

THE
SCOUTER



July 1956

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The SCOUTER

July 1956
Vol. L. No. 7.



THE OUTLOOK

I spent a most interesting week, starting with Durham on Whit Saturday and Sunday, then, going to the South of Scotland and finishing up with Ayrshire. It is some time since I did my first round of these Counties, and it was interesting comparing conditions then and now. Probably the most noticeable thing was the smart turnout of the Scouts, and the great improvement in their camping. I don't say that it was perfect, but there were very few cases indeed where it was not up to a very reasonable standard. I cannot, however, understand how a Troop can leave unmistakable signs of cows in the kitchen. We haven't yet reached the stage when scorching of turf by the fire is always avoided through too sparing removal of the sods and too little confinement of the fire, but I am glad to see more altar fires in use and dishes and hands much cleaner. But of thrift in the use of firewood there was far too little sign; in fact, in a number of cases shortage were caused for some Troops by about three weeks' supply in one kitchen for a week-end camp. Firewood is one of our most expensive items on all our camp sites, and Scouts must learn to use it carefully. With the price of coal rising as it has done there will be far greater demand for firewood by the public, and we shall find increasing difficulty in buying supplies.

To change the subject, Rally programmes show far more imagination and rehearsal. In consequence not only are they better value for the public but are far more enjoyed by the boys themselves. In fact, Scouts have reached the high standards achieved by the Cubs who, in the past have, I am afraid, often stolen the show. On my last round pioneering enterprises were very humdrum and gave the impression that they were more in the line of academic exercises than of practical value. Now, man-size timber is being used and the products really work with a full-sized man. Three in particular I remember - first, an aerial runway across a wide river; second, the bicycle raft from the second volume of Pioneering Projects I don't say that it is a proposition for overseas tours, but it worked, even against the stream, and the manoeuvrability was amply sufficient to turn completely round in quite a small circle - and finally, a model pit cage by the Scouts of a mining district, with ramps both on the ground floor and at the top level for egress, a wholly admirable construction designed and built by the Scouts. There are still dull items, but there was far greater appreciation of the possibilities.

Camp Fires, too, were a big improvement. Song sheets issued in advance, for rehearsal and learning the words, have not only improved the quality of the songs sung but the quality of the singing too. But there are one or two points still needing attention. I know that it is difficult to refuse the Cubs an invitation to the Camp Fire, but we have got to recognise (a) that most of them ought to be in their beds by that time; (b) that, their songs are different from the Scouts'; and (c) that they just can't sit still however hard they try, so that before you know what is happening they are talking and throwing things at each other and fighting.

By THE CHIEF SCOUT

Let me repeat again, they are not to blame. The Cub who can sit still for an hour is either a miracle or a corpse, he could not be a Cub!

So, very reluctantly, no Cubs. The enjoyment of the others is spoiled when they are present. Secondly, we generally start with far too close a circle. You can pull them in but you can't push them out. The tendency is anyway to edge in, so let's start a bit wider. A Camp fire with many thousands present is a very different thing from the little family circle of the Troop. Thirdly, an imaginative opening can ensure the proper atmosphere. There are many different ways, but the thrusting of a torch deep into the heart of the fire does have a thrill about it which arouses expectations. That those expectations shall not be disappointed is the job of the Camp Fire Leader. Fourthly, when are we going to see asbestos suits supplied by the Scout Shop? I am generally placed on the leeward side of the fire and spend three-quarters of an hour or so getting kippared and then have to talk with watering eyes and a throat in no condition to make myself heard. This is, of course, an exaggeration, but sometimes it comes near enough to the facts, and, of course, when the centre falls in there is an eruption of sparks sufficient to start the countryside alight all around. The removal of the turf and the confinement of the fire to which I have referred earlier are as important at a Camp Fire as in a camp kitchen. Some fires, too, look as if they would be burning in the middle of next week. There is generally a huge pile of spare firewood nearby to make sure that it will. Build a fire to last about an hour, and, in case you have miscalculated, just have half a dozen or so short logs ready to put on in an emergency, but let the embers glow and the grey ash fade. It is much more effective.

A very noticeable fact is that Scouters in all sections are much younger, although many of the stalwarts are still carrying on, and long may they do so. They are handing on responsibilities to the younger ones, gradually teaching them to take their places, and long may they do that too: as a consequence the enthusiasm of the younger Scouters is being maintained, but there are still too few Badges, and there are still too many Leaping Wolves who have been two or three years in the Troop without getting their Second Class. There are still too many new Troops being started before the Patrol Leaders have reached Second Class themselves. That is why "The Patrol System doesn't work"! Patrol Leaders can't teach what they do not know themselves, and they haven't a chance of getting on and keeping ahead of their Patrols.

It is evident everywhere that the Training Teams have done a magnificent job, and consequently standards all round are at a much higher level, and, again consequently, the public interest and support are greater than I saw on the last occasion. A Public Meeting at Coatbridge, whose Provost is an active G.S.M., was an example. Sixteen of their Scouts received the Royal Certificate, and they were a real credit to the Movement. One young Scout, too, from Uddingston, received the Cornwell Badge in the presence of his parents and the Group.

Confined to a wheel-chair he goes to camp and takes part, in so far as his disabilities allow, in every Group activity, and his Scoutmaster told me that he had never once heard him complain - a real Cornwell Scout.

The thousand Queen's Scouts at Gilwell were again a magnificent lot, although again there were a few very young ones among them. A delightful feature was the number of letters we received thanking us for the happy weekend they had had. But even among them road discipline might have been better. There were cases of three and four walking abreast and only moving out of the way when a car hooted at them. And even they were far from immaculate on the question of litter. Of course I am not pretending that it was like Hampstead Heath on a Bank Holiday, but they did leave more behind them than 600 P.L.s from Hampshire the week-end before, and early services on the Sunday morning by no means reached 100 per cent, showing that we still have a bit to go even with our Queen's Scouts. I was sorry I had to leave them, but I had a long-standing engagement in the middle of the Cairgorms at 10.15 next morning, to take part in a Memorial Service at the Cairn erected by Highland Fieldcraft Training Centre three years ago. There were over fifty of our Old Boys present - another tribute to the worth of Scouting which had given them the opportunity to develop those qualities of responsibility, of courage and of service which have stood them in good stead in their civilian life.

ROWALLAN

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh has approved the introduction of a series of tests, to be known as "The Duke of Edinburgh's Award," in order, as the official statement says, "to meet the increasing need, under modern conditions, to provide incentives and opportunities for young people to achieve a balanced development of their character and in preparation for citizenship." This is, of course, what the Scout Movement and other youth organisations have been trying to do for many years, and one of the main aims of the scheme is to attract those who leave school at 15 and do not come under the influence of organisations which already make similar provision.

In order that the scheme may be tested before it is extended to those who are not attached to any organisation, a limited experiment is being tried with some of the organisations for boys. It is hoped that it may be extended to girls later on.

Some fourteen organisations such as the Brigades, the Clubs, the A.T.C. and the A.C.F. have agreed to undertake the experiment, which may last as long as three to five years. A few Local Education Authorities may be asked to experiment with a few of their schools.

The tests are being graded in three series, called the First, Second and Third Series. The First Series, which will be a preliminary test meriting a commendation, will be open to boys from fourteen upwards. The Second Series is open to boys of 15 upwards, and will earn a Certificate and a Star. The Third Series (which will not be attempted during the first experimental period) will also earn a Certificate and a Star.

In each series there are four sections and a boy must pass the test each section in order to earn the award.

The sections are:

- A. Rescue and Public Service Training.
- B. Expedition.
- C. Pursuits.
- D. Fitness.

Brigadier Sir John Hunt, the leader of the conquering expedition to Everest, has retired from the Army in order to give his full time to the initiation of the scheme. No better man could have been chosen.

We have had discussions with him, in order to see whether it was practicable for the Scout Movement to take part in the first experiments, and no one could have been kinder.

He agreed at the outset that Scouts had been doing these things all the time, and that our participation must be subject to two clear conditions:-

(i) That the instruction and examination for the tests must be done within the Scout Troop;

(ii) That the successive stages of the Award must be within the framework of our proficiency badge system, and must lead up to the Queen's Scout Badge as the culmination of the Scout's effort.

We put up a detailed scheme to him, but as discussions proceeded it became evident that we should all be involved in a good deal of additional work.

In *Scouts of Tomorrow* the Committee of the Council has recently expressed its concern at the burden of work already falling upon all ranks in the Movement, and has promised to consider whether there are any ways in which the burden can be lightened. In any case, our work will be increased from now until the 1957 celebrations are over, and the Committee therefore felt strongly that we ought to be excused from taking part in the first experiments. Sir John fully appreciates our reasons for making this request, and mentions the point that the scheme would not really be experimental in our case, as it is very largely based on Scout methods.

Another advantage of deferring our participation is that the Committee of the Council has already decided to make a thorough revision of the whole Proficiency Badge conditions in 1958. If in the course of that revision we can consider what alterations in the tests for the Award have proved necessary as the result of the first experiment, it will be a great help in deciding whether we shall be able to come in later.

The position is, then, that during the first experimental period, the Scout Movement will not be taking part, but may well come in later. In the meantime, Scouters will be able to answer any enquiries by their Scouts who may hear of the Award by saying that the experiment is intended to see how far organisations which have not hitherto included such methods can successfully do so, and that we already have a series of graded tests of our own, covering roughly the same ground and leading up to the Queen's Scout Badge, which will always rank as a senior award to that of the Duke of Edinburgh.

The experiment will be on a limited scale, and as a rule the organisations which participate will select certain areas in which to work it. It may well happen that some of them will ask for help and advice from Commissioners and Group Scouters, particularly in connection with the Expedition tests. We are sure that, subject to the time factor, such help will be willingly given and will be greatly appreciated.

In a few cases, the experiment may be tried in schools. It would be a pity, we feel, if Scouts were diverted from their progressive Scout Training, leading up to the Queen's Scout Badge, in order to participate. Commissioners who hear of the likelihood of an experiment being tried in their area would be well advised to get into touch with the Director of Education. We shall be glad to be informed as to the areas in which such experiments are being tried in schools, and to know what arrangements have been made as regards Scout members of such schools.

A. W. HURLL

Chief Executive Commissioner.

IDEAS AND THINGS - VI

Apart from last month's account of our Senior Scouts' Broadland Cruise, the articles in this series have dealt with District events for either Cubs, Scouts or Senior Scouts, and I can imagine the man who does the real work, the man with a Troop to run, asking where he comes in. This final outburst answers his question. The following stunt can be used for a Saturday afternoon, but as used originally it filled in an afternoon at a Whitsuntide camp.

To start with the Seniors had presented themselves at the Store Tent asking for ropes, timber and blocks, and stating an intention to erect an aerial runway over the river. Actually it was not much of a river, although it enjoyed that illustrious title. In any case it was too big to be referred to as a stream, and fortunately for the Seniors' purpose one bank was rather higher than the other. There was also a tree on the far, or lower, bank, just where it was wanted. The materials asked for were handed out, and results awaited. In actual fact it turned out to be rather a good specimen of runway, although the tightening up device, based loosely on the Spanish Windlass system, was somewhat unorthodox. But it worked.

The site was one upon which we had camped many times, but had left it alone for a year or two. Reverting to the site for the camp under discussion we found so many other Troops there that we did not know whether we were on someone's District site, or if we had landed at a small Jamboree by mistake. On the day the runway was built every Troop present held a "Visitors' Day," and two Cub Packs came along as well. All the Scouts camping, the visiting Cubs, and at least one parent tried out the runway, and it still worked. Having established the efficiency of the thing, we will get back to the stunt which, if you remember, was the original idea.

Right. To start with the Troop did not know anything about it. They were expecting an afternoon with nothing to do but entertain visitors, and do more or less as they pleased. One P.L. was briefed, and away he went with his Patrol. No one else thought anything about it. The Ravens had apparently gone for wood, and not one observant lad noticed that they took semaphore flags with them. The wood was on the far side of the river from the camp, and on considerably higher ground. The nearest bridge across the river was about 200 yards away in the next field. Having set the stage, on with the drama.

After an interval, a member of the Raven Patrol was seen to be doing things with semaphore flags. No Scouters or Seniors were apparently around, and a P.L. with nothing better to do at the time sent an answer and received a brief message that John had fallen out of a tree, first aid gear was required, and a hot drink was called for. The P.L. promptly found a Scouter who, when the message was reported to him, merely told him to do something about it. At this point the lads began to get the idea that it was a put up job. However, they did get on with it. One Patrol got a fire going. (Mention must be made of the fact that all Patrols had been told to let their fires out.) This Patrol appointed themselves the reception committee, and started to prepare the hot drink asked for. The remaining Patrol took first aid kit and blankets to the scene of the accident, via the runway of course. Upon arrival injuries were pointed out and dealt with, and a stretcher was made using poles from the wood.

The patient was carried to the river bank, where a great deal of time was spent attaching the stretcher to the runway. A line attached to the stretcher was thrown across the river, and the (uphill) journey of the patient across the river commenced. By this time all the other Troops, Cub Packs, parents and the lot were lining the bank for free entertainment. Fortunately the stretcher arrived without mishap.

Now what has happened? To the critical Scouter or Senior Scout very little. Very little indeed. But who cares. To the lads a lot had happened. In the first place the whole thing was unexpected.



SUMMER DAYS (4)

In the second place getting a stretcher with a real live patient in it over a genuine river was something they had never thought of doing. And thirdly they learned that a good many things they had laboured over had real practical use.

And how about the Senior Scouts? Well, it was main runway.

But to this there is a tailpiece. Earlier in the day one of the Troops in the field, let us say a Troop from the town of "X," borrowed the runway, without so much as by your leave or may I? Shortly afterwards a photographer from a newspaper published in a city which served both our District and the town of "X" turned up. What our Seniors said when a photograph of their runway appeared in the newspaper bearing a caption to the effect that it had been erected by Scouts from "X," is nobody's business.

Well there we are. Half a dozen articles all ringing the changes on the idea of going from Point "A" to Point "B." I hope they will be of use to someone. And before anyone draws attention to the fact that the last spasm dealt with boating, I'll say right now that on a yacht also you just go from Point "A" to Point "B," but the Point "B" arrived at is not always the one you had in mind when leaving Point "A." Which all adds to the fun.

And for a final digression. If you were a D.C. who had just sat through a Group Show which was obviously not worth the money, no matter how little was charged, would you tell the Scouter responsible your real views, or would you risk letting him inflict the same punishment the following year? No, I'm not asking this for any personal reason, I'm just bringing it up because there are some pretty rosey Group Shows about. Not that yours comes under that heading of course..

Which brings us to the end of the first series of Ideas and Things. If you found anything of use you might let me know. Someday we might be together again, and until then Good Luck - and try not to think about resigning more than twice in any one year.

D. L. N.

J.I.M.

On the opposite page you see a very fine drawing of Sutton Park by David Bracken, whose sketches are well-known to members of the Movement, and I hope you will take the opportunity of having a close look at his map, for besides being delightful in itself, it gives you a very fair indication of the types of activity which will 'be taking place in the various parts of the Park in just twelve months from now. It seems hard to realise that between 8,000 and 9,000 members of the Movement in this country will be packing their rucksacs in twelve months' time to come to camp in the Park, and many thousands of others will be doing the same thing to move into private camp sites in the Midlands area. Yet it is only twelve months and during that time we shall all be going camping this year, we shall be doing our usual Christmas good turns and running the Group Show as well as taking part early next year in commemorative Services around B.-P.'s birthday, in fact the next twelve months are going to be filled with a great many Scouting activities of one kind or another and if we are not careful the Jamboree itself will be on us before we are properly prepared.

I do not know whether any Troop took the trouble to make up a map of the world with the countries marked on it who were sending participants, but I hope some of you did and used it to good effect to encourage Scouts to take an interest in this great event. I am now going to suggest that you make a copy of the map of Sutton Park to hang up in the Troop Headquarters, using it as a basis for observation tests, and other types of quiz.

I am not suggesting this merely because I think you need any more activities for your Troop programme, but because I really do think it is essential for British Scouts to become "Sutton Park conscious." I am sure it is time every Scout home in the country was talking about the Jamboree and making its plans in connection with visiting it.

I have met one or two Scouters in the last month who have booked camp sites in the Midlands area either through the Midland Counties 1957 Camping Advisory Committee or by getting into direct touch with land-owners. I was surprised to find that all of them are anticipating visiting the Jamboree each day during their camp, and whilst I would not wish to dissuade them, I do think Scouters need to consider whether this is the best possible way of spending their time at summer camp of 1957 since visiting a Jamboree is bound to be a tiring occupation even to youthful and energetic members of the Movement, besides which it would be a pity to waste the opportunity of seeing something of some delightful country which exists in the near vicinity. I would say visit Sutton Park as often as reasonable but do not do so at the expense of everything else so that the memories of summer camp 1957 are of tiring coach trips to and fro coupled with, long hours rushing about Sutton Park.

It has also been encouraging to learn of the numbers of Districts who are planning visits by train and by coach and they will be glad to know that the Park will be open to visitors from 12 noon each day from 1st to 12th August 1957 and visitors will be expected to leave by 10 p.m. There is just one matter over which I would earnestly ask all organisers of visits to take especial care. You will remember that last month I wrote of the tremendous help that British Railways were giving us. It is a matter of some concern to me that we do not embarrass them by making their job more complicated than it need be and I would ask that anyone who is thinking of organising a train-load does let us know so that any enquiries from British Railways Headquarters to us about these things can be dealt with quickly. Another consideration is that we can also help by telling you whether the day you are thinking about is already over-booked by visiting parties.

KEN STEVENS, Organising Commissioner.

OUR DISTRICT *By A.D.C.*

I found Hankin looking a shade gloomy when I called round on him the other evening, and asked him what was wrong.

"I've had two bits of bad news today," he said. "Percy is coming to summer camp, and Sandy isn't." For reasons known only to myself, I started guiltily at the mention of Percy.

"It isn't like you, Hankin," I said, "to be sorry that *any* boy is going to summer camp, and Percy has always struck me as a particularly well-behaved little boy. Just the sort, too, that I would have expected you to take a delight in helping, with a father out of work and an invalid mother."

"If the father was out of work through bad luck," said Hankin, "or the mother a genuine invalid, I'd be glad to help, but I've known the family for years, and the whole lot of them are just natural-born cadgers. I had Percy's elder brother Herbert in the Troop, and every year his mother used to come to me with a hard-luck story just before summer camp, and talk me into letting the boy go at a reduced price. Then when we got to camp I always found that Herbert had much more spending-money than anybody else, and that his mouth was always sticky from iced lollies. His mother used to let out, too, that he'd been subsidised, and the Scouts who had worked hard for their camp-money didn't like it at all."

I coughed. "Have you subsidised Percy *this* year?" I asked.

Hankin grunted.

"Only to the extent of eight bob," he said. "When she called on me I was determined to stand firm, but she has a really wonderful gift of the gab, and so in the end I said I'd find eight bob if Percy would earn the rest. He's not a good influence at camp, because though he behaves well, there's something slimy and sneaky about him, and I hoped the idea of working would put him off, but he brought all the money round tonight."

With deep humiliation I confessed that Percy's mother had called on me and wrung my heart with such a tale of woe that I had given her his camp-money, except for eight bob which she said he had earned.

"Sandy isn't coming," said Hankin, "because his old grannie at Multerton wants him to go and stay with her. Rather a blow, because he's my most useful P.L." I had some dealings with Sandy last year when he was demoted for smoking in camp, and left the Troop for a while, and started to go downhill, and then came back after a motor-smash that gave him time, in hospital, to think. Hankin has a soft spot for him because his father is always in and out of gaol, and only an extra-decent mother enables Sandy to keep the place he won at the grammar school.

So when I left Hankin I called round on Sandy with a book I had promised to lend him. He was out, but his mother was in.

"I'm sorry Sandy can't go to camp next month," I said. "Mr. Hankin relies on him a lot, I know, but of course if his old grandmother is keen to have him... She smiled rather grimly.

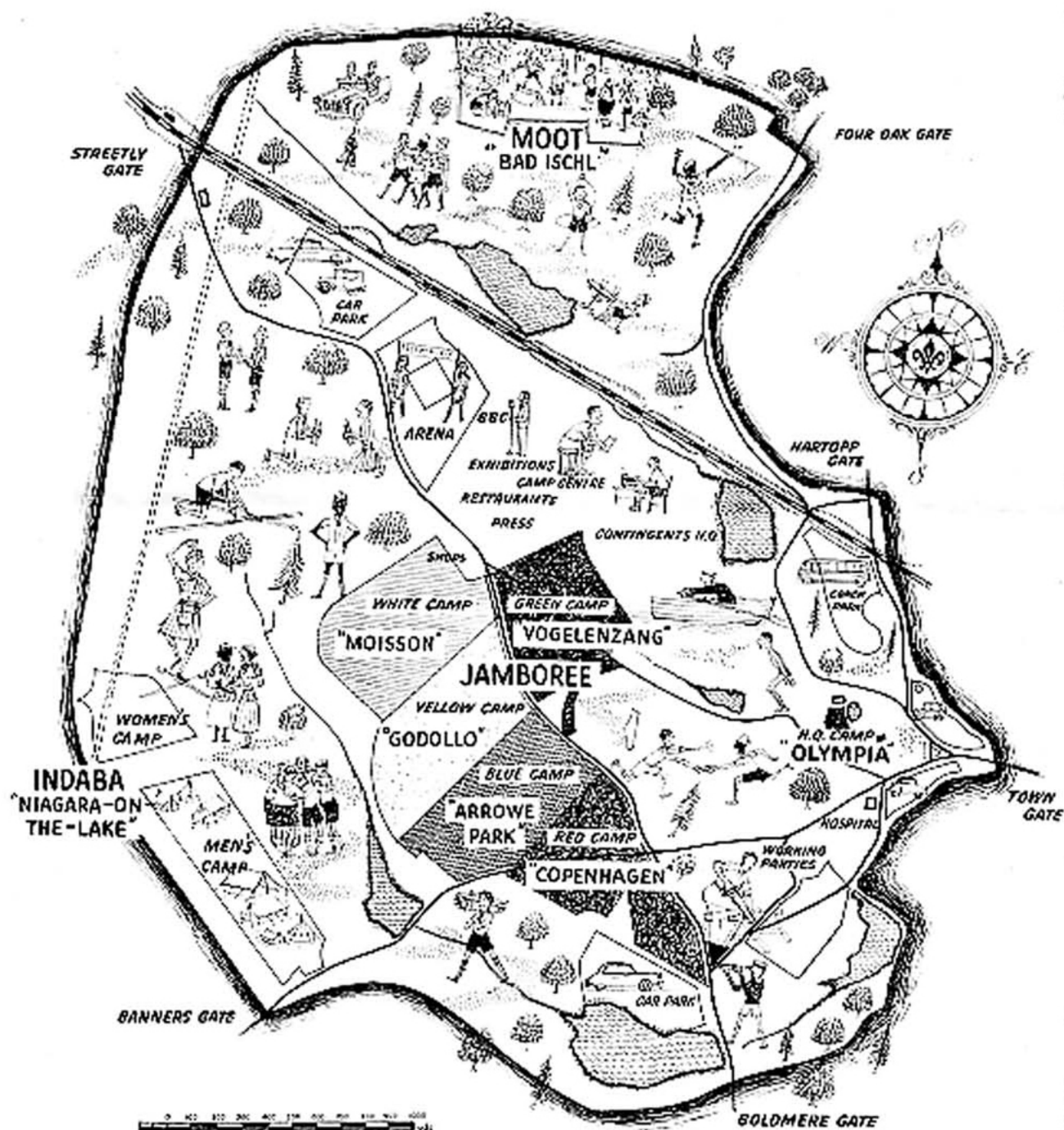
"She's not keen to have him at all," she said, "and Sandy is always miserable there, because they make remarks about his father, and seem to think Sandy will take after him. He only decided to go there because I had a chance to take a fairly cheap holiday at the seaside with the younger children, and Sandy knew I couldn't quite manage the money, so he drew out the cash he'd put into the camp fund and handed it over. He pretended to Mr. Hankin he was keen to go and stay with his grandmother because he was afraid Mr. Hankin would find the money himself, if he knew the position, and Sandy is proud."

It is all wrong that Percy should be going to camp and that Sandy should not, and it would be so easy to find some way of helping Sandy, by inventing jobs for him to do, and paying him, but for once I am not going to shove my oar in.

His Scouting means a great deal to Sandy, and that summer camp would have been a little bit of Heaven to him, but the sacrifice he is willing to make, just because he is so good a Scout, seems too fine a thing to spoil.

Sutton Park

CAMP LAYOUT



DEAR EDITOR

"P.O.R." and all that

DEAR EDITOR,

Every Scouter needs some time in which to sit back in an armchair and *think* about his Group, Troop, or Pack.

I think this is equally true about the Association as a whole. As a Movement we have (like Topsy) "just grown"; from the acorn of Brownsea to the tree, or should I say wood, of today. But rarely in that time have we had time to sit back, look at the Movement as a whole, and consider whether a comprehensive redesign, rather than odd tinkering, varied by occasional somewhat drastic surgery, is needed. I know the Commission on Post War Scouting was to have done this, but they produced their findings during the difficult war period and immediately after, and they were not in a position to foresee, for example, the benefits and the potential dangers of the welfare state.

Next year should come another revision of *P.O.R.*, ("Policy, Organisation and Rules"). I suggest that before we begin this we should carefully rethink, in the light of 1956, or, rather, 1958, our policy, organisation and rules (without the inverted commas or capital letters). The principles B.-P. laid down in 1908 are just as valid today as they were nearly fifty years ago, when you and I, Sir, were as near to the prams we had then recently vacated as we are now, according I gather to David Lumgair's younger Rovers, to our bathchairs. But the application of those principles needs to be made in the light of the conditions of today. And in such a "mental retooling" we may well find that we have retained things we no longer need, and, in particular, have made our organisation unnecessarily complex.

I am not suggesting that *S. for B.* needs rewriting, though it is instructive to compare the 1908 edition with the latest one. But I do suggest that *P.O.R.* needs a much more drastic revision than it has ever been given. And I do suggest that I.H.Q., as well as Local Associations, ought to think much more carefully about programmes and timings. Once upon a time the Scout year ended in September. Then it was changed to March, as giving a truer picture of the real strength of the Movement. But since then has come Bob-a-job, and now the poor L.A. secretariat in a large District has census, Bob-a-job, St. George's Day, Bob-a-job pay-in, annual meeting, and annual reports, plus generally a rush of County and District events all at the same time of the year. Nor is it necessarily a good answer to say "get more secretaries"; for that not entirely useless animal (if may so classify ourselves with all humility) does not breed with anything like the fecundity of the civil servant, who, in the opinion of G.S.M.s at census time, he is supposed to resemble!

So far as *P.O.R.* is concerned why do we need at the end of the rules relating to each rank a rule "A - wears uniform as in rule - and badges as in rule -"? Why do we need a separate rule for each Proficiency badge? Why cannot we have a simple rule that "members of the Movement wear uniform and badges as tabulated in Appendix X." And why cannot the details of Proficiency badge tests be relegated to another appendix. And a very great deal of consolidation could be done with the rules relating to *Scouters* and *Scouts*. There are a great many more "whys" I could put if I were not afraid that the printer's fount, or more probably your patience, might become exhausted.

So, as a final suggestion Sir, please can I.H.Q. appoint, not a committee, but a group of people, including some of the ordinary folk like G.S.M.s and L.A. Secretaries and Treasurers, to do some rethinking before any revising of *P.O.R.* takes place, and before next year's flood of forms engulfs the L.A. Secretariat.

W. T. THURBON

The Latest Amendments

DEAR EDITOR,

Well, flay me with an obsolete flagstick! When my lads told me on Tuesday, 19th, about Signalling being dropped from the Tests I was franidly disbelieving. Requests for immediate issue of four Second Class Badges were countered with - "When I have seen it officially in black and white - etc."

Advising me that I would find it in my Scouts in the morning, they allowed me 24 hours to digest it before they presented themselves to "Re-test Tenderfoot." Bang goes my night off.

It seems that the speed with which the lads received this news makes such slow methods as signalling entirely unnecessary.

Having had my "digestion day," I am prompted to ask (a) How are Scouts to communicate in open country, short of Walkie-Talkie or Telepathy? (b) Given that the 'Signaller' Badge is retained will it not look even harder now that the foundations for it, previously laid by Two Star and Second Class Tests have been removed?

The idea of Scouts qualifying for and wearing two Senior Badges does not appeal to me. Surely this can lead to Cubs going in for Scout Badges and to Scouts specialising in order to gain Senior Badges after having gained the Scout equivalent. Surely this will be to the detriment of boys who could widen their scope by taking up another Badge subject.

I foresee a Scout trying hard for a Senior Badge which could normally be just a little beyond him and letting other things pass, maybe even parts of First Class. This could have been a happier amendment if it had specified that a Scout, under 15, could gain and wear two Senior Badges "provided he is First Class."

K. McNALLY,
G.S.M., 9th Horley,

With apologies to the B.B.C.—VI



"have a go"

DEAR EDITOR,

The amendments in the Basic Tests for Scouts prompt me 'to write in protest, partly on account of the nature of them and partly because of the way in which they have been made. I have been a Scouter for thirty years and may be suspected of being a sticker for the old ways, but I am ready for changes when there is a good reason for them and if they are likely to make for progress.

In this case, however, although we are often exhorted by the powers that be to make more use of *Scouting for Boys*, we are now required to cut out of the Basic Tests two items on which stress is laid in that book, namely Exercises and Signalling, and which undoubtedly develop bodily fitness, self-control and mental concentration.

Also I am sorry for the abrupt way in which these amendments have been made without any opportunity for ordinary Scouters to discuss them. They are referred to in the recent pamphlet *Scouts of Tomorrow* as temporary alterations. Surely it would have been wiser to postpone such alterations until the whole revision of tests has been considered with chance of discussion?

There is a strong flavour about this kind of procedure of theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do and die.”

At least we might be told the reason why.

It has caused me disquiet during the last year or so to hear increasing criticism of Headquarters admit the many Scouters with whom I am in touch, and I am bound to admit that not a little of it is justified. This is a case in point which throws a strain on our loyalty.

H. H. A. SANDS,
*Archdeacon of Southwark,
G.S.M., 61st North Lambeth.*

DEAR EDITOR,

In order to prevent leakages, signalling, health exercises and highway code have gone by the board.

Enough of these half measures: let us ensure that not a single boy leaves the Movement because of any of the other difficult tests. (They must be hard, for we see that competent lay persons may be enlisted to cope with the intricacies of Second Class.)

Let us go the whole hog and make the basic qualifications as follows:

Tenderfoot. - The boy must have put his head round the door of Troop Headquarters.

Second Class. - The boy must have spent a whole evening with the Troop.

First Class. - The boy must have promised to attend another Troop meeting.

Queen's Scout. - The boy must have attended Troop meetings fairly regularly (to be interpreted liberally) for three months. This is open only to boys over 15, though babes in arms may qualify if the Scouter (or some lay person if the Scouter has no nous) certifies that the boy will no longer cry for his mother.

Proficiency badges. - We are deep in thought about these. Too many poor little chaps are throwing tantrums and toddling out of the Movement because some big horrid Scouter has thwarted their ego. Our further suggestions may take some time as we are trying to cope with a Troop of about 50, none of whom has so far shown any sign of leaking away. Whether they will be able to stand much more featherbedding we cannot say.

A. T. MINSHAW and E. F. COOPER, S.M. and A.S.M.,
5th Southchurch.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have no doubt that the latest amendments will draw down on you a deluge of letters, and I have, therefore, no wish to add to the possible volume, but may I very briefly make a few remarks and suggestions based on my own practical experience as a Scouter? I have to confess that I am glad to see the signalling test go. Its practical value is now so limited that it has long been difficult to raise much interest in it as a test. On the other hand, it seems a pity to reduce the number of tests by two. Neither the First nor Second Class Badges is really difficult to obtain and there seems a tendency now to make them too easy. Finally, with regard to Public Service, it does not seem quite in accordance with the spirit of Scouting to delete these words from the First Class, especially nowadays.

As purely negative criticism is rather useless, may I make the following suggestions?

Second Class. - For Signalling:

Draw up a list of personal requirements for camp. Demonstrate how to pack these articles correctly in a rucksack or kit-bag. Carry a verbal message for 1/4 mile and deliver it correctly. (Numbers to be included in the message.)

First Class. - For Signalling:

Pitch and strike a tent (about 8 ft. by 7 ft.) with one other Scout, using all necessary pegs.

Cook a piece of meat out-of-doors, and make tea and cocoa satisfactorily.

As alternatives:

Second Class. - Rules of health. Demonstrate how to ventilate a tent correctly, the necessity for cleanliness in camp and rules concerning use of latrines.

First Class. - Demonstrate how to ride a bicycle correctly and know the Highway Code relating to pedestrians and cyclists. Demonstrate that he knows how to maintain proper care of the machine.

Several of the above tests occur in other badges but they cover things that every good Scout should know and do - but heavens! there are still too few who can!

A. W. FLORANCE,
G.S.M., 15th Epping Forest South.

DEAR EDITOR,

I fancy that many Scouters will have read with real dismay of the decision, against which evidently there is no appeal, to abolish signalling from Second Class and First Class tests. Many more, like myself, will have even stronger views on the matter, and will feel that the sudden removal of this test from practical Scouting is a quite deplorable blunder, first because of the action itself, then because of the way in which the action was taken, and also because of the time chosen for taking it.

Why cut signalling out of Scouting at all? Who has not found it useful in Scouting activities - especially at camp and in wide games? Was the winking message at night, from tower or tree, not part and parcel of the fun, and, if you like, the romance, of Scouting? Was the test not a training in concentration and quickness of eye, even if, after it was mastered, it was put into a kind of reserve - like many other tests still with us? Was it not in wide games a useful alternative to the sending of messages by band, a slow and laborious process not always suited to the terrain?

As regards the way in which this has been done, one cannot help feeling a faint surprise that in a matter of such importance no attempt whatever has been made to find out the views of Scouters on the subject. I know it is not necessary to do so, but it could easily have been accomplished within two months - just as Scouters are at present being asked for their views on the age of admission of Cubs to Troops and so on. The matter of signalling was much more vital to the Movement than this other; but no such reasonable - some will be tempted to say courteous - action was taken.

As for the time chosen to abolish Signalling - it is common knowledge that it is hoped to have a great increase of First and Second Class Scouts next year - the "Jubilee Year." The signalling test stood in the way of this - it was a test to which the boy had to apply himself; it was a test which he either knew or did not know; some boys "couldn't pass it," and left because they "couldn't pass it." All this was true. But was this a good reason for taking the test out? To make Scouting easier for everybody including the slacker? Easier to get the Second and First Class Badge, as it now certainly is? I have some boys who will now have their Second Class badge next week, but is that good for them? I feel most strongly that it is not.

There will certainly be a tremendous increase in the number of First and Second Class badges won next year; and the public will doubtless be greatly impressed; but Scouters in charge of Troops will know that such increases represent a decline in Scouting standards, not an improvement, long hoped-for; and are the result of a policy that is making things easy for the not-so-keen and the downright slack. This may not be the intention, and I don't suppose it is for a moment; but with no proper alternative test provided this will certainly be part of the result.

Four years ago a Second in our Troop came along, on ten Monday nights in succession, to pass his First Class Morse. He failed nine times. He passed on the tenth. Was it not worth it? Is it surprising that he is now doing very well in the job he has chosen as his life's work? And further, although he left the Troop two years ago, Scouts in it still remember and speak of the way in which he persisted, week after week, and refused to be beaten. I cannot help thinking that this test was of great value in tangible and intangible ways to Scout and Troop and, therefore, on all counts I deeply regret its passing.

GEORGE G. CAMPBELL,
G.S.M., 107th Edinburgh.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was amazed and even shocked to read of the proposed amendments, particularly in respect of Basic Tests. It would be interesting to know where the Investigating Committee gleaned the information which has prompted these alterations. They certainly did not consult the rank and file of the Movement. My Pack seem to enjoy signalling, although I suppose one might say it was a little out of date.

In these days of such dreadful numbers of Road Accidents I think the deletion of the Second Star Highway Code test is nothing short of madness especially as schools in particular are going "all out" with Safety First, and I for one shall continue with this Test.

The same applies to the Public Service section of First Class. Why shouldn't a Scout know how to report an accident, how to control traffic and be tested on it? A typical remark from the Seniors in our Group was "Crikey! how much easier are they going to make it?"

What with the new Rover plan and now these new rules, it is becoming increasingly obvious that we no longer 'belong to a Democratic Movement, but are ruled by a group of misguided gentlemen who apparently think they know how to run Scouting better than did B.-P.

Are we going to pander to those who want an easy way to their Queen's Scout or set a high standard of intelligence and stick to it?

Please excuse the tone of this letter but I felt I *must* air my views.

PETER R. FARRANDS,
C.M., 82nd Leicesters.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have just read with great surprise and amazement, the alterations of the Cub Tests. Whilst I agree with Signalling being somewhat obsolete, I fail to see why "toe touching and knee bending" exercises and Second Star Highway Code have been deleted.

Surely Highway Code should be re-passed again and again, for I consider this to be a vitally important test for every Cub to pass at a very high standard. Without a good knowledge of the Highway Code a Cub might very well be a menace the road, particularly when on a bicycle.

If any Cub exercises are to be deleted I would consider that the somersault should go first for this is the one that boys have most difficulty with. If done properly the "toe touching and knee bending" exercises can be of the utmost value.

It will be interesting to know what other Cub Scouters and Cub Instructors feel on these points.

PATRICIA M. WEBB,
A.C.M. 2nd Ewell (Rainsters) and Act.C.M. 1st Ben Rhydding.

DEAR EDITOR,

The Committee of the Council have seen fit to remove the only Star Test that makes any mental demands from the boy of nine to eleven years old, Signalling. The rest of the Star Tests, I admit, are little more than general knowledge to boys of this age, and by removing signalling, we have lost one of the "attractions" in our shop window. What other Star Test offers the same scope for "stickability" or the same sense of achievement on passing?

The Committee also in their wisdom have seen fit to ignore the necessity of Cubs who cycle knowing the appropriate sections of the Highway Code. I know that this test is covered by the "Cyclist Badge" but, as such, is only regarded as optional training as distinct from the basic training of the Star Tests.

May I submit the suggestion that the industry and keenness of those Cubs who have learned their signalling be recognised by the award of a "Signaller's" Proficiency Badge. Also after reading the articles by P. B. Nevill, "My Scouting Story," I am tempted to suggest that the "Scouts of Tomorrow," need not Scouters and Instructors, but Nursemaids. I was under the impression that I had joined an Association that had something to offer the youth of today.

WIKKIAM R. MARTIN,
C.M., 5th Chelmsford (St. Andrews).

DEAR EDITOR,

The reaction of the 1st Arundel Troop on hearing of the deletion of signalling from Cub and Scout Tests was: "Oh! - surely we can carry on with signalling." It is surprising how this subject, when handled in the right way, interests, a lad and appeals to his sense of adventure. Take him into the country with flags and telescopes or helios, leaven with a few other activities and he will always come back for more. We have spent many happy hours in this fashion, one which has always seemed to us to be part of real Scouting. Are we to abandon a subject because it entails the application of a little work and knowledge?

Other than the fun and training in observation that can be gained there is the use to the community of thousands of people with a knowledge of communication work. Scouting provided many such people during the last two wars.

It is unfortunate that signalling will seemingly soon be a thing of the past in the Movement.

R. P. SWAFFIELD,
A.S.M., 1st Arundel (Earl of Arundel's Own).

DEAR EDITOR,

Now that the Second and First Class tests have been revised ("Scouts of Tomorrow?") we find that Signalling and Public Service are no longer "musts," and it has prompted me to suggest that to qualify for these badges a Scout has to submit a piece of embroidery or arrange a vase of flowers. This would ensure that there would be no shortage of "First Class" (?) Scouts.

In desperation, "**CREEPMG PARALYSIS**,"
S.M., 1st Rastrick Scouts.

Second Best

DEAR EDITOR,

It is unfortunate for Scouting that so many boys come into the Movement without a proper sense of values. If this were not so, they would not tolerate the unimaginative, repetitive programmes which are offered by a significant proportion of Scouters, and the resultant mass exodus of boys would force the guilty persons to alter their ways. The tragedy is that the Scouters are usually well satisfied with the situation. They admit that their Troop has its faults, but which one hasn't? they ask. The majority believe in Wood Badge Training - for others, and all of them have heard of THE SCOUTER. Some even read it. They are usually kindly, well-meaning men who are content to let things go on in their own accustomed way, as long as nothing serious happens. To enumerate the dangers of this attitude of mind would necessitate writing a book. I want to focus attention on one fault which often comes to my notice. Too many Scouters do not adequately prepare their Scouts for the First Class Journey.

A boy I know has just gone to Whitsun camp where he will do his First Class Journey. He has never been hiking before. The boy was quite surprised when I suggested that he should take into consideration the weight of his kit. He had, however, been told how to write a log - you put in everything of interest. Items of interest can usually be obtained from village policemen, whose signatures should also be acquired. My young friend knows that he will have to ask the Owner of his camp site to sign his log: the signature though is as proof that he camped, not that he left a tidy site. After teaching him how to find north using the watch - sun method, I was not at all surprised to find that he did not know of the Patrol Book on the journey.

We must not allow this sort of thing to continue. The case I have quoted is not an isolated one. The remedy lies with the Scouters - prevention with District Commissioners. I would suggest that if District Commissioners met the boys they set journeys for, they could ensure that all boys were fitted to attempt the journey and at the same time provide themselves with an opportunity to know every First Class Scout in their district.

G. B. JEFFERY,
Borough Road College Scout Club.

MY SCOUTING STORY -VII

By P.B. NEVIL

Just before Christmas, 1917, I received a letter from B.-P. asking if I would allow my name to go forward for election to the Council of the Boy Scouts' Association. This was a great honour for East London and all the Scouters who had helped in the work of laying the foundations on which Roland House was to grow.

In January 1918 I was elected, the youngest member of the Council, which distinction I held for a number of years.

I was already in close touch with Col. de Burgh, the first Commissioner for Senior Scouts, for I was very interested in the numerous problems which faced us in connection with this new branch of the Movement. It was not long before he asked me if I would become his assistant in his department. This I agreed to do, but as soon as my appointment was announced London raised an objection, as there was a feeling abroad that no one holding a warrant in the London set-up should also hold a position at I.H.Q. I at once told Col. de Burgh that I was not concerned whether I held a warrant or not, and that I was quite prepared to do all I could to help him without any official title, and -so the appointment was cancelled.

The problem of retaining the Senior Scout in the Movement had exercised the minds of Scouters from the earliest days as is evidenced by the correspondence which appeared in the H.Q. Gazette from time to time.

The conference that was held at the time of the Birmingham Exhibition discussed the question of Senior Scouts, and later in the year it was decided to start the Scouts Friendly Society, with the direct object of being the means of retaining the Senior Scout within the Scout Brotherhood. The Society was registered in the early part of 1914. The subject of Senior Scouts was again discussed at the Manchester conference, held at Easter 1914, when it was further emphasised that the Scouts Friendly Society was to be the means of solving the problem of retaining the interest of the Seniors.

B.-P.'s interest in the Society is shown by a memorandum in his own handwriting, in their possession, outlining the scheme. Added to the official side of the Friendly Society was to be a social side through the formation of camps with the Scout ideals as a basis. The outbreak of war later in the year came just as the Society was beginning to get on to its feet, and it never had a chance to expand in the way intended.

The war directed attention to Senior Scouts in various ways. So few Scoutmasters were left, that Patrol Leaders had to carry on if their Troops were to be continued. Then B.-P. thought up the idea of the Scouts Defence Corps, often referred to as the "Red Feather Brigade" from the red feather which was worn by members in their hats. This was to give Senior Scouts some preliminary military training prior to their joining the forces.

B.-P. evidently felt that the problem of the Seniors was not yet solved for he produced the scheme which was discussed at the first Commissioners' Conference at Matlock. In June 1917 the new scheme was issued by I.H.Q. and Colonel Ulick de Burgh was appointed the first Commissioner for Senior Scouts.

This scheme provided for Patrols to be formed in connection with Troops or as separate Troops under a local Association. B.-P. made a special point of the fact that the promotion of the older Scouts would stimulate promotion amongst younger Scouts, which he stated was often very slow where the older boys stay on as Patrol Leaders.

They were to wear Scout uniform with a special shoulder-badge and hat-badge. The former was red with the letters "S.S." embroidered in blue. Badge subjects were listed under four headings: (1) Naval and Mercantile Marine; (2) Military; (3) Agricultural; (4) Industrial, Professional and Commercial. An arm-band of a different colour for each subject could be worn if the Scout came up to a required standard.

If a Scoutmaster wished to form a Patrol he had to apply to I.H.Q. for a form of Nominal Roll. Colonel de Burgh scrutinised these most carefully and would never pass any Scouts who did not come up to the age, and other standards which were imposed. By the beginning of 1918 Scouters were returning invalided out of the Services and other men were coming forward, so the need for the Patrol Leaders Training Troop became less urgent and so we were discussing at Roland House the next move. Most of the Scouts left in the Training Troop were unattached and so it was decided to form them into a Senior Scout Troop. So the 31st Stepney Troop of Seniors was registered in February 1918, with myself as Scoutmaster. The first Patrol chose the name of "The Bears," and when later a second Patrol was formed we had Black and Brown Bears.

At this time there was a wave of the Woodcraft cult running through the Movement, and it was quite common to find both Scouts and Scoutmasters being given a Woodcraft name. I had adopted the name of "Big Bear" after the badge of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick - the Bear and Ragged Staff - which was used by some members of my family as their crest. So it can be seen how the Bears came by their name.

One of the first things that Colonel de Burgh asked me to do was to explore the situation in connection with badges for Senior Scouts. B.-P. wanted the badge to be a stepping-stone to help a Scout in his career. It seemed to us that to do this satisfactorily the tests should be set by or at least approved by the various trades and occupations, so I set about preparing a list of these.

B.-P. wrote to me urging speed as he had been talking to the War Office and the education authorities and he considered it of the greatest importance that we should put our scheme of training for Senior Scouts before than without delay.

But the more I delved into this the longer my list became and the more hopeless it appeared that we could ever get a scheme of this sort to work, and so eventually it was agreed to drop it.

Looking back I think that the real difficulty was the uncertainty over the age-group we were trying to cater for. We started with the idea that advanced badges would be welcomed by Senior Scouts and we were undoubtedly right here but as the age gradually advanced from 15 to 17 the emphasis was changed, for the attitude of the young man to the wearing of badges was a different matter.



FLAX HARVESTING SCOUTS IN THE HARVEST FIELD, 1918



HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL SCOUTS AT FLAX HARVEST CAMP

The advancing of the lower age limit for Senior Scouts is not easy to account for, but one factor which must have had a direct influence on this was the great desire on the part of a large number of Scout people to have somewhere in the Movement where we could absorb the many old Scouts when they came out of the forces.

1918 was to be a very busy year for Scouting. On January 5th East London organised at the Great Assembly Hall in the Mile End Road the premiere of the Scout Film *Be Prepared*. The Commissioner for London, Sir Alfred Codrington, took the chair, and during the proceedings presented the second Cornwell Scout Badge earned in London to Senior Patrol Leader W. Hickson, an East London Scout, and now the Rev. W. Hickson, Assistant County Commissioner for Essex.

Although the war was not over, far-sighted people were preparing for the difficult times which were anticipated would follow the conclusion of hostilities.

B.-P. had led the way in Scouting in reorganising the work of I.H.Q. Fourteen new members were elected in January to the Council. All of us were, I think, "working Commissioners" as we were referred to. A number of new departments were set up at I.H.Q. and new Commissioners put in charge of these. These were to be responsible for the work of their Departments, and to have full executive powers, except in so far as changes in principle or policy or expenditure of money was involved. Changes of policy had to be referred to the Committee of the Council and regular reports prepared each month for circulation. Money could only be spent if estimates had been put in and had received approval. The staff were to remain under the Secretary, notwithstanding the split up into separate departments.

In explaining the new scheme in THE SCOUTER, B.-P. said, "You can't run a live burning movement with a committee, any more than you can run it in water-tight compartments, but it is another matter if you put each branch of it under the hand of a keen, experienced Scout, with the several heads working together as a team in the game." This scheme of organisation has remained virtually the same right down to the present time.

Looking through the list of names of the new members appointed at this time I find to my dismay that I am the only one

Early in the year I.H.Q. were asked if Scouts could help with the weeding of the flax fields, and East London was asked if they could undertake this. Flax had not been grown in this country before but it was much needed for the manufacture of various military equipment and of the material used in those days to cover aeroplane wings. Mr. Kirkwood, who was my Assistant Commissioner in Stepney, came to my assistance and undertook the organisation of the venture. Scouts to the number of three hundred volunteered for the work and nine camps were arranged in the neighbourhood of Peterborough. Willesden helped us out with one of the camps.

The work was evidently done to the satisfaction of everyone as we were asked if four thousand Scouts could go down to help with the harvest, not only in Lincolnshire but in other parts of the country as well. This was a bigger job than we could manage in East London so, with Mr. Kirkwood still acting as Organiser for the Lincolnshire area, I.H.Q. were asked for help, and soon there were enough Scouts volunteering from all over the country. East London undertook one of the camps. I arranged two visits by B.-P. when he, and on the second visit Lady Baden-Powell as well, went the round of the camps and saw the Scouts at work in the fields. The flax had to be pulled up by the roots so as to get the longest possible fibre, it was hard work but the Scouts did it very well.

During the Easter holidays the Bears camped at Betchworth Fort. We found the concrete floor somewhat hard in spite of some straw, and on the Saturday we hiked down off the North Downs to Little Mynthurst Farm where B.-P. was then living. The buildings were delightfully old-world - two cottages knocked into one with a fine old barn, in which B.-P. had set out all his trophies collected from all parts of the world. He spent some time in showing the Scouts round, and they were thrilled with the tales he told. It was a memorable weekend.



Later in the year I spent a week-end at Little Mynthurst. It was always a great experience staying with the Chief and Lady B.-P. For one thing you could always be sure that you would be kept busy! If you wanted to have a quiet chat with him, the plan was to get up at 5.30 a.m., for at that time it would be his custom to go out for a walk with his dogs; if you missed this there was not much opportunity during the day.

After breakfast he would retire to his study to deal with his correspondence and the hundred-and-one things he always had on hand, while the visitors would be set to work in the garden. At lunch B.-P. would appear probably with a number of papers, and quite likely you would find one or more of these in your hands, these you would be requested to peruse and let him have your opinion thereon at tea-time. B.-P. had a wonderful knack of getting other people to work for him. You felt it an honour that he should ask you to help, and consequently you did your very best. This is one of the reasons, I am sure, why he accomplished so much during his life.

Later in June, B.-P. asked me to have lunch with him at the Scout Club to meet some of the leading men of the Y.M.C.A. to discuss various points in developments they were contemplating. I cannot now remember why he should have asked me to this meeting as I had had no connection with this organisation up to this time, other than any war-time work for them.

I was throwing all my energies into the new Senior Scout Scheme, and was in correspondence with Bristol, Manchester and Birmingham urging them to give serious consideration to the establishment of Senior Scouts. This was partly due to the problem which arose over Army Cadets and Scouts.

In a number of places Cadet Officers were being reported in the Press as saying that the Boy Scouts Association were fully in agreement in working with the Cadets by passing on their boys over 15 to them. I approached General Sir Robert Scallan, who was in charge of Cadets at the War Office, and was at that time also a member of our Council. I found that he was in entire sympathy with the suggestion that there should be no recruiting by the Cadets of members of other Youth Organisations, and in due course a circular went out from the War Office to this effect.

All the three cities mentioned above soon got busy and I went to conferences in each place to explain the S.S. scheme. At the one called by the S.E. Lancashire County at Manchester I found myself on the same platform as Hadyn Dimmock. It was the first time I had heard him speak, and I felt very proud of my old Scout. At this time also, I persuaded the London Scout Council to call a conference on the same subject, and this was held in June. B.-P. promised to be present at this but at the last moment he asked to be allowed to cry off as he had another very important engagement he felt he should undertake. It fell to me therefore to expound the new plan. The conference passed two resolutions to submit to I.H.Q.

1. "That the Senior Scouts scheme should for the moment be confined to the consideration of the retention of older boys who are already Scouts."

This was carried.

2. "That Senior Scouts should have the option of wearing breeches instead of shorts."

This was lost by an overwhelming majority.

(To be continued)

ROVER ROUNDABOUT

With quite a lot of news from all around I feel that here is at least something for you in the attempt to get your young men keen to go for Rovering in a big way. Your chaps are not too keen on this Badge business? - so what, so long as they learn to realise that other folk need a helping hand. Why not take a leaf out of the book of the Richmond and Barnes Rovers. Ever since the early 1920's they have gone along to the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen and done what they could to brighten up their lives, taking them out, helping with feeding at special occasions, and just talking to them. One of my own Crews go over once a month on the same job.

On the other hand Glasgow Rovers undertook to make six canoes for the Y.H.A. so that they could run a Canoe Cruise. A lot was learned from the making, it was time well spent and, what is more, in their case they got a canoe for their trouble. And while you work together the young man learns to live, understand and appreciate his fellows: work and talk can go on together.

Glasgow have been doing well lately. One Crew has two lady Instructors, who keep them on their toes whilst they learn the art of fencing! The church hall wasn't large enough so they have moved into a school for this side of their Rovering - an idea for many. The school people are most co-operative, and how many Crews who stick to the Den are very limited in their programme for that reason? Another way of widening one's outlook. Ever had a chat to a school caretaker and learnt a new angle on education? If the poor chap ever finds time, get him to talk to your Crew on "his job."

The 31st Croydon sent me their Annual Report, a very interesting document. Early in the year their leader had to "tear them off a strip" because they came late, lacked uniform and interest and possessed a very scruffy den. Backed in a large degree by the younger members, they were able to tell of assistance at Venturer Badge Courses, Camping competitions, help on a camp site. On their own account, they had Alpine practice during the winter on Box Hill (known as little Switzerland) before doing the real thing. They boast nine new members (six from Seniors, two from outside Scouting and one ex Scout), three fellows back from National Service and three newly-invested Rovers who, after a night hike as their initial test, arrived at the camp site for the ceremony after tramping thirty miles, owing to the miscalculation of their A.R.S.L. who set the Wretched course. (Badges for Rover Leaders! !)

Yes, they back up if the show is active. Good Rovering will be the fruits of those who use the right fertiliser (my roses respond in the same way).

What about the Handicapped fellows - we had some of them at the Cenotaph Pilgrimage this year, a whole Crew from St. David's Epileptic Hospital, run by a fellow from the Wood Green area in London. I'm glad to see him mentioned in their District News Sheet. What a lot these handicapped types get from, very often, one man's efforts. They feel part of a normal active show. Thank you, Brother Rovers, who under great difficulties help the less fortunate fellow along the road of life with a feeling of belonging.

London "Yellow Plumer" sent me a marvellous programme of a day run for the polio folk called "Polio Project." Several Groups took part and the Scout and Guide Associations shared the work and organisation. Two marquees were used for the refreshments and the decorations came from the Guide folks' gardens. They ran sports, with no lack of chair pushers, memorial trees were planted and the whole was topped up by our old friend Jack Beet, who ran the Camp Fire programme in a marquee, as the cold evening made it a little uncomfortable for the folk in chairs. Five and a half hours of real enjoyment, put into operation in the first place by a Rover who found that once the idea was broached there were more people willing to help than he had ever bargained for. Incidentally, London Rovers made a grant for the prizes given for the sports events.

A very comprehensive programme comes from Coulsdon, Surrey, covering April to September, with an interesting item billed as "somebody's holiday report." (We once listened to one in the Crew from a member who had been to his first holiday camp - most enlightening.) These lads do a lot of work maintaining their Group H.Q. and the new plan is going to be difficult for them. They even wrote rude notes on the bottom of the programme sheet, but I feel sure that they will make it work in time. I've been amazed to hear how many "yellow perils" are being fitted in on jobs that were crying out to be done. How about letting me know how your Crew are getting down to the new plan? It will help and encourage many to know of its progress.

2nd Hove "Crew's News" write up the R.S. I form. This is still not used as much as it might be. Give the fellows going into the Services the chance to use it; in many cases it can be of great help. They mention also that part of the County news letter is to have a Rover Section.. This can be very useful where Crews are small and to be kept in touch that way helps a lot, especially in the training of a few fellows where time, distance and education make attendance at District Crew Meetings more than difficult. Although some of our Commonwealth brothers travel up to 200 miles for a Crew Meeting, on our small island travel is much easier - bar a place I know in Suffolk, where the bus goes into town on Tuesdays at 2.30, otherwise you push a bike or walk. But this is where a good Rover Leader will rise to the occasion and if Rovering has meant so much to you, you will see the young man gets his chance.

They certainly took theirs in Leeds. Their news letter tells of the Crew going to listen to the London Symphony Orchestra when it visited their city. See that your programme is planned to utilise any chance like this, but don't make it too tight, so that when the odd chance and you can take every advantage of it.

Well, now, Rovering wants help. Whatever your job in Scouting see that the young man doesn't suffer: because unless we all make an extra effort to be patient and understanding we are going to have a "sticky wicket" for our batting. I have just come back from talking to a Crew I knew three years or so ago. They took in six Seniors to their ranks tonight and still left about twenty in the Senior Troop and all potential Crew members. So make sure your programme ticks and never lose sight of the fact that a job of work for the Crew is the surest way of publicising its desirability to the younger brother. Yes, give them the "privilege" of partaking in an effort which helps a body of less fortunate folk, the Group, the Move-meet and in the ultimate end themselves.

Make the most of the outdoor season. It's generally all too short. How about a line on your project training - moans not reported?

JACK SKILLEN.



14. - "WHERE EVERY PROSPECT PLEASES..."

Do you want a job of work done? Have you a camp-site to level or merely clear up? Do you want an exhibition policed? You have! You do! Then I wonder if I may recommend the Welikade Rovers. Mind you, it will take them a little time to get here: they have to come from Ceylon and they are handicapped Rovers; but what a grand job they will do for you when they get here!

Do you want an idea for a week-end hike? You do! What about 120 miles of thick jungle, leopard, cobra and wild elephant thrown in? A trifle too much of a good thing, you think? Pah! I know of a Crew of Handicapped Rovers who have done it. Yes, you guessed right, Welikade again.

Did I say "handicapped"? Yes, I did. Perhaps, however, this is the moment when I should explain that the Welikade Rovers are handicapped in a rather special way. Their handicap is barbed-wire, high walls and double-locked doors. They are convicts.

That, of course, you will, say, explains everything. When one is doing hard labour anyway, one might as well do the chores of a corroboree as any other joyless grind, and even a wild elephant is a pleasant change from a gimlet-eyed warder. You are probably right; but have you thought of the other side of the picture? Have you thought of the man with several years still to serve, who stands at the open gate of a camp and sees the road dwindling away into the distance, knowing that tomorrow he will be back behind bars; of the temptation to mingle with the crowd milling round an exhibition or to merge quietly into the jungle and disappear? Think of the number of times that such thoughts must have entered the heads of the members of this Crew during the thirty-odd years of its existence. What do you suppose has, for thirty years, restrained every single one of them from giving way to temptation? Loyalty? Innate honour? A new-found self-respect? I would not care to say, but that record stands and it is a proud one.

Fair enough, I hear you say, but what of the end-product? Does Scouting, with the freedom and consequent responsibilities, merely lighten the drear life of prison, or does it justify itself in the only way it properly can, by the regeneration of its subjects? I am no prison statistician but I doubt if any other group of convicts anywhere in the world can approach Welikade's record: that over the whole history of the Crew only one of its members has returned with a second conviction.

THIRTY miles from the frowning walls of Welikade, at Watupitiwala, another remarkable experiment is being carried on. In a pleasant house, just out of sight of the barbed-wire of the Borstal Institute, twenty or so selected members of that institution live in a self-governing community, barred from escape only by their Scout Promise and ruled only by the Scout Law, as interpreted by their own Court of Honour. This is in many ways a more remarkable adventure than Welikade. The prison Rovers are released and trusted occasionally, the Borstal boys are trusted all the time. The prison Rovers may be in prison for serious crimes (you do not get two years plus for leaving your car without lights even in a modern society), but mostly are first offenders who have gone to prison simply because their one isolated crime was a serious one. Borstal boys, on the other hand, may have committed no very serious crime, but they are essentially people for whom probation for first offences had already failed. Paradoxically, therefore, the convicts may be more trustworthy individuals than the "schoolboys."

It is not surprising then to learn that their escape record is not as good as Welikade's; nor is the regenerating effect so universal: cases have occurred of youths who have had to be transferred to the regular department behind the barbed-wire. Nevertheless, when all such cases are taken into account, the fact remains that the enthusiastic and enlightened governors and warders who have sponsored this experiment are first and foremost prison officials

and they would not take these risks if they were not confident that they were producing results.

In two cases at any rate they can point to striking results: I wonder if there is any parallel anywhere in the world for Her Majesty enrolling on her list of Queen's Scouts two resident members of one of her Borstals? They are both now out in the world and respectable members of society. It is no new thing for the Handicapped Section of our Movement to give us a sharp lesson, but I shall think of these two the next time anyone explains to me the special and quite exceptional reasons why no one in his Troop is more than Second Class.

Let us get the matter into perspective. In the February SCOUTER Old Hankin of "Our District" gave us a salutary reminder that our pride in the "bad-hats" that we have reformed must not blind us to the fact that our basic work lies with the ordinary, decent, law-abiding fellow. So it is also in Ceylon. I should like to tell you of the copy-book Scouting of the Udupidy School Troop, present holders of the island Merit Flag; of the social service work being done by a Crew and a school Group in Anuradhapura; of the lovely and original Scout huts at Christian College, Kotte, and Richmond School, Galle; of the wonderful suspension bridge built at the Southern Corroboree by Rahula College from Matara; of presenting Queen's Scout parchments on the Dharmaraja mountain eyrie as the sun set over the hills of Kandy and the lights of the town twinkled a thousand feet below; of a certain home-made tent belonging to a Troop of Tamil labourers on an up-country tea-estate; of the little village Troop at Harangala, so lost in hills and jungle that the road stopped with complete finality half a mile from the village. Even in the more orthodox field of Handicapped Scouting, I could tell of a Grand Howl by deaf and dumb Wolf Cubs which nearly had me in tears.

Nevertheless, I went to Ceylon to see what her Scouts could teach us, to see what her Scouts had developed that might be called original and pioneering. In all that saw and learnt in a tour that embraced seven-eighths of the Scouts of the island, nothing was more striking than this new aspect of Handicapped Scouting: so astounding has been its success that one wonders why such an experiment can have gone on for thirty years without being better known and more widely imitated.

C. F. HALE, D.C.C., N. Yorks.



"Can I help—get you some more steel wool or something?"

FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

History was made on June 13th when the Postmaster-General announced in the House of Commons that there will be special postage stamps to commemorate our Jubilee Jamboree next year and that they will be issued in the denominations of 2½d., 4d., and 1s. 3d. This is the first time that the Government of the United Kingdom has authorised a Scout stamp. Special issues are rare in this country as is confirmed by the fact that there have been only twelve special issues in the history of British postage stamps. This is a splendid tribute to our Movement and an honour which will give great encouragement and satisfaction to everyone. A few week-ends ago the District Commissioner for Stowmarket arranged an unusual but highly successful week-end Course for the P.L.s of his District. The theme of the Course was "Your Town." The first session on the Saturday was given by the Superintendent of the Police who spoke about the work of the Police and told the P.L.s something of crime detection.

He was followed by the Press and a reporter from the local newspaper described how a newspaper is produced. After this talk, the P.L.s were allocated newspaper jobs as reporters, sub-editors and so on and were told to produce a newspaper. A useful publication resulted.

On the Sunday morning, after early services, the Course reported to the Urban District Council Offices where the Chairman and members of the Council welcomed the Scouts. The Chairman gave a short talk on the work of the Council and then put the Scouts into the various Committees - the Housing Committee, Parks Committee, etc. The Committees met and discussed prepared agenda. The Scouts were regarded as Councillors and encouraged to speak their minds; one item: "An application from the Swimming Club to hold a swimming gala on Sunday evening," produced very interesting comments from the Scout Councillors. The Council clerks took shorthand notes of all that was said and decided upon.

The Scouts then returned to the Council Chamber to listen to talks from the Surveyor and the Clerk. During this time the office staff worked at high pressure and duplicated the reports of the Committees. When this was done, each Scout received a notice, together with the usual agenda and reports, to attend an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council. During this full Council Meeting, the Scouts were once again encouraged to speak and to make propositions and amendments in the correct way. So ended a most interesting and instructive morning.

The final item of the Course was a visit to the Railway Station where the Station Master gave a talk on British Railways, followed by the inspection of a signal box together with a practical talk by the signalman.

The week-end was voted a huge success by all who took part and it was certainly first-class training in citizenship. Some of you may have heard of the Third British National Conference on Social Work which is to be held in Edinburgh during August, 1957. The theme will be "Children and Young People" and it is apparent from the "Guide to Studies" which has been published that Scouters would have a great deal to contribute to the questions which are to be discussed. Obviously most Scouters will be otherwise engaged during the period of the Conference but - any who have the opportunity of joining one of the preliminary study groups which are being formed up and down the country would find themselves able to give valuable help and advice as well as broadening their own experience. Anyone who is interested may obtain further particulars from the Relationships Secretary at I.H.Q.

Some First Star Cubs were gathered together for instruction in first aid and the Scouter enquired if anyone knew anything about bums and scalds.

CUB: "Did you say Bums and Scalds?"

SCOUTER: "Yes."

CUB: "Oh yes; they're the funny American people on television!"

A. W. HURLL,
Chief Executive Commissioner.

THE GILWELL LETTER

The 30th Annual Gilwell Reunion will be held over the week-end of Saturday and Sunday, September 1st and 2nd, 1956.

The general arrangements will be as usual, namely:-

1. The Reunion is open to all members of the Movement who have qualified for the Cub, Scout, or Rover Wood Badge.
2. Scouters are expected to camp, making full provision for themselves. -
3. Bread, milk, and groceries are obtainable from the Providore. Bread and milk must be ordered in advance: groceries may be ordered in advance.
4. Tea will be available at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head per day. Previous orders will be greatly appreciated.
5. Camp Fire items from Counties will be welcomed and notification appreciated.
6. The Chief Scout hopes to be present at the Reunion.
7. In addition to the normal programme, which we hope will be as enjoyable as ever, we have arranged for Square Dancing to take place after Camp Fire on the Saturday night.

Members of the 1st Gilwell Park Group are reminded that annual subscriptions are due and will be gratefully received.

Gilwell has held its second Cub Open Day, and what a day it proved to be. The number attending was almost exactly identical with the number of Scouts attending the 8th World Jamboree, being somewhere between ten and eleven thousand. I think there is little doubt that the Cubs had a wonderful time and, now that we have lost the tiredness from our legs and shoulders, the staff consider the whole affair was well justified.

There was nearly five hundred Packs, some coming from very far a field, and it was a great tribute to the enthusiasm of the Cubmasters who made the arrangements to bring them. One hundred and fifty motor coaches brought the Cubs and upon arrival they consumed 13,000 bottles of assorted soft drinks. We have not yet been able to count the quantity of other things which vanished into the mysteries of their interiors!

For me the whole enterprise proved worth while when two Cubs came to me at the end and very nicely said "Thank you," adding "Can we really aim and camp here when we are Scouts?"

When, two years ago, we ventured on this Cub Day the two reasons I did so were: -

1. To give Cubs an opportunity of seeing a great many other Cubs and to give them some sense of the size of the Movement to which they belong.

2. To let Cubs see Gilwell in the belief that it would help some of them to stay on in Scouting and make them want to come back here to camp.

The only saddening feature of the whole day was the amount of litter scattered. We expected some, but we did not expect quite so much. Perhaps next year the Akelas who come will have a quiet word with their Packs about this very important aspect of their training.

It was something of a miracle, I thought, that the same Pack which won the Cricket Competition in 1955 won it again in 1956, the survivors of a hundred entrants. As they come from Essex the future for Essex cricket must be brighter than it has been in my lifetime.

I think you can take it that from the end of this month onwards we shall have no more places available on Wood Badge Courses at Gilwell this year. There may be a few cancellations, but it looks as though the "House Full" notice will definitely be up.

JOHN THURMAN
Camp Chief

LUCK OF THE MONTH

By THE EDITOR

May 19th. - Gilwell at Whitsun: Gilwell in May-time, Gilwell at its best. Behind the house the flowering shrubs and rarer trees which were given by the 100th Cub Wood Badge Course were flourishing, especially the metasequoia - that strange tree thought to be extinct for thousands of years and then discovered in China in 1944 - which is as fine as any in the land. All these rose out of the bluest skies of forget-me-nots. The trees of Essex Chase, which were given by the Scouts of Essex and include the two other metasequoia of Gilwell, are now growing into young treehood and adding beauty to the scene.

The Gilwell Rovers and Auxs. have in the weeks since Easter built a fine new Warden's Hut at right angles to the Providore, in perfect keeping with its surroundings.

May 23rd. - Young friend C, now an A.S.M., had his Troop in camp last week-end and was faced early on the Saturday morning with a Scout with quite a chunk of flesh out of his leg which he'd caught innocently enough on a jutting tree. Prompt action ended with an ambulance to hospital some miles away and eighteen stitches. But an ambulance was not available for the return Journey. The only way to get the Scout back to camp was a taxi. Wondering ruefully about his limited funds, C located one and they returned the three miles to the camp, where the driver said: "This one's on the house" and refused to take a penny.

We're surrounded by good friends: which is one reason we might sometimes recall for being true to ourselves, to the pattern of our training and to the purpose of our Movement. And trying to get away from our own parochial and personal desires.

May 29th. - The heading across the column on the front page of my morning newspaper said "No rain in sight." It has poured all day.

May 30th. - Our lovely days in Canada came back vividly to me today as I read the log book of one of the Scouts - Eric Wilson - who had been in the London Contingent: a charming log, and intelligent, decorated with nice funny little coloured drawings as well as photographs and mementos, it left no doubt at all about that boy's happiness last summer. Eric has also lent me photographs (prepared for projection) which were equally nostalgic in their effect.

June 4th. - Leslie Wolters sends me this from Camps wad Climbs in Arctic Norway, by Thomas Weir: "Luckily there had been time to spare in the morning before leaving, and we had boiled a pot of water into which we put dried soup, carrots, and turnips, wrapping it up in my sleeping bag before departure. It was now perfectly cooked and required only five minutes on the stove to put us right with the world. This improvised hay box method of cookery deserves to be better known. Such things as rice and porridge can be cooked to perfection, this way."

June 5th. - Printing costs now go up twenty per cent above last December's. What a life! Think kindly of your Editor's difficulties next time you don't bother to reply to any requests or can't trouble to see whether the boys in your Troop or District read The Scout - or disagree with something he has printed!

June 7th. - Interested to see that in tribute to the outstanding leadership given to the Movement by Canada's Deputy Chief Scout, the Montreal Region has named its new Wolf Cub campsite after Mr. Jackson Dodds. The site is a beautiful one on the shores of Lac Cloutier in the Laurentians.

June 12th. - Interested to know that Nottingham Area Branch of the B.-P. Guild have given an avenue of seventy-two lime trees to the Nottingham City Scouts at their Walesby Forest Camp Site: a generous and intelligent gift.

June 13th. - A sentence in a Scout fete programme which ran: "No one... can fail to be impressed by the spirit of lifeless service which is instilled into all its members." Perhaps not quite what was intended.

June 14th. - Among the many wreaths that came to the funeral of Tony Murphy, the little Cub who was mauled by the lion, came one from the R.A.F.



LUCK OF THE MONTH; SWAN WITH CYGNEST

Group commanded by Air Vice-Marshal Graham with these words: "In sympathy and proud recognition of a little gentleman who in adversity displayed courage and fortitude of the highest order" - words all Cubs and Scouts might hope they would be worthy of.

June 15th. - From a letter from Peter Woods, an officer of the Leprosy Service in West Africa: "At a gathering of young Rovers and older Senior Scouts, I was faced by a chap whose eyes were fixed upon me, his chin supported by his palm. I felt that here was one whose interests were not parochial, who perhaps felt that I was opening a window on a new sphere of thought. He asked the first two questions of the evening. Question one: 'Is that your car outside?' Question two: "Ow does a bloke like me get into your racket?"

June 18th. - In a current catalogue for autograph-collectors B.-P.'s is listed at 5s.

June 21st. - How right I was! To my query "to what extent do British boys make their own kit and like doing it," I had just three replies! - all in the negative. The places of honour are Gateshead (A. T. Winder), Harrow (F. H. Cruse) and New York (H. P. Keller). Three admirable quotations respectively:

"In my experience, British boys do not make their own equipment; they prefer to purchase good-quality commercially-produced articles. On the other hand, I know of many boys who have deliberately taken spare-time jobs for the express purpose of obtaining the wherewithal to buy their Scout equipment, and possibly this is self-reliance of a different, though not necessarily inferior, order."

"In this, as" so many other of our problems, we are battling against the whole present system. A home-made rucksack can never be anything like so elegant as the shop bought article, and mass production and trade unionism drive us to stick to our own individual last. We are baffling against principalities and powers. No satisfaction is felt nowadays at owning an article made by oneself when it does not look so chromium plated, cellulose finished and jet propelled. Many years ago I made my own tent, proofing it with soap and alum (what a mess!) and my brother made a rucksack, complete with cane frame, but neither could have been called elegant and both gave place to the shop bought article as soon as funds would allow. (Oh dear, now I am saying we were as bad as the boys of today. That can't be. I must change the subject.)" ...

"You don't distinguish here [i.e. New York] between those who make their own tents and those who buy them. You distinguish between those who sleep in tents and those who sleep in cabins (summer time). Maybe one Troop Leader feels like being tough and applying the present craze about 'Do-it-U-rself' in his Troop. He then probably would go out and buy the official Boy Scout 'Do-it-U-rself-tent-building-kit' and build a tent according to the enclosed prescription. He would pay £10 for the kit, but for the prepared tent he would have to pay say £10 6s. 6d.! - This is like a S.M. here I know who taught 'flint and steel' and went to camp... without matches but with a big box full of equipment needed for flint and steel fire making. So, let's consent on the lazy habit of buying tents, but making the more frequent use of them."

Thanks, pals - all three of you!

REX HAZLEWOOD.

JUNGLE DAYS - XI

“THE STRENGTH OF THE TROOP IS THE PACK”

This year I had the great joy of three months' leave in Malaya - two months of which were in Province Wellesley, where I had lived for twelve years before going to Borneo. So I found myself back again with the 7th Butterworth, a Group I have known since 1940 and whose Pack I had used as a guinea-pig for all sorts of experiments while I was H.Q. Commissioner for Cubs for the Federation of Malaya. I had used Malay, Tamil and Chinese Cubs from that Pack when starting new vernacular Packs - I don't know how I could have done the job if it hadn't been for the 7th Butterworth! The spirit of the Group has always been the best, and that is as true in 1955 as in 1940. The secret is in the Pack, which has kept to the traditions of the Group for fifteen years. The Group is singularly lucky in that the G.S.M. started his service as a Scouter as A.C.M. in the Group fifteen years ago and now combines his work as G.S.M. with that of A.D.C. Cubs. He has seen to it that all through the years the Group has had a good Pack, and the boys have gone up progressively through Boy Scout and Senior Scout Troops and been jolly good Scouts all through. During my three months in Malaya I was continually meeting young men whom I had known as Cubs in the 7th - I stayed for the whole of my two months in Butterworth with one; another I met in Kuala Lumpur, the federal capital. I was in uniform as a member of the Training Team running a Wood Badge Course at Castle Camp, and he hailed me with delight. "Hello, Ko!" he said, "Do you remember me? I am Tikus!" ("The Mouse" - a name I gave him in 1940 because he was the smallest Cub - a tradition the Pack have kept up). At the great Agri-Horticultural Show I met another young Malay, who had been a Cub in the same Pack at the same time, and is now a lecturer at the Agricultural College. Others are now Schoolmasters at St. Mark's, their old school in Butterworth. All spoke with great affection of their time in the Pack as "the old days." And their post-war successors, those nice kids I had such a great time with from 1947 until I left Malaya for Borneo in 1951, are now Senior Scouts on their way to Queen's Scout - the Sixers are now the P.L.s and one of my regular helpers then is now the very efficient Troop Leader. It was "going home" to be back with the 7th Butterworth (one of the boys said on my arrival "When did you come home, si?"). It is a Group I would be proud to take anyone to see. And truly "the strength of the Troop is the Pack."

Tough Camp.

My letter in the June, 1955, SCOUTER about the Dayak boys of Cub age and under; who can venture out alone in a prau on a great swirling river, and who come to school with a great clanking sword (a duku to be exact) by way of a penknife, and who are capable of single-handed cooking a meal for ten people, aroused a lot of interested comment amongst my Scouter friends while I was in Malaya, and I determined to try an experiment with Cubs there. So I ran an experimental camp for fifteen Sixers and Seconds, six being English boys from the R.A.F. camp at Butterworth (the extremely English name of this small Malayan town is due to the fact that it was named after a Governor of Penang, in which settlement it is situated; the Malays call it "Bagan") and nine being Malay, Chinese or Tamil Cubs from the 7th Butterworth. This made three Sixes of five, with a Scout (ex Cub) as a "guardian angel" to each Six. Servicemen's sons in Malaya too rarely get a chance of mixing with local boys; this was a chance not to be missed.

I am afraid I ignored all the rules of a traditional Cub camp (of which I have run dozens - my last in Penang being for 120 Sixers) and treated the boys as if they were Dayaks of that age (and therefore completely capable of looking after themselves). I had no other Old Wolves (I can imagine cries of horror from English Cubmasters) and the Cubs did everything themselves. They pitched their own tents and cooked for themselves, one Six at a time, under the eye of their guardian Scouts.

As I expected, everything went off swimmingly; it was a jolly good camp. We could only spare a long week-end as it was term-time, and on the Saturday the whole Pack hiked up Penang Hill - 2,300 feet of fairly stiff going, in the tropical heat (but again the sort of thing a Dayak boy would take in his stride). The Cubs entered into the spirit of the thing and thoroughly enjoyed themselves - the camp just ran itself!

"A good thing to have done!"

I think those Cubs who climbed Penang Hill with me that day would have made the same comment as their big brothers of the Rover Crew (all ex Cubs, of course, being 7th Butterworth) made after their first experience of caving. During the Rover Camp at Sungei Patani in Kedah in 1948 I took the Crew through the great cave which runs through Elephant Hill. Now as speleologists (or whatever they call themselves) know, the floor of a cave is not like a ballroom - it is more like a mountain range. Our paraffin torches gave a puddle of light about five feet in diameter - beyond which was blackness and possibly a forty-foot drop. By the time we got half-way through some of the Rovers were asking when we would be turning back, but we insisted on going right through. When at last we had reached the end and we were out in the warmth of the sunlight they sank down on the ground with a sigh of relief and said "That was a nice thing to have done!" I now look back on twenty years as a warranted Scouter, fifteen of which have been with the Cub Section. There have been times of exasperation - times when I have wondered if we would get through with what we had taken on - but now looking back at it all, and thinking of those big fellows I started on their Scout life fifteen years ago, I say "It was a good thing to have done!"

The T-Shirt.

I am always behind with Scout news - the October "SCOUTER" has just come, and I was interested in the correspondence on the subject of summer uniform for Cubs. If ever I were to run a Pack in England again I would adopt the uniform Packs in the Far East wear - a sort of cloth "T-shirt" with a round neck and two buttons, made in blue or khaki cloth. Smart, cool and quite easy to wash.

Two Far Eastern Cub Rounds.

"Rlkki" Melville Smith has kindly sent me a copy of the little book of Cub songs she collected - I hope to teach some to our brats here. Here are two we sing:

(1) Malay round (tune and meaning "Gaily sings the donkey")
Keldai menyani, pada pegi han, Tidak beri makan, begini kata keldai, "Ee ho, ne ho, se ho, echo, ee hay!"
("k" at the end of a Malay Dayak word is the glottal stop and is not pronounced. English example: "Bo' 'le").

(2) Sea Dayak round (tune: A Boat, a boat, haste to the ferry).
Batak' batak! lalu bekayoh.

Kitai mansang enggau rindu.

"Regup! Regup!" munyi sungayoh.

Meaning: Get on with it! And paddle!

We will go on our way joyfully.

"Regup! Regup" says the paddle.

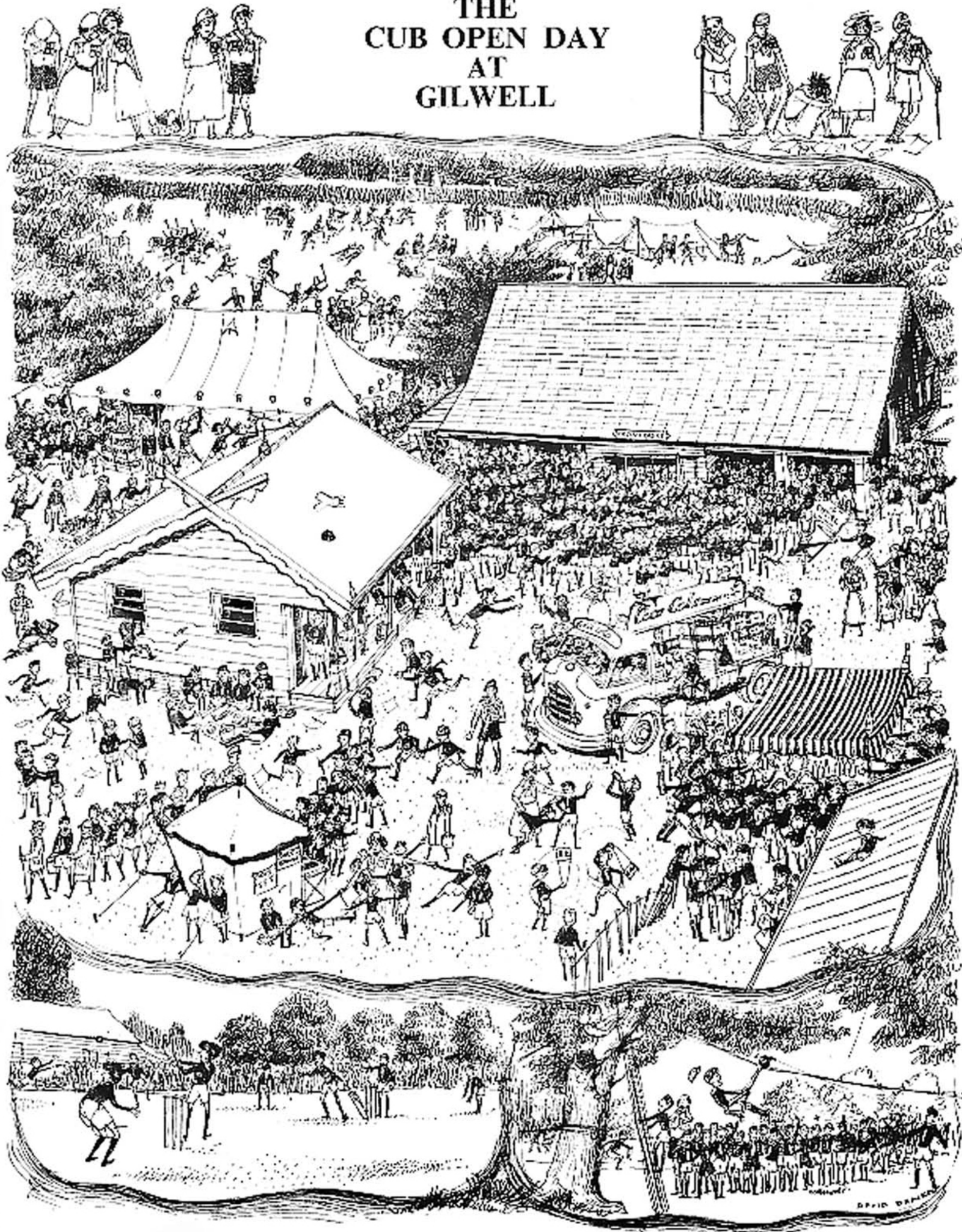
We often sing the latter when paddling *our prau*.

The Chief and the Cubs.

I took a party of Malay and Dayak Cubs over to Simanggang to meet Lord Rowallan when he paid us a visit a year ago, and I must tell this story. Simanggang is a three-day journey by sea from Betong (at least we took three days, spending one lovely day at -Subuyau, where there is a cave the Cubs loved exploring) and after the excitement of the Chief's visit - in which he saw a Pack meeting run in Dayak - we all left about the same time, the Chief in *Punai* and my Cubs in *Fyfe Bay*. When we reached Subuyau in the dark we found we had to moor alongside *Punai* and the Chief asked the Cubs aboard. I went off to arrange accommodation for the night ashore, and when I came back I found the Cubs in possession of *Punai* and the Chief teaching them how to make "Bunny-rabbits" as we used to call them - the Cubs called them "Tikus" - out of a pocket-handkerchief.

ERIC H. SCOTT,

THE CUB OPEN DAY AT GILWELL



OFFIC DANIEL

PACK NIGHT - XV

How often one is asked - can you give me any fresh ideas for Pack programmes? It is very difficult to make up programmes all the year round and never be stumped for ideas. Old Wolves' meetings and P.T.C.s (even if you have the Wood Badge) help considerably to give one new ideas, especially those who run isolated Packs. The following suggestions may be of use to some C.M.s and I hope you will enjoy watching them in action as much as I did.

A way with leaves and carbon. Collect a variety of well-known leaves - if your Pack is in the heart of a city, this isn't so easy, but perhaps an expedition could be arranged. The leaves should not be picked when the trees are wet. Ask your Pack to beg pieces of carbon paper which are not too worn, the type used for duplicating. Some Cubs must have a relative who works in an office or perhaps you do. Next you will need some pieces of white cardboard, postcards are excellent, but this adds to the cost, and finally, a few pieces of tracing or greaseproof paper plus a pencil per Cub. The pencil point should not be too sharp. Method. Place your card cut into uniform pieces on your den table, on the card a piece of carbon - the carbon of course is placed as for duplicating, now the leaf with the right side facing you. On top of the leaf a piece of tracing paper. Now all that is left is for the Cub to make the print, this he does by rubbing the tracing paper carefully with his pencil until the leaf shape is filled in. With luck, he should now have a very good print. I suggest that a Scouter prints the name of the leaf on the back of the card. Having made a good selection of leaf prints, they can be kept indefinitely if you cover them with cellophane. The prints have many uses. Nature training in the winter when trees are bare. For memory training, let each Cub or Six, according to your numbers, examine the prints and names, then see how many they can remember when the names are hidden. Let the Cubs try to match the prints with live leaves - suggest the prints are left in the den, they stand to get damaged otherwise!

Colour Training. Ask your local decorating firm for old colour cards. Try to get a card for each Six, but they must be all alike. Now let the Cubs cut the cards up into the various colour strips, leaving the colour name on. Sort into sets and secure with an elastic band until required. Give each Six a set and send them out to collect (a) natural objects, (b) a real scavenger. Each object must match a colour strip. C.M.s beware. I was once brought a small frog (alive) in a match-box, both toned with colour strips, but alas the frog was a little large for the box and livened the meeting considerably by hopping round the den. Another Cub had a grass snake up his jersey, the snake also toned with a colour strip! Remembering again those who have not the wide open spaces available, this game is good fun in the den, each Six "matching" his strips with objects around the den. It is also fun to confine it definitely to trees, each leaf, twig, pieces of bark, etc., can all be matched.

Packs at some time or another are bound to take part in the Group Concert, even at the risk of Akela having a nervous breakdown. Large Packs have the advantage over the smaller ones as they have more "artists" and can usually manage a play, songs and recitations. The small Pack may not have actors in their numbers and their singing may not be strong enough to drown the "growlers." The hit of a combined concert I attended some while ago, was the local Cub Pack performing a well-known English folk song all about animals. The Scouters had made very ingenious head attire to represent the animals. Unfortunately, the Cubs were so thrilled at appearing on the stage, that when the time came for them to don their headgear, they put them on in anything but the right way. The duck had a beak out of a Cub's right ear, the sheep had his head on back to front, the cow had a horn fore and aft, while the pig got so excited his mask slipped amidstships and the Cub looked over the top with Cub cap firmly on his head. The audience were so enthusiastic that they encored twice. The Pack thought it was their singing and worked themselves up into a real crescendo and the growlers came into their own! While this little reminiscence

may have amused you, it might be more helpful if I enlightened you with details. Find a suitable song; one about animals, and when the animals are mentioned the Cubs come forward and put on the appropriate head attire and continue singing. The headdresses I have mentioned were made as follows: Duck, large white calico shape right over head, beak yellow stiffened with card, under this a hole for singing. The eyes were inked on and the pupils cut out. Pigs, mask heads obtained from local butcher or grocer who advertise a well-known brand of sausages. Cows: made from old stockings, horns stuffed. Sheep: crowns of old hats covered with real sheep wool collected by Cubs, for town Packs, a white curly fabric would be just as suitable. If a report reaches me that all Packs are returning to the jungle, I shall know you are trying out this idea.

RAKSHA.

Yarns with the Pack

4. THE MAN WHO SOLD HIS SHADOW

There is a famous German story of a man who sold his shadow. But who would want to sell his shadow and who would want to buy it, and how would you bring off the deal? One fine summer's day, a young man, who wanted to become rich and powerful and who was very ambitious, was walking along when he was overtaken by a merchant. "You have a very fine shadow, young man," said the merchant. "Have I?" said the young fellow. "It is September, the month of long shadows; besides, the sun is low in the sky." This he said, thinking the merchant wanted something to talk about. But the merchant said earnestly, "I am buying shadows." The young man thought he was joking. "I should like to buy yours," added the merchant. "I will have a game with him and see if I can strike a bargain," thought the young man. Aloud he said, "Well I don't know that my shadow is of any use to me. What will you give me for it?" The merchant pondered a moment. "I cannot give you a lump sum down, but if you sign this paper to say that I may have your shadow, I will undertake to make you prosper in all that you do, so that you become richer and richer, and excite the envy of all who know you."

This was indeed a bargain-offer and it was closed with on the spot, the young man signing the paper, the old merchant taking a pair of scissors from his bag and nipping off the shadow quite close to his heels. It was a very neat job and quickly done. Then he rolled up the shadow and put it into his bag. He walked off with a peculiar chuckle.

The merchant did keep his part of the bargain. The young man certainly prospered. Everything he touched seemed to turn to gold. At first he did not miss his shadow and people were too busy admiring him to notice that he did not possess one. There came a day, however, when some silly person, with nothing better to do, suddenly said to a friend, "That's queer!" "What?" said the other. "He has no shadow." "Don't be silly. This sun is affecting your head." "No. I mean it! The sun is blazing, we all have shadows, but he has none..." The other looked, and saw that it was so. Curiosity once roused, people would pass on this piece of gossip, would nudge their friends, and whisper the information behind their hands.

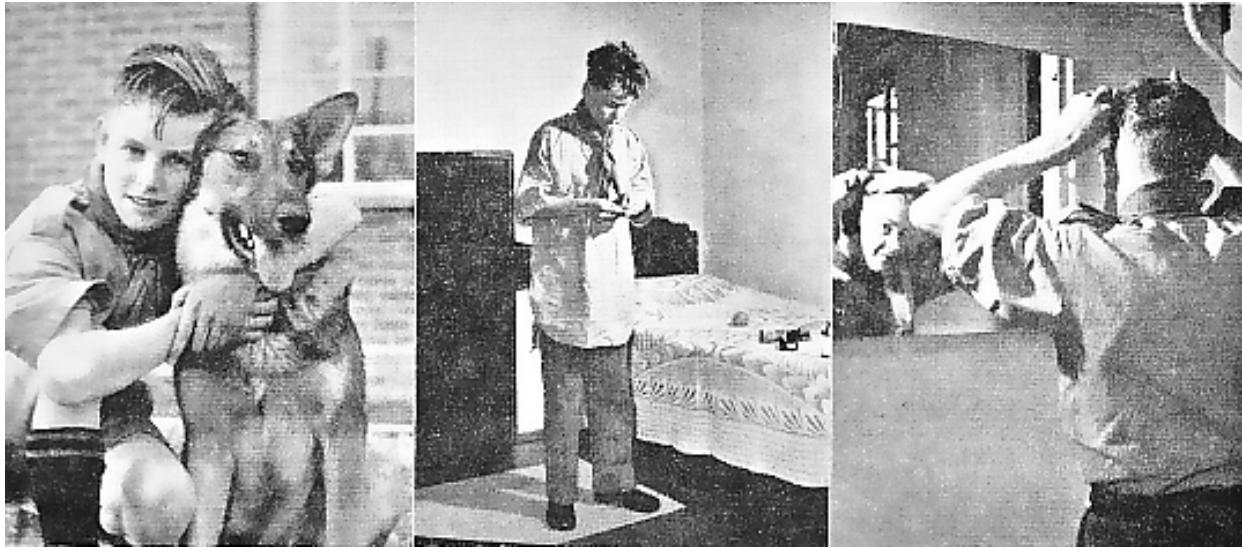
The man who had sold his shadow noticed what was going on and how people began to avoid him. He started to feel uncomfortable and began to miss his shadow. He found himself looking behind him to see whether it had returned. But no.

He now began to avoid going out in sunny weather in order to prevent comment. Soon he grew so nervous and afraid that the sun might shine, that he avoided going out on dull days as well as sunny ones. In the end he became a recluse, went out of his mind and so died.

He had given away a part of himself and could not live without it. If we part with our honour we sell it too cheaply, whatever we gain in exchange. If we live a truly good life then even the shadow we cast, unsubstantial as it is, will be regarded by people as a blessing. We read in the New Testament that sick folk were placed in the Apostle Peter's path, because it was thought that his very shadow would heal them.

Shadows, as well as sunshine, are a part of life.

E.J. WEBB



BOYS IN NEED

So much has been written, debated, televised, etc., about lads in need, the under-privileged boy, often the unwanted, unloved boy, that I hesitate to try to interest you in this subject that will be with us I am afraid for many a long day if not for ever, whilst we live in an imperfect world.

However, the Editor of *THE SCOUTER* stayed at Orchard House for a week-end not so long ago, and here he saw and heard much that interested and even thrilled him. Orchard House is set in a small village named Stock, near Billericay, Essex, known to many Scouts of London and elsewhere, many from overseas, and members of our Sister Movement. Here in its lovely grounds we have many Scouts and Guides camping. It is in that setting "Our Boys' Home for Lads in Need" is to be found. This home was the result of much hard work, prayer and thought, in which Scouting has played a great part. For many years the Warden of Orchard House was Skipper to a large East End Troop: he still is the very active G.S.M. At one time he was D.C. also of that East End District; now he amongst other things is an A.C.C. in the county of Essex.

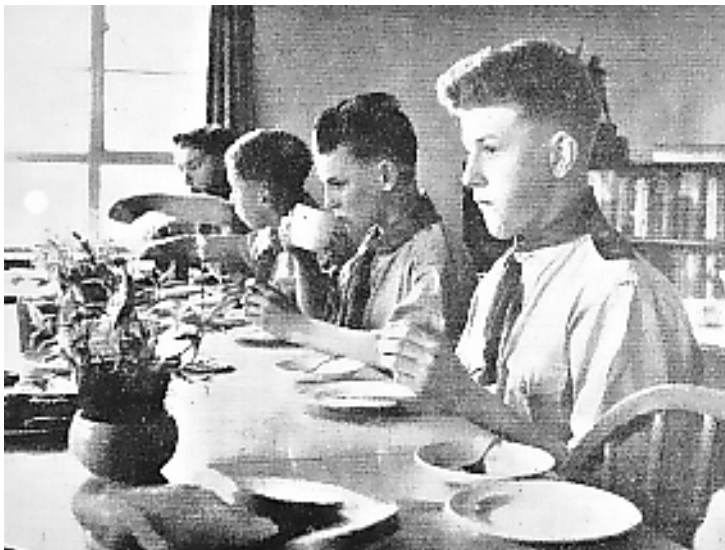
Some years ago now this then young Scouter saw the problem of the difficult lad in the dock area. He also noted that for the District his Group was a very happy, respectable Group.

Then one day a laddie rather untidy in a jersey with its elbows out, his knickers (we now call them shorts) having two what are termed in the Fast End "bull's-eyes" (patches in the seat) - this lad rather frightened, looked up wistfully said, "Please sir, may I join the Scouts?" He looked at his Troop all ready for Inspection - smart uniforms, red scarves, all neatly in place. Then at "Troop Alert," with a snap, over eighty lads (I said it was a large Troop) sprang to the alert as a young, frightened boy was introduced to what was to be his Patrol Leader. Today that same lad is an A.D.C. with a home of his own and a family. That lad had not had a chance till a Scouter said, "Yes, of course you can join."

I realise that after many years of Scouting (more years than I care to remember at times) the game can do more than any one individual organisation existing can in helping lads who need real help.

I couldn't agree more with those Scouters who say "I still think something ought to be done for the ordinary plain sort of boy" (see "Our District," February 1956).

My Troop in the East End of London was full of what is termed the ordinary boy, and it is the ordinary boys from Orchard House that I strive to help to attend that Troop, Scouts' Owns, Parades, Camps, Hikes, etc., because though in need they also are just ordinary boys.



There is nothing extraordinary in a boy through circumstances making mistakes, through lack of real parents getting into trouble, through the fact that his mother is a lady of easy virtue and his dad is a coloured unknown. The Greatest Boy of history during His lifetime said "Suffer little children to come unto me." He didn't say just the fortunate children or even the good children, but children.

Before I go further, speaking of some of the lads I know and have helped, please remember that in every boy is a spark of the good. It is our duty as Scouters to fan that spark into a flame.

Orchard House was the result of many years of hard work and prayer, many years of great trials and obstacles to be overcome.

Then one day prayer and work were answered. The United Kingdom Carnegie Trust Fund said to the West Ham Central Mission, "We will give you the home for lads if you will run it."

A. comes in need from an East End area, in moral danger, mum and sisters selling themselves, lad doorkeeper of this house of ill repute, handed to authority, later boarded out, interfered with by foster parent, returned into care, later boarded out again, this time seduced by the woman; a lad of 14 she a woman of over 30!

Today in Orchard House he is a keen Scout, a lover of games, and animals. Here he has found real help and love, the dark days gone; he has come into a boy's rightful heritage, possible through friends in Scouting and others.

B., a laddie undernourished, beaten, cowed by a brute of a father living in a hovel in South-East London, mother given up hope. Today, after nine months, a happy, cheerful, cheeky lad, a Scout in my own Group. The only fear he has today is when he says to us, "Skip, I won't ever have to go home again will I? Please don't let them send me away from you and Auntie Megan (my wife), or Miss Caplin and Terry and George." (Scouter members of our small staff, both voluntary.)

C., father goes off with another woman, mother loses hope. Lad drifts into trouble, steals, etc., caught, sent to court then to us. Today that lad, sitting for his General Certificate of Education, is a grand lad, a keen P.L. in a local Troop.

D. comes to us beyond control from another county. Mother and father at logger-heads, lad buffeted between, resorts to truancy, thieving, etc. Now after four months, "No, Skip, I don't want to be a blooming Scout. I want to join the Boys Brigade!" Today that laddie is a happy member of a Boys Brigade company, and also doing very well at school

Friends, I could go on and on, but I guess the Editor would be slashing! But I *must* say this, here am I with a large number of lads in need of care and protection, unwanted, unloved, and often, when they arrive, unwashed. Here we try to introduce them to a good normal healthy way of life. Here we try to make them into the ordinary plain boy who stands in a half-circle and says, "I promise on my honour that I will do my best," etc., whilst perhaps only a few weeks or months before he had stood in a juvenile court pale and trembling, having got into trouble.



Every first Sunday in each month a large number of East End mums and dads open their homes - many humble - to these lads, entertaining them to dinner and tea, so that those boys from Orchard House who are Scouts or belong to the Boys Brigade, can attend parade and go to Scouts' Own, with the sons of just ordinary plain Christian parents, all this free and in the spirit of Him who said, "He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone."

We have no sloppy sentimental methods at Orchard House. Our key is Christian Love and the Scout Spirit, plus the prayers and backing of many boys (of all ages) who wear open-neck shirts and a scarf loosely tied around their necks.

Here we take all boys, irrespective of colour, class or creed.

Please take this as a personal invitation to come and see. You can stay if we have a vacant bed. You can drop in for a cuppa, or if you like you can pitch your tent in our grounds.

Orchard House is a grand adventure, with grand results, and all dedicated to the boy and to the glory of God.

SKIPPER B.

*(This gives me an opportunity of thanking those of you who kindly sent me contributions for Orchard House and the fine work being done there. Contributions are always welcome.-
R. H.)*

To be published on September 1st.

NEW BOOKS

Look Wide, A Book for Senior Scouts 8/6d.
(The successor to The Senior Scout Handbook.)

Your Movement: Patrol Book No. 20 1/-
(A year by year record of the first 50 years. which every member
of the Movement will want)

You and LH.Q.: The Scouter's Books No. 11 1/-
(Facts which everyone in the Movement should know.)

Extract from the Swansea District L.A. Bulletin.

SUBS.

In the early days of the Movement, weekly "subs." were one penny. In many Groups, the weekly subs. are still, fifty years later, one penny. It has been suggested that subs. of this order are giving lads and parents a false idea of values. One Swansea Group is considering increasing subs. for all ranks to One Shilling per week to include a "free" copy of The Scout for Cubs and Boy Scouts, and of THE SCOUTER for Senior Scouts. Why not discuss this at your next Court of Honour and Scouters' Council?

This seems an admirable idea. Have we enough forward looking and enlightened Troops willing to adopt it?

“BUBBLES”

By **JOHN F. LEECH**

D.C.C., Bechuanaland Protectorate

I suppose it is no uncommon thing for an Association to plod along in an earnest, well-meaning way, full of Scout ideals and good intentions and yet to miss the joyful sparkling essence of Scouting, and thus reduce it to the level of champagne without the bubbles.

Having experienced a period of this flatness and having also assisted with an infusion of bubbles, I hope and believe that our formula may be of interest to other Scouters.

The Bechuanaland Protectorate is an enormous, and, scrub-covered plain in which game is abundant. The climate is hot and there is little surface water. Villages are scattered thinly over the territory, with a ring of agricultural lands and grazing lands around each, and usually many miles of wild bush veld or mopane forest separating them from each other.

Travellers must, therefore, carry all the water they require and be prepared to meet lions, leopards, snakes and other interesting hazards, that take the place of city road-traffic and are also somewhat unpredictable.

The natural tendency is to stay in the villages or at the cattle posts where wells and boreholes at least ensure a supply of water.

Troop headquarters are usually in the village school, but practically all Scouting is done out of doors, so this is an unimportant factor except that it also tends to fix a Troop in its own village.

Village life can be regarded as a sort of permanent camp, the large thatched rondavels in which the people live being, I should imagine, the original model Mark I bell tents. Much of the family life is lived out-of-doors in the kraal or Iwapa. Wood and water must be cut and drawn, measles and millet cultivated, the family cattle herds tended, and goats reared for milk and meat.

Against this background of bush hazards and a normal life of camping, it was considered that camping could never be a major Scouting attraction in the territory, and for years we concentrated on First Aid, Signalling, Handcrafts, Drill and Games, all of which the Batswana love.

The Association, therefore, plodded on along its rather earnest reasoned way, slowly and painfully increasing in numbers, looking very smart and well-drilled when on parade, but lacking the verve that is essential to good Scouting.

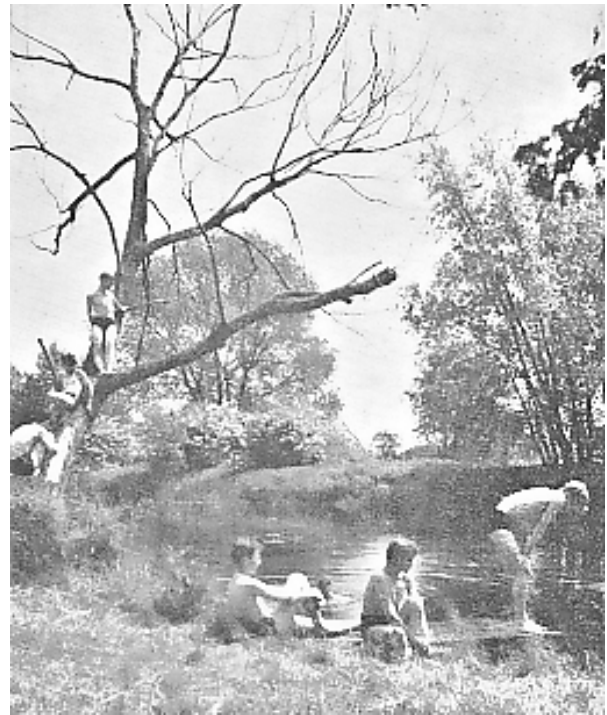
The picture was far from hopeless, but rather depressing and as ever the remedy was found in Scouting for Boys: Camping!

Camping for the sake of camping was, however, out. The Scouts and Scouters could see no sense in it. It was too normal. We therefore had to find an object.

During one of its wetter weather cycles, the territory was inhabited by a mysterious race of whom no written history has been found. They have, however, left behind them many relics - ancient ruins, gold beads, clay and soapstone figurines, potsherds and rock engravings. There are ancient gold, copper and iron mines and places where these metals were worked. And going back into still more ancient history - pre-history in fact - there are also many factory sites where stone age craftsmen produced their hammers, axes, spear heads and other artifacts, which can still be collected in their hundreds.

We gathered together notes of all the known places of historical interest and listed them in the monthly bulletin alongside the Troops nearest to the sites, suggesting that the Scouts investigate and explore.

The response was immediate and enthusiastic. The Molepolole Troop combined with other Bakwena Scouts to explore Ditejwane, a fortified hill some twenty miles away, camping there for a week-end and, incidentally, discovering some new threads in the life of David Livingstone who lived near Ditejwane for a time a century ago.



SUMMER DAYS (6)

The Lentsweletau Troop equipped every member with a donkey and explored the neighbouring ranges of hills in style, discovering some ancient iron mines and smelting furnaces.

The Good Hope Troop braved a local taboo and explored a kopje some miles from their village, discovering to their delight that its dished top was full of stone buildings, whose existence they had never suspected. The Troop has now adopted the place Kgoro as its permanent camp site from which they can investigate it all at leisure.

The Changati Troop explored the ruins first suggested to them and have since attacked with gusto every hill in their area, discovering at least two ruins hitherto unknown in the Zwenshambe Hills.

This list could be continued, but these few examples suffice to illustrate the point. Exploring is new and adventurous. You never know what you may find. The actual camping is incidental at first, but once the Scouts have experienced the thrill of a camp in the bush in good company, they have acquired a taste for the game and become increasingly enthusiastic with each succeeding camp.

As the reports of explorations and camps are received, they are published in the bulletin, and each one seems to serve as a spur to other Troops to go one better. There is camping every week-end as well as during the holidays.

All this has caused a great improvement in Scouting and camping standards, so that for the first time in B.-P. history we were able in 1955 to run a Wood Badge, Part II Course. We also had a week-end Preliminary Course camp for students of the Teacher Training College.

Both camps went with a swing, and enthusiasm mounted as the days passed by; demonstrating what we had already realised: the bubbles were back in B.-P. Scouting.

Oh yes! The formula:

- (a) Re-read Scouting for Boys.
- (b) Discover or design some form of camping with an object.
- (c) Report the activities of each Troop in your bulletin.
- (d) Give your Scouters Wood Badge training.

I might add that since we used this formula our numbers have increased by 30 per cent.

WORTH THINKING ABOUT - VII

RAW MATERIAL FOR TROOP AND PACK YARNS

"And lead us not into temptation." - The grocer was busy serving customers but he noticed a small boy standing near an open box of sweet biscuits. "Now then, my lad," said the grocer, "what are you up to?" "Nothing." "Nothing? Well, it looks to me as though you are trying to take a biscuit." "You're wrong, mister. I'm trying not to."

High endeavour. - Josiah Wedgwood, the famous potter, used to walk round his workshop. If he discovered a flaw, stain or crack in a cup or vase, he broke it with his stick, crying: "That won't do for Josiah Wedgwood."

Politeness. - During the First World War an American officer said to a French officer: "What's the use of all this politeness? There's nothing in it. It's only wind." The reply was:

"There's nothing but wind in a pneumatic tyre, but it gets you over the jolts of the road very comfortably."

Opportunity. - Asked by an ambitious young man for the secret of success, the rich merchant said: - "There's no easy secret. You must jump at your opportunity." "But how can I tell when my opportunity comes?" "You can't," agreed the merchant, "you've just got to keep jumping."

Missed opportunity. - A party of gold seekers in Nevada came upon a patch of blue stuff. It looked as though it should be metalliferous, but there was no gold there. They tracked on in search of gold and left it behind for the benefit of other and wiser prospectors. It was the Cornstoke Lode - one of the richest silver mines in the world.

Being prepared. - The Wild Boar was whetting his tusks against a tree. The Fox asked why. "There is no hunter, nor hound, nor any danger in sight," "Yes," answered the Wild Boar, "but when danger does arise, I shall have something else to do than to sharpen my weapons" (Aesop).

Quality, not quantity. - "If we've got three and they've got four, we've got to work," said the tall Sixer engaged in a lair-building contest. A small Cub pulled him down and whispered into his ear: "But you see, Bill, we've got the best men."

Sound not everything. - Two pieces of coin in a bag make more noise than 100 (Talmud).

An excuse for lack of size. - The sweetest essences are always confined in the smallest glasses (John Dryden).

True obedience? - Gardener: "I gets on all right with the Master and always has done. I agrees with all he says, and does as I thinks."

Circumstances not everything. - A professor often told his students of thoughts that had come to him in his garden. The students had never seen it and thought it must be wonderful because of his beautiful thoughts. Two students one day made a pretext to visit him in order to see the garden for themselves. They found it was a narrow strip of ground surrounded by brick walls. "But, Professor," they said, "this is not the garden in which your thoughts come to you?" "Yes it is." "But it is so small. We imagined a large place." "But," said the Professor, pointing to the sky, "look how high it is."

Greater and Lesser Lights. - When night came, the lamp at the corner of the street tried to shine as brightly as daylight. But he could hear people saying, "Look at the stars," whilst they never said nice things about him. "What a poor thing a lamp is compared to a star," they said. The lamp became unhappy, and wished he might become a star. His discontent affected his light. "What a poor light," people began to say. But Jack, going home one night, said to his mother: "What a nice lamp that is. I can almost see to read in the dining-room by its light. I call it my star." The lamp cheered up. "I am a star, after all. I am sure no one could read by the light of the stars up there?"

J. B. GEARING.



During the year 1952 the Scouts and Guides of St. Stephen's Church, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary and on Sunday, October 12th, over 700 people - mostly old Scouts and Guides - attended a special service to render thanks for the happiness of the past 25 years. As a more permanent expression of thanksgiving it was decided to place a window in the church: a retiring collection was taken at the service to open a fund and the two Movements, with the help of many friends, raised the necessary money within a year.

Saturday, October 15th, 1955, was the long-awaited day of the Dedication Service and before a large congregation the window was unveiled by Mr. P. L. Southin - the first Scoutmaster, and Miss D. L. Curson - the first Guide Captain, and dedicated by the Vicar.

WIDE GAMES - IV

By THE CAMP CHIEF

Scouting from the earliest times—10

(4) FORESTERS AND BANDITS.

Instructions to Bandits:

A party of Foresters is working in the tract of land agreed and the extreme limits of the area are marked by a flag in the middle of the track. (A suitable area is a footpath through a wood where there is plenty of cover on either side. The area needs to be defined along its whole length and a length of sisal string running either side of the main track forms an adequate boundary.)

The Foresters are believed to be building a shack somewhere in this area; it is also their duty to protect the area from trespassers and they have the right to turn them off and to confiscate any of their property which they regard as suspicious. They will NOT, however, patrol the boundaries of the area, and will only leave the central track

(i) To fetch material for their shack.

(ii) To investigate any suspicious sight or sound.

You are the leader of one of . . . parties of Bandits which are, in rivalry with each other, trying to perform certain acts of sabotage and achieve certain other projects within the area without being spotted and turned off by the Foresters and without you yourself being killed by the severing of a woollen "life" worn on your left arm.

If a Forester orders you off, you must obey immediately, surrendering anything which he may decide to confiscate. Any killing is done NOT by the Foresters, but by members of other rival gangs.

The objects which your party try to achieve are:

(i) To light a fire.

(ii) To cut down a dead branch from a tree, at least 3ft. long and 2in. in diameter.

(iii) To get this branch out of the area and bring it to...

(iv) To place the log, with which you are provided, in the centre of the area.

(v) To establish a signalling station 10ft. above ground and signal the following message to a judge wearing a green armband and situated...

(MESSAGE: AIM HIGH, FOR IT IS LOOKING DOWNWARDS

THAT MAKES YOU DIZZY.)

(vi) To pitch a bike tent or lean-to shelter.

(vii) To collect and identify the leaves or buds of the following trees within the area - OAK, ASH, ELM, HAWTHORN, WILLOW, BLACKTHORN.

(viii) To collect the autograph of one of the judges in the area.

In addition to these, you will do anything you can to make it more difficult for the Foresters to build their shack and to kill the leaders of rival parties of bandits, so that your leader may be proclaimed Bandit Chief.

On being sent off by a Forester, a Bandit must go to... before re-entering the area, and the leaders who have been killed must leave the area and can only come to life on payment of a heavy fine.

The game will end by the sounding of a horn.

Points: 5 for each object achieved.

5 for each Bandit leader killed.

Minus 10 for the death of your own leader.

Instructions to Foresters:

You are a party of Foresters working in the tract of land and the extreme limits of the area are marked by a flag in the centre of the track.

Your duties are to build a shack within the area and to maintain the amenities of the Forest. You have reason to suspect that parties of bandits are liable to try to perform various unspecified acts of sabotage and to complete other projects within the area. Should you see any of them you can order them off, and they must obey.



"Parlan, my foot"—early accident that convinced I.H.Q. of the necessity to provide safety rules for the hand axe. Note: scarves were worn, but no footwear. (Frieze at Lincoln, A.D. c. 45)

You have the right' to confiscate one of their possessions which you consider suspicious or dangerous.

Your party will NOT patrol the boundaries of the area, and will only leave the central track - (1) to fetch material for your shack, or (2) to investigate any suspicious sight or sound. You can do nothing about any persons whom you may see lurking outside the boundaries of the area.

The end of the game will be marked by the sounding of a horn. We originally devised this game because quite often we have on courses at Gilwell Scouters who are not so fit as some of the others and cannot take part in a fighting type of game. This situation is unlikely to arise in the average Troop, but there are sometimes handicapped Scouts in normal Troops and they could well play this type of game. It also gives the Scouters a chance to take an active part. Deliberately there is no fighting in this game, but don't condemn it for that as it can call for a great deal of stalking and some really fine Scout work.

You can have as many parties of Bandits as you feel desirable and this will depend, of course, on the number taking part. I don't think you want more than six or eight Bandits in any one party.

It is essential that everyone taking part knows the boundaries of the area, which is why I have suggested that they should be marked out with sisal string.

The "heavy fine" referred to can be devised in many ways and collecting forfeits is no bad one. One party of Foresters at Gilwell proved that to remove the belts of Bandits severely handicapped them and made it impossible for them to run, thus enabling the Foresters to catch them a second time.

Item 6 which reads "Pitch a hike tent" brought forth a nice story: One group succeeded in doing this and concealing it so well that at the end of the game no one could find it!

BOOKS

FOR YOUR DELIGHT

East of Everest, by Sir Edmund Hillary and George Lowe (Hodder and Stoughton, 21s.).

This slim book, seventy pages of text and forty-eight pages of plates, is nevertheless all quality. It is the story of the New Zealand Expedition of 1953 to the Barun Valley: tough days bright with danger and almost dark with disaster:

"Staggering into camp was Wilkins. He was alone. With a tight feeling in the pit of my stomach, I saw that his face was covered with blood.

'Where's Jim?'

'We fell down a crevasse. I got out, but Jim is still down there.'

The rescue of Jim McFarlane is a thriller. One can't help recalling J. B. Priestley's words in another connection in other days: "These are the men for me."

Throughout, the text is lively and colourful and clear: the photographs are fine and interesting.

It's books like this that make an urban life of dull routine bearable!

Close of Play, by Neville Cardus (Collins, 12s. 6d.).

To recommend Neville Cardus to lovers of cricket or cricket literature is as unnecessary a gesture as any I know, even if in his latest book (and, as he hints, his last) there are fewer of those surely immortal pictures and summer-coloured sentences that we have loved long since. But amid the statistics and the penny-plain paragraphs there comes as of old the delightful anecdote: "As Bradman made the stroke, Chapman bent down, picked up the ball an inch from the grass, threw up a catch beyond belief, and assumed his usual upright stance, legs slightly apart, left elbow . . . and so on. The roar of the crowd expressed ecstasy and incredulity simultaneously. I was watching the match at this point in the company of Sir James Barrie, in front of the tavern. As Bradman departed from the crease, on his way back to the Pavilion, Barrie spoke to me saying: 'Why is he going away?' 'But surely,' I said, 'surely, Sir James, you saw that marvellous catch by Chapman?' 'Oh yes,' replied Barrie, 'I saw it all right. But what evidence is there that the ball which Chapman threw up into the air is the same ball that left Bradman's bat?'"

(By the way, in the score of this match A. P. F. Chapman, G. O. Allen, R. W. V. Robins and J. C. White have "Mr." in front of their names in the old-fashioned way: none of the Australians has, nor has K. S. Duleepsinhji!)

Cardus (N.) writes of the present with the long lingering look at the past scenes and portraits. If this is to be good-bye we must at least thank him for the many happy hours his meditations on the theme of cricket have given us and will continue to give us and many others for generations to come. Ave atque vale.

Portrait of Southern Africa (Collins, 25s.).

The advance in the art of photography - particularly in colour photography - I should suggest as one of the minor phenomena of our age. Hanus Reich's "Portrait" consists of ninety-five pictures, four in colour: many have beauty and dignity: most are of interest. I would have preferred a black and white or even sky-blue binding to the indifferent green, but this is no doubt a personal idiosyncrasy. Such a book as this makes an admirable gift.

Ellery Queen's Awards: Ninth Series (Collins, 12s. 6d.).

Alas! how many years have flown since those two cousins who are Ellery Queen excited us with his first classic detective adventure *The Roman Hut Mystery*: how eagerly year by year we awaited our stay with the Queen family and pitted our wits against the authors'. Nowadays they sponsor as well as write, and the best of the short stories of mystery and detection from the magazine they edit are collected in anthologies known as Ellery Queen's Awards. In them have appeared some of the most startling, detectable and highly original stories of their kind. This latest addition to the series is well up to its forerunners in variety, surprise and delight.

R. H.

RELIGION

The Faith and Modern Error, by Harry Blamires (S.P.C.K. 15s.).

Christian Apologetics today are being written for the interested, says Mr. Blamires. And the people they ought to be addressed to are the uninterested!

Beginning from this conviction, he argues that the civilisation we are living in has deprived most people of a sense of their creaturehood - living at three removes from Nature they've forgotten how short Life is, and to what perils it is exposed. Mr. Blamires begins, then, with a vigorous and completely justified appeal that the Christian case to modern man should lay greater stress on the facts he is overlooking - the fact, for example, that he is going to die!

From this point on, the book becomes a sturdy insistence upon the supernatural element in Christianity. The Church is not a society of the respectable and the comfortable - rather it is a group aware of shattering news; accepting the most inconvenient demands upon its thinking and its habits; and sustained by resources which are plainly superhuman! The case is argued well, and it pours a proper scorn upon the modern tendency to prescribe "religion" as an alternative to an aspirin, for every case of psychological upset! Mr. Blamires affirms that the Christian message shakes rather than soothes.

Enough has been said to indicate that this is stimulating and useful writing. There are times when one feels the author has over-stated his case, in that his insistence on the supernatural leads him to belittle Reason. Nevertheless, what he has written needed writing. It will guide many to a sounder understanding of the Christian Way.

Angels Unawares, by Stuart B. Jackman (S.C.M., 4s.).

The Drama Group ready for strong meat might well consider this as their next production. It is as topical as anyone could wish, with a background of strikes, sabotage, and sex - but with this as the play's "atmosphere" Mr. Jackman has presented the challenge of Christ to our generation as challengingly as one has seen it done anywhere. One could criticise, of course - one might raise the question whether the self-assertive daughter, Madge, would be likely to come to her senses quite so easily. Or the even more important question as to whether the Jew isn't too weak a character for the significance he carries? None the less, criticism is lost in admiration for an admirable piece of writing, bold in conception, and realistic in presentation. The audience has not been born which would not be shaken by the end of Scene One!

Over the Hills to Nazareth, by Cyril J. Davey (Epworth Press, 2s.).

These are dramatisations of the Parables of Our Lord, suitable for presentation by young and not-so-young children. They are excellently done. Anyone inclined to judge they must of necessity be "cissy" had better think again! The Gospel stories are made vivid and vigorous, each one registering its own challenge to the mind. The church Scout Group of a mind to put on a programme that was "different" would be well advised to consider this, in whole or in part.

WILFRED WADE.

BUY

**SCOUT CAMPS: A BOOK FOR
SCOUTERS.**

(B.S.A., 5s. 5d. post free.)

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM AT THE TOP - AUSTRIA 1955 By GEOFFREY SHEEN

The idea had been brewing for a long time and when, a year ago, it was suggested that the 1955 camp should be in the Tirol the enthusiastic response left no doubt that the venture was a popular one.

We decided to split our time abroad between two camps, the first to be in a mountain valley with a chance of climbing a snow mountain if the weather proved kind enough, and the second lower down in one of the main valleys whence we could visit some of the show-places. Preparations dragged on for months, and although a site was found for the second half, camping proper seemed out of the question for the earlier part, and we finally agreed with a hotel proprietor that we should be fed in his Gasthof, but that all but three of us should sleep in tents nearby. The arrangement proved a happy one for us because we found it an enormous saving in time, and the bedroom occupied by the three was most useful as a base for planning operations and for storing our entomologist's collection arid as a convalescent home for the temporarily indisposed.

"... and I must stress the fact that it is highly dangerous to life to go alone into the high mountains without a guide."

So said the Scout H.Q. in Innsbruck, and with that warning added spice to our adventure we set out on August 23rd, Ostende to Innsbruck. Here the main party transferred to a bus which, with one change, took us for a thrilling ride steeply up into the Stubai valley and along its undulating floor to Ranalt, over 2,000ft. higher, a small hamlet of two inns, a church and six houses near the head of the valley. "Taken for a ride" well described our sensations as the bus swung around hairpin bends at terrifying speed with the driver pressing hard on accelerator pedal and horn button, and we slithered on our hoping for the best and expecting the worst. At Ranalt, the innkeeper, Herr Volderauer, welcomed us with a satisfying meal, and then we pitched our tents on one of the few level patches of ground in a heavy thunderstorm.

The rest of us remaining in Innsbruck had by now overcome the difficulties of finding a shoemaker's workshop deep in the bowels of a huge block of offices and shops, and of discussing - by means of grunts, signs and partially understood Germanic phrases - the best treatment for a pair of boots intended, but not as yet fit, for climbing. We caught a later bus to its terminus, some seven miles from Ranalt, only to find that there was no connection to our destination. A long, weary, uphill journey, most of it in pitch darkness, carrying heavy rucksacs, some Troop gear and five ice axes ended at a quarter to eleven in a warm kitchen, a good meal from Frau Voldenauer and a most entertaining conversation, as catholic in its range as it was halting in its progress.

After such a journey the first day demanded a good lie-in and it was not until the afternoon of a showery day that we walked up the valley to see a waterfall tumbling down hundreds of feet in a white froth from some side valley high above us, and to spend a happy hour comparing the adhesive qualities of boots shod with nails or vibram soles on wet rock.

In the following days most of us climbed a peak of over 9000ft., laborious but easy until the last 100 yards of ridge. "There's always room at the top," they say; but when the top is the summit of the Mair Spitze it's standing room only. From the summit there is a superb view of the range of 11,000ft. mountains which ring the double head of the Stubai valley, many of them forming the frontier between Austria and Italy. Below the level of this world of rock and snow and ice lay three lakes close together: one immediately below us was leaden coloured; the others were clear blue and dark green. Climbing down and passing between them we reached one of the high Alpine Club huts dotted at wide intervals three to four thousand feet above the normal dwellings of man.

We visited four of these huts, and in one of them seven of us spent a night in the "Matratzenlager" - a room holding sixteen people, eight on either side, on mattresses in bunks for two or three, sloping slightly up to the side walls from the central gangway. You take off your boots, but precious little else, to go to bed and drop off to sleep in sleeping sack or a couple of blankets, only to start up wide awake in the inky blackness when an alarm clock goes off on the other side of the room at a quarter to four. Its owner muffles it hurriedly, a match flickers as he looks at the time, and after waiting a little you get out, feel for your boots and rucksac and creep out over the cold and creaking floor to dress outside in the dim light of a landing before descending to a cup of strong coffee and a bite or two and last minute preparations: It was a tremendous experience to start out in the cold, still half-light and to trudge slowly and steadily up and up until the breath-taking moment when the first rays of the sun strike gold and rose on a cloud tower high above some far distant peak. Small wonder the Psalmist wrote "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills."

Roped together on two ropes of three - for one of us dropped out because of mountain sickness - we crossed a level glacier, kicked steps up the steep snow slope on the further side and climbed in shadow up a ridge to the full light of the sun and a magnificent view of the peaks we hoped to climb. Far away and well below us a white ribbon of vapour twisting sluggishly in a trough told of one of the green valleys we had left behind us under its covering of cloud. For us, protected by snow goggles and by sun cream thickly smeared, there was a long trudge up a wide glacier, turning the one menacing crevasse *en route*, until we reached the col between our two peaks and had our elevenses of bread, sausage and orange squash mixed with melted snow.

Zuckerhfil - "sugar cap" - is all snow and ice on three of its steep sides: on the south side wind and sun have laid bare the rock face and have eaten into the lower layers of snow to either side, leaving an overhanging cornice on to which our path took us. It was a solid cornice, else had this not been written, and in half an hour we were at the top of the 11,500ft. peak, an exhilarating achievement for our three fifteen-year-old Scouts. Descending was a much slower business, although thrice it threatened to be far too fast for one of us who lost his footing, only to be firmly checked by the rope. Lower down the slope, unintended slips were replaced by a controlled slide, using our ice-axes as most efficient brakes. After picking up our rucksacs an easy climb took us to the next summit, where we ate our lunch in Italy before climbing down a steep rock ridge and sliding happily along a gently sloping glacier to the long tiring descent to Ranalt.

Two days later another party climbed the 10,000ft. Knotenspitze in thick cloud, and on the descent fulfilled our ambitions by discovering a large clump of edelweiss.

The second half of our stay was spent near the village of Jenbach in the main Inn valley. The contrast between the two sites was most marked: at Jenbach we were 2,500ft. lower and the air at night was far warmer - but the rain was still the same.

Our welcome was even more cordial than at Ranalt. The local Scoutmaster, Sepp Niessner, had found us the site and during our six days there he and his Scouts and Wolf Cubs did all they could to make our stay a happy one. Peter, learning English at the "Gymnasium" (Grammar School) at Kufstein some twenty-three miles away, acted as interpreter and guide on our excursions, the others guarded the camp in our absence, and Herr Niessner made the arrangements for a long bus drive to the top of a mountain pass and joined in our fast descent to visit the waterfalls at Krimml, the finest of the Eastern Alps, and the long, hot toil back to the top. His stories of trials endured in the war made our own exertions seem mere child's play, and yet he was as modest, considerate and cheerful as any Scout might hope to be.

We spent one day relaxing on the still waters of the Achensee, a lovely and unbelievably clear lake in a magnificent mountain setting. A day visiting the flesh-pots and souvenir shops of Innsbruck and another visiting an ancient castle and then chasing Camberwell Beauties in the nearby woods brought our stay towards its close.

On the last night the usual evening storm broke but passed quickly and we all crowded into the large bell tent of the Jenbach Scouts for a camp fire sing-song, without the fire. They and we sang song for song, occasionally attempting a joint one, until after speeches and goodwill presentations we sang "Auld Lang Syne" together - or at any rate the tune was the same.

To end our visit Herr Niessner had arranged a visit to the Jenbacher Werke, manufacturing Diesel engines, where after a most interesting tour, happily conducted in English, we were entertained to lunch before leaving for the long journey home.

Not "goodbye" we hope, but "auf wiedersehen," - for it may well be that Jenbach will send a party to the 1957 Jamboree. If they do it will give us an opportunity to repay in some measure their outstanding hospitality and friendliness.

Senior Scout Scrapbook

56. WE WENT WITH OUR BIKES

The crucial moment came one evening in the Lake District. Half a dozen hefty over-fifteens crammed into an Itisa were listening to the rain beating against the flysheet, and as is the wont of Seniors the world over in similar circumstances reminiscences of past camps and past misdeeds flowed from their grey beards. Inevitably, however, the conversation turned to next year's expedition. Six days hiking and cycling in pouring rain, the only variation being in its intensity, had effectively drowned our faith in the English summer and so the voice which said "Let's go somewhere where the sun shines," was immediately followed by another which said "But will we be able to afford to go abroad?"

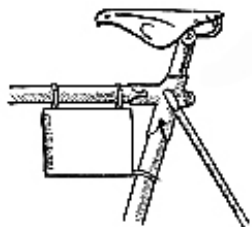
We soon decided that a cycle-camping tour would enable us to see as many places and meet as many people as possible in a limited space of time, whilst still preserving the Scouting fundamentals of individuality and self-dependency (so many Seniors seem to spend their Summer Expeditions in Youth Hostels these days).

Some more facts soon emerged; they wanted a country which was not greatly frequented by English tourists; somewhere where the sun could be expected to put in an appearance, and while they wanted an area known for its scenery it must not be so mountainous that cycling would become a drudge. The food had to be good and cheap and lastly the expedition would not have to cost more than £17 taking into account that being a small party we could not qualify for cheap fares.

After we had returned home and managed to dry out, lengthy discussion at Troop meetings decided us to write to the German Tourist Agency in London. I do not know whether the Agency were having a turn-out after the summer season but a large and weighty parcel of glossy books and pamphlets duly arrived.

Some of the photographs were first rate and some of the English grammar was a trifle shaky, and although an equal quantity of literature from any other country's tourist agency would have convinced us just as certainly theirs was the country we were looking for, we decided to tour the Rhine and the Black Forest. After that, things coasted for a bit, whilst the half-crowns clinked into the coffers and such mundane things as homework and pending examinations took our thoughts and energies.

Then with the coming of spring we awoke from our hibernation. In one peaceful homestead the air was filled with flying down as a sleeping-bag was created; in another an Itisa type tent was undergoing construction whilst several mothers' sewing machines were strained to their capacity as canvas saddle-bags and panniers neared completion.



The problem, of carrying a camera on a cycle has bothered many a tourist and our answer, whilst having no claims made for its originality, was found to be perfectly satisfactory.

A canvas bag was made large enough to take easily both the folding-type camera in its case and an accessories case containing the photographer's usual impedimenta. It was fitted with a zip and attached to the cycle frame as shown with leather straps and buckles.

The camera can be easily and speedily extracted without spilling the contents of a bulging saddle-bag across the road; vibration is eliminated and the panniers and saddle-bag project sufficiently to protect the camera from damage if the cycle should happen to fall over or the rider become forcibly ejected from the seat of his machine.

Our party had by this time been reduced to four members, but we found this to be an ideal number. With larger numbers the party will tend to straggle, the mileage will be cut considerably and tempers fray as the number of irritating stops for punctures, minor adjustments and the like increase proportionally. In addition a small party is less self-contained and likely to have more contact with the inhabitants of the country being visited. In Germany relatively few persons understand English, especially in the rural areas, so it is essential for at least one person to have learnt some German at school or evening classes, and it is only common courtesy and good sense for the rest of the party to learn the German numerals and common phrases such as "Good morning," which are in everyday use. You will think it well worth the effort when you see the effect a few faltering words in his own tongue have on the average German.

A word to cyclists who are proud of their cycle's appearance. If you travel via the Dover - Ostend ferry be prepared for scratches in the enamel and bent mudguards. The facilities at these two ports for loading and unloading cycles are, to say the least, distinctly crude. The method used is to pass a rope under the crossbars of half a dozen cycles and then just lift. Small wonder that damage results.

We started our tour at Bonn and after an anxious wait for several hours for our cycles to put in an appearance, apparently they had to pass the customs, we were ready to try riding on "the wrong side of the road." We gingerly rode our machines over the busy cobble-stoned streets towards the Rhine, and since we valued comfort at the expense of a little tyre-wear we soon let some of the air out of our tyres.

Outside the large towns, however, on the principle of "When in Rome do as the Romans do," we soon became experts at riding along the smoother, narrow pavements and dodging such hazards as trees, dogs, perambulators and the dozens of cyclists who came hurtling towards us each with a wave and a cheerful greeting. The Rhine valley, at least, between Boim and Koblenz is not to be recommended for cycle touring as camp-sites, other than crowded official sites, are hard to find; and there is a large amount of traffic on the roads, so for these reasons we preferred the quieter Moselle valley.

We left the Moselle after two days and cycled through pleasant country back to the Rhine at Mainz, passing on the way dozens of German Scouts making their way to a large South German Jamboree.

We had planned to catch a train from Mainz to Karlsruhe as the intervening country promised to be rather uninteresting, and after some adventures with connections we arrived at Karlsruhe about 10.00 at night. Since it was dark by this time we were anxious to leave the town and find a camp-site, but had hardly ridden a mile down one of the cycle-paths prevalent in South Germany, when one of the party's rear tyre subsided with a hiss.

I left the others to walk and went on to see if I could find a suitable camp-site nearby. On returning I was somewhat startled to see they had been joined by another taller figure in the uniform of the law complete with hostered revolver. Three long faces seemed to be under the impression that they had been "run in" because their dynamos did not function at walking pace; however, we were only being escorted to a nearby police station so that we could mend our puncture in comfort.

The next day found us following a tortuous road along the valley of the River Murg through some of the finest Black Forest scenery, typified by pine forests interspersed by meadows and sparkling streams and rivers with the picturesque log farm-houses nearby.

At Freudenstadt we met the Pastor of the Protestant Church who found time to show us his somewhat unique church and let us photograph the town from the towers.

The parents of some of the Scouts made us very welcome for the night and we gained a brief insight into the life of a German family. We wished we had had a month's instead of a mere fortnight's holiday when we reluctantly said good-bye, but we were due to spend a couple of days with the German Troop at their summer camp farther south and we wanted to cycle in order to see the intervening country, whilst the Troop were to leave two days later by coach.

We arrived at the little village of Hof near Bemau and close to the Feldberg, late on the evening before the main party were due to arrive. With typical friendliness that we found everywhere in the Black Forest the farmer's wife, on discovering that we were British and very tired, insisted on us sleeping in her hay-barn and let us cook a meal in her kitchen.

The next morning the German Scouts arrived and we watched them erect large unwieldy wigwams made of many individual bivouac sheets and I noticed how little camping gear they had compared with the average British Troop. In the evening however, when we had prayers and a hymn their voices accompanied by two guitars echoed back from the surrounding pine forests, and I thought that perhaps good camping gear was not everything.

There is not space to tell you of the many places we visited and the wonderful time we had - of the fire at Bernau, of our delight in the cathedrals of Freiburg and Strasbourg and the end of our tour when we took a steamer down the Rhine.

Did we gain anything from our expedition? We climbed no high mountains and yet there was the excitement of strange customs and new experiences, but if we accomplished nothing more than to convince four British Scouts, and we hope a few German Scouts, that fundamentally nations differ little from each other, surely it was well worth while.

ALAN R. MOUNTFORD,
A.S.M., 2nd Potters Bar.,

NOTES AND NEWS

JULY COVER

This month's cover was taken at Chalfont Heights Scout Camp by Stanley Newton.

WARINGTON BADEN-POWELL TROPHY RACES

The fifth annual races for the two Silver Bowls presented in memory of her husband by the late Mrs. Warrington Baden-Powell will take place on the Thames at Teddington on Saturday, 15th September, 1956. Entries are restricted to members of the Sea Scout Branch of the Movement.

Entrants for the Junior Trophy must be over 15 but not 18 on the day of the race, single-seater PBK 15 canoes will be used. Competitors should, if possibly, supply their own canoes but a small pool of craft may be available locally.

The race for the Senior Trophy will be open to Rover Sea Scouts over 18 but not yet 24 on the day of the race, using Middlesex/Surrey 12ft. Sailing Dinghies single-handed. Competitors may use their own craft or arrange to borrow from a pool of dinghies which will be provided. Camping facilities will be available.

Entry forms are obtainable from the Training Secretary, Imperial Headquarters, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

Eric L. Ebbage, 82 Eden Street, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, will provide advice and further information, and will be glad to

receive offers of help as stewards, etc., and the loan of suitable craft.

I.H.Q. SPEAKERS' VISITS IN AUGUST

4th-6th British Scouts in Western Europe. Rover Moot.
11th Essex County International Jamboree.
11th-12th Welsh Jamboree, Gredington.
12th-13th Norfolk County International Camp.

COUNTY EVENTS

29th-30th Sept. Camping Competition, County Camping Ground, Houghton Hill, Huntingdon.

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 1s. 6d. from The Editor. Final notice!

FREE FLIGHTS FOR SOAP BOX DERBY WINNERS

There will be an additional thrill this year for the winners of the 1956 Finals of the National Soap Box Derby, to be held at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday, September 8th. In addition to the prizes already donated by Vauxhall Motors Ltd., the Scout Shop and the Boy Scouts Association, winners will have an opportunity of spending a week-end in France.

Silver City Airways have generously offered free flights from Lydd to Le Touquet and back to the Champions in both Novice and Championship Sections, and to a Scout or Senior Scout nominated by the Group winning the Best Construction and Best Appearance Classes in both Sections. The winning cars will also be carried on the flight. The Soap Box Derby Committee has decided that the flight shall take place during the week-end of September 15-16th, and it is hoped that there will be opportunities for meeting some French Scouts and demonstrating the paces of the cars.

WOOD BADGE COURSES 1956

Gilwell Wood Badge Courses for this year are full.

Scotland (Fordell)

Scout, Cont. August 1 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. August 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)

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

Manchester

Cub, 3 W.E. August 11th

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, Seiwood, Cornwall Road, Hatch End, Middx.

Northumberland (Gosforth Park)

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

Apply: D. M. Paulln, Boy Scout Camp, Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon tyne.

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 (Healey Wood)

Scout, 4 W.E. Sept. 1st (commencing at 10 a.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.

AWARDS FROM 3rd MAY TO 6th JUNE, 1956

"CORNWELL SCOUT" BADGE

I. Porter, Scout, 107th Lanarkshire (2nd Uddingston).

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

SILVER CROSS (Posnusaous)

H. Kennedy, Scout, 33rd Inverness-shire (Kilmallie).

"In recognition of his great gallantry in giving his life in an unsuccessful attempt to save his friend from drowning, Corpach, 1st August, 1955."

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (GALLANTRY)

C. Staddon, Scout, 1st Bury St. Edmunds.

"In recognition of his prompt action and presence of mind in saving his young sister from worse injuries than she actually sustained when her dress caught fire, Bury St. Edmunds, 31st January, 1956."

D. Watson, Cubmaster, 10th Barrow in Furness (School Street Presbyterian).

"In recognition of his prompt action and presence of mind when he and his companions saved a man whose clothing had been set alight by burning spirit, Barrow in Furness, 11th October, 1955."

SILVER WOLF

D. Burrow, County Commissioner, Central Yorkshire.

"In recognition of his services of the most exceptional character in Central Yorkshire over a period of seventeen years."

BAR TO THE MEDAL OF MERIT

Isle of Man - R. Pritchard, G.S.M., 5th Douglas (St. Thomas).

Manchester - R. Dower, G.S.M., 2/180th Manchester; B. Walton, G.S.M., 2/162nd Manchester (Christ Church).

Northern Ireland

County Down - A. E. Daizell, G.S.M., 1st Bangor

"In recognition of their further outstanding services."

MEDAL OF MERIT

Bedfordshire - C. B. Stephens, D.C., Ampthill and Woburn.

Berkshire - Miss A. M. Edmonds, formerly A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Newbury District.

Buckinghamshire - D. E. Mullinger, S.M., 2nd Stoke Poges (St. John the Baptist).

Devon - C. C. Bests, Hon. Secretary, Torquay.

Kent - J. H. B. Young, Chairman, Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay.

Lancashire North East - Mrs. B. Level, C.M., 13th Blackburn (St. Silas); G. M. Mercer, G.S.M. 10th Blackburn (Grammar School).

Lancashire South East - B. Whitehead, G.S.M., 1st Denton (St. Lawrence). London-Mrs. A. E. Wigmore, C.M., 3rd Bethnal Green (St. James the Less), D.C.M., Bethnal Green.

Manchester - H. Devon, S.M.(S), 2/241st Manchester (Didsbury, St. Catherine of Sienna's Own), Asst. D.C.C.; K.A. Hume, Asst. D.C.C.; B. Standing, D.R.S.L., North East Manchester; J. Rivers, Chairman, Manchester Schools.

Middlesex - C. W. C. Lance, S.M., 1st Hillingdon.

Nottinghamshire - E. Headley, Hon. Secretary, Central Notts.

Shropshire - Mrs. R. Watson, Instructor and Examiner, Shrewsbury.

Staffordshire South - N. C. Parsons, G.S.M., 10th Burton-on-Trent (Byrkley Street Methodist); S. N. Yeomans, Hon. Treasurer. Burtonon-Trent.

Sussex - O. C. R. Tanner, formerly G.S.M., 20th Hastings (Hydwey House).

Worcestershire - B. E. Hawkins, D.C., Worcester and District.

Yorkshire Central - C. Roberts, *Vice-Chairman*, Morley.

Scotland.

Lansrkshire - Mrs. E. Homer, A.C.C. (Wolf Cubs) and *Ak.L.*; D. McLaughlan, Chairman, Coatbridge.

Overseas.

Bermuda - S. L. Brangman, S.M., St. Albans Sea Scouts; G. S.

Walker, Acting Assistant Island Commissioner, Western District.

Kenya - Mrs. D. Critchley, formerly C.M., 36th Nairobi.

Singapore - M. J. Chandy, Headquarters Commissioner (Special Events).

"In recognition of their outstanding services."

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (GOOD SERVICES)

Hampshire - W. C. Legg, formerly A.S.M., 1st Ringwood; Ald.

E. J. Slinn, J.P., Chairman, Christchurch and District.

"in recognition of their good services."

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

AWARDS - AMENDMENTS TO POLICY, ORGANISATION AND RULES

The following amendments to the rules relating to certain classes of Scout Awards have been authorised by the Committee of the Council :- P.O.R. 388. Additional Paragraph.

A cloth emblem with the design in green and white is issued with the Certificate of Meritorious Conduct for wear in uniform on the right breast above the line of the pocket.

P.O.R. 390.

(i) Awards for specially good work for the Movement are made at the discretion of I.H.Q. to Scouters and persons holding Non-executive or Honorary rank, and in exceptional circumstances to others who have given valuable service to a District or County for a considerable period.

Application is made on Form I on the recommendation of the L.A. or its Chairman, the D.C. and C.C.

(ii) In the case of an application for an award to a Commissioner the recommendation will be made by the C.C. only, who will, however, consult the D.C. concerned before recommending an A.D.C.

(iii) The application must contain a full statement of the work and must show service of outstanding character in one of the categories mentioned in paragraph (i) for at least the period specified in Rule 391 unless the case is an exceptional one.

P.O.R. 391.

One of the following awards may be granted according to the circumstances of the case:

(1) Medal of Merit. Green ribbon. At least ten years' service.

(2) Bar. A Bar to the Medal of Merit may be awarded for not less than five years' additional service of similar character. The award of a Bar is indicated by a green ribbon with one vertical orange stripe. (Holders of the metal Bar formerly issued for this award may exchange it for the new ribbon.)

(3) Letter of Commendation.

Note: - Existing holders of the Certificate of Meritorious Conduct should apply to the Administrative Secretary of I.H.Q. for the cloth emblem.

STAFF VACANCIES

Applications are invited for the following vacancies for full-time staff at I.H.Q.

Accounts Clerk	Accounts Department.
Invoice Clerks	Equipment Department.
Shorthand Typists	Administrative and J.I.M. Departments.
Clerks	General Office and Relationships Department.
Office Juniors	General Office and Equipment Department.
Sales Staff	Equipment Department.

Applications should be addressed to: The Administrative Secretary, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

AUGUST HOLIDAYS, 1956

Imperial Headquarters and the Scout Restaurant will be closed from 5.45 p.m. Friday, 3rd August, until 9.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 7th August, 1956.

The Scout Shops will be closed from 1 p.m. Saturday, 4th August, until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 7th August, 1956.

C. C. GOODHIND,
Administrative Secretary.

CLASSIFIED

COMING EVENTS

4th South Staffs Rover Moot, Beaudesert, August 25-26th. Gerald H. Humphries of the Advisory Panel, other activities. Rovers, Seniors and Ex-Rovers welcome. Further details from E. W. Pitt, 46 Arundel Street, Walsall.

Banisley R/R Conference, 15th-16th Sept. Details from Mr. H. Gorthorpe, 3 St. Edwards Avenue, Barnsley.

Sussex County Rover Moot, 1956, at Hindleap Warren, Forest Row, on weekend 15th-16th Sept. Details later.

Preliminary notice. Isle of Wight Rover Moot at Ryde, Sept. 29-30th. More details later. C. Stotesbury, 50 Hunnyhill, Newport, I.o.W. Bradford Cubmasters' Conference, 6th-7th October. St. Bade's Grammar School. S.A.E. for details Mrs. A. Chapman, 66 Neth-rhaJI Road, Baildon, Yorks.

Bristol Rover Moot, Oct. 20-21st at Woodhouse Park (Bristol County camp site), "Gilwell of the west." Details Gilbert Williams, 692 Muller Road, Eastville, Bristol, 5. Senior Scouts welcome.

Scouters' Week-end Avon Tyrell, Hampshire, November 3rd-4th. For all Scouters (with wives, husbands or intendeds), Lay Officers, members of Group Committees, etc. Theme - The Scout Promise and Law in everyday life. Charge - 18s. 6d. a head, which includes meals from tea on Saturday to tea on Sunday. Applications to Mr. R. Hoar, 37 Hillcrest Road, Moordown, Bournemouth. (Tel. Winton 3451).

"Gang Show." City of Nottingham Boy Scouts Association Gang Show, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, 5th-10th November. Advance booking form from Honorary Secretary, Scout Headquarters, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

ACCOMMODATION

12 Hans Road, London, S.W.3 (KENSington 5951). Ten minutes from Victoria, and ideally situated for sightseeing and shopping. Rooms (some with private baths) and breakfast, nightly from 17/6. Special weekly terms. Further particulars from Miss Adeline Willis.

EMPLOYMENT

The Church Army. Is God calling you to "serve the present age" to a greater degree? Keen Christian men 18-33 years of age, communcants of the Church of England, are needed to staff Mission Vans, Youth Centres, Hostels, Parishes. Write for details of free two-year (residential) course to Captain I. Benson, C.A., P.O. Box 420, 55 Bryanston Street, London, W.1.

Camping: well-known camp equipment suppliers require London Manager for retail branch shop in City area. Good prospects for suitable applicant. Reply to Box 229, THE SCOUTER.

Resident Assistant House Father required at Children's Reception Home (24 children, ages 3-15 years) in Hampshire. Must be able to take an interest in the leisure activities of the children and preferably interested in gardening. Some experience with children essential. Home Office training in residential care of children desirable. Salary: £370-£430 p.a., less £113 p.a. for board and lodging. Application forms from the County Children's Officer, The Castle, Winchester.

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Artistic theatrical and Fancy Dress Costumes, moderate charges. Black Lion Costumes, 25 Sommerville Road, Bristol, 7. Tel. 41345.

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

Shorts for winter in the best English cord, 47/6 to measure, outsize 5/- extra. From Ossie Dover, the Cycling Tailor, 160 Kensington, Liverpool, 7. S.A.E. for patterns and self-measurement form.

Bell tents for hire 42s. per week, carr. paid (deposit 150s. returnable). Groundsheets, dixies, etc., also for hire. J. Weatherill, North Street

Works, Winkfield, Windsor, Berks.

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

"Scout-inK" Catalogue. Group Record Systems, Certificates, camping cards and forms. Programme blanks and posters, all Group stationery. Stacy Ltd., 99 Kingsland High Street, London, E.8

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

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).

Aux. Mills, in response to many enquiries, is pleased to advise that "plumers" of all colours are able to insure their cars with the "Scouter" Syndicate at Lloyds. 123 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4.

Mountaineering. Week-end and six-day beginners, and advanced courses; special arrangements and reduced fees for Senior Scout parties; all seasons; day parties guided. F. D. Stevens, Towers Cottage, Capel Curig, North Wales.

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.

FOR SALE

Joseph Conrad. Rover seeks complete writings. Good condition. Medallion edition preferred. Write quoting price to Box 230, Tim

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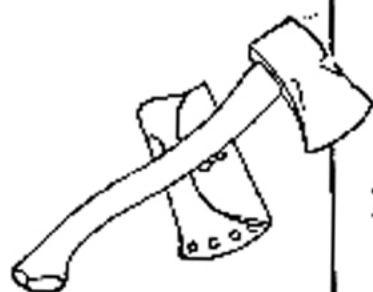
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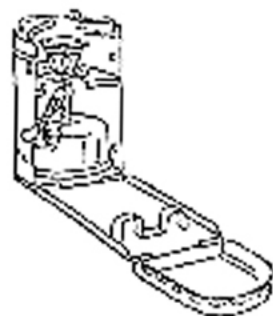
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