes and spearwort. "That is a buttercup," said one. Then we looked at the leaves and found they were long and narrow and we compared them with buttercup leaves which were rounded and divided into portions. The ragged robin was viewed with interest as so many of the Cubs give this name to the red campion.

A hunt among the leaves of the lower growing trees revealed some caterpillars which made a loop when they moved along. One tree had nearly every shoot covered with woolly aphides; when the waxy flakes were examined a little green fly or aphide was found. Green aphides were also found on the youngest parts of the smaller plants; and cuckoo spit, or frog spit as some of the Cubs called it, was found frequently. A young insect being found in the mass of froth.

One sharp-eyed Cub spotted a young bird which he quickly followed up and managed to catch. He brought it back to us and we saw it was a song thrush, fully feathered but not yet able to fly.

The turning-point of the walk was when we reached the pen containing peacocks and pheasants. There was a rush forward as we got nearer, and we found afterwards it was a race to see who could find a feather. A few were picked up, some from the ground, some stuck in the wire netting. The peacocks were not in the mood for display, so we turned up another path where azaleas were making a striking show.

Still keeping our eyes open all the way we arrived at another gateway out of the park. By this time we were at a much higher level than the gate we entered and we could look over the town and pick out the interesting spots. The most interesting places to find were, however, their own homes and the Pack Den.

Eventually, arrived back at the Den we looked over our specimens and tried to remember all their names. The Cubs were then told how to press their leaves and flowers between newspaper under a weight, and then mount them and bring them back to Pack meeting in a few weeks.

G. FIELDER,

Asst. Ak.L., N.E. Lancs.

Yarns with the Pack

3. GREYFRIARS' BOBBY

Bobby was a dog - and if you go to Edinburgh, as you surely will, for it is one of the finest old cities in the world, go and see Bobby's monument. It stands outside the cemetery where his master lies buried. The monument is a drinking fountain, with Bobby on top, in bronze, and while children are often to be seen drinking at the fountain, at the base you can often see a dog drinking from the trough, a dog who might be Bobby himself.

Bobby belonged to Auld Jock Grey, who regularly transacted business in the market-place which is near the Greyfriars' church. At noon, each day, the great gun of Edinburgh Castle is fired to mark the time, and as the noise of the boom died away, the master and the dog crossed the road to Tram's restaurant for their midday meal.

When Auld Jock died, his dog Bobby was the chief mourner. But as the people left Greyfriars' churchyard, none thought to ask what would happen to the dog. For three days he disappeared, then at noon, at his accustomed time, Bobby walked into the cafe, looking very sad and woebegone. In pity, the owner gave the terrier a bun, and Bobby went off. Day after day, the dog did the same thing until the proprietor of the restaurant wondered what the dog was up to. His curiosity was aroused and he followed the dog out of the shop.

Sure enough, the dog went to the cemetery, ate his bun, and resumed the watch he was keeping over his master's grave. The notice at the cemetery gate said, "No dogs admitted," but Bobby pretended he couldn't read and walked right past! Three times the proprietor of the restaurant found a home for Bobby and three times the dog ran away to guard his master's grave.

When it was realised that Bobby meant to stay, a kennel was provided for him, for his fidelity touched the heart of the cemetery superintendent. But dogs have to be licensed and wear a collar bearing their owner's name and address. Bobby was taken to court and his case was heard before three magistrates. Fortunately he was neither fined nor committed to gaol. The Lord Provost took the dog under his wing and paid the licence each year. The collar can still be seen in the museum and it bears the words, "Greyfriars' Bobby from the Lord Provost. Licensed."

When Bobby died he was buried with his master and the stone over the grave records the love of the master for his dog and the fidelity of the dog to his master. The words on the monument at the cemetery gate say, "A tribute to the affectionate fidelity of Greyfriars' Bobby."

In 1858 this faithful dog followed the remains of his master to Greyfriars' churchyard and lingered near the spot until his death in 1872." For fourteen years this dog guarded his master's grave and now he himself will be remembered for many, many years. Someone has suggested that Bobby's epitaph ought to be, "It is required of a dog (as of a man), that he be found faithful. Bobby was faithful unto death."

E. J. WEBB.

WHY THEY LEAVE

Mine is very much an ordinary Troop in a small south coast town. Established more than thirty years ago, the Group has its own H.Q. and, in fact, a new building was opened last year. At one stage it was possible to number Troop members on the fingers of one hand, but for the last few years the figure has been fairly constant between thirty-five and forty. As regards progress we have standards and traditions which we endeavour to maintain, such as at least one Queen's Scout per year, and at least half the Troop Second Class at any one time. Regular Court of Honour meetings are held, with the P.L.s planning a large part of Troop activities, and as many as twelve or fifteen camps in a year. And yet there is still a leakage problem.

For the last three years I have kept a detailed account not only of each boy's progress and achievements, but also of the reasons for leaving. Before mentioning these, with the lessons we have learnt so far, I must point out that we have many of the "usual" problems: woefully short of leaders, lack of local industries causing boys to go far afield for work when they leave school, and mounds of homework for those who are at school. All the other youth organisations exist in the district.

The total loss for the three years has been twenty-eight boys, and one cannot count on the debit side those who have moved from the district or emigrated. The two major causes of leaving seem to be loss of interest, including lack of progress, and with this is bound up the absence of parental support. It appears generally true that if a boy is not well on his way to Second Class within twelve months of joining, he is making inadequate progress. After discussion with the C.O.H. a new idea is now being tried out, and the first results are encouraging: over and above ordinary Troop instruction, a Scouter, Troop Leader and a Senior P.L. form a "shock team," and go out of their way to encourage, instruct and test any boy who is noticeably "hanging fire." The boy's own P.L. is also, of course, brought into the picture. Secondly, there was a time when parent visiting was neglected as taking time better employed in other ways: the value of it is now appreciated.

A week or two before or after Investiture a Scout's parents are seen in their own home, and it is noticeable how pleased they are to see "Skipper," who is taking an interest in their boy.

At the other end, if a Scout has missed two or three meetings apparently without good reason, a "Troop visitor" is given all the facts, and makes a call. This may help to smooth over some immediate difficulties or if the boy has made up his mind to leave it may get to the basic reasons, against which actions can be taken in the future. It is, however, confusing when two boys leave within a few weeks of each other, the first declaring that there aren't enough rough games, and the second saying the games are too rough for him.

Camping is also seen as a cause of leaving, and accounted for four of the total. Originally there was no insistence on attending short camps before the summer camp, but to two boys the impact of summer camp without such preparation was too great a shock. It is now insisted upon that at least one week-end camp shall be attended before the major one. The other two just did not take to camping, in one case because the boy had been hopelessly spoiled by his mother and could hardly dress on his own.

The P.L. problem has also been the cause of two losses: one boy just loathed the sight of his leader, but bottled it up until he refused to have anything more to do with Scouting. The other boy was a P.L. but seemed unable to cope with all that it implied, and as soon as his fellow leaders began to tease him because he rarely arranged an activity, he left. Perhaps this was the fault of the Scouter for failing to see his unsuitability, but the boy had been a Second for quite a while, and was the obvious choice when the vacancy occurred.

The last two reasons worthy of comment are Scouter trouble and the influence of other organisations. It is difficult to be unbiased in discussing oneself, but two boys in leaving admitted that they felt the Scouter was not spending enough time in their Troop (he was at that time also running another Troop). Relations with other organisations are largely cordial and no obstacle is placed in the path of a boy who wants to join another body, providing he is also present at the weekly Troop Meeting. The difficulty occurs when meeting nights clash, and one boy endeavoured to work a compromise - half the evening in one place and the remainder in another. The total loss from this cause has been three boys in three years, and I feel that they would still be in the Troop, as their second "love," were it not for the time clash.

One Troop and twenty-eight boys "lost" in three years. Have we failed? Looking at the latest census details I see that one boy in five is First Class, 64 per cent are Second Class and more than 40 per cent aged 14 or over. We have maintained the standard of a Queen's Scout per year, and there is a waiting list of boys wanting to join. I do not think we have failed, but nor have we been completely successful. By examining the problem objectively, however, we are able to take steps to retain even more boys in the future, thereby doing our part in tackling the leakage problem.

HOWARD L. FEARS,



IDEAS AND THINGS - V

It's funny what can be started by a casual remark. The other year I was in a railway carriage with a few Senior Scouts returning from a visit to London to our camp at Tolmers. It was getting late, and we were all in a sort of semi-tired mood. Not the "let's have a sing-song" mood, but very much the casual-chat-if-any-conversation-at-all sort of thing. Suddenly from the other end of the carriage: "Skip - where are we camping next year?" This was right out of the blue. I had not thought about next year, the present camp was only half-way through. And then there it was. The idea. Whether it was practicable I didn't know. Maybe it would be too expensive. Maybe there would be mother trouble. But what the heck. "We're not going camping," I said, and lit a cigarette trying to look as though I had made a casual remark such as "Ours is the next stop but one" or something. The voice: "Hiking, Skip?" "No. Not hiking." "Climbing?" "No. Try again." No one else joined in, perhaps they were too tired. Perhaps they did not approve of this dictatorial attitude being adopted. They were the ones to decide on what happened, no matter what a mere G.S.M. might suggest, and the said G.S.M. could be put in his place later. The voice again: "Boating, Skip - on the Broads." I was rather annoyed. I didn't think he'd guess. I tried to be casual: "Uh - huh." They all woke up.

Next day the whole Troop knew. The Seniors were going sailing. As soon as camp was over the mothers knew. No opposition. Now the Seniors really were going on the Broads. And of course it had to be yachts. No fancy stuff with motors. Yachts. We got a catalogue as soon as they were issued.

Now any S.M. (S) who is running short of ideas for Troop meetings can do no better than give the Troop a catalogue of the boats available for hire, and his problems are solved for at least a fortnight. Of course after that he will have to take them, which will probably raise another problem with his wife, but that is no concern of mine. But let us not be side-tracked.

The catalogue was studied with much reference to the price list in the back, and after avoiding all those marked "not for beginners" or "for the experienced yachtsman only" we made our choice (with the number of alternatives requested by the management), agreed on dates, and sent off. Back came the reply - our first choice. Three "Fairways" which were "suitable for beginners" and would carry three on each. Including the Scoutmaster of the Boy Scout section, who refused to be left out, there were nine of us, so it seemed a good arrangement. So then everyone concerned started to save up, and the Group Committee offered a subsidy.

Now this is not intended to be read by Sea Scouts, yachtsmen, or other experts, to whom our little effort will be "kids' stuff." This is for the ordinary inland lot like ours, who have hired rowing boats by the hour on the local river or lake, have sailed on the Yorkshireman for a trip from Bridlington, or spent a couple of hours going from Westminster to Greenwich and back. On the other hand this is not a manual of sailing which will enable the last-mentioned types to become sailors after reading twice through at dictation speed. Likewise it is not an advertisement - this I mention in case anyone thinks I get a cut from the boat yard. Unless you have an old catalogue you will not know which boat yard it was, anyway, was there are no longer any Fairways listed. But don't blame us for that.

Now where was I? Ah yes. Boats booked. Money nearly so. All excited. Well and good. But as the time got nearer I became more and more apprehensive. It's one thing to say you will sail a yacht, and quite another to get into one and do it. I sent away for a book. According to the blurb it should have taught me all that I could possibly want to know. The book arrived. It was in all fairness very good. It put things in simple language and provided diagrams. However, I knew nothing of things nautical and phrases like "See that there is sufficient slack on the mainsheet, then haul up the main halyards and peak halyards together" or "In yachts with a bowsprit, the tack of the jib hooks on to a traveller and is hauled out to the required distance by means of the jib overhaul" left me out in the cold. Of course once you've

been it's easy. But when you have never seen a yacht at close quarters it means little or nothing, even when accompanied by the most lucid diagrams imaginable.

I laid the book aside and asked a friend who has spent half his life sailing small craft of all types, and owns his own launch on the local canal, to come and talk to us. There was no difficulty about this. Anyone interested in boats is always more than willing to give up his time to try to help others to become interested in boats. He talked. We asked questions which were answered. We thanked him and we all went home.

It seemed that we had to study the tide tables. We had to watch our moorings at high tide, or we might wake up when the tide was out and find that the water had gone away and left us. We had to sail with the tide even if it meant getting up at all sorts of unearthly hours to do it. We had it dinned into us that only a fool tried to punch the wind and the tide at the same time. And there was no sense trying to punch the tide even assisted by a fair wind if, by setting off at 6 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. we could have the tide with us as well. We were told not, repeat not, as beginners, to try to sail through Breydon Water. If we had to go to Yarmouth, then we were to leave the boats at moorings somewhere and catch a bus. There was a lot more. We remembered what we could. Apart from the last item we tried to do all the things mentioned in the foregoing as being "wrong." We knew better. We were wrong.

Anyway, taking our books and maps, and full of helpful advice, we set off. Thanks to a very helpful staff at Norwich station we were put on the right train to Wroxham where, after a spot of bother caused by one bloke losing his ticket (he found it after removing rucksack, coat and what have you), we followed the signposts to our boatyard. Here we "booked in" and learned that the correct way to ascertain the location of a craft is to say "where's she lie" and not "where is it." The crews of two of our yachts hired portable radio sets, one "skipper" bought a Jolly Roger, and we found our boats.

Did you ever see a 23ft. yacht? No, I know it's not big, and you've already paced out the size on the Club Room floor, but it looks big when you've never sailed one before. You step on board. Bending down you peer inside the cabin. If the boat looks a bit big the cabin looks a bit small. You wonder how three of you are going to live there for a week, and then back out so that one of the others can have a look in. Suddenly there are no longer three of you, there are four. The newcomer has an inventory. He opens a locker and recites a mysterious chant concerning "dinner plates 3, egg cups 3, mutter, mutter, mutter, spare shackles 2, mutter, mutter, you're short of a saucer. I'll get it for you in a minute. Sign here." You sign. "Er - where is everything please, and could you show us how to sail it?" You said that. You didn't mean to, it just came out. You are shown how to pump out the bilges, where the Calor gas cylinder is, where the drinking water is stowed, how to erect the table, and are promised that he will come back later and show you how to put the sails up.

You then get the whole party together and take them to the shop. It seems that the goods ordered in advance are ready.

You pay for them, and are promised that they will be delivered to your moorings within the hour. The crowd do their personal shopping, and all return to their craft. Kit is unpacked and stowed away, and rucksacks handed into stores. The rations arrive (did we order all that lot?) and are stowed away. From nowhere the gent from the boat yard turns up to give the desired instructions.

When this happened to us it was raining, and some unknown person, not us, we hadn't touched it, had got some ropes (I'm not sure even now whether they were sheets or halyards) mixed up well and proper. We stood round the narrow deck in the pouring rain listening to a Broadsman say what he thought of the world in general, and amateur yachtsmen in particular. It was an education. Eventually he had the sails up, showed us quickly what everything on the outside of the boat was for, and watched us set sail on the other two craft, adding such comments as he thought necessary. We gave him our heartfelt thanks, together with the proceeds of a whip-round which we thought he had earned.

The next bit was really very funny.

Our friend suddenly pushed one of the craft away with a boat hook and shouted "Good luck, sir - you're sailing." Now if you ever saw a Senior Scout with, as he put it later, a handle in one hand and a bit of rope in the other, and not too certain about either, ploughing his way through a miscellaneous assortment of small craft, you will see what I mean about it being funny. The next bit was not half so humorous. There was a similar cry from our friend, and our boat was suddenly in mid-stream, and I was pulling the rope and pushing the handle to see what happened.

Actually you very soon get the hang of it, and even start looking round - until you suddenly find you are sailing up someone's private back-water or heading for a low bridge. Now this is not another "Three Men in a Boat." A detailed account of our week's adventures would take up much more space than the Editor would ever dream of allowing me. Just a few highlights will be given, for instance our mooring on the first night. Now there is only one way to stop a yacht, apart from sailing it into something solid, and that is to turn her into the wind. We knew that. It was simple. Approaching our first mooring I had a Senior in the sharp end with the mud float gadget, all set to drop it overboard when I gave the word. Another stood by ready to deal with the topping lift. I was to give the word for these two to do their stuff as soon as I turned her into the wind and the sails started flapping. Do you know, we had to go round four times before we got into the wind? We did, but we made it. No sooner had we done so than one of our other craft came along and tried to pull up smartly alongside. It was not as easy as that. They too missed the wind, and could not go round again because we were in the way. They finished up with the prow between two trees, and branches sticking through all available spaces between mast, sails, sheets and halyards.

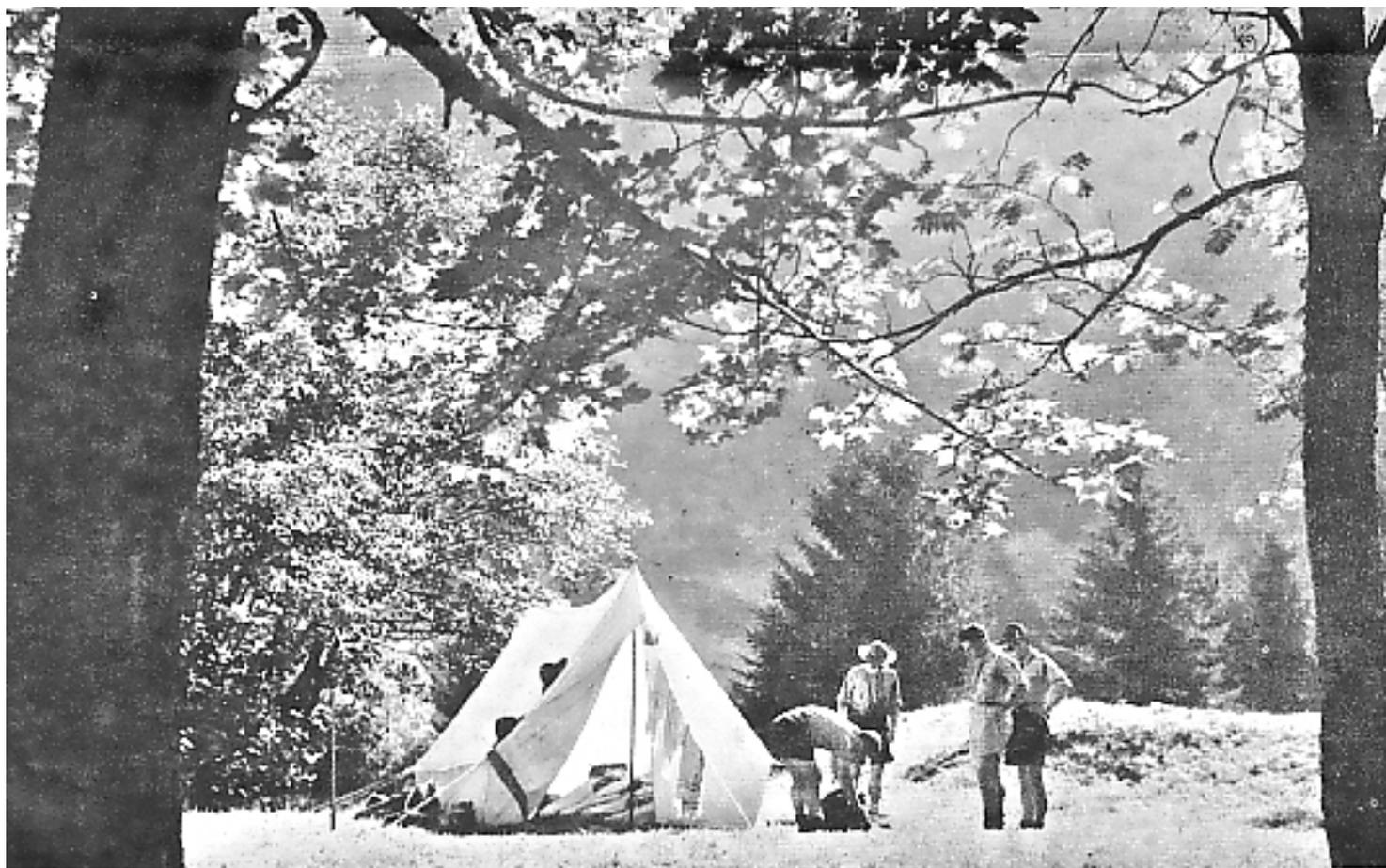
Fortunately no damage was done, but just at that moment the chap from the boatyard came rowing round the corner to collect mooring fees. What he said does not matter.

Another thing that sort of sticks is a gybe on the stretch from Potter Higham to the Bure. Just by Thurne Mouth it was. We finished up in a field. You would not believe so much of a boat could get into a field, but it did. We got her off, only to spend the night on a lee shore along the Bure. That means that we were blown on to the bank, and every time we tried to get away the wind blew us back on again. When I say "we" I mean our boat. We were heading for South Walsham, from where we intended to catch a bus next morning to spend the day in Yarmouth. The crews of the other two craft did this, but by the time we sailed off our lee shore it was next morning, and they had already left for Yarmouth. They had a very nice time. They told us about it when they came back.

Many of the funniest things, such as the time Dave lost his glasses overboard, were only funny to us, which is how it should be. Come to think of it, Dave still has not seen the funny side of the glasses incident, but it takes all sorts to make a world.

And why have I told you all this? Well, you see, nine of us went. It is two or three years ago now, and we're still talking about it. Only last night the one and only remaining member of the expedition, apart from the Scouters (the others are either at University or have been called up), told me that it was the best holiday he had had in his life. As we could not repeat the performance last year the Scoutmaster went with a friend of his. The others will all go again, I know that. And your Seniors can have just as much fun. And so can you. And when you hear the cry "Good luck, sir - you're sailing," you might just think of me.

D. L. N.



DEAR EDITOR

40th birthday: the little dears

DEAR EDITOR,

A Cub, being asked why he should breathe through his nose, said, "Er, I think it's to warm the air before it goes down inside yer. Yer see, there's a little furnace up yer nose wot warms the air before it goes down!"

Running the Pack single-handed one evening I decided to try out a stunt in order to test the Cubs' knowledge of first-aid, so suddenly and without warning slid on to the floor in a "faint." Consternation on the part of the Pack when a Cub said, "Coo, she's fainted." All gathered round in great curiosity, while some of the Cubs, remembering some hints from their first-aid tests, laid about the mob with determined lefts and rights, yelling meanwhile, "She's got to 'ave air - git back!" There was some debating as to what to do next, then one bright spirit had a brainwave. "Yer 'ave to fan 'er," quoth he. "Wot wiv?" asked another. More agitation of grey matter, then, "Git 'er 'at," said someone. Akela, by this time scarlet in the face from suppressed mirth, watched through her eyelashes while there was a general stampede to the corner where the hat reposed. Back it came, clutched tightly by a perspiring Cub who proceeded to fan vigorously while Akela groaned inwardly at the sight of a much-pressed brim bending in all directions and getting more like a switch-back every minute. Finally, "She ought to 'ave some water," said the bright Sixer who was directing operations. A rush to the cloakroom, but there was nothing in which to bring water save the fire bucket which was duly dragged in, water slopping all along the route. "You 'ave to pour it over 'er," said one, bringing the bucket perilously close, but Akela, feeling that this was the right moment to regain consciousness, suddenly "came round" and rose up, to the glee of some and disappointment of others. However, it was good to learn that at least a few grains of knowledge had been retained by some of the Pack.

LILIAN BERRY,

One-time C.M., 31st Beckenham Pack.

DEAR EDITOR,

Christopher - that's the Cub next door - has just been in. He said, "I've come to congratulate you, Raksha, on getting the Silver Acorn," and drawing himself to his full height, saluted smartly at attention. The occasion seemed to demand something more. He removed his Cub cap, saluted again, then holding out his left hand he said, "Well, we may as well shake hands on It." We did. That really was the red velvet cushion on which I metaphorically laid my bundle of "fan" mail.

Isn't it THE BOY who has given us our Silver Acorns and Silver Wolves? Believe me it only needed that to crown my happiness, and yours too I feel sure.

"Brown Tip,"

Surrey.

DEAR EDITOR,

A lady was waiting to cross the High Street on a Saturday morning when she became aware of a small figure by her side. At the right moment they crossed, and she said, "You'll be all right now, sonny." Sonny, however, looked up at her and protested. "But I was looking after you. I'm a CUB."

F. W. G. CLINTON,

D.C., Dorking.

DEAR EDITOR,

One Pack was going on an outing to Windsor and there was a jam in Eton High Street; it was during term-time and the college boys were going to different classes carrying their books, etc. One Cub piped up, "Oh! Akela, look at all those Teddy Boys," and another, "Yes, and they have their notebooks ready to write down car numbers."

Bob-a-job week brought out the boys' ingenuity as usual. One Cub had passed his phone test and delighted in ringing up Baloo and Akela; he had started off with two extra insides for his Bob-

a-Job card and then phoned Baloo. "Please may I have another inside for my card?" "Yes, you can come and collect it this afternoon. How are you getting on?" "I have earned 45s., and Baloo," "Yes," said Baloo, "When I have filled up the next inside I expect I shall have earned £3 5s. 0d. That will mean I have collected 65 shillings, could I have my Collector's Badge as well?"

Entry on another Bob-a-Job card: "For taking my son along to join the Cubs, 1/-."

Cubs certainly take a protective interest in seeing that the Old Wolves do the *right* thing. Sitting in church with the local Pack, my next door neighbour said in a loud whisper, "Kaa, have you remembered your penny for the kitty?"

MARGARET K. B. DAY,

A.D.C. Cubs, Beaconsfield.

Sixers' and Seconds' Stripes

DEAR EDITOR,

With regard to discrepancies in uniform. Could not some more definite ruling be made, or an alteration be effected, with regard to Sixers' and Seconds' stripes?

The present system of arm-bands of braid results in a string-like length drawn up tightly to prevent it slipping down and ending up as a bracelet round the wrist. The solution would be of course for them to be stitched on to the jersey all the way round. But then why have bands at all? Why not simply small stripes (such as some Packs do allow, but which at present is against P.O.R.)?

For some years now I have made a proper arm-band for my Sixers and Seconds in felt, to match the jersey, fastening with elastic at the back and with the stripes stitched on securely all round. These have the advantage of being removable and washable and transferable to new Sixers.

However, they are an additional expense to us and above all are not approved uniform.

P. LIVINGSTONE,

2nd Birkenhead Pack.

"Friends of the Children"

DEAR EDITOR,

It is evident from our contacts with many Children's Homes in Woodford and many miles around, that considerable benefit is derived by "deprived" boys and girls from associations with people and organisations outside the Home.

May we ask your readers to consider such children when arranging camps, hikes, outings, good turns and also collections and contributions to charity.

The writer will gladly furnish you with particulars of how you can "assist a child in need of help or a friend."

ERIC DUTTON,

Hon. Secretary, "Friends of the Children"

(Woodford Green Circle).

Wearing of Shorts

DEAR EDITOR,

I agree with S.M. (S) Hinde in April SCOUTER, who maintains that it is not cold knees but bad programmes which cause leakage.

I do not deny that it would be foolish to climb mountains in winter in shorts, but is the English climate really so bad that we cannot wear shorts to an ordinary Troop meeting? The simple fact is that some Senior Scouts, who are fortunately in the minority, and - let us face it! - some Scouters too, are becoming "soft" and slack. I was both surprised and shocked at the number of Scouters at a recent Scouters Conference, which was held on a day when the weather was fairly reasonable, who arrived clad in uniform shirt, neckerchief and long trousers! The same thing happens amongst our Senior Scouts; and it is happening for two reasons. Firstly, they are becoming "mollycoddled"; the slightest hint of bad weather is used as an excuse for not wearing complete uniform. Secondly, they have not the courage to face the stupid taunts of Teddy Boys and the like. Let us not permit this type of Senior Scout to become a majority! Neither let it be said that the

Teddy Boys are gaining an upper hand over the Scout Movement!

The younger members of our Movement look to Scouters and Senior Scouts for an example to follow. Let them find a good example!

J. CLOKE,

A.S.M., Maidstone Grammar School.

DEAR EDITOR,

One or two considerations do not seem to be fully in the minds of some of your correspondents in the shorts v. longs controversy.

(1) It may be true, as Mr. Bullock says, that longs are rarely seen among Scouters and Rovers. But then, Scouters and Rovers are past the age when they have a violent antipathy to wearing shorts; it is a much easier matter to persuade your twenty-year-old to abandon his longs, well established as he is in them, than to persuade your fifteen-year-old to put on once again the shorts which he has so recently discarded. We could go on happily with shorts for Rovers on this count; the point is, can we go on so happily with shorts for Seniors?

(2) What is the Scout uniform for? Is it meant for Scouting? Or is it meant for parades? And if, as I believe, it is meant for Scouting, then why should we retain shorts when the Camp Chief himself recommends that in Wide Games (*the Scouting activity par excellence*) they should be discarded in favour of longs? And why should we retain shorts when one of the most exciting Scouting activities for Seniors in this country - hill walking and mountain climbing - demands longs?

(3) What boy would let his S.M. know, if he could help it, that he had "leaked" because he disliked wearing shorts? My personal opinion is that, though it cannot possibly be checked, we do lose a lot of boys very largely because in their own opinion (and it is their own opinion, however misguided it seems to us, which matters) we ask them to wear a uniform which makes them look rather silly and younger than their age; and to look younger than your age is the thing which every fifteen-year-old will try most assiduously to avoid!

P. J. WINSTONE,

Chaplain, 3rd lichen.

"Scouting for Boys," a Correction?

DEAR EDITOR,

With reference to Walter Leach's letter in the March SCOUTER I beg leave to be a little pedantic.

I have always noticed how many close parallels can be drawn between the Scout Movement and the Christian Church. It would be irrelevant to discuss them here, and it suffices to suggest the correspondence on the plain of *Scouting for Boys* in the Scout Movement with that of Holy Scripture in the Church. Mr. Leach obviously senses this analogy in his mention of blasphemy in his first sentence.

Let me, therefore, say that B.-P. was quite correct but admittedly misleading. The caption says that the given line points to the North and South Poles. For those who deal with land directions "Pole" means the Terrestrial Pole, but for those using the stars the meaning will be the Celestial Pole, i.e. the centre of the apparent rotation of the sky (marked closely in the north by the Pole Star). For Scouts the most useful point is, in fact, neither of these, but is the point on the horizon due north (or south). If there were a constellation that pointed to this, it would in fact be quite wrong to say that it pointed to the Pole.

Similarly B.-P. would have been wrong if he had said that Orion pointed north and south, but actually he carefully avoids saying this. In the text he says that by Orion one can always tell which way the Pole Star lies, and this, of course, is correct.

The caption, however, would be far less ambiguous if the words "of the sky" were added, thus eliminating the possibility of "Terrestrial Poles."

NEIL M. YOUNG,

A.S.M., 9th Baiham and Tooting.

With apologies to the B.B.C.—V



A journey into space

What are we trying to achieve?

DEAR EDITOR,

I wonder if it has ever occurred to us that one of the great weaknesses of the Scout Movement is that it is attempting to achieve two diametrically opposed objectives at one and the same time? This does make for confusion.

What is our aim? Is it to build up an association of all the best boys smart, efficient, well-behaved - or is it to bring Scout training to any boy who is prepared to "have a go"?

If the former is our objective there is little difficulty. We accept only the best boys and ruthlessly throw out all who do not measure up. By such means we can maintain a very high standard right through the Troop and gain a great deal of official and popular appreciation.

If, on the other hand, we are out to bring Scouting within the reach of all and sundry we are always bound to have a "tail." Scouting is a long-term process - not a magic wand.

If I may use an industrial simile it is a sort of production line. At one end we have an intake of raw material - sometimes very raw. Along the line we have Scouts in all stages of production and at the end, after about six or seven years' work, the finished product is delivered.

It seems to me that in expecting all Scouts to be smart, efficient and well-behaved at all times H.Q. asks the impossible - that is if we are not to be "exclusive."

May I take just one aspect - marching. Very unimportant really, but one which constantly gives rise to "higher criticism." Of course we march badly. If we march as a Troop we inevitably have six-footer Queen's Scouts mixed up with scruffy little customers of four feet and a bit. Of course there is straggling and shuffling and getting out of step. Of course the "finished product" should be smartly turned out but it is ridiculous to expect the same standard from those whose Scout training has just begun.

The only solution is to leave the unfinished product at home, which seems to me to be the negation of the Brotherhood of Scouts. I have merely taken "marching, - ceremonial parades - as an illustration of my point. The same thing runs right through Scouting today. It is high time we had a definite policy. Either we accept only the best, waste our time "painting the Lily" and gain popular approbation, or we accept all and sundry, do our best with them, and to blaze with superficial judgments.

JOCK NEISH.

C.C., Angus.

Ideas on Tents

DEAR EDITOR,

Percy Neville in the April Scouter asks why the Baker tent isn't more in favour with Senior Scout campers. The reason, I submit, is that it is not the most suitable for Senior Scouting, which is usually of the hiking and lightweight camping sort of Scouting.

Dealing with the various points raised in its favour by Mr. Neville, I would point out that one can sit up in many tents without touching the sides, also one can look straight out at the view with almost all tents provided the door is left open as it almost invariably is by Scouts. If one wishes a fire near one at night, again this is a perfectly simple matter with all types of tents. I have never found any great difficulty in taking off wet clothes in any tent with a height of 5ft. I cannot see any reason why the Baker tent is more suitable for winter camping than many other patterns.

When the tent is used in the fashion shown in the photographs it requires four stout poles each 5ft. long. How, then, can the tent be used in the mountains where any form of wood is often non-existent? No one is going to carry four tent poles, even of the lightweight telescopic variety. If the canopy is pegged down then the Baker tent has no advantage over the conventional "A" pattern tent. A further disadvantage is that it is not as quick or easy to erect as many tents are.

The one big advantage is that in bad weather one can cook under shelter, but on p. 99 of *Camping and Woodcraft* Kephart says that it takes a lot of wood to keep a fire going all night. Also his methods of suspending the tent are hardly satisfactory for a Senior Scout camping for one night and moving on first thing next morning. Again, on p.101, Kephart says, "Such a tent is good.., in fixed camp. It is not recommended for parties that move frequently." Senior Scouts are usually "parties that move frequently" and thus, unless they are lucky enough to have two tents, have to use one which is most suited to the majority of their requirements.

Having so far in my letter been destructive, I will now attempt to be constructive and suggest the ideal Senior Scout tent. It is, of course, equally suitable for Rovers, Scouters, etc.

For this tent I assume that the user has a reasonably high standard of camping and thus is able to economise in space, etc.

The requirements for the tent are (not in order of importance): that it will take two with full kit; that it can be used in exposed places with safety; that a fly sheet can be used with it, if necessary; that it is light in weight; that it is easy to erect; that it provides space for two fully grown people to sit side by side in shelter to prepare food, etc.

These requirements are all met by the pattern of tent sold commercially under the names "Sheerline," "Tinker" and, to a lesser extent, the "Solite." The nearest approach in Kephart is the "Compac" although not with a sewn-in groundsheet. Briefly the tent is 5ft. wide at one end tapering to 1½ - 2 ft. at the other. Height is 5ft. tapering to 1½ - 2ft. Length overall about 8-9ft. and between poles 6-7ft. Anyone making one himself would, of course, decide his own exact size, my figures are merely a guide. I have used this pattern for many years and have always found it admirable.

Naturally this tent is not ideal for a normal Boy Scout (as opposed to Senior Scout) standing summer camp, but since the article which prompted this letter appeared in the Senior Scout Scrapbook I feel on fairly safe ground.

A.J. MUSTON,
Rover Scout.

Scout and Guide Co-operation

DEAR EDITOR,

The Scouters of the 1st Bridgen Troop in Bexley were interested to read in your April issue about "Voyage of the Venturer" which Mr. Ralph Reader is producing at the Albert Hall in July. During the past two years we have produced two Scout Shows with the co-operation of our sister Guide Company, using a mixed cast of Scouts and Guides.

Our first show was an original play, with music, depicting the History of England as shown to a Scout by St. George himself.

The second show, which took place this month, was on more traditional "Gang Show" lines, using some material of Mr. Reader's and some of our own. We have now started to write a new musical play for production next Easter.

We have found that the Scouts and Guides work well together and we are convinced that a lot of good is obtained by encouraging them to mix in this way. In the years of adolescence, boys and girls will be naturally interested in one another and if they are able to meet regularly with some communal activity in mind, they are less likely to hang about street corners. Following on the show, we were asked by the Court of Honour if it could be arranged for the older Scouts (over 14 years of age) to be taught ballroom dancing. The Guides are also joining in this activity, and classes started this week. We hope they will lead to a regular social evening for the older Scouts and Guides. Occasional mixed Camp Fires are also proving very popular, with a healthy rivalry between the Troop and the Company to find some new sketch or song to introduce.

Lest your readers think that we run a social club and not a Troop, let me hasten to assure you that we achieved three Scout Cords last summer (Troop strength 27) and hope to have three more Scout Cords and two Queen's Scouts this year. There is a full programme of weekend Patrol Camps and Training Camps arranged for the summer, in addition to the summer camp in the Isle of Wight.

J. P. C. KING,
A.S.M., 1st Bridgen, Bexley.

The Cost of Scouting

DEAR EDITOR,

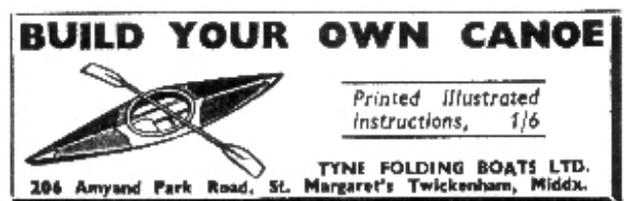
Just a year ago I recommenced the task of resurrecting a defunct Group, the Group at last year's census consisting of a solitary Scout attending meetings of a neighbouring Troop two miles away. Now Cubs and Scouts appear to be well established with the total of fifty-one boys, three Scouters and a Group Committee.

However, we now have to face the financial reckoning. During the year we have had to raise money for our rent and equipment, of which we had nothing, and the financial year found us with a deficit of £8lls. 0d. on March 31st. The District Secretary now asks for affiliation fees of £11 19s. 6d. beside the expected sums we find we are expected to pay into Jamboree funds, Centenary Celebration funds, etc. We shall not be able to continue in existence if we are required to make such regular payments.

Surely the basis of Scouting is to be found in Pack and Troop. No matter how desirable centralised functions may be, they should be drastically pruned if their cost is more than the Movement can bear at local level. On the new housing estates (where our Group is situated) raising money is very difficult and the children themselves cannot pay such high subs. as some of their neighbours, some paying as much as ls. 3d. per week. We had hoped that "Bob-a-Job" might assist our Funds but it doesn't even make enough to meet this grievous burden.

Is Scouting to spread and flourish in these new communities, or is it to become a middle-class Movement confined to established districts? May not some "Leakage" be because Scouting is pricing itself out of existence?

H. G. BRADEIELD-DOVEY,
G.S.M., 7th Northolt.



OUR DISTRICT

By A.D.C.

Old Hankin had honoured me by an invitation to camp with two of his Patrols and himself at a delightful site he had recently discovered. The two Patrols were competing against one another for the right to enter the District Camping Competition to represent the Troop, and Hankin wanted me to do the judging.

Hankin's camps are always of a very high order, and this one seemed to me about the best yet, and I went to my little tent on Saturday night, after smoking a last pipe with Hankin over the dying embers of the fire, and finishing up the dregs of the cocoa, feeling that life was pretty good.

An owl spoke in the dark wood behind the camp. The P.L. of the Curlews hissed urgently to a felonious Tenderfoot that if he didn't shut up old Bugface would hear him and it would cost five points. In the next tent I heard the creak of Old Hankin's camp-bed, a luxury he has indulged in since his attack of lumbago last winter.

The sweet scent of trodden grass filled my nostrils.

I was just going to switch off my torch when I noticed the corner of an envelope protruding from my mackintosh pocket, and I remembered picking up a letter from the mat as I hurried to catch the train. I had stuffed it into the pocket and then forgotten it, for one of the best things about a good camp is that it banishes all thoughts of the workaday world.

"Just a line to let you know," the letter began, "that Vic was Called to Higher Service yesterday. He had been in the London Hospital for several weeks...."

I switched off the torch and put my head back on my makeshift pillow, and the moon over the dark wood was dimmed. A quarter of a century rolled back, and I trod the shabby streets of East London, the purple plume in my hat new and bright. Vic was our L.A. Secretary, a big stout man with a truculent manner who kept new A.D.C.s very much in their place.

Our District was one of the biggest in East London, with a census return approaching 2,000 and between thirty and forty Troops. Even today I look back amazed at the strength of Scouting there. In the whole District there was hardly enough green grass to make two tennis-lawns, and yet, because of men like Vic, I have known no District where the great game was better or more zestfully played.

The memory of Roland Philipps helped, and the living presence of Stanley Ince, the flame of whose great spirit burned ever brighter as his pitiful crippled body died inch by inch, helped even more, but it was men like Vic who translated ideals into terms of action, and Secretary Vic was the king-pin round which Our District revolved.

A slack secretary can do an awful lot of damage, for a slack secretary means inefficiency right through the ranks, but in the ten years I worked with him Vic never let anyone down. He was utterly and absolutely reliable, and he infected all of us with the same spirit. Commissioners and A.D.C.s came and went, and D.S.M.s and Badge Secretaries resigned, but Vic's great love and pride in his job ensured that there was no break in continuity of service.

The physical heart of that District was blasted to ruin by Hitler's bombs, and the old East London passed away, but I can still see those narrow streets of smoke-grimed little houses, with white steps and clean curtains. I can see the P.L. tapping at the unpainted doors to collect his Patrol for week-end camp, and the laughing journey to the railway station. There may have been finer boys than those East-enders of pre-war vintage, but I've never met such good laughers.

The District owed more to Vic than to any body else, and because he did his job so well tens of thousands of happy faces gleamed in the light of the camp fires. As he lay dying in that great hospital in the very centre of Our District, I hope he knew how much he would be missed. He wore his beloved harness to the very end.

WORTH THINKING ABOUT - VI

Not service only. - A coloured girl was taught by her father that the right way to serve a glass of water was to place it on a plate and, if flowers were in season, a tiny flower should be put beside the glass to indicate that the server esteemed it a joy to wait upon the guest. (Ex Dark Symphony - E. L. Adams.) True brotherhood. - "Heart to heart," said a Cub on overhearing Akela ask the "new chums" why Scouts shake hands with the left hand.

The best wealth? - A boy of 5, an only child, had broken a school friend's toy and was told by his parents that he must take him another to replace it as his friend was poor. "How do you know he's poor?" he asked. "Well, he has a lot of brothers and sisters," was the explanation given. "He isn't poor, then, he's rich," said the boy.

The nature of the hyena. - "One night I pegged some zebra meat to the ground and waited to see what would happen. First came a pack of fifteen hyenas. They made such a row that I shot one. The hyenas at once left the meat and killed and devoured their wounded brother. And this just about expresses their character." (From the story of the production of the film, Safari.)

The nature of the wolf. - "What I admire about wolves is their splendid loyalty to one another. They are never jealous and they are content with a mouthful of flesh apiece at a time, though, as they kill frequently, they probably get as much food as they want. If we tigers were to work on the same lines, and hunt in packs, there would be few deer left in the country, and I believe that we should not hesitate to attack herds of bison or even elephants." (Ex The Life Story of a Tiger - Ferryman.)

Loyalty. - Husain, grandson of the prophet Mohammed, was fighting against his enemies. All the men in the party had been killed, and only the women were left, when angels made their appearance and offered to gain victory for him. "Nay," said Husain, "even if all the crowns in the world were placed on my head I would not care to live now my comrades are dead," and rushed on the foe to die fighting.

Unity is strength. - Aesop tells us about a lion prowling round a field in which four oxen dwelt. Whenever he attempted to attack them, they turned their tails one to another so that whichever way he came he was met by the horns of one. At last, the oxen quarrelled and each went to a separate corner of the field. The lion attacked them separately and ate all four.

The strength of brotherhood. - In Remarque's novel about the 1914-18 war, All Quiet on the Western Front, we are told how Paul Baumer was sent as a member of a night patrol to find out how far the enemy had advanced. Having got separated from the others, he felt afraid and inclined to run away. Then he heard the voices of his comrades in the trenches at the back of him, and felt that he was no longer alone. He belonged to them and they to him. So, with his courage restored, he went forward.

The value of knowledge. - The city in which Stilpo, a philosopher, lived was captured by the army of Demetrius, whose soldiers burnt and plundered all and sundry. Demetrius was anxious to protect Stilpo from harm and loss and when he met him enquired if his goods were safe. Stilpo smiled and said, "No one has robbed me, for I found no soldier who wanted to steal my knowledge."

The enquiring mind. - "At 80, one is beginning to know a thing or two, but mainly one knows how much more there is to know." (B.-P. on his eightieth birthday.)

The Good Turn. - In a 1930 issue of The Scout an account was given of a S.M. in camp with seventeen boys who sent them out to "do a Good Turn." When they came back, they reported what they had done. One boy hung back and when asked about the Good Turn he had done, replied: "None. I only saw a gent. looking sad, so I just smiled at him." Later, the "gent." called on the S.M. and told him that he was about to throw himself into the river. "I should have been in by now but for the smile your Scout gave me."

J. B. GEARING.

FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

The Fortieth Anniversary of Cubbing has created a great deal of interest in Packs and Districts with the result that the events that have been arranged to celebrate this important year have been supported with that infectious enthusiasm one always associates with Cub activities, and I have little doubt that the Good Turns in which Cubs will be engaged as this issue of THE SCOUTER appears will be carried out with that same ready willingness we find from this section during Bob-a-Job Week. In my experience, to do a good turn to somebody every day is a requirement that is accepted most seriously by Cubs and there is no doubt that the spirit of service is well and truly established in the Wolf Cub Pack.

Then there are the other foundations that are laid so well in Cubbing - the other parts of the Promise, the Law and the acceptance of progressive Scouting. In this connection, it must be of tremendous encouragement to Cub Scouters to see the increasing number of First Class and Queen's Scouts who began their training in the Pack. At an Annual Meeting I attended recently, a report was given of the Queen's Scout Badges gained during the year, and it was pleasant to hear congratulations expressed to all Scouters who had had a hand in training these Queen's Scouts - the Scouters of the Pack, the Troop and the Senior Troop. Sometimes the ground-work is overlooked. We can never remind ourselves too frequently that a boy's continued progress through the Group depends to a great extent on what we call the spirit of the family of the Group. I am sure that spirit is more alive today than at any time through our realization of the value of regular meetings of the Group Council and the frequent occasions when the Group meets as a whole. The more Groups in which this happy state of affairs exists the less, I believe, will we hear of boys leaving the family before they pass through its various stages. What better way of celebrating this fortieth anniversary could there be than that Cub Scouters should resolve that through their efforts as members of the Group Council their Cubs of today will be the Queen's Scouts of the early nineteen sixties.

We are now entering one of the most exciting parts of the year so far as our Scouts are concerned. Those wonderful days when we are thinking about and preparing for the climax of our training year - the Troop's annual camp. Patrol camps will continue for a few more week-ends, but then there comes that moment when all the Troop's camping gear is assembled and inspected to make sure that everything is in order before it is packed for the big event of the year. Some may feel that a check is needless fussiness but problems can be avoided if a bit of time is spent overhauling the equipment, making any necessary repairs and, maybe, making some replacements. Nothing is more infuriating than to arrive at some remote spot far from home and, when we begin to set up camp, discover some essential bit of equipment is missing. Only a short time ago, I heard of a kindly Troop which had loaned one of its neighbours a Patrol tent for a Group fete. The tent was returned only just in time for dispatch to the camp site with the advance baggage but the owners were assured there was no need to unpack it as the tent was in first class order. Accordingly, it was duly labelled and sent off. However, when the owners unpacked it at the camp site they discovered that their neighbours had forgotten to return the tent poles. No doubt a good exercise in the eighth law but a bit tiresome at the end of a long journey. This business of gear should, of course, be left to the Group Quartermaster and the P.L.s (incidentally, I wonder how many Groups do, in fact, appoint a Senior Scout or Rover as Q.M. to be responsible for all its equipment). This will free Scouters to concern themselves with that all important matter of programme; they will, I am sure, remember the old adage that the busy camp is the happy camp.

Some of you will, I expect, be in camp before this column appears again so may I wish you a happy, busy time and a camp that will have nothing but pleasant memories for everyone taking part.

A. W. HURLL,
Chief Executive Commissioner.

THE GILWELL LETTER

You will see from an official notice in THE SCOUTER that the rules in regard to the taking of Wood Badge Training have been reviewed and amended in order to make such training and the actual award of the Wood Badge available to all holders of non-executive ranks. In particular this will enable all Service Auxiliaries to take part in Wood Badge Training and to earn the Wood Badge, and I sincerely hope that both at -Gilwell and in the Counties we shall have a flood of applications.

This is one of the new opportunities I referred to in last month's "Gilwell Letter," and I shall be very disappointed if dozens of Service Auxiliaries do not seize this opportunity, to their great pleasure and ultimately, I believe, to the profit of the Movement as a whole.

I turn now to a totally different matter. It is not often that I write about one particular County, but I have been so impressed with the Hampshire Patrol Leaders' Conference (held at Gilwell over a spring week-end) that I feel the idea is worth passing on.

There is nothing new in a County arranging a Patrol Leaders' Conference, but I think there is something new in the idea of taking a whole County out of its own backyard and bringing it to Gilwell, getting no fewer than 500 (five-sevenths of the possible) to attend

I was so delighted with the response that I wanted to know how it had been done, and I think there are several reasons for the success achieved..

The first clue, and I believe the most important, lies in the fact that Hampshire set up a County Court of Honour of Patrol Leaders nominated from the various Districts and with a minimum of guidance - but how intelligent and understanding that guidance proved to be - the Court of Honour made all the arrangements; they devised the programme; they built up the enthusiasm; they ensured the response.

The second clue was the intelligent handling of the finance. A third was paid by the P.L., a third was paid by the Troop, and a third was paid by the District. I think it is grand to learn of Local Association funds being invested in Patrol Leaders - for it is an investment and not just an expenditure.

The Patrol Leaders (and I don't expect Hampshire to agree with this!) did not appear to me to be noticeably different from those I meet in any other County. They obviously had a weekend they enjoyed and, equally obviously, they have gone back to their Troops knowing at least that there are other Patrol Leaders in the County who have the same problems, the same opportunities, and a practically identical job to their own.

I am not for a moment suggesting that every County in Great Britain can run a similar event at Gilwell, although I should be delighted to learn of other Counties within striking distance of Gilwell who were contemplating the same sort of thing, perhaps in 1958 or 1959. I do commend to all Counties the way in which this Hampshire Conference was conceived and, in particular, the way the organisation and planning was thrown on to the P.L.s themselves.

Visiting an old house in the north of England a few months ago I was shown a very beautiful ceiling painted by two young Italian artists. Worked into their artistic conception was the following:-

"For mutton hot, for mutton cold,
For mutton young, for mutton old,
For mutton tender, for mutton tough,
We thank Thee, but we've had enough!"

Soon final plans for Summer Camp menus will be complete: I hope the above will be a warning.

JOHN THURMAN,
Camp Chief.

P.S. - Is there a Rover Crew in the vicinity of Gilwell which would like to undertake to make a new Tree Map of the estate? I shall be happy to offer every facility but I would like a first-class job done.

P.P.S. - Parents' Open Afternoon, Sunday, July 1st.

LUCK OF THE MONTH

By TILE EDITOR

April 24th. - Two Bob-a-Job stories:

A Bob-a-Job Scout called at a Fife house to ask for work. The housewife asked him to take away ninety-four empty beer bottles - and gave him a shilling. The Scout loaded the bottles into a cart and took them into an hotel. Then the landlord gave him 15s. 6d. for them.

(What memories that brings of coke bottles at the Canadian Jamboree!)

At Repton Preparatory School the Matron was coming downstairs when she stumbled and fell. One of the bright Scouts Went to her quickly with the words "Pick you up for a bob." (He no doubt knew his Matron!)

April 26th. - *From Scouting*, the adult magazine of the Scouts of the U.S.A.:

Prayer

Lord, who am I to teach the way
To eager boyhood day by day,
So prone myself to go astray?
I teach them love of all mankind
And all God's creatures; but I find
My love come lagging far behind.
Lord, if their guide I still must be,
O let these searching children see
Their leader leaning hard on Thee.

April 28th. - Interested to discover how the word "teetotalism" originated. J. W. Robertson Scott in his book *The Day before Yesterday* suggests it was invented in England by a stuttering fish hawker from Preston who said at a temperance meeting, "I'll have nowt to do wi' this moderation botheration. I'll be reet down out and out tee-tee-total., - and in America in a roll of names where total abstainers were marked with a T and came to be known as T-totalers.

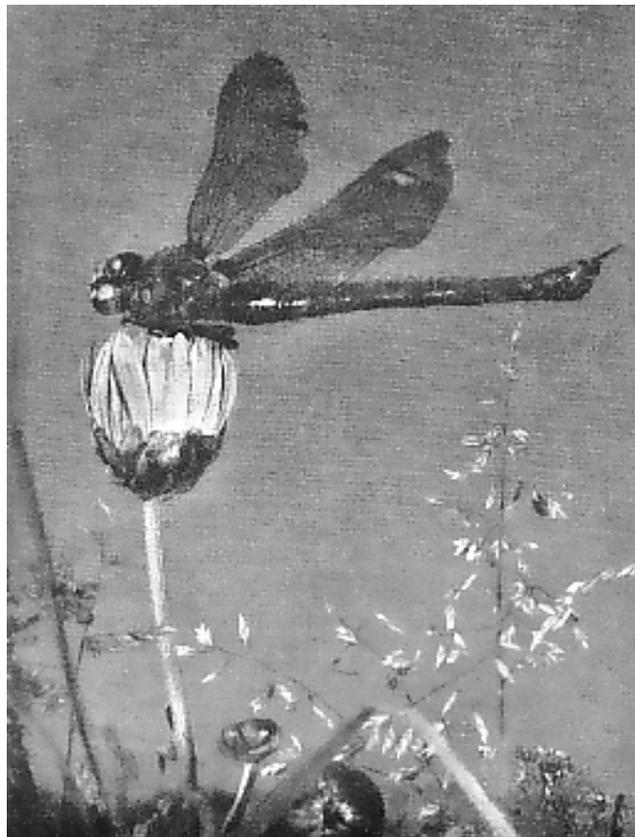
May 1st. - From my latest letter from my faithful and well-loved (and never met!) Scott Patrol of New Zealand: -

"We are starting to build an addition to our Den and have bought fifty large wooden reels that they wind electric cable on. They are five feet in diameter and we are going to cut these into a hexagon and build like a honeycomb. They cost us one shilling each and now the lovely part is that at each end of the hole which runs through the middle is a six-inch boss or bearing which is aluminium and each weighs 1 lb. and we can get 11d. per pound for scrap aluminium. So each reel offers 3lb. at 11d. A win isn't it? That will almost pay for the cement for the foundations, so you see we are not doing so bad."

May 2nd. - To return to Robertson Scott: in the spring issue of *The Countryman* he refers to W. A. Sibly of Wycliffe: "He has had no happier experience than when he took parties of Wycliffe Rovers and Scouts to camp abroad. They visited Italy and Sicily, Bavaria, the Black Forest and the Rhineland, Egypt and Palestine, Algeria, and Greece and Crete. The total cost of five journeys, 336 boys was £66 5s." (presumably per boy!).

May 7th. - Delighted to see ten John Buchan books published in Penguins at 2s. 6d. each, and particularly *Huntingtower*, *Castk Gay* and *The House of the Four Winds* in which those wonderful small boys who called themselves the Gorbals Diehards appear. You remember the incomparable Dougal (with his: " Good deeds!" he repeated bitterly. 'I tell ye I'm fair wore out wi' good deeds.'). No doubt in appearance he belongs to an age that is gone but not, we hope, in his independence of spirit. He belongs to the type that too often can't find a footing in the Scout Troop of today, although he is just the type of boy that B.-P.'s heart would have warmed to.

If you have never read these three books, read them. If you have, read them again and then pass them on to the Patrol Leaders and the Senior Scouts of today who will probably never have heard of them. They are grand yams.



LUCK OF THE MONTH: DRAGONFLY

May 8th. - In his book *Good Behaviour* Sir Harold Nicolson observes that the virtue of "sportsmanship" or "chivalrous conduct" was implicit in what the medieval authorities of the time of Chaucer called "courtesy." Also implied was "moderation" (as opposed to excess). These conceptions might very well be adopted by slightly bewildered Scoutmasters endeavouring to instruct even more bewildered Scouts in the 5th Scout Law.

May 9th. - Most interesting "Look" programme on television "This evening at Slimbridge" where Peter Scott has his famous Wild Fowl Trust - something well worth supporting by those who have a spare guinea. (Peter Scott is, of course, a member of our Council.)

May 11th. - Notices from all block makers that block costs go up 7 per cent. The cost of printing and publishing of magazines (and books for that matter) is becoming ludicrous.

May 14th. - A New Chum somewhat uncertainly trying to recite the Cub Law arrived at "The Cub gives in to the Ogre..." (Not you, Akela!)

May 15th. - Those of you who don't (regrettably) see *The Scout* (regrettably, for although it is planned, printed and produced for boys, it contains most weeks plenty of ideas which the adult members of the Movement should be glad to have) may like to know that it has published at the beginning of June a check list of Scouts and Guides on stamps. I don't believe there is such a thing available anywhere else in the world! Others besides philatelists in view of the imminence of 1957 may be interested. Members of the Stamp Club can obtain it for 6d. post free. To others it is 1s. post free from the Editorial Office.

May 17th. - Received cheque from Malaya for three annual subscriptions to *The Scout* - an encouragement indeed.

REX HAZLEWOOD.



J. J. I. M. M.

I am going to start this month with a mild complaint! It is just this - from conversation with Scouts and Scouters and from evidence contained in my mail each day, it is evident that the Movement in this country is not nearly so well informed about the Jubilee Jamboree as Scouts in other lands. This, I fear, is because we as a nation have always been slow to become enthusiastic over anything, but I do think it is time we stopped referring to Sutton *Coalfield*. Furthermore, by the enquiries I sometimes receive I often wonder how many Scout Troops there are who still do not know when or why this event is taking place out of the usual sequence of Jamborees. If this occasion is going to be the most significant that has ever taken place in the history of Scouting - and it should be - then we must commence preparing the Movement in this country for it.

With less than twelve months left before the first contingents arrive, the planning stage of J.I.M. is now complete and we have embarked upon the second -part of the preparations, which I have always regarded as the provisioning stage.

The task has been made very much easier and far less worrying by the amount of enthusiastic support we have received from many sources and the extent to which people are prepared to put themselves to additional trouble to help us ensure the success of the project. We have received quite tremendous support from British Railways, for instance, whose plans to cater for our various and in many ways complicated needs, at the height of the holiday season, reflect great credit on their planners and tremendous goodwill on the management's part. Not only are they prepared to guarantee delivery of advance luggage providing it reaches this country by a certain date, but they will also arrange for sorting and delivery of this baggage to individual Sub-Camps, thus relieving us of the onus of sorting and the difficulty of transporting heavy camping equipment about the Park during the period when Troops will be arriving.

British Railways are helping us, too, in a great many other ways. At ports of arrival they will make office accommodation available to us, and will be relieving us of a great many of the worries of contingent transportation. You will remember that I mentioned some months ago that they would be prepared to help us provide for the thousands of Scouts and lay folk who would want to travel to Sutton Coldfield for a day trip during the camp. The Railways are still prepared to consider this form of assistance but time is getting short and I hope your plans are well forward if you are thinking of taking the L.A. and parents to see J.I.M.

Do not think for one moment that the Railways are the only people who are taking an interest in this great event. You will remember that a few months ago, after the Chief Scout had talked to the Prime Minister, almost all Government Departments appointed a Liaison Officer to make our task of establishing the Camp and providing for the visitors easier. These Liaison Officers are being tremendously helpful and it has been a source of encouragement to us all to have their ready co-operation and their willingness to do all they can to provide our needs. It is impossible to recount all the many ways in which Government Departments and Ministries have been helpful but I would like to mention the War Office, who will bear the greatest burden of provisioning the Camp with equipment. They are typical of the others and have left us in no doubt that the Government realise that this event will have far greater international significance than a mere Scout camp with a few visitors from overseas present.

As time goes on, it is only natural that we should receive enquiries about when there is going to be some work to do, from the many hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers who are anxiously waiting to play their part. It is very difficult to be patient when you know that time is slipping by, but I can assure you that our provisioning is well up to schedule. There will come a time next year when the amount of work to be done on the site will increase steadily as August approaches. I do hope that all Senior Scouts, Rover Scouts and Service Auxiliaries who have asked to assist on the staff of J.I.M. will keep an eye on this column for announcement of the date of week-end working parties in Sutton Park.

Some of the heavy tentage will be erected by contractors, but we will have something like 700 marquees to pitch as well as miles and miles of rope to put round camp sites and other areas.

I am very grateful to all of you who have responded to my request for additional helpers. We now have a list of helpers which is nearly complete. I do not, however, wish to discourage those who are still willing to be of service to J.I.M. but who have not yet applied, as there are still vacancies. The only point I would mention is that there is a greater need for help during the weeks July 27th-August 3rd and August 10th - 17th than for the middle week.

KEN STEVENS.
Organising Commissioner.



SUMMER DAYS (2)

AIR SCOUTING

By Air Vice-Marshal J. G. W. WESTON,
C.B., O.B.E.

H.Q. Commissioner for Air Scouts

Although Air Scouting was officially introduced in January 1941, the idea of forming an Air Scout Branch was first considered as far back as 1927. There was, however, a system of Air Training for members of the Association as early as 1918, in fact before the official formation of the R.A.F.!

In December 1929, Major Baden-Powell personally raised again the question of forming Air Scouts and a meeting was held at I.H.Q. to discuss it. It was decided that the time was not ripe and it was not for another twelve years, when, under the impetus of a Second World War, Air Scouting was able to get started.

Although many Districts were nervous at first about the introduction of a new branch of Scouting in wartime the Air Scouts proved very popular. Expansion was rapid and by 1945 numbers had risen to some 9,000 and Rovers had been included in the branch. Then came the slump. With the ending of the war the numbers fell off sharply until by 1950 there remained less than 2,000 Air Scouts.

At this time the Air Scout Branch was in danger of ceasing entirely and its future was considered by the Council early in 1946. They decided that Air Scouts should continue for a further five years and that a Headquarters Commissioner for Air Scouts should be appointed as soon as possible.

Air Scouting has continued until this year under the guidance of the Training Department and without a Headquarters Commissioner. The interesting point is, however, that although the numbers of Air Scouts are comparatively small (2,400) the branch has continued as a smart and enthusiastic part of the Movement and has shown, through a small but steady increase in its size, that Air Scouting has a definite place in the Movement and an appeal to boys.

There are, however, many gaps in the organisation of Air Scouts throughout the British Isles. A study of the census returns shows that Air Scout numbers are highest in London, Middlesex, Hampshire, Yorkshire, Cornwall, Lincolnshire, Essex, Herefordshire and Surrey. Some Counties have no Air Scouts although they appear to have good facilities.

During the post-war years there have been important developments in that Air Scouts were permitted to be formed as Troops or as Patrols of an existing Troop. A scheme of Royal Air Force recognition of Air Scout units has been initiated and operated successfully. There are now forty-one "Recognised" Units. Gliding courses have been instituted for Scouts which have proved popular and arrangements have been made with the Royal Air Force by which Air Scouts can obtain assistance- in training from A.T.C. Units.

In spite of the absence of a clearly-defined policy the Air Scout Branch, although small, is healthy kind enthusiastic and has been kept going by the keenness of those who believe in it.

The future of the Air Scout Branch has been reviewed again recently by the Committee of the Council and the following policy has been agreed for Air Scouts:

(a) Air Scouting is recognised as a permanent branch of the Scout Movement and is to be encouraged.

(b) Air Scouts are to receive ordinary Scout training with an appropriate aeronautical bias, as laid down by I.H.Q. Any tendency for "Air" to overshadow "Scouting" is to be checked.

(c) Air Scouts may be formed to start a new Group; as a separate section of a Group; or as a Patrol within an ordinary Troop. Air Packs are not permitted and Groups containing Air Scouts should establish normal Wolf Cub Packs.

(d) The formation of a new Air Scout Troop to start a Group or an Air Scout Troop or Patrol Within an existing Group must be with the permission of the Local Association and the District Commissioner.

(e) Ordinary Scout Troops may change to Air Scout Troops with permission from District Commissioners.

(f) Air Scout Troops should endeavour to become "R.A.F. Recognised" as soon as possible in view of the training and flying benefits obtainable.

(g) "R.A.F. Recognised" Air Scout Troops are permitted to use an official pennant comprising a sky-blue background bearing a gold Scout badge and R.A.F. roundel.

(h) Active participation in gliding is recognised as the best introduction to practical flying by Air Scouts and is to be encouraged.

(i) Air Scouts who gain "A," "B" or "C" Gliding Certificates are permitted to wear the appropriate badge of the British Gliding Association on the left breast pocket of their uniform shirt.

The fact that we now have a recent and clear policy ruling from the Committee of the Council gives us a sound basis from which to further interest in the Air Scout branch, and to encourage boys to join it. But a policy however sound is no good unless action is taken to carry it out. From the I.H.Q. aspect we now have a Headquarters Commissioner for Air Scouts, and I am very proud to have been asked to fill this position. An Air Scouts Session has been included in the National Commissioners' Conference, to be held at Skegness next September, which will give an opportunity to put forward the case for Air Scouting and as a result of which we hope to obtain, through Counties and Districts, additional support and encouragement. We are in process of revising literature and trying to obtain additional facilities for gliding and training.

By the time this article appears we shall have held our first Air Scouters Conference at Halton and we shall, as a result of it, have heard from practical Air Scouters of the problems which confront them and the ways in which they think that we can best help them.

I hope that I have shown that this enthusiastic and expanding branch is fulfilling the needs of the modern air-minded boy to pursue his interests. I hope, too, that it will have stimulated interest within the Movement and shown that I.H.Q. is in earnest in giving its full support to Air Scouting.



MY SCOUTING STORY - VI

By P.B. NEVILL

From the time Pinchback joined up I carried on a constant correspondence with him: much of this dealt with the problems which arose in keeping his Troop running, but there were detailed accounts of all East London Scouting events.

The training of Patrol Leaders in Poplar had reached a high level, and was producing results. Stepney and Bethnal Green soon followed Poplar's example but three Training Troops a week soon made it imperative to do something to economise on one's time, so the three Troops were combined in one, meeting in the Garden Hall at Roland House.

Trying to keep Scouting going was no joke, and I conceived the idea of employing a Patrol Leader as my secretary. I had three in turn (they only left when they had to join up). One of these, Dudley Crighton, has done many years of splendid work for the Movement and was awarded the Silver Acorn in 1954.

The work these three fellows did was magnificent. Arriving at my flat or later at Roland House, at an early hour, their job was to take down letters often while I dressed or had breakfast and generally receive instructions for the day. On my return from the Ministry in the evening, I would find notes of everything ready for me, together with letters for me to sign. I could never have done what I did during these difficult times without their help.

Poplar and Bethnal Green were running well, and towards the end of 1916 I was able to write to Pinchback to say that we had not lost a single Troop there. Stepney was proving more difficult as we had lost seven Troops there.

I had had no holiday in 1915 and was badly in need of one, so arranged to go to a Public School Boys' Camp at New Milton as one of their officers. (It was at one of these camps in 1902 that I had first learnt something of the joys of the open air, and I seized the chance to help them out of a difficulty, as there was a shortage of officers. I owed a very great deal to these early camps. The happy blend of fun and games, sing-songs, prayers and services, were put over just as we boys appreciated. This experience was a very great help to me when I took up Scouting.)

I had learnt how boys can laugh and shout a chorus or a parody of a well-known song, making fun of the little trials and difficulties of the day, quietening down to listen to a talk on the more serious things of life, thoroughly enjoying the hymns at evening prayers. Another idea that I copied from these early days was the camp magazine.

I don't think that I have run a Scout camp without one of these, each one incorporating in its name the place of the camp, such as "The Baddow Buster" or the "Goring Gas-bag." Scouts will soon enter into the spirit of the thing, and will write limericks or short articles, if shown the way. The reading out of the daily mag. at the Camp Fire will be eagerly looked forward to.

The parodies on well-known songs help to build up Troop tradition. I have made up a number of these at different times. In the old days they were usually to marching tunes as we did so much foot slogging then. It was good to have something topical to sing on the march. Here is part of an early one written to the tune of "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are marching."

In the good old town of Enfield there is a Troop of Scouts,
And if you ask their name, it is the Fifth,
There are many ragamuffins who call us Brussels Scouts.
But we pity them that cannot tell the duff.

Chorus:

Hi! Hi! Hi! the Fifth are coming,
Coming in their scarves of green.
With our flag to lead us on
While the trek cart rolls along,
And forty jolly Boy Scouts in between.
Our trek cart is a marvel, it carries any weight,
But it very much objects to Danbury Hill;
You can use it as a table, a punt - or if you're late,
You can use it as an aeroplane as well.

Here is another, this time a camp song, sung to the tune of "The Baby on the Shore."

The night was still and all the camp was sleeping,
Sleeping as it never slept before;
But the officers were in the store tent feeding,
Feeding as they'd never fed before.
They were in the store tent stuffing more and more,
And that I'm sure they'd never done before,
If you see their mothers tell them gently,
That they've eaten all the stores and ask for more.

...and so on. Not very good poetry perhaps, but how the boys loved it.

I had no sooner settled in at Roland House than I started on an over-all reorganisation of the work in the District. It was agreed that at least until the end of the war it would help if the three Local Associations were amalgamated.



THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE AT MATLOCK BATH

*Front Row (from left to right).—*Sir Jeremiah Colman, Messrs. Bernard Ashton, Arthur Gullum, Lord Leigh, Major-Gen. Jeffreys, Lieut-Gen. Sir Edmond Elles, the Chief Scout, Messrs. C. C. Branch, F. W. Pixley, P. W. Everett, Sir Lanoelet Holliston, Major-Gen. Sir Elliot Wood, Lieut. Hatchard, Mr. H. Goodacre.

*Second Row.—*Messrs. [unidentified], Ross, Radley, Harris, Rev. W. H. Matthews, Messrs. Power, Warner, Elwes, H. S. Martin, Wells, Hardy, Major Vaux, Messrs. Trivett, Smithson, Aston, Hargrave, [unidentified], Rev. A. Beck, Sir Geoffrey Palmer.

*Third Row.—*Messrs. Back, Woods, Clarke, Snell, Col. Thomas, Messrs. Gardiner, Mather, Allen, Selwyn, Southan, Wheeler, Nevill, Barnes, Mahoney, Dr. Henderson.

*Back Row.—*Messrs. Sleight, Carr, Cruska, Rev. John Holyoak, Mr. Winter, Lieut. Pinchback, Messrs. Saul, Reid, Dr. Bemrose, Col. Worthington, Col. Langford, Col. Edwards, Capt. Maiter, Messrs. Dymoke, Green, Golding, Lieut. Neame, Mr. Sladen.

In this way the leading Scoutmasters left were brought together and it was possible to form a few strong working committees. In no section of our work was this more productive of good than in the Badge Committee. They were able to pool the remaining examiners and by September 1917 they were able to report that they had issued 855 badges to Scouts in the District.

Having now somewhere to hold meetings, Roland House began to hum with activity.

Early in 1917 the French Government sent over a mission to study the work being done for the boys of Britain by the various voluntary organisations. B.-P. asked me if we could do something in East London to show the mission what Scouting was doing for the under-privileged boys in our area. We had recently had several joint displays and it was easy to pick out a number of the best items and make up a programme.

On April 27th the mission, headed by Major Royet, Director of National Cadet Training and Minister of War arrived and a Guard of Honour of 800 Scouts greeted them in Stepney Green, and they proceeded to witness the displays which were carried out in the garden of Roland House.

These were very varied and well put on, especially one staged by the 1st Stepney (Toynbee) Troop. This was a fire-fighting display. The Scouts lowered injured victims of the fire from windows and the roof, sliding down ropes, while smoke issued from the windows. At the end the last Scout who had been heroically rescuing people from the first floor, got out on to the window sill and prepared to jump. It was getting dusk - this display had been put on at that time to make it more realistic. At that moment one of the French officers jumped up, excitedly pointing to the Scout, and called out in broken English "he is going to jump." He had failed to see the tarpaulin held out by his brother Scouts for his reception! I felt that we had succeeded in putting on a good show.

The French mission went home evidently well pleased and in due course an invitation arrived from Paris for a party of boys from the various organisations who had shewn their work to the mission to visit Paris, but having proceeded some way with the organisation of this, it was cancelled as the war position did not look at all bright at the time. However, the following year the French Government sent over a number of medals which had been struck to commemorate the occasion to be given to those organisations who had taken part. Two of these were allotted to East London.

The medals were presented before a large gathering by the French Military Attache in the Guildhall in the City. Most precise details had been issued as to the procedure to be followed. These laid down that the officers in charge of the units should go up to receive the medals with a small detachment of boys to support them. We arranged for one of the Patrol Leaders who had given a display and a Cub Sixer from Miss Hewat's Pack who had given a display of Cubbing to be the "officers." The other organisations went up first being represented by an officer and two boys. Then came the turn of the Scouts and when the Patrol Leader and his supporting Scouts marched up, the applause showed how much the people present appreciated the behaviour of the boys, and when the turn of the Wolf Cubs came the applause was tremendous. It was a practical demonstration to all present of the way that boy leaders can take responsibility.

Two more missions or delegations arrived in this country in 1917 to make enquiries about Scouting and both were sent down to Roland House. We dealt with these rather differently as the Japanese in particular wanted to see Scouting in all its aspects. They were led by Count Futara of the Japanese Home Office, and we took them round the District to see Scouts and Cubs in their H.Q.s, visiting Courts of Honour, Association Meetings and Committees. It so happened that at the time my Assistant Commissioner in Stepney was a retired lawyer, Montague Kirkwood, who had spent many years in Japan as legal advisor to the Japanese Government. He was a great help in the entertainment of this delegation.



P. B. N. AND THE CHIEFS

The other mission came from Rumania, and they also were shown a great deal of our work.

In the early days of the Movement, St. George's Day was not celebrated as universally as it is today. I thought that I would see what could be done in Enfield and obtained the approval of the Association to the idea of a joint parade at the Parish Church. This was most successful, but as was my custom, I noted clown one or two things which could be improved upon for the next time. This is a valuable habit to get into, immediately after any parade or show if you jot down the weak points there are when you come to organise the next one. You will never remember all the points if you do not put them down on paper.

In March came the first Commissioners' Conference that H.Q. organised. It was held at Matlock Bath. B.-P. missed his train! So we had to start without him, but he received a great welcome when at last he did turn up. The subject of the first session was "How to capture the boy at a loose end." The main theme of the discussion was on what we today call "Juvenile Delinquency." This subject was then receiving much attention in Government quarters. Dr. Henderson, that grand old pioneer of Scouting in Westmorland maintained that "Original Sin" was much over-emphasised - there was also such a thing as "Original Goodness" as well. In stressing the value of the positive approach of the Scout Law, he denounced "the lean doctrine of the everlasting don't." He was an inspiring speaker, and always had apt quotations to hand.

The session which aroused most interest was that on "Retaining and training of the Senior Scout." B.-P. put forward his suggestions for a Senior Section for Scouts fifteen-and-a-half to eighteen. The idea was that if the Seniors were trained together they would be more likely to be retained in the Movement. There were all kinds of suggestions put forward: one County Commissioner advocated semi-military training (my note against this remark is "terrible!"). There were plenty of people who supported breeches for Senior Scouts as being more likely to retain them in the Movement, but B.-P. told us that although there were many people who said that they had complaints which prevented them from wearing shorts, he had a complaint which prevented him from wearing trousers!

A further suggestion was to limit the new section to First Class Scouts only, but it was agreed that it would be a pity to do this, as for one thing it would prevent boys who had not been Scouts before from joining.

The Conference gave its approval in general, and before the end of the year H.Q. had agreed and Col. Ulick de Burgh had been appointed the First Commissioner for Senior Scouts.

A very lively discussion took place on the "Future of the Movement." With the possibility of compulsory military training for boys, compulsory continuation education, and the raising of the school age to fifteen, all matters seriously debated at that time, some Scout people took a very pessimistic view of the future. B.-P. however was not frightened by these possibilities, "There was nothing to fear even if the Cadet Movement did become universal, it would not kill Scouting." These were challenges for us to meet.

The Conference was voted a great success and it was unanimously decided that it would not be the last.

On June 30th the new H.Q. at 25 Buckingham Palace Road was formally opened by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, our President. We were able to move here from 116 Victoria Street owing to the generosity of Dr. Ackworth, and how suitable - H.P. Road.

We occupied only part of the building to start with, the Girl Guides had one complete floor and the Madras Railway another, while on the ground floor we squeezed in the Scouts' Soldiers' and Sailors' Club - later shortened to "The Scout Club" as well as the Scout Shop.

In the course of time the Girl Guides grew out of their accommodation and built their own H.Q. at 17 H.P. Road, and eventually the Madras Railway went into liquidation. This allowed us room for expansion. As the Scout Shop grew the restaurant was built on the top of the building, and the Scout Club moved upstairs, this left room for the double shop front as we know it today.

At the beginning of September I was in Dunblane at the second Commissioners' Conference. This was arranged at the same time as the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish H.Q. Council, and there was a rally of Scouts at Stirling in a fine setting with the castle as the background. The Conference dealt in three sessions with the all-round training of the Scout - body, mind and spirit. B.-P. and Lady B.-P. were both present, and after the Conference I left with Lady B.-P. for Glasgow where we visited one of the Troops, before I had to catch my train for London.

On July 7th the anniversary of Roland Philipps's death in action, we held our first Commemoration Day gathering in the garden of Roland House. It was limited to Patrol Leaders as we had not enough room for a larger number. The gathering was divided into two parts, first a talk by "White Fox," then Commissioner for Camping at H.Q., with a camp sing-song; this was followed by a Scouts' Own conducted by Geoffrey Elwes. It was the first of the long series of Commemoration Day Services organised in East London in memory of all their Brother Scouts who have been called to Higher Service.

All through this period our Scout work was constantly interrupted by air raids. Here is a record of one week I noted at the time:

Monday, September 24th. Air raid warning early in evening, first time barrage method used, terrific noises at Roland House.

Tuesday, 25th. Air raid early in the evening, firing again intense. At Roland House. P.L. Stevens called and had to stay. Warning not issued until after firing had commenced.

Wednesday, 26th. Rained. Slight change in weather, no raid.

Thursday, 27th. Went to Enfield. 1st warnings given but no firing.

Friday, 28th. Went to Bow House, warning given 8.15, not called off till 10.45. No firing heard.

Saturday, 29th. Warning issued 6.30, all-clear 12.30. Considerable firing. Bombs at Dalston, and various other parts of London.

Sunday, 30th. Warning shortly after 7.0. Called at Bow House, saw Scouts on duty at Bow Road Station. Went to Wesleyan East End Mission, over 1,000 people in shelter. Called later at Arbour Square Police Station.

Monday, October 1st. Raid 8.0 to 12.0. Perrin, Hickson, Crighton and Palmer at Roland House assisting with census forms.

September 30th was then the end of our Scout Year, and we were already preparing for our East London annual report. This was later printed and showed a remarkable recovery from the first difficult days of the war. No less than twelve new Troops and five new Packs of Cubs had been started in the year, with a total increase of 512, bringing our total numbers in the East London area, which then consisted of the Boroughs of Stepney, Poplar and Bethnal Green, to 2607.

B.-P. wrote and congratulated us on the progress made but he noticed in our accounts a small amount for the expenses in connection with the French and Japanese visits, and said that he was arranging for H.Q. to refund these amounts. It was quite amazing how he always noticed every detail.

One of the early pioneers of East London Scouting was Dr. T. S. Lukis the founder of the 1st Stepney Troop, who had their H.Q. at Toynbee Hall, and still have, for the Troop still goes strong. He went off in the early days of the war with a party of Scouts to join up, and he was one of the first Scouts to fall in action. As a memorial to him a small fund was raised, and his mother, Lady Lukis, presented a cup to be competed for by East London Scouts. A Patrol camping competition was arranged to take place each year as soon as the war conditions would allow, and this has continued right up to the present times.

THE SCOUT

The lady who serves in the tobacco shop along the road was reading *The Scout* when a senior member of I.H.Q. went in. To his silent comment she

replied, "I take it for my son but I always read it first myself. I think it is a wonderful paper."

Why not talk to the parents you know about taking it for their sons? Why not take it yourself so that your boys get used to seeing it? Last week's issue, for example, to mention only three features, contained an open-air article by Reg Gammon, some entirely new and amusing ideas for a Camp Sports Day in "Col's Notebook," and an excerpt from Skipper Sympton's Diary by our own A.D.C. This week, to mention only three more, John Sweet writes another instalment of his inimitable "Trading Post" packed with ideas, Jack Cox's fine serial "Dangerous Waters," featuring a Senior Scout Skipper, continues as does "Focus on I.H.Q." which has been limelighting all personalities who act as the Movement's Aunt Sallys! Plenty of humour, plenty of good photographs, plenty of ideas and plenty of information.

In July begins a monthly page for Sea Scouts, another for Air Scouts. There are always pages for Cubs.

Why not support your own paper?

6d. weekly.

55. OPERATION REVENGE

For the last three years District night schemes have been a part of our Senior activities. Many times have Seniors found themselves walling through the night to a map reference, where, arriving tired and hungry, they may be asked "You have lost your compass, how would you orientate your map?" "By the Plough," "O.K., do it," "But it's covered by clouds." "What's another way then?" and so on until the map was correctly orientated by one way or another; or before they could stop to eat their sandwiches a road victim with a broken rib would have to be treated. Many humorous tales are told, but perhaps the best is when a Scouter, feeling rather tired while waiting for a Patrol to arrive, lay down on a wide road verge for a short nap, and was thrice reported by passing motorists to the police as a dead body, and thrice was awakened by the police investigating. After such a scheme the Seniors would return home tired and cold, but would soon inquire the date of the next event.

After one such scheme a few Seniors decided amongst themselves to turn the tables and set one for the Scouters. The A.D.C.(S) was asked to agree the scheme in principle, and after it had received his blessing the entire arrangements were left to the Seniors. Members of four different Troops formed themselves into a committee and planned a route. Two week-ends were spent investigating the possibilities of two different routes; one was rejected as involving too much road walking and the unsuitability of the camp site which was occupied by gypsies. The alternate route was found to be suitable and had the advantage of a permanent camp site with a Nissen hut at the finish. About three-quarters of the route was over fields, through woods, or along unmade paths and the final stretch involved climbing across ploughed fields on the steep south side of the North Downs, a test that strained most of us Scouters.

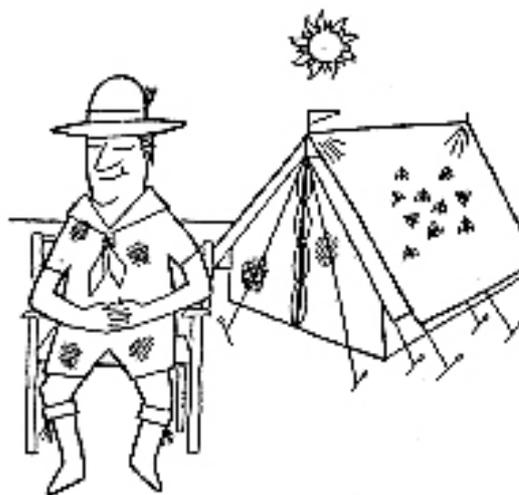
The date was fixed for 28th January and for a week previous it rained heavily, turning the course into a quagmire. The evening itself was fine but a 'phone call to the local meteorological office told us that heavy rain was expected for the middle of the night and during the morning. The first three Patrols caught the 7.30 train and left Dunton Green at twenty minute intervals. The fourth Patrol caught the 7.50 train and were away at 8.50. For the first part the route lay through Bessels Green by a main road, but after leaving that village it branched off by footpaths, along the bank, of a small brook and into a quarry where two Seniors were waiting to test our compass work. Thence by footpath, field and woodland into the Greensand ridge; by way of a farm tucked away among the folds of the hills and out on to a steep hill, where at the bottom, a boy had been thrown from his bicycle and broken his collar-bone.

A path with high banks and six inches of mud took us to a trial of silence, where blindfolded, we were led in Indian file through bramble thickets, woods, over fences and logs, and, it seemed, at least six times around a dung heap; not a word had to be spoken - that was the idea. The A.D.C. (S) Patrol was taken round at least twice! The last stage of the journey was the worse, several miles along a slightly rising road (where one Scouter was heard to remark about a fellow, who was taking his girl home at 1.30 a.m., that some people knew the right way to go about a night hike), and then up a long steep hill across ploughed fields to the brow of the downs and then along a muddy path for a mile until five "pop" bottles on the ground in the form of an arrow, pointed the way to the camp site. A cup of cocoa awaited us- and most bedded down at once except one Patrol who insisted on cooking high tea. Four die-hards preferred to sleep out rather than on the concrete floor of the Nissen hut. The rains came and reduced these to two.

Reveille was at 8.00 a.m., after four and a half hours' sleep. In view of the heavy rain we were allowed to cook over primus stoves. Inspection (m shirt sleeves) was at 10.00 and the remainder of the morning was spent on four tests, including Scout laws, fire lighting (Scouting spirit worked wonders), tracking and sketching (try this last item some time in your Senior competitions, it is well worth while). Results were announced at 12.30 and certificates were presented to the members of the winning Patrol, "the Kiwis," and dare I mention it, a bottle of beer apiece, the most popular idea the Seniors had thought of! - then home to a hot bath and dinner.

What was the result of the venture? - firstly Seniors broke out of their "parish boundaries" and learnt to co-operate with other Scouts. They had to take the responsibility of planning and to work as a team; they did both of these most successfully. It gave them some idea of the work involved in planning such a scheme and a greater sympathy with the Scouter's difficulties. For the Scouters it was a glorious holiday; thirteen (work and illness prevented several more from coming) took part and thoroughly enjoyed it. We are now perhaps more sympathetic towards the Seniors who we expect to carry out the tests even though they are tired. The greatest benefit was a deepening of respect for each other, we proved ourselves capable of coming through stiffer tests than those the Seniors have, and they proved to us that they are capable of taking responsibility and using initiative and imagination. It is hoped on both sides to make it an annual event; we trust it will be. It can do much to strengthen our work amongst the older boys.

A. S. PEACOCK.



13. – ROVER RUNABOUT

Do you remember the Haymarket, Edinburgh, Rovers' visit to Norway which was described recently in THE SCOUTER? We heard about it soon after it took place and liked the idea. The Crew had done plenty of lightweight camping in Scotland, but the itch to go farther was with us. The combining of camping and motoring appealed to us, especially as five out of the eight who wanted to go could drive. Some of the Crew had been to Norway with the Troop some years earlier, so it was decided that a general tour around Europe would be better than a longer stay in any one country.

Car-camping with eight necessitated two cars - and we had only one available! So began a search for something cheap but reliable. To cut a long story short we were not successful. The owner of the 1924 converted Austin hearse ("Coughin'-Guts") used by the Haymarket Rovers offered to lend it to us. It is still in running order and makes Edinburgh streets quite picturesque, but the wicked craneman who bounced her on the quay had damaged her back end and repairs amounting to at least £50 would have been necessary before she could tackle, fully laden, such a long run. We eventually hired a car for a fortnight and, as it turned out, this was a good move for it is very doubtful if an old car would have climbed the mountain roads and covered the distance we travelled without mishap.

We hired a Hillman Minx, a twin of the car we had. Two identical cars made only one set of spares necessary, provided two spare wheels, and made the owner's knowledge of his car available to both.

Preparation began almost a year before and each Rover took a separate function: Quartermaster, Catering, Treasurer and Secretary were appointed, and the other four took a country each with the object of finding out all about it - road conditions and routes, currency, local conditions, camping prospects and regulations, etc. In each car the crew of four Rovers were split into driver, spare driver, navigator and scribe/photographer.

In case they should become separated or involved in an accident each car was independently provisioned with two hike tents, primuses, billy-cans, maps and routes as well as personal lightweight camping kit. Four rucsacs, petrol and paraffin cans were carried on roof-racks, while other equipment and food was carried in the boot. (The petrol must be carried on the roof otherwise the heat experienced in Austria and Italy will make it fume - and stink the car out.) We found that fruit trays, the type with "spacers" in the corners, kept the food compact, yet visible and easily accessible. A crate of evaporated milk was carried and soup-cubes and tea-bags were taken to reduce weight and bulk.

Tea-bags are ideal for lightweight camping - one tea-bag, well bashed with a spoon, makes enough for four Rover-sized mugs. Besides it is very much cheaper than "tea in the leaf.". All menus were worked out to provide good meals quickly and much thought went into them. We worked on the idea of a good breakfast, light snack at noon, and a real feed in the evening. This left the day clear for travelling and sightseeing. This arrangement was satisfactory and the standard of meals was higher than we anticipated. We bought bread, fresh fruit and vegetables locally, and in addition tried to have a full scale national meal in each country and sample the local wines and beverages.

Much more could be said about the preparations, car documentation for cross-channel shipping; and customs can be complicated, but it is well worth joining the A.A. or R.A.C. as they do it very efficiently for a small fee. However, space is precious and it will suffice to say that if more detailed information is required we shall be only too willing to supply it if you care to get in touch with us.

Highlights of the tour were a morning spent in Paris which we careered round the Place de la Concorde whirlpool at about 50 miles per hour several times before we got the right route located; the beautiful Swiss and Austrian mountains and the friendly reception by the people; a night spent at the International Scout Hostel at Kandersteg (the only one not spent under canvas). The warden still wore the kilt presented to him by the Scottish contingent at the Rover Moot. The hostel is excellent and the new kitchens are first class. The crossing of the Susten and St. Gotthard passes were not without excitement and the views were terrific. The descent at dusk down the 35 hairpin bends to brilliantly lit Bellinzona, more than 6,000 feet below us in the valley, is one we shall never forget.

Our visit to Venice is marked by memories of the lovely city with its canals and gondolas (very expensive), of meeting an Italian Troop on their way to camp, of the multi-storey car park (Edinburgh take note), and of the almost overpowering heat! On crossing into Austria we camped, with permission, in an orchard and had the delightful experience of waking in the morning and plucking pears from branches trailing on the ground—Rovering par excellence? Next day we climbed a mountain by funicular railway and ski-lifts. The view from the top was good and we had lunch in the guest house at the top. That night we camped at 4,400 feet near Heiligenblut. It was cold and the dew was very heavy. The evening was spent in this lovely mountain village, and next morning we paid our toll and began the climb up the famous Grossglockner mountain highway. This road, a triumph of engineering, rises to 8,212 feet, and from the Edelweiss Spitz there is the sight of nineteen glaciers and thirty mountains all over 10,000 feet. At this altitude the rarefied air causes a fall in the pulling power of car engines. Cars and post-buses run with their bonnets propped up to prevent overheating. We were loaded pretty near the limit, and had to stop every half-mile to cool off

and the water bottles we carried were justified. The delays were made up for by the run down to Salzburg and the sight of many other cars, going the other way, in the same predicament, - even though not as heavily laden as us.

The German Autobahns and Italian Autostrade impressed us, but oh! the adverts - every few feet for miles and often, 30feet high.

The Crew wore uniform and the kilt. The reception all round was very friendly and no difficulties were experienced. We met a lot of Scouts, but the most noticeable feature was the number of German cycling patrols we saw, even as far south as Italy. The P.L. always cycles in front with the Patrol flag on a staff lashed upright on his bike.

We had made no prior arrangements regarding camping sites beyond studying the suitability of certain areas along the route, and on the whole found sites fairly easily. We always seemed to be near a railway, and we can assure - you the high-pitched hooters on French trains took some getting used to Water was always a problem.



Rivers in France are scarce so we had to be near a farm. All water was boiled. Permission to camp was readily given, and our experience was that the Scout uniform counts for just as much on the Continent as it does in this country. We had a look at one or two commercial camping sites (of which there are a lot), but did not like them.

Finance, with six currencies, was complicated, but worked out all right, except that we were always left with piles of small coins which the banks would not change. Language provided no difficulty, but we always seemed to be saying "thank you" in the language of the previous country!

By camping and making our own food the cost was kept as low as possible. In fifteen days 3,298 miles were covered and the cost per head, including food, petrol, Channel crossing for cars and passengers, hire of one car, insurance - in fact everything except personal expenditure on souvenirs - worked out at only £22 17s. 6d. per head. We wanted to get a general picture of as much as possible. Well, we succeeded and now know where we would like to spend more time. The Crew now feel that too much ground was covered, and if the tour were done again would cover only half the distance, with more time to look around and meet people.

This is the ideal method of travel, is relatively cheap, and enables you to stop where you like and to meet the people in their own homes. It is, we think, within the capabilities of most Crews and is an experience we would never have missed.

D.C. JEFFERIES,
G.S.M., 16th Portobello.

ROVER ROUNDABOUT

One of the folk that I met on my Gilwell course just after the war, and who seems to turn up at many of the Scout functions that I have attended since those days, turned up once again at the South-Eastern Counties Rover Moot during Easter. He left me the Annual Report of the Drum Hill Rover Crew and a photograph of the interior of their Den. The variety of jobs done by the fellows makes interesting reading - water pipes laid, Calor Gas installed, the laying of a tiled floor, a tree nursery constructed, Badge tests and Venturer Incident Journeys and help on Rover and Scout P.T.C. Courses. It certainly makes impressive reading and gives those of us who have worked in the section the answer we seem to have been wanting over the past few weeks. The report ends: "It is difficult to see what actual effect the new rules will have on the Crew, but I look forward to the same team with other additions giving extra strength to the 'Grand Job' at Drum Hill for there is plenty of work to be done and much fun and enjoyment to be gained out of so doing." Thank you, James K. Bellow (who is, of course, as A.D.C. General Duties, the mainspring of the concern).

A Gentleman Rover, name of Flood, abuses me regarding the preponderance of Rover notes from the Southern section of the Brotherhood. So here's something about the North. The 1st Shaw (Oldham), re-formed last year, is now so busy running the Scout Section that they can only meet on a Sunday, and that is spent in building a Stone Cottage on the moors for the use of the Scouts. The Didsbury District run Quests, of which I have quite a collection from another source, which should prove of great service to the training of the new Senior influx we all hope for. Such things as investigations into possibilities of Squires joining certain commercial organisations, interviewing the public with tape recorders, having a team who will fall in at short notice for a sick Scouter, organisation of District Wide Games, acting as Wardens in the Peak District National Park, and helping in mountain rescue work. All this, of course, has been built up over a fairly long period. If only areas would send me notes on this sort of thing we could convince a few of the doubting Thomases of the possibilities of Rovering.

It is not too late, as the Chief said at Easter, "if folk think that Rovering is dead: he for one knew that it wasn't laying down."

I wrote up to this point on Saturday evening - Sunday dawned clear and bright, and so at nine o'clock I arrived at the Horse Guards Parade ground for the London Rover Cenotaph pilgrimage. There were contingents from four of the Home Counties, as in previous years, and my job on this occasion is to see that the fellows are packed in round the Cenotaph in Whitehall and 1,250 fellows want some packing in. But today, with everything in its favour, not many more than half that number paraded. Yet on my way up I saw many young men in groups of from six to fourteen pedalling towards the outskirts, of London, groups of young fellows and girls standing waiting for others of their company to start off riding and rambling, and in some places queues outside the Catholic churches. Our "young men might have mustered one hundred and fifty. Has the age of sentiment come towards its close? What of the last war: do our young men remember? Eleven years has brought to our ranks a new generation. It certainly looks as though us older folk, who plan their future, neither speak the language, fathom the thoughts, understand the wants and needs or for that matter have the confidence of our youth. Is it that we want a new faith in our work for them? Has the time come when we should do well to take it a little easy?

There is, of course, young Joe who comes out of the Forces next September; Fred, who's finding it a bit hard sticking out his apprenticeship; Harry, whose home isn't all it might be for a young man. Yes, and many others all over the Scouting world, to whom a few words from "the old man" mean quite a lot.

How many times have you just walked into a church, a quiet garden, or sat in a busy thoroughfare or travelling vehicle and with a few thoughts divorced yourself from all the hustle and bustle of this life, hearing, seeing, feeling nothing but letting something indefinable fill up one's very being with a restful peace and then gone out refreshed in both mind and body.

Somebody with whom we came into contact during our youth perhaps led us to these practices. Can we pass them on to our busy, pleasure-seeking young men of today? How? That's your problem. As I said, no rules or organisation can do it.

When things seem to get out of perspective I always look at one of my collection of B.-P.'s books; this time it's *Adventuring to Manhood*.

"But also He has given us the power to enjoy our life while we are here on earth. But if we don't work the right way it is just as possible for us to be wretched and unhappy." Yes, and as in all our sections, the boy or young man's interest must be our first consideration.

JACK SKILLEN.



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WIDE GAMES - III

By THE CAMP CHIEF

3. THE BATTLE OF GILWELL.

For many years the Air Fleets of the BLUE DEVILS have been battling for the soil of Gilwell with the Air Fleets of the Red Demons, and today is to be staged the final and deciding battle. Plans are carefully laid, and no doubt there will be heavy casualties on either side, but victory is likely to go to the Air Force who bomb most successfully the bases of their opponents.

Battle Orders: Blue Devils.
Red Demons.

Each Air Force will be allotted a base from which they will conduct operations and which they must protect at all costs.

Each Air Force must select - (1) a Bomber Chief; (2) a Fighter Chief.

The Force should be divided into half fighters and half bombers, and two fighters in each Force will be detailed for reconnaissance.

At each base, which will be clearly marked, there will be a number of unconcealed targets. Some are primary targets, others are secondary. The bomber force will endeavour to penetrate the defences of the opposing force and bomb targets, but on any one flight they carry sufficient bombs to demolish only one PRIMARY or TWO SECONDARY targets. Targets are considered bombed when the stick indicating the target area is snapped in two and left in the target area.

The fighters' job is to protect the targets and to venture out into the intermediate space between the Forces and to intercept the bombers arriving. Their petrol supply is limited, however, and they must return to base for refuelling at intervals of not more than five minutes.

All planes, bombers and fighters must carry their identity marks clearly displayed on the port wing. A plane is destroyed when its identity mark is broken.

The reconnaissance planes' function is to penetrate into enemy territory to advise fighter and bomber chiefs of the disposition of the opposing planes, and also to secure photographs of damage done. This they do by capturing, after bombing, the top half of the mark indicating the bombed site. Only one major or two minor targets may be photographed at one time.

Battle Honours: Credits will be awarded as follows:-

For each plane destroyed, either fighter or bomber	1 point
For each primary target bombed	10 points
For each secondary target bombed	5 points
For each picture taken	5 points

Identity marks are as follows:-

BLUE DEVILS Fighters
 Bombers
 Recon

Give as agreed

RED DEMONS Fighters
 Bombers
 Recon

The battle ends on three blasts from a whistle indicating all clear for both sides.

Report back to Camp Fire Circle.

The Battle of Gilwell is a two-way cordon breaking type of game, but rather more is required of the attackers as, having broken the cordon, they can either earn themselves a great number of points or, by being unobservant, earn very few indeed. I would like to tell you of a story about this game:

We were playing it at Gilwell one afternoon about seven or eight years ago and all seemed to be going well when I had a sort of deputation arrive from one of the parties defending one post.

Their complaint was that a Scout, presumably from the Boys' Camping Field, had walked into their area, destroyed several of their targets and ruined the game. I thought it was unlikely that any Scout would do that sort of thing, and I proved to be right. In the opposing force there was a small man, a Scoutmaster very much under the normal height, and he had listened very carefully to the session I had given the previous afternoon on disguise and had decided that the best possible disguise he could assume at Gilwell was that of a Boy Scout, for who on earth was going to take any notice of a Boy Scout at a place where hundreds of them camp? He had borrowed a bright red scarf and a Scout hat from a boy camping in the field and, thus disguised, had brazenly walked into the enemy territory, bombed the targets, and strolled out again, and nobody sought to lay a finger on him. The moral surely is that the more you blend your disguise into the surroundings the greater your chances of success.

(This game was devised by the Editor, although he has probably forgotten about it, and I have kept it ever since and have used it many times.)

(to be concluded)

BOOKS

TENTS

Tent Lore, by Lone Wolf (Brown, Son & Ferguson, 5s.).

This is a nice little book (although regrettably paper-covered) - a companion volume to the same author's *Outdoor Cooking* and *Some Outs to Scouting*. He deals with materials, designs and construction of various types of tents: there are plenty of illustrations. The publishers are among Scouting's oldest friends. It would be pleasant to think that every Troop could have a copy of this book for Scouts to read and consult. Tents are among the most important of the tools, so to speak, of Scouting: our youngsters should be encouraged to be well-informed and knowledgeable about them.

R. H.

POND LIFE

The Observer's Book of Pond Life, by John Clegg (Warne, 5s.).

I suppose it is generally accepted that "pond life" includes the animals and plants of running water and lakes as well as those confined to ponds, but the point is worth making in case anyone is misled by the title. There are 64 plates, 32 are coloured, 16 are black-and-white drawings and 16 are photographs. I have not counted the number of organisms depicted, but can state that there is no comparable collection of pictures of freshwater creatures in any English book. Flowers, lower plants, invertebrate animals and vertebrates are all illustrated and generally illustrated well. Opposite each plate there is a page on which text and legend are combined, and about some groups there is more written further on or further back. This may sound confusing, but in fact the cross references are good and the reader will appreciate the cunning way in which author and publisher have collaborated to make use of every single line of space. They and the artist are to be congratulated on a notable achievement, which offers as good value for money as is likely to be found in a very long day's search.

T. T. MACAN.

IN BRIEF

Springbok Glory, by Louis Duffus (Longmans 16s.). The story of the South African cricketers from 1947 to 1955 is told by a writer who is no stylist but there are plenty of facts and anecdotes to recall some shining occasions and some notable men.

Born to Fly, by Georges Blond (Souvenir Press, 16s.). This is for those who still wish to read of the exploits of leading wartime flyers. These are of various nationalities - English, Canadian,

German, Russian, American. Air-minded older fellows will probably enjoy their stories with most of which they will probably not be familiar.

Games for Children, by Marguerite Kohl and Frederica Young (Faber 10s. 6d.), contains 184 pages of games and problems connected with them, for the age groups 7 to 12. Many will be known to the average Cubmaster but a book like this suggests other games and is both a reminder and a tonic.

The Foundations of Philately, by Winstrop S. Boggs (Faber, 21s.) has interesting information on the history of philately, the British and American postal systems, on building up and caring for a collection, on how stamps are made and so on. There are excellent suggestions for further reading.

R. H.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE

Sir Christopher Musgrave, Bt., O.B.E., a Chief Scout's Commissioner and formerly Chief Commissioner for Northern Ireland, was Called to Higher Service on 12th May, 1956.

I.H.Q. APPOINTMENTS

Field Commissioner, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Middlesex - B. Worthington.

NATIONAL COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE

Commissioners are reminded that applications to attend the National

Commissioners' Conference at Skegness over the week-end of 21st-23rd September, 1956, should be submitted without delay to County Secretaries.

AMENDMENTS TO "POLICY, ORGANISATION AND RULES"

The Committee of the Council has approved the following amendments to Rules for immediate effect in consequence of the decisions made as a result of the investigation into the loss of boys, which are contained in the main Report of the Leakage Investigation Committee, entitled "Scouts of Tomorrow," circulated at the beginning of June to all Commissioners, Secretaries and Groups.

125. Add after "I.H.Q." in line 2 - "with the co-operation of the L.A. where appropriate,"

(4) Delete and substitute - "To supervise the training of Scouters and Scouts."

159. Instructors.

Delete first sub-para. and substitute - "The rank of Instructor may be conferred as above upon a person who has expert knowledge of any subject in which he is prepared to instruct *Scouts*, and who has already done so for at least three months. The appointment may be made in respect of one or more Groups or for the L.A. as a whole."

160. Examiners.

Delete and substitute

(i) "The rank of Examiner may be conferred as above upon a person who has expert knowledge of any subject necessary for a *Scout* proficiency badge, in which he is prepared to examine *Scouts*. The appointment may be made in respect of one or more Groups or for the L.A. as a whole. An Instructor or a Group Scouter may be appointed an Examiner.

(ii) An Examiner may both instruct and examine a *Scout* for any section of the First Star, Second Star and Second Class badges."

197. Amend the opening words of the rule to read - "The admission of any boy..."

202 (i). Group Committee.

Amend to - "A small Group Committee composed of parents of *Scouts*, former *Scouts*, representatives of the Sponsoring Authority in the case of a sponsored Group, and others interested in the Group must be formed in all cases to be responsible for Group property, and to assist the G.S.M. with finance, propaganda and obtaining accommodation, camping grounds, adult help for the Group, and employment for its members, and in relation to the recognition and the activities of any body of parents, supporters, or other persons, engaged in any undertaking for or on behalf of the Group or any Section of the Group.

"Where, however, no money is received as mentioned in Rule 208, and the Group does not own any property or equipment, the formation of a Group Committee is not obligatory,"

413. Amend the opening sentence to read - "A Leaping Wolf Badge will be awarded to a Wolf Cub who has gained his Second Star and *three* special proficiency badges."

427. Senior and Junior Proficiency Badges.

(2) Last sentence to read - "Scouts under 15 may study for the senior badges at any time, but may not be examined for *more than two* of them until qualified by age."

(6) Amend to read - "A Scout may not gain more than six proficiency badges before gaining the First Class Badge. He may, if he wishes, gain and wear not more than two of them from the Over-15 age range, even if he has not reached the age of 15."

430. Second Class Badge.

Amend to - "The Second Class badge is granted by the L.A. on the recommendation of the S.M., who is responsible for seeing that the Scout has passed all the tests; he may do this in respect of any or all of the tests either by examining the Scout himself or by availing himself for that purpose of the services of any person (Scout or lay) who has the requisite knowledge."

432. First Class Badge.

Amend to - "The First Class badge is granted by the L.A. on the recommendation of the D.C. (or someone other than a Scouter of the Scout's own Group, appointed by the D.C.) and the G.M. The S.M. is responsible for seeing that the Scout is examined in all the tests other than the journey; he may in respect of any of these tests either examine the Scout himself or avail himself for that purpose of the services of any person (Scout or lay) who has the requisite knowledge. The D.C. (or his nominee as above) will give the instructions for the journey and will examine the rough notes made during the journey and the log which can be written up after the journey. Both log and notes must be handed in within a week of the journey."

435. Queen's Scout.

Add "Before being awarded the Queen's Scout Badge, a Scout should have an interview with the District Commissioner or an Assistant District Commissioner appointed by him for the purpose."

Basic Tests.

The following amendments have been made with immediate effect to the basic tests.

Wolf Cubs.

First Star (Rule 409).

(4) Exercises. Delete toe-touching and knee-bending exercises.

Second Star (Rule 411).

(1) Signalling. Delete.

(10) Highway Code. Delete.

Boy Scouts.

Second Class. (Rule 429).

(2) Health. Delete (c) - Exercises.

(5) Signalling. Delete.

Add (8) "Have not less than three months' service as a Scout."

First Class. (Rule 431).

(5) Signalling. Delete.

(7) Public Service. Delete.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY, 1957

The Chief Scout has decided that Scouts shall celebrate St. George between Saturday, April 27th and Sunday, May 5th.

ERRATUM - May Issue.

Cancelled Warrants

For "Miss Maijorie Wrae., - read "Miss Marjorie Wroe."

C. C. GOODHIND,
Administrative Secretary.

HANDICAPPED SCOUTS

Scouters are beginning to ask whether there are to be any special facilities for Handicapped Scouts at the 1957 Jamboree at Sutton Park. The answer is no, unless the Scout is strong enough to camp with his own County Contingent without special facilities. There will be no special camp for handicapped boys.

The problem whether Handicapped Scouts should go to big National events such as Jamborees and Moots is a very real one, and I asked the advice of the Committee of the Council before the Canadian Jamboree. After talking the matter over at some length the decision was reached that British Handicapped Scouts should NOT participate in big events such as Jamborees, but stick to special International events such as Agoons.

I am quite sure that all Scouters who are keen on Scouting for the handicapped would have been very pleased if they had been able to hear the way in which the Committee of the Council discussed this question. They considered it purely from the point of view of what is best for the Handicapped Scouts and showed great knowledge of, and sympathy for, our work during the discussion. It was felt that certain facilities must be provided for badly handicapped boys such as special shelters, special hospital and latrine arrangements, and that this would be wellnigh impossible within the vast organisation of a World Jamboree. It was also felt that the boys, being extremely keen, would want to take a full part in the normal programmes and might overtax their strength. One of the strongest reasons against them going was the enormous amount of public interest which they always arouse on these occasions; it was felt that such publicity would be most unwelcome to them.

Jam bound to admit that I agree with the decision of the Committee of the Council. Having taken parties of British Handicapped Scouts to camp at the big Jamboree at Moisson in 1947 and then to the Agoons in Holland in 1950 and in Belgium in 1954, I do consider that the big Jamboree was too much for them and the publicity was perfectly awful.

In 1958 the Agoon is to be held in this country, so that will be an event to which we can look forward.

URSULA RICHARDSON.

NOTES AND NEWS

JUNE COVER

This month's cover by John Annandale of Perth shows Wolf Cub Billy Steel with "Claron," British Champion 1955.

1955 INDEX

Copies of THE SCOUTER Index for last year still remain, so now is your chance to acquire a copy which you will find indispensable in the days to come. It costs ls. 6d. from The Editor.

BADGE COURSES

The following Badge Courses are to be held at Chalfont Heights Scout Camp:

Map Maker (2 W.E.) Sept. 8th-9th, 15th-16th. Fee 3s.

Backwoodsman (2 W.E.) Sept. 29th-30th, Oct. 6th-7th. Fee 3s.

Forester (4 W.E.) Oct. 13th-14th, Nov. 17th-18th, Dec.

1st-2nd, Jan. 26th-27th, 1957. (All meals provided). Fee 30s.

Venturer (1 W.E.) Nov. 3rd-4th. Fee 1s. 6d.

Applications to The Bailiff, Chalfont Heights Scout Camp, Denham Lane, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

BOB-A-JOB 1956

We feel that the Movement may be interested to know that as a result of the work of the Publicity Department at I.H.Q. cartoons appeared in the following papers: News Chronicle, Daily Mirror, Sunday Pictorial, Daily Express, Sunday Dispatch, Evening Standard, Evening News, Evening Star, The Star, Daily Mail, Worthing Herald, Birmingham Mail, Birmingham Evening Dispatch, Brighton Gazette, Liverpool Echo, Dundee Courier and Leicester Mercury.

References to Bob-a-Job were made in the following radio shows:

Charlie Chester Show, News Reel, Jimmy Wheeler Show, Arthur Askey Show, Life with the Lyons, Billy Cotton Band Show, Have a Go and News Bulletins.

The publicity value of all these would come to many thousands of pounds.

WEEK-END SAILING AND BOAT PULLING COURSES

The London and S.E. Region of the Central Council of Physical Recreation have arranged a series of week-end courses in Sailing and Boat Pulling at Raven's Ait, Surbiton, Surrey, during the summer months. The courses are designed for leaders and senior members of youth organisations who have not had much, if any, experience on the water, but who may be wishing to introduce boating or "rivercraft" as an activity within their own organisation. Further details may be obtained from the Training Department at I.H.Q.

WOOLWICH SOAP BOX DERBY

To help the children at Goldie Leigh Hospital, S.E.2, Woolwich Scouts are holding a Soap Box Derby on Saturday, July 2 1st. Any interested to go and see it or to enter their car should write to Mr. L. J. Paine, 109 Plumstead Common Road, Plumstead, S.E.18, for further details.

WOOD BADGE COURSES 1956

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

Pack Scouters, Eighteen years and over.

Troop Scouters, Twenty years and over.

Rover Lenders, Twenty-one years and over.

In each section, probationary Scouters of the appropriate age may be accepted.

Gilwell Park

Cub Courses

No. 144. Monday, July 16th-Saturday, July 2 1st.

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

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

Scout Courses

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

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

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

Rover Courses

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

Scotland (Fordell)

Cub, Cont. July 23rd-28th Scout, Cont. August 11th-19th Cub,
Cont. August 25th-30th

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

Bedfordshire (Milton Ernest)

Cub, Cont. August 27th-Sept. 1st Scout Cont. Aug. 25th-Sept. 1st

Apply: Capt. S. Starey, Milton Ernest, Bedford. Birmingham
(Yorks Wood)

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

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

Buckinghamshire (Wolverton)

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

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

Dorset (Weymouth)

Scout, Cont. October 13th-20th

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

Durham (Brancepeth)

Scout, Cont. August 11th-18th

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

Kent (Buckmore Park, Rochester)

Scout, Cont. August 4th-12th

Apply: E. R. Bindloss, 43 Yardley Park Road, Tonbridge.

London (Gilwell Park)

Cub, Cont. August 5th

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

Scout, Cont. September 22nd

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

Manchester

Cub, 3 W.E. August 11th

Scout, 4 W.E. July 1th-8th, 14th-15th, 28th-29th, August 5th-6th.

Apply: W. H. Banning, Gaddum House, Queen Street,
Manchester.

Middlesex (Elstree)

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

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

Northumberland (Gosforth Park)

Scout, 5 W.E. Sept. 1st (omitting Sept. 29th)

Apply: D. M. Paulin, Boy Scout Camp, Gosforth Park, Newcastle
upon Tyne, 3.

Surrey (Bentley Copse)

Cub, Cont. July 7th-11th

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

Scout, Cant. July 14th-21st

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

Warwickshire (Stratford-on-Avon)

Cub, 3 W.E. (Indoors) January 12th, 1957.

Wiltshire (Monkton Coombe, Bath)

Cub, Cont. August 4th

Apply: Miss P. Bailey, Boyers, Monkton Coombe, Bath.

Yorkshire, South (Hesley Wood)

Scout, 4 W.E. Sept. 1st (commencing at 10a.m. on Saturday)

Apply: J. Dorgan, 1 White Lane, Chapeltown, Nr. Sheffield.

Northern Ireland (Hillsborough)

Cub, 3 W.E. August 11th

Apply: Ernest Moore, Headquarters Office, 50 Dublin Road,
Belfast.

25th Lower School of John Lyon - Prize-giving Day

25th Lancaster Secondary School for Boys - Prize-giving Day

27th International Patrol Jamboree, Blair Atholl

28th Hampshire Cub Rally

I.H.Q. FILM LIBRARY

Films will not be available for hire from the Library during the
months of July and August. Bookings for subsequent months will
be accepted.

AWARDS FROM 1st MARCH TO 4th APRIL, 1956

MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

J.D. Shillinglaw, Assistant Scoutmaster, 8th Bedlington
(Stakeford).

*"In recognition of his great courage, fortitude and cheerfulness
during the ten years he has suffered from poliomyelitis. He
overcame his great handicap sufficiently to become a member of
the United Kingdom contingent to the Pan-Pacific Jamboree,
Australia, 1952-53."*

CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

A.P. Hodgkinson, Troop Leader, 17th Wigan (New Springs).

*"In recognition of his courage and fortitude. Despite a great
handicap he has shown outstanding determination in qualifying
for his Queen's Scout Badge."*

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (MERITORIOUS CONDUCT)

I. Bayley, Patrol Leader; W. Wiliman, Patrol Second, 1st
Feltwell.

*"In recognition of their prompt action and presence of mind in
dealing with an outbreak of fire in the Married Quarters, Royal
Air Force, Feltwell, 28th June, 1955."*

GILT CROSS

J.J. Finch, Patrol Second, 2nd Crosby (13th Liverpool, Seaforth
Congregational).

*"In recognition of his gallantry in saving a girl from drowning
in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, Seaforth, 6th September,
1955."*

A. L. Loton, Scoutmaster, 22nd City of Stoke-on-Trent.

*"In recognition of his gallantry in saving a child from drowning
in Hanley Park Lake, Hanley, 15th January, 1956."*

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (GALLANTRY)

N. Beck, Scout, Ranworth and South Waisham.

*"In recognition of his prompt action and presence of mind in
saving a boy from drowning in Maithouse Broad, South
Waisham, 4th January, 1956."*

SILVER ACORN

Lt.-Col. C. N. C. Boyle, MC., A.C.C., Wiltshire (Southern); M.
Dortington, G.S.M., 1st Ebbw Vale.

"In recognition of their specially distinguished services."

BAR TO THE MEDAL OF MERIT

Cheshire East. - T. F. Green, D.C., Cheadle and District; P. G.
Tonge, D.C., Stockport District.

Devon. - S. J. Trent, D.S.M., North Devon.

Hertfordshire. - Sqdrn.-Ldr. A. J. Green (Ret.), A.D.C.,
Stevenage District.

Monmouthshire. - Lt.-Col. F. A. Hamilton, O.B.E., D.L., J.P.,
D.C., Wye Valley District; J. F. Thomas, D.C., Ebbw Vale.

Wiltshire. - R. T. Kemp, A.C.C. (Rover Scouts).

Yorkshire West. - G. Denham, A.D.C., Halifax District, D.C.C.;
L. Horsfall, S.M., 16th Huddersfield (Huddersfield College).

Wales. Cardiff. - O. Richards, G.S.M., 35th Cardiff (Heath). *"In
recognition of their further outstanding services."*

MEDAL OF MERIT

Cheshire East. - J. A. Robinson, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Sale
District.

I.H.Q. SPEAKERS' VISITS IN JULY

7th Birmingham Annual Rally

14th Sussex Scout Council Meeting

15th Sussex "Scoucubonia"

21st South Yorkshire

Cheshire West. - Miss I. E. Kemp, C.M., Hilbre, D.C.M., West Wirral.

Hertfordshire. - H. 3. Gawthorpe, Badge Secretary, Hemel Hempstead and District.

Kent. - C. A. Angell, D.S.M., Bexleyheath and District; W. E. Hoole, G.S.M., 2nd Bexley (Congregational); F. T. Moore, G.S.M., 2nd Sandgate.

Lancashire South East. - Mrs. O. G. McLachlan, D.C.M., Salford.

Liverpool. - R. Bright, S.M.(S), 3rd North Liverpool.

Monmouthshire. - A. E. Hollingdale, B.E.M., D.C., Newport.

Nottinghamshire. - A. Batchelor, C.M., 1st Ruddington, D.C.M., S.F. Notts.

Staffordshire North. - Mrs. H. Sutherland, C.M., 5th Stone.

Surrey. - Mrs. E. A. Ebbage, Hon. Asst. Secretary, Kingston; F. W. A. Maund, G.S.M., 11th Kingston (Baptist).

Yorkshire South. - F. S. Johnson, Executive Committee Member, Doncaster.

Yorkshire West. - G. A. Pitts, Hon. Secretary, Ingleborough.

Wales. - Rev. C. S. Catling, Asst. D.C.C., North Wales; S.M.(S), St. Oswald's School, Ellesmere, Shropshire.

Northern Ireland.

Belfast. - W. G. Chambers, S.M., 12th Belfast.

"In recognition of their outstanding services."

LETTER OF COMMENDATION GOOD SERVICES)

Yorkshire West. - E. Spence, Hon. Treasurer, Bradford South.

Wales.

Cardiff. - G. Ware, S.M.(S), 62nd Cardiff (Birchgrove). *"In recognition of their good services."*

AWARDS FROM 4th APRIL TO 2nd MAY, 1956

"CORNWELL SCOUT" BADGE

T. V. Hoare, Patrol Leader, 6th Ruislip (St. Michael's); M. Nash, Patrol Leader, 3rd Greenford (Waxlow Manor).

"In recognition of their high standard of character and devotion to duty under great suffering."

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (GALLANTRY)

R. Bullock, Scout, 3rd Wigan (All Saints' Modern School).

"In recognition of his prompt action and presence of mind in saving a child from drowning in Baldwin's Brook, Wigan, 4th January, 1956."

SILVER WOLF

J. Henderson, Dominion Headquarters Commissioner (Special Duties), New Zealand.

"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character in New Zealand and Scotland over a period of 31 years."

SILVER ACORN

Dr. G. H. Bickmore, D.C., Chepstow District; J. J. Cormick, Member of Dominion Executive Committee, New Zealand; A. W. V. Reeve, Dominion Headquarters Commissioner (Public Relations), New Zealand.

"In recognition of their specially distinguished services."

BAR TO THE MEDAL OF MERIT

Devon. - A. M. White, G.S.M., 1st Crediton, A.D.C., No. 8 District.

"In recognition of his further outstanding services."

MEDAL OF MERIT

Berkshire. - A. G. Paul, R.S.L., 1st Arborfield.

Cumberland West. - D. Dixon, S.M., Thwaites; Rev. M. K. Hodges, S.M., 1st Ravenglass; T. R. Penman, Hon. Treasurer, Millom.

Hampshire. - E. Candler, G.S.M., 1st East Meon (All Saints).

Hertfordshire. - J. A. Westwood, S.M. (S.), 1st Welwyn Garden City, A.D.C. (Senior Scouts), Welwyn Garden City District.

Kent. - A. W. Camburn, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Sittingbourne District. **Lancashire South West.** - C. Dumbill, G.S.M., 10th

Warrington (Sankey St. Mary's), S. Jones, G.S.M., 13th Warrington. Lancashire

South West and Liverpool. - S. R. Cook, Asst. D.C.C.

Liverpool. - J. R. Hainsworth, G.S.M., 12th Bootle.

London. - Mrs. A. E. Banks, C.M., 58th Paddington; L. Cheetham, G.S.M., 3rd North London; Miss E. N. A. Coburn, C.M., 1st North London (Lord Kitchener's); L. C. Cumming, G.S.M., 4th North London (Methodist); F. A. Leach, R.S.L., 20th North London, A.D.C. (Rover Scouts), Islington E. C. Norton, S.M., 201st North London; D. H. Salway, G.S.M., 24th North London (Highbury Hill Baptist); Miss E. R. Tull, A.C.M., 24th North London (Highbury Hill Baptist); L. F. Wright, G.S.M., 36th North London; G. E. J. Young, A.C.I.I., A.C.I.B., A.D.C. (Senior Scouts), Wood Green, Southgate and Friern Barnet.

Monmouthshire. - D. R. Dorrell, Chairman, Abergavenny.

Somerset. - Miss F. Dennis, C.M., 23rd Bath (Avonvale); Miss M. J. Field, C.M., 4th Bath (Manvers Street); Miss E. M. Morrell, A.C.M., 4th Bath (Manvers Street).

Wiltshire. - Mrs. D. Brown, C.M., 4th Devises; Miss M. M. Gover, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), North Wilts (Swindon), Asst. Ak. L.; Miss C. Gurney, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), West Wilts, Asst. Ak. L.

North Riding. - J. D. Bell, S.M., 3rd Grangetown; Miss D. Ramsdale, C.M., 1st South Bank.

Scotland.

Lanarkshire. - R. F. Oxburgh, G.S.M., 124th Lanarkshire (Garrowhill), A.D.C., Baillieston District.

Midlothian. - Miss M. Inglis, A.C.C. (Handicapped Scouts), Miss E. A. Linden, C.M., 33rd Midlothian (Gavieside School).

Stirlingshire. - Mrs. E. C. Fitzpatrick, C.M., 41st Stirlingshire; W. M. Graham, A.C.C. (Training) and D.C.C.; W. F. Howie, D.C., Falkirk; D. P. Robertson, C.M., 16th Stirlingshire (Laurieston), A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Falkirk, Asst. Ak.L., Scotland; J. Thomson, A.S.M., 54th Stirlingshire (Stenhouse Parish Church); R. M. Watson, G.S.M., 18th Stirlingshire (Camelon Welfare).

West Lothian. - J. S. Denholm, S.M., 8th West Lothian (Uphall), Hon. Secretary, Eastern District; I. H. Redpath, S.M., 6th West Lothian (1st Broxburn).

Overseas.

Tanganyika. - J. Kayuza, D.S.M., Nyasa.

Trinidad and Tohago. - H. King, D.C., San Fernando and District; Rev. Fr. T. J. Kennedy, G.S.M., 1st Trinidad Sea Scouts; T. V. Mitchell, Area Commissioner, No. 1 Area; S. K. Ramsingh, G.S.M., 1st Gasparillo, A.D.C., Pointe a Pierre.

"In recognition of their outstanding services."

CLASSIFIED

COMING EVENTS

Snowdon this summer. The Snowdon Group can extend facilities to Senior Scouts wishing to attend its Summer Camp in Snowdonia, mid-July to mid-September. Campers select their own dates for arrival and departure. Tuition is available in mountaineering and scoutcraft.

The registration fee is 5/- and the charge for food is 4/- per day. Registration forms are available from The G.S.M., The Vicarage, Caernarvon, N. Wales.

Portsmouth's 10th Anniversary Senior Scout Camp Open Week-end, 4th-6th August. Main line station Rowlands Castle (site mile). Further details from R. A. Ide, 2 Oliver Road, Southsea, Hants.

Sept. 15th-16th. Four Counties Rover Moot, Nr. Reading. Details later from Moot Sec., D. Pike, 1 Palmerstone Road, Earley, Reading.

Reunion B.A.O.R. Rover Scouts 1944-56, London, September 22nd-23rd. Interested? Write John Harding, 107 Rosslyn Crescent, Harrow, Middlesex.

The "Godiva" Conference for Rangers, Rovers and Senior Scouts, at Coventry (of course), 17th-18th November. Wilfred Noyce, Miss Olive L. Hillbrook, etc. A. R. Wilkinson, 26 Harefield Road, Coventry.

Remember Pudsey? Book January 26th-27th, 1957, for the next Rover/Ranger Conference at Pudsey. Applications 'to Miss M. O. Smith, Prospect Cottage, Farsley, Leeds, after October 1st, 1956. Start centenary year well with Yorkshire Hospitality.

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

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Midhurst. Once again to old and new friends camping near Midhurst, Sussex, we offer a special discount on supplies of meat, etc. T. C. Merritt, Butcher, Midhurst, Sussex.

Wanted - a lodger to live as one of family. Wife Guider, husband Scouter, two children (2 and 4). Terms moderate. Shackleton, 43 Tyrrell Road, S.E.22.

Ex-Rover Scout Mills having been promoted to the yellow plume is pleased to announce that Underwriters have agreed that "Auxs" shall be eligible for motor insurance at the rates applicable to warranted Scouters. 123 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4.

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If you are camping on the shores of Morecambe Bay this summer, we have branches at Silverdale, Arnside and Grange, and can cater for your needs. Inquiries invited to Carnforth Co-operative Society Ltd., New Street, Carnforth, Lancs.

Scouts - for Transport on the Isle of Wight, from Yarmouth or Ryde to your camp site - consult G. A. Weeks, Haulage Contractor, Freshwater (Telephone: Freshwater 504).

For your next Group Show why not do "The Story of Mike" by Ralph Reader? Full set of scripts, music, etc. £4 4s. 0d. plus postage. Full details from S. A. Adams, 50 Adderley Road, Harrow Weald, Middx.

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

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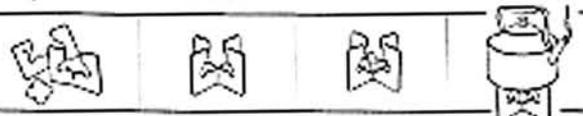
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