

<u>EDITORIAL PAGE</u>

Parliamentarians Support Scouting



by Garth Johnson

Our cover story this month features the exciting experiences of Canadian Scouting's contingent to the 17th World Scout Jamboree held August 6-17 at Mount Sorak, Korea. Three hundred and thirty participants joined 20,000 Scouts from 120 countries world-wide to savour the cultural experience of a lifetime and the brotherhood of Scouting first-hand.

As jamboree participants arrived and set up camp, parliamentarians from around the world were nearby in Seoul attending the Constituent Assembly of the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU), hosted by the Korea Scout levels. The union's immediate work includes creating new national associations and fostering relationships between the associations of all countries.

The Hon. Kim Chong-Hoh, leader of South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party, was elected the union's first president during this summer's meeting. Member countries of WSPU are Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Great Britain, Honduras, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Switzerland, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Zaire.



Parliamentary Association. Canada was represented by Terry Clifford, M.P. London-Middlesex and former Queen's Scout, who joined over 60 parliamentarians from 27 countries for the historic meeting. "I am certain that Scouting world-wide will benefit from the support of this parliament, ensuring the best possible future for young people," Mr. Clifford said.

The constitution adopted by the Union defines WSPU as "an independant association of parliamentarians functioning according to the basic principles of the World Organization of the Scout Movement". WSPU's general aim is to establish an international network of parliamentarians who wish to support Scouting at both the national and international The union's first general assembly will be held in Chile in 1994. We will keep you informed of union activities.

JAMBOREE BRIEFS

Operation Soraksan: Thanks to Operation Soraksan, Scouts from a number of developing countries and territories were given the opportunity to attend the jamboree. Several national Scout associations contributed funds to finance their participation and/or invited Scouts from developing countries to join their contingent.

Soviet Documentary: A television crew from Moscow visited the jamboree to film a 90 minute documentary. The

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program will focus on Scouting's contribution to character development and the cultural mosaic of a world event. Eastern European contingents attending the jamboree included Byelorussia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and the Ukraine.

Island Anniversary: The jamboree opened 84 years to the day after the closing of Baden-Powell's experimental camp on Brownsea Island. During the jamboree, participants could visit a re-enactment of the camp staged by the U.K. contingent.

18th World Jamboree, The Netherlands, 1995: The 18th World Jamboree will be held in the Flevoland, new land reclaimed from the sea in the 1960s, about 70 km northeast of Amsterdam. Although 1995 may seem a long way away, it's never too early to begin thinking about how you can give your young members the opportunity to join with Scouts from all over the world for the experience of a lifetime.

GETTING THERE

Attending a world jamboree can be an expensive proposition, and the fundraising efforts leading up to the event often remain an untold part of the jamboree story. Would-be jamboree participants put in countless hours of car washes, calendar sales, bottle drives and "a-thons", but some sources of help often go unnoticed. These are the groups, districts, sponsors, and B.-P. Guilds who make significant contributions to ensure that participants meet their goals.

Many of these organizations help young people get their fundraising started with a cash donation or come up with that last minute shortfall just before they head off to the event. We wish to acknowledge this support on behalf of jamboree participants past and future who rely on the goodwill of others to help them meet their jamboree costs.

Our photo, sent by Scouter I.A. McGeachie, shows 2nd (Victoria) Canadian B.-P. Guild member Percy Wilkinson presenting a cheque to Scout Daryl Ford, 1st Juan de Fuca Troop, B.C., to help offset his 17th World Jamboree expenses.^A



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17th World Jamboree An Experience of a Lifetime



by Ev McCrimmon

Kimchi, police escorts, Itae'won Market, Canada Day, MUD, Korean hospitality, Project Jin-Ah, fireworks, Korean culture.

If you were to ask any of the 323 young people and leaders who made up Canada's contingent to the 17th World Jamboree in Korea for words to describe a highlight of the event, you would hear most of the words on that list.

Everyone has his or her special memories of the jamboree, but most of the group would agree that it was a once-ina-lifetime experience with *Many Lands*, *One World* a most fitting theme. The Canadians were just a few of 20,000 participants from 120 different countries, among them several Eastern European countries represented for the first time in many decades. Delegations from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Byelorussia, and the Ukraine received a warm welcome at opening ceremonies.

The differences between life in Canada and Korea were apparent everywhere, but we were surprised at some significant similarities. For example, Canadians can sympathize with Koreans who are faced with massive traffic problems, particularly in Seoul, a city with the highest traffic death rate in the world. Traffic can be so unpredictable that traffic police met jamboree contingents at Kimpo Airport and escorted them to their destinations.

Several Canadian patrols arrived Aug. 2 during the evening rush hour to be escorted by two motorcycles and a police cruiser directly to Bando Youth Hostel. It was obvious the Koreans knew about the impending Scout "invasion". People waved and smiled, even though their drive home was being interrupted by a cavalcade of buses. Our Scouts wondered whether the greeting would be so friendly if the buses had been on a busy street in Canada during rush hour.

SETTLING IN

The Bando Youth Hostel in the southern part of Seoul proved a happy choice for marshalling the Canadian contingent. The whole group was housed in one location with good facilities for training sessions and meals.





Ride 'em cowboy: Alberta Subcamp.

We met some surprises at the first meal. Korea's national dish, served at almost every meal, is *Kimchi*. The uninitiated need to take certain precautions when eating it. It is a hot, spicy cabbage that has been fermented for up to two years before coming to the table. About 75 earthenware jars were lined up beside the hostel for the curing of the kimchi that would be served some time in the future. When the breeze was in the right direction, you got a whiff of it as you left the front door.

You do not eat kimchi on an empty stomach. It is hot enough that you need to have some rice or other food first to

Canadian and Japanese Scouts get to know each other Photo: Bob Leggett, South Frontenac District, Ont.

provide protection to the stomach lining. Some Canadians never did take kimchi in stride, but others decided it was a good way to add zest to dishes that might otherwise be rather bland. All things considered, Korean food proved both palatable and filling.

At the first opportunity, virtually every Canadian visited the Itae'won International Market in downtown Seoul. The market is a mammoth collection of small entrepreneurs out hustling for business every day from morning to night. These merchants knew all about the jamboree and were quick to tell everyone that they were offering a special "jamboree price".

For many Canadians, one of the most prized purchases was a dark blue jacket with a large jamboree logo embroidered on the back. A Scout who was a good bargainer might buy the jacket for \$18 US or 13,000 Korean Won. That was the first day. The merchants quickly realized they had some eager buyers on their hands and, by the time the contingent left for the jamboree, the price had nearly doubled. For the same price, a merchant would sew on the Canadian contingent crest and add the Scout's name below in both English and Korean.

"How much did that cost you?" was a frequent question back at the hostel as



Cooking up that "strange" Canadian food for Canada Day guests.

Scouts compared their bargaining success with their friends. Some of the deals sounded just too good to be true. And maybe some of them were.

THE SITE

The movement from hostel to jamboree site was an adventure that went beautifully, even if everyone had to be up by 4:30 a.m. To avoid the worst of the moming rush hour, the 12 buses had to leave the hostel by seven, and just moving gear out required coordination and cooperation. The 260 km trip was forecast to take from seven to 10 hours, depending on traffic.

The police escort arrived right on time; we were underway. Koreans had been asked to avoid travelling certain roads on movement day, and it soon became apparent that they had heeded the request. In fact, one route into the campsite had been closed to all but jamboree traffic. As a result, the trip took only six hours, including three stops.

Signs, flags, and billboards welcoming the world's Scouts appeared all along the way. In some cases, local councils had provided them. If there wasn't a suitable site to put a sign, the resourceful Koreans floated a banner beneath a helium-filled balloon.

At last — the jamboree site. And what a site! Mt. Sorak National Park lies in low mountains with the Japanese Sea visible not far away. Its size was daunting to everyone but the most athletic. The 1.6 million square metres of campsite contained 700,000 square metres of grass and 13,000 trees. Three car parks had capacity for more than 3,000 cars.

Canada's eight troops were assigned to eight of the camp's 17 subcamps, four



A sure way to get your picture taken; Ontario Scout David Leggett after the off-road bike challenge. Photo: Bob Leggett



Japanese and Korean Scouts try their hand at hockey. Photo: Jon Noble, Halifax, N.S.

on an upper level and four in the lower flat plain, which also accommodated most of the other camp facilities.

A wonderfully colourful opening ceremony capped settling-in day. Two hundred dancers and 500 Korean Scouts presented a Korean cultural performance that kept the audience enthralled for nearly two hours. The speeches were short, the costumes beautiful, and the fireworks awesome.

All advance jamboree publicity promised hot humid weather in August. The reality was somewhat different. Yes, there were hot humid days, but they were few and well spaced. Our major weather problem was rain, followed by MUD. For two and a half days, the patrols struggled with the poor conditions,



Mmmmm, not bad. For many Scouts, pancakes and maple syrup seemed an odd thing to eat, but their hesitation generally didn't last beyond the first bite.

particularly at the upper level. Trenching was mandatory; good housekeeping highly desirable.

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Korean Scouts lasso some "cows" at Alberta Subcamp Photo: Ev McCrimmon

THE PROGRAM

The jamboree program lived up to most of the advance billing. On the first day of program, over 1,700 showed up at the Korean handicraft area. And, as might be expected, activities such as ultra-light aircraft and hang gliding couldn't handle the demand. The obstacle course in Challenge Valley and the offroad bicycle course were instant hits. After the bike course, a sure (and easy) way to get your picture taken was to return to camp completely covered in mud.

Canada was responsible for programs in the subcamps named after the two world jamborees staged in this country. In Niagara Subcamp, staff staged the Great Canadian Cross-Country Challenge, a mixture of various early forms of Canadian transportation run as a time trial over a circular course. In Alberta Subcamp, a western theme featured lassoing, bronco riding, bannock-making, and branding.

It was perfect weather for Canada Day, Aug. 12, a jamboree highlight for the Canadians. Scouts Canada presented a beautifully carved West Coast Indian totem pole to Korean Boy Scouts as a token of appreciation for their efforts on behalf of World Scouting, and the contingent presented an Indian talking stick to Camp Chief Kim Suk-won. The tradition is that the one who holds the talking stick has authority to speak.

After the presentations, Canadians invited guests to share a taste of Canada in the form of pancakes and maple syrup. Some seemed reluctant to try this strange food, but their hesitancy lasted only until the first bite. Shipped from Canada, the pancake flour and maple syrup were

Project Jin-Ah

More than anything else, an accident on the second day in Seoul welded together the Canadians as a contingent. Scout Dwayne Smith, Vancouver, B.C., took a tumble on the stairs at the hostel and broke an ankle. While a cast was being applied at a local hospital emergency ward, an ambulance attendant arrived with a 2 1/2 year old toddler.

Both of the little girl's legs had been severed above the knees. She and her sister, less seriously injured, had been playing in their back yard when a car crashed through the fence and hit them.

The Canadians were shaken by the encounter with Jin-Ah and her sister, Shi-Won. Could they do something to help the child who lost her legs? At their final training session at the hostel, they described the incident to the contingent. The Scouts overwhelmingly endorsed the idea of launching a fundraising campaign at the jamboree and back in Canada. They believed \$25,000 would start a rehabilitation program for the youngster. As it turned out, they discovered Korea offered few facilities to help someone so young. And so, the contingent launched Project Jin-Ah, a remarkable campaign.

They ordered 5,000 special Canadian/Korean flag pins and an equal number of printed cards that told Jin-Ah's story. Officials at the Canadian embassy in Seoul helped get everything in place within four days. The tragedy captured the attention of the media, which gave the project wide coverage. The *Korean Times*, a major English language daily, included Project Jin-Ah in an editorial lauding Scouting. On site, the jamboree newspaper spread the word among participants.

The plan was to give the special pin to everyone who donated money, no matter what the amount. And the money came in, to contingent headquarters and the eight Canadian troops scattered around the site. A leader from Brunei was so touched by the story that he donated 500,000 Won (\$800 Cdn). The British contingent staged its own fundraising effort and carried a plastic pail half-full of money to Canadian headquarters. When the Canadians left for home, it was estimated the appeal on the jamboree site had brought in about \$20,000 Cdn for Project Jin-Ah.

Dr. Ian Sutherland, Peterborough, Ont., on frequent call for interviews about the project, discovered one of the pitfalls in dealing with foreign languages. On the second day of the project, a journalist told him the Canadians were using the wrong name for the little girl. In fact, the older, less seriously injured sister was Jin-Ah and the severely injured child was Shi-Won.

What to do? The first thing was to check the information. Again, the Canadian embassy was very helpful. So, Project Jin-Ah needed to have a name change to Shi-Won. The important thing is that the Korean tot will need considerable support during her rehabilitation.

Additional donations will be accepted by Scouts Canada's national office: PO Box 5151, Stn F, Ottawa, Ont. K2C 3G7. Please make out cheques to the Scout Brotherhood Fund/Korea.

supplied through the courtesy of the Maple Syrup Cooperative Association in New Brunswick and the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival in Ontario.

Canada Day celebrations, with patrols from many countries as special guests, continued in each Canadian troop site. The celebrations took on a fundraising element that added an interesting dimension to the jamboree and significant evidence of Scouting in action (sidebar).

Canadian Contingent Leader Herb Pitts praised Canadian participants. "It was an excellent jamboree," he said. "Everyone cooperated and participated. We had very few problems, and most of our medical concerns were minor. The contingent arrived home in good spirits and looking very smart in the new Scouts Canada uniform. I was proud of them." X

Ev McCrimmon was director of promotion and public relations for the Canadian contingent to the 17th World Jamboree.

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The Secret of Blind Man's Pass

by Herb Barge

In the course of a conversation recently, a Scouter asked me, "How can you make even the most mundane activities exciting and challenging?"

"Use two things," I replied, "imagination!"

My statement drew a quizzical look. "But you said two things," the Scouter complained.

"That's right," I said, "two things imagination — yours and your Scouts'." Now totally befuddled, the Scouter asked for an example of what I meant, so I told the secret of Blind Man's Pass.

In 1979, at the B.C./Yukon Jamboree, I was an activity leader for something called the "Overlander Trail"; actually five trails with similar activities. Participating patrols left at noon one day, hiked about six kilometres and encountered some gold panning and an ambush. During their overnight camp, they were raided by renegades and, on the return six kilometre hike, had to repair the telegraph and cross the bridge before they arrived back at their jamboree campsite at noon.

Luckily, the trail I worked on had been named "Blind Man's Pass". It was lucky because the one activity with which we had a problem was the bridge. The original plan was for patrols to build a raft and cross a pond. Unfortunately, there were no ponds on the site and no ways to build them economically. The next idea was to have them build a bridge over a ravine. You guessed it; no ravines.

The final decision was to build a Commando (two rope) Bridge and just have the patrols cross it. Boy! This sure sounded exciting to us, rating right up there with watching water boil. We put our heads together and the name of the trail came to our rescue.

Having turned on our imaginations, we had to find the way to turn on those of the Scouts. In a quick scouting trip of our trail route, we located a clearing in a grove of pines at the top of a grassy hill. The clearing was not visible from the approaching trail.

Near the middle of the clearing, we found three large pines spaced about 10 m apart in an L shape. We built our Commando Bridge between them, stretching it very taut and keeping the bottom rope about .5 m off the ground. Where the trail started up the hill, we put up a large sign: Blind Man's Pass — Danger Area! — Do not proceed without a guide.

Then we cut blindfolds from black plastic garbage bags (unused ones, of course) and awaited the first victims. When they arrived, our script went something like this:

"Good morning, men. Welcome to Blind Man's Pass. You are now about to learn why the trail was so named.

"Up ahead is a canyon cut through the plateau. The canyon is so deep and steep that no one could cut a trail down it. It's about a 50 km detour to go around it, so we built a bridge across it. One problem. The canyon is so deep, we've found that anyone on the bridge who looks down will panic and fall off. Only blind men have been able to cross it. That is why it is called Blind Man's Pass.

"To get you across, we are going to make you blind. No, we do not intend to poke out your eyes, but we are going to blindfold you. We are not going to blindfold your leaders, however, because we do not care if we lose them and, besides, we need them to take pictures of you in the event you do fall. These pictures will be nice for your parents to have to remember you by. And don't worry, they'll have lots of time to get a shot, because it takes about five minutes to hit bottom!"

At this point, we blindfolded the Scouts. And now, their imaginations switched on.

"All right," our story continued, "Each of you grab the belt of the guy in front of you. We will lead the first man and he can grab our belt. Do exactly what we say and listen closely." We set off up the rocky trail.

"The trail is a bit rocky here, so make sure you lift your feet," we instructed. "We do not want you falling over the edge." The only sound was knees hitting chins.

"Be careful," we warned. "Ahead, we are coming around a large pine tree. Even though it is prickly, do not step away from it because we are now hiking along the rim of the canyon." Every Scout hugged that tree like it was a long lost friend.

"Okay, we are at the bridge," we said. "If you listen really closely, you can hear the river at the bottom of the canyon way below you." To the blindfolded Scouts, the wind in the tree tops sounded just like a river.

"Now it is decision time," we continued. "You have the option of carrying your pack across or you can have us throw it across. I should warn you, we have only successfully got one across so far today, and you may have to survive



a few weeks without it while we send some people in by canoe to retrieve the ones we've dropped." All the Scouts elected to carry their packs and, if you've ever seen someone with a pack cross a Commando Bridge, you will know that the bottom rope soon becomes the top rope.

"When you cross the first leg of the bridge, you will come to a large tree," we explained. "Do not step off at this tree because it is on a high narrow pinnacle of rock in the middle of the canyon, and you will fall. Simply work your way around it, staying on the rope, and then cross the next section over an even deeper part of the canyon. Now, off you go!"

From this point, our biggest problems were rescuing Scouts who froze on the bridge without giving away the secret, and keeping leaders quiet as they rolled on the ground laughing at the sight of big brave Scouts white-knuckling it across a bridge with their feet centimetres from the grass. Some leaders did compose themselves long enough to take pictures.

When the Scouts reached the other side, we had neither time nor means to get them out of the clearing without seeing the bridge. Just as they were about to step off, we whispered in their ear: "We are going to take off your blindfold; do not give away the secret!" As we whipped off the blindfolds, the Scouts' look of shock quickly turned into one of cunning. Since they'd been fooled, they were certainly going to make sure the next guy was fooled.

As they left the clearing, we cautioned each patrol not to give away the secret back at the jamboree site. We didn't mind if they talked about the bridge, we said, as long as they didn't spill the beans.

The next day, as the patrols were about to start on the activity, our coordinator radioed us. "All right, what are you guys doing up there? Everyone wants to go on the Blind Man's Pass route!" Obviously, our "Blind Men" kept the secret.

And now you, too, know the secret: two things — imagination. Do not give it away! λ

Herb Barge is ARC Scouts, Calgary Region, Alta.

Kub Kar Experiences from All Over

by Randy Carnduff

Because spring 1990 was my first encounter with kub kars, I asked a lot of questions about them around the district. What I heard was that a kub kar program offered Cubs an opportunity to design, build (with minimum help), and race wooden cars against other Cubs.

The aim of a rally, they said, was to help Cubs develop good sportsmanship, introduce them to organized competition, give them a sense of pride in themselves, and offer their parents and family a chance to attend the races and feel involved with their Cubs.

Sounded good, and I proceeded into the season with anticipation. I let my own son design and carve his vehicle, then helped him install the axles and apply paint and decals. I figured I was being a good dad by letting him do most of the work. He'd surely enjoy the races and feel proud that he'd made something on his own. He tested the kar on the kitchen floor. After a few minor axle adjustments, it ran true!

On run-off night, the Cubs carried their kars in various cases to protect them from injury. Parents eagerly awaited weigh-in and measuring. As I stood in line, I tried to catch a glimpse of the competition. It was then I realized that very few kars were similar to that of my son.

Most of the vehicles were obviously manufactured by parents. I saw machined wheels, metal flake paint jobs, professionally applied trim, and the like. Behind these highly tuned projectiles stood parents armed with the latest hightech lubricants. When the Cubs paraded their pieces, I noticed that those who'd made their own cars seemed confused and distraut.

At the district level, I saw even more exquisitely trimmed vehicles, but I also noticed something. The Cubs who were racing "dad's" cars really didn't seem to be having much fun. Parents scolded kids for not shooting straight or far enough. And kids fought back. One tongue-lashed Cub threw his kar at the wall: "If you could build a better car, we could win," he yelled.

The 1990 event made such a bad impression on me, I vowed to do something about it. All year, I've been lobbying everyone I meet: let the Cubs design, build, and race their kars themselves.

In our pack, the Cubs started making their kub kars during a meeting and invited parents to supervise. As adults watched their Cubs begin to shape their vehicles, everyone was enthusiastic. We sent the kars home for finishing and, two weeks later, held run-offs at the regular meeting. Only one kar looked suspiciously like it might be dad's. The Cubs were proud of their accomplishments and had a great time.

When I ran the distance track at the district races, I counted only three or four "dad's kars". It seemed our efforts were paying off and we were getting out the message; kub kar races are for kids. Parents were relaxed and Cubs happy as the kids did their own thing.

Unfortunately, the high-tech kars were back at our regional competition, most from other districts, but I don't intend to let up on the problem. I challenge everyone involved in this annual event to look at their kub kar program, reinstate the values it was intended for, and give it back to the kids.

Scouter Randy Carnduff is Akela with the 84th Regina Cubs, Sask.

PUTTING BACK THE FUN from Arlene Walton

In early March, the Red Deer Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints held a Kub Kar Rally for packs from Innisfail, Rocky Mountain House, Westaskiwin, Stettler, and Red Deer, Alberta.



Ocops! Do I have another try?

We had four goals for the rally: fun; team work (each Cub earned points for his six or team); involvement (leaders from each pack ran one or two stations); and a variety of challenges for the kub kars.

After weigh-in, we organized Cubs into sixes to rotate through seven challenge stations. Curling: Shoot to have the kar stop on the target, as close as possible to the centre.
 Obstacles: Cubs tried to drive their kars straight down a path between pop bottles without bumping or dislodging the obstacles.

3. Downhill Ramp: A test for speed.

Tunnel: Aim the kar in a straight line to run through the tunnel taped to the floor.

Archways: Successfully drive the kar up a ramp and through a numbered arch. The higher the ramp, the higher the score.

 Mini-ramp: How far can your kar travel after coming down the incline?
 Bowling: Knock over a pin (a numbered tin can).

We awarded certificates to all the Cubs in the three sixes that scored the highest points in these challenges. Then, to provide more serious competition for the Cubs who thrive on it, we ended the day with the traditional speed ramp.

It was a fun rally that kept all of the Cubs happy and busy for the day. Give it a try.

SENIOR RACERS

by Steve McKenzie

One of the most valuable experiences youngsters can have is interaction with seniors in the community. Recently, the 1st Fitzroy Cubs, Ont., had a chance for some interaction with a difference.

It seems that seniors in the Queensway Carleton Hospital had been making kub kars in a physical therapy group. The hospital sent out a request through the Carleton Area service team; would a Cub pack come in to race their kars against the seniors?

We thought it would be an interesting experience for our Cubs and, when we put it to them at our next meeting, received a resounding, "Yes!" Their response may have been motivated more by the competitive spirit of kub kar season than interest in a community project but, on a Saturday a couple of weeks later, we turned up at the hospital's geriatric ward with track and kub kars.

Large posters advertising the event had been posted throughout the hospital, and interest was high among patients and staff. When we entered the ward, we saw our competitors putting the final



touches on their kars. I could see the look of glee when the Cubs realized that none of them had been weighted.

We paired up each Cub with a senior partner to whom they were to report the results of their races as a team. The Cubs quickly took to their partners and bonds readily developed. A Dutch-speaking patient made an instant match with a Cub who knew a bit of the language. An Italian patient with little English teamed up with one of our older Cubs and became the most enthusiastic cheerleader in the room. At the end of the event, the Cub gave her his kar to ensure she would be more competitive in future races.

Top team Ethel Dovey and Cub Chris Olson collect trophy and banner.

A capable crew of parent volunteers tallied results and announced both individual and team winners. There were prizes for all as each Cub presented his partner a first-place ribbon.

After a snack of donuts and juice, we said goodbye to our new friends and left in a flurry of smiles and waves. But we heard one of the Cubs explaining the trade secrets of weights and wheels to Patsy St. Denis, who works in the hospital rehab department. Next year, I think we will face a very formidable challenge from our new friends in the geriatric ward!

The pack agreed they learned a good lesson from the experience: having fun has no age boundaries, and the generation gap is only a figment of adult imagination.

Scouter Steve McKenzie is Akela with the 1st Fitzroy Cubs, Ont.

AKELA'S MEASURE from Roy Van Clieaf

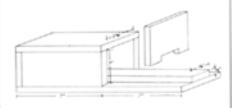
The Cubs are loud with excitement, parents are tapping their feet, and leaders are pulling out their hair because over half the meeting is over and they still have eight more kub kars to measure and weigh before the speed competition. Boy, this registration and inspection stuff sure takes a lot of time.

A major minute-eater is measuring kars but, with "Akela's Measure", it becomes fast, easy, and accurate. You can use any size material to build the device, as long as the inside dimensions of the box are consistent with the maximum allowable specifications for the kar. A centre strip determines if there is proper minimum clearance between track surface and kar bottom. It also ensures the design maintains the minimum distance between the wheels.

Max. width: 2 3/4" (69.85 mm) Max. length: 7" (177.8 mm) Max. height: 3" (76.2 mm) Min. between wheels: 1 3/4" (44.45 mm) Min. clearance: 3/8" (9.5 mm)

Door

Slotted to fit over centre strip. Attach with hinges at top so it will fold down to enclose kar.



If a kar won't roll right into the box, it's too high or too wide. If the door won't close tightly once it's in, the kar is too long. Unfortunately, "Akela's Measure" doesn't give you a kar's weight, but just think of all the time you'll have for weigh-ins once you throw away that measuring tape. ∧

Scouter Roy Van Clieaf is Akela with the 3rd Kapuskasing Cubs, Northern Lights District, Ont.

Program Links Carpenter Badge, Handicraft Badge



Go! Go! Cubs are ready to catch the finish so that they can report back to their cheering partners.

THE LEADER, NOVEMBER 1991

Starting a Venturer Company

by Jerry Lee

It is always difficult to know what to expect when starting a new section. To some extent, you have to live through it to understand it completely, but I thought sharing some of the experiences of a new advisor with a new company might give others a bit of a guide.

I started to keep these notes at the end of the 1990 Scouting season, when our third year Scouts began to talk about forming a Venturer company. I recorded my thoughts as the year progressed and the company evolved.

SPRING, SUMMER

1. Buy a Venturer Handbook and read the program. Looks interesting. Read old Leader magazines. Didn't find as much there as usual.

2. Talk to some Venturer advisors. Pick up two bits of advice: get off to a fast start; Venturers don't do paperwork well.

3. Attend a Duke of Edinburgh program seminar. Interesting. The program seems to fit Venturing fairly well, except most of my guys have already done the bronze level difficulty stuff.

4. Think about how the company might work. For example, how often does the group meet (then realize that maybe the Venturers should decide)? What if they want a co-ed company (I'm not sure if I'm ready for that; I want to keep as much of my fast-receding hair as possible)?

5. Talk to the other two leaders with whom I've been working. We decide we should stick together. Continue talking with the boys, who continue to be keen but not to the point where they are doing anything.

6. Meet with the other advisors. We all seem to be on the same wavelength. Meet with the group committee. They see no problem, tell us to carry on. 7. Am thinking these prospective Venturers should be doing something. Then decide that it has only been a short time since their last Scout activity. And, although they had a lot of responsibility as Scouts, Venturing is different.

FALL

8. September. Decide to call an organization meeting.

9. At the first meeting, they jump in and head off in all directions, ignoring the Venturer Interest Questionnaire. They brainstorm a list of activities, including all kinds of things their mothers will squash (e.g. bungee jumping). They do, however, elect an executive, except for secretary (they run out of candidates). And they agree to the advisors' suggestion to go canoeing, decide on a weekend for the trip, and put off planning until next week. They are keen, and it looks like there will be 10 in the company.

10. At the second meeting, they plan the camp, with considerable "advise" from the advisors. Have you forgotten any-thing? No. Sure? Oh, paddles. Anything else? No. Oh, lifejackets. They give someone the job of buying food, figure out a budget for the camp, transportation, and the like. Someone even steps forward to be secretary.

11. The first camp goes well. The Venturers are high on doing it all, and advisors have to crack down a bit on canoe safety. When does encouraging and reminding become nagging? Do you let something fall apart or do you step in? Learn that the region has added "company" to their November Wood Badge I. Perhaps I'll get some answers.

12. Out of town on business and miss the first regional Venturer Advisors' meeting. One of the other advisors goes, and

two Venturers attend a meeting of Joint Council (Venturers/Rangers).

13. Venturers want to have a sleepover at the church, watch movies, and play floor hockey all night. Will advisors survive? Venturers decide to run a haunted house for the Beavers and will use the sleepover to get ready. This makes advisors feel more comfortable. Out of town for the sleepover. Timing is everything! The other advisors say it went quite well, even though they didn't get any sleep.

14. Hallowe'en. The haunted house is a big hit with both Beavers and Venturers.

15. The Venturers decide to go to an area Rover/Venturer camp. Someone volunteers to buy the food. They decide to pick up the company gear from the church on the way. In other words, they are going with no preparation. The advisors decide that this is a safe camp to let them learn from their mistakes.

16. The camp goes well. They know how to do a camp even without trying. Scout training pays off.

17. Start Wood Badge I (Company). I learn that the great myth, "Venturer advisors just sit and listen while the Venturers plan the program" is only partly true. Venturer advisors sit and listen and grow ulcers while the Venturers plan the program. Have excellent discussions with other advisors. It helps form more realistic expectations. It seems that, with a new company, we will have to be a little more active and push them to do things.

WINTER

18. The president gets his first call. Our sponsor wants Venturers to help with their Christmas hamper project. With very little discussion, the company agrees. Five Venturers and the advisors turn out for the

Advisor's Beatitudes

from Guy Mandeville

Blessed are they who advise, not dictate;

- Blessed are they who encourage their Venturers and Rovers to think big but realistically;
- Blessed are they who guide the thinking but don't direct the activities;
- Blessed are they who seek out specialist advisers and don't try to be experts on skills they know little or nothing about;
- Blessed are they who think about what they should not do as well as what they should do;
- Blessed are they who, in addition to what is being said, listen to what is nearly said or remains unsaid;
- Blessed are they who are not afraid to point out any contradiction between what is being proposed and the principles of Scouting; Blessed are they who remain patient and understanding;
- Blessed are they who have faith in their Venturers and Rovers.

Guy Mandeville is deputy regional commissioner, Maple Leaf Region, Germany.

project. It's hard work, but everyone seems to have fun.

19. Christmas party. Tons of junk food, videos, and floor hockey. The planning breaks down as videos arrive, but not the food. They convince me to do a run.

20. Venturers decide to hold a camp at the Venturer cabin at the area camp on the weekend between Christmas and New Years. Friday night hike to the cabin in the dark. One problem; no one has ever been there before. Our directions eventually work out and we arrive after 20 to 25 minutes, having lost only one or two items of gear. Cabin is small but okay. Big plus, propane cook stove; big minus, only one bunk room. Guys aren't too rowdy and we are asleep shortly after midnight.

21. Saturday morning and pouring rain. No quinzhees; no tobogganing. Great opportunity to do bylaws, which we haven't yet drawn up. Pull out a copy of bylaws from another company (I picked them up at the Wood Badge). After considerable discussion, Venturers have a pretty reasonable set of changes that seem to reflect the company. We spend the rest of the day cooking, playing monopoly, wandering around in the rain.

22. Until now, Venturers have planned only up to the next activity. Decide to encourage them to try to make a two to three month plan. It goes fairly well.

23. Cancel January meetings because of high school exams.

24. Winter survival camp. We lose a few to illness and hockey but the rest are keen. Good weather for it, sunny days with overnight lows of -10, but a thaw the week before reduces the snow cover to a crust, so no quinzhees. Venturers put up their shelters faster and better than their advisors. Two get up early Sunday to start the fire. Not sure if they are keen or cold.

25. We go to a presentation on canoeing the Nahanni to stimulate some interest in a summer canoe trip. I find it interesting but, because it's a slide presentation, it loses the Venturers. Realize again how much a video-generation these guys really are.

26. Group committee asks the company to run a bean supper for Scout/Guide Week. The planning seems to be going okay, although it appears we've lost our president on this one.

27. The church is booked and we have to change our Monday meeting night. Despite several reminders, the president only starts calling the executive Sunday night. They do an instant fix and decide to go mini-putting. We'll see how this works. Are they disorganized procrastinators as a matter of principle? Am I giving myself high blood pressure for nothing?

28. Mini-putt works out fine. One of the Venturers brings along a friend. I take this as a sign that something must be going right.

29. Start to review the Duke of Edinburgh program and realize no one knows who he is.

30. When we arrive at the church to start cooking and setting up for the bean supper, the basement is flooded. We start clean-up and cooking simultaneously. All goes well. Venturers serve, clear, and make presentations at the end. Other sections have a good time. A number of people comment on how good it was.

31. Venturers go to the Museum of Civilization to see an IMAX film on earth as it looks from space, including environmental problems.

SPRING

32. Area car rally sounds interesting. Company hasn't the slightest interest. I suspect this will change when they can drive. All five Venturers who applied to work at the summer regional Cub Camp have been accepted. I am extremely pleased that they wanted to go.

33. Eight Venturers enter a charity bike tour and even collect some pledges. We make some progress on planning our summer canoe trip.

34. Our vice president has become a regular on the regional Venturer Council. This works well because the council is held at headquarters on the same night as the regional Venturer Advisors meeting, which I find really interesting.

35. Venturers set up tables for the group banquet. The company gets an award for contribution towards the group and its younger sections.

36. Go on an area bike camp; 70 km Saturday, 50 km Sunday. The campground was also booked for a gathering of native people, so it turned into an interesting opportunity to see traditional dances, costumes, etc.

37. Seven Venturers and I take the Royal Lifesaving Boat Rescue Course in preparation for our summer canoe trip.

38. Review the Duke of Edinburgh record books. They are making some progress. And they are finally doing some real planning for the canoe trip.

And that's it for our first year, except for the summer canoe trip. I certainly learned a lot, the Venturers seem more capable than they did in the fall, and I think we all had some fun. λ

Scouter Jerry Lee is Venturer advisor with the 52nd Ottawa Company, Ont.

So You're Looking for Holiday Crafts

reviews by Linda Florence

For many years, the November Leader has featured craft ideas for the holiday season. This year, we've scattered them through the magazine and use this space to lead you to some valuable resources. Visit your local bookstore or public library to check them out.

Great Newspaper Crafts, by Virgina Walter; Sterling Publishing, NY, June 1991; \$19.95 hardcover.

Here's an excellent year-round resource for colonies and packs. In moneytight, environmentally-aware times, craft ideas that recycle newspapers are perfect. The ideas in this book range from very simple to quite complex, all of them clearly described in word and illustration, and each accompanied with a colour photo of the finished product.

The book opens with descriptions of basic techniques for working with newspaper (tearing, rolling, pleating, curling, crushing, stuffing, etc.) and papier mâché (including the "slab" method). It also tells you how to make newspaper paintbrushes and your own "oil paints".

The crafts are organized into sections called Easy does it, Stuff it, Puppets & parties, Decorations & gifts, Outdoor fun, Animal kingdom, and Dress-up. You'll find ideas for all special occasions, as well as crafts associated with Cub star and badge work (planets, rattles and maracas, puppets and stages, costumes for play-acting).

The book offers plenty of creations for winter holiday celebrations, from piñatas, stuffed snow-people, and other decorations such as candles, wreaths, Yule Logs, bows, bells, stars, and bead strings to gifts such as hobby horses, vases, mobiles, and games. Highly recommended.

Making

Dinosaur

loys in Wood

Bush Arts, by Mors Kochanski; Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, Alta., 1989; \$7.95 paperback

For senior Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers or Rovers with ready access to plentiful natural materials such as sedges and cattails, this is a useful resource by one of Canada's "foremost outdoors instructors". Using these attractive gift and decoration ideas, an enterprising troop or company could do very well at a Christmas craft market.

Simple Gift Containers

Try this simple idea from *Great Newspaper Crafts* to make gift ideas (little trays to hold little things, for example) or gift packages. For a pot or bowl, cover a clean plastic margarine or cottage cheese tub inside and out with strips of newspaper dipped in wallpaper paste. Let dry. Paint and shellac to make a pretty and strong container.

Use the same technique to create smaller different-shaped containers from sardine tins and tuna cans. You can add texture and interest by pressing on stones, sand, twigs, or bits of driftwood before the papier mâché dries. Simple drawings and photos clearly illustrate the various steps for each craft. Learn how to make sedge and cattail dolls you can turn into angels or crèche figures. Directions for constructing a wreath-maker and making Christmas wreaths from cattails, grasses, and other natural materials will be of particular interest to those looking for good craft show sales items.

> You'll also learn how to make some excellent gifts: tamarack twig birds, cow parsnip and willow whistles, the propeller, and a spruce root ring — truly a "wonderful woggle".

"Locked up within natural materials and objects is a tremendous amount of delight for both the creators and the lovers of nat-

ural crafts," Kochanski writes. Bush Arts can show you how to unlock this delight.

Making Dinosaur Toys in Wood, by David Wakefield: Sterling Publishing, NY 1990; \$16.95 paperback

For Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, and Scouters who love working with wood, this volume will be a delight. It opens with a chapter on required tools, techniques and construction procedures, and carries on with scaled plans and clear instructions for making animated dinosaurs large and small. There are push toys and pull toys, each introduced with a brief description of the actual historical creature, hangers and coat racks, and children's rockers, scooters, and swings.

If you are one of the few people who don't care for dinosaurs, Sterling offers two other woodworking books. *Making Toy Trains in Wood*, by Tim, Tom and Ginger Lynn includes good diagrams but not scaled plans. Each craft in *Making Vintage Aircraft in Wood*, by Joe B. Hicks includes a materials list, a cutting list, clear step-by-step directions, and squared drawings for easy scaling.

Both of these attractive paperbacks, published in 1990, are priced at \$14.95 in Canada. All three books include a section of colour photos that show the finished products. ∧ bv Dale Pike

Hawkeye Dale Pike, 1st Newtown B Beavers, Mount Pearl, Nfld., created this little story when he learned Santa wouldn't be able to visit the colony to give out gifts at their Christmas party last year, reports Bubbles Marnie Hillyard. "After he told the story, the Beavers did what the beavers in the story did," she says. "As they closed their eyes, one leader turned down the lights while the others filled the box with gifts. When they opened their eyes, they were surprised to see that the magic worked." You might want to work some of the same magic on your Beavers this Christmas.

It was the night before Christmas, and deep in the forest near the beaver pond, all the eager beavers were preparing for the arrival of Santa Claus. They were busy cutting trees, making Christmas crafts, gathering nuts, and decorating their lodges.

Everything was going great, when suddenly Keeo, the silver beaver, frantically cried out, "The great fir tree is gone!"

"Oh no!" all the beavers cried. "That means Santa Claus won't find a place to put our Christmas gifts."

You see, even though beavers cut and eat trees, there are some trees they keep. And the great fir tree was very special, because that is where Santa Claus put all the gifts for the friends of the forest.

"Somebody go and get Malak, the wise owl," said Keeo. "Maybe he can help us."

"But who would want to take away our great fir tree?" asked one of the kit beavers.

"I don't know," Keeo answered, "but we have to find out soon!"

"Malak is not around the beaver pond," reported one of the beavers, breathless from the search. "And Tic Tac is nowhere to be found either."

"This is certainly very strange," said Keeo. "Malak and Tic Tac are always around on Christmas Eve to help prepare for Santa Claus. This is very strange, indeed."

"Here come Rusty and Bubbles," shouted one of the eager beavers.

"Not a moment too soon," said another.

"Good heavens, why is everybody so excited?" asked Rusty.

In almost the same breath, the beavers chorused, "Someone has taken our great fir tree and Santa Claus won't know where to put our gifts!" "Does anyone know who would do such a thing?" Bubbles asked.

istmas Maa

"No, but we must find out before Santa Claus arrives," said Keeo.

"Maybe we can do something else to get Santa's attention," Rusty suggested.

"How about a big fire," said Bubbles. "No, that wouldn't be safe," Keeo replied.

"How about putting candles on the lodges," suggested one of the eager beavers.

"That won't help the other friends of the forest," Keeo said. "Everyone has come to rely on the great fir tree. Besides, we all like to gather around the great fir tree to sing Christmas songs."

Suddenly, Malak the wise owl appeared. He was all out of breath.

"Hurray," shouted all the Beavers. "Malak is here to help us."

"I guess you all know by now that the great fir tree is gone," Malak said. "Let me tell you what happened to it.

"Early this morning, a family of six walked to our forest from four valleys away. The family looked at many trees in the forest and then saw the great fir tree. They thought it looked so beautiful, they just had to take it home. But, before they cut it down, they made a solemn promise to come back in the early spring and plant two more in the same spot.

"Well, they cut down that tree and carried it home on their sled. I was curious, so I flew overhead out of sight and followed them. They took the great fir tree inside. I watched them put up the tree. They were poor, and they had only old ribbons and paper decorations they'd made to decorate it. But they made it look very pretty, and they seemed happy and proud. "When they were finished, they held hands and circled around the tree singing Christmas songs. Then, they made a wish that all families in the world could be as happy as they. Though they had little, they didn't wish for anything for themselves.

"Then I knew it was getting late, and I flew back here as fast as I could to tell you what happened," Malak finished his tale.

"Gee," said one of the beavers. "I don't feel so bad, anymore. We have so much more than some people do."

"But what happned to Tic Tac?" asked Keeo.

"Well," said Malak, "On the way back, I stopped to tell Tic Tac everything and asked him to bring a special box to where the great fir tree once stood."

"Here he comes, now," said a beaver. And with him, Tic Tac had a beautifully decorated box.

"What is this for?" asked the beavers.

"Well," said Malak, "Another wise old owl once told me that, if you gather around a magic box such as this one, close your eyes very, very tight, and make a wish for someone else, something magic will happen. But," he said sternly, looking at the youngest kits, "if just one beaver peeks, even just the littlest bit, the magic will disappear."

"If we close our eyes, how will we see the magic?" asked a kit beaver.

"When you hear the bells ring, you can open your eyes and see," replied Malak.

So, all the beavers made a circle around the box, held hands, and sang a Christmas song. When they finished, they closed their eyes very, very tight and wished that everyone in the world were as happy as they were.

And do you know what happened? A cloud darkened the sky for a minute, and then bells rang. The beavers opened their eyes and saw the box filled with gifts.

Now, who do you think rang the bells and left the gifts? $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$

Many thanks to Scouters Dale Pike and Marnie Hillyard, 1st Newtown B Beavers, Mount Pearl, Nfld.

The Jesse Tree

from Donna Lee Bury

The Jesse Tree is an advent activity for sections whose members all are Christians. The 1st Westfield Beavers, N. B., adapted the idea to make a highly successful Christmas program. It would work well with Cubs, too.

They found the material in *The Jesse Tree*, *A Cutout Book*, by Marlene Konrady, published by Winston Press, 430 Oak Grove, Minneapolis MN 55403, and used the patterns in the book to prepare the Jesse Tree decorations. You might prefer to custom-design decorations to suit your youngsters. They can be simple pictures or made up of separate parts strung together in mobile fashion (e.g. the sun as golden ball with separate halo).

Cubs might want to create their own designs and decoration (e.g. cover the Key of David with foil; glue different coloured fabric scraps on Joseph's coat). Just make sure you have enough pictures for each member, as well as a few extras on the craft table.

The symbols on the Jesse Tree represent Old and New Testament stories that are part of the Christian heritage of Jesus. Jesse, a shepherd from Bethlehem, was the father of David, whom God chose to establish the royal family from which Jesus descended. Everyone and everything symbolized on the tree has a part in the story of Jesus.

THE SYMBOLS

A narrator (or the children, themselves) briefly explains the symbols as each Beaver or Cub hangs one on the tree. *The Jesse Tree* book provides Bible references and detail about the particular religious symbolism associated with the tradition, but the explanations are not well geared to a young child's understanding. Scouters who decide to use the idea will probably feel more comfortable telling the stories in simpler, more concrete language. They may also want to adapt the idea to meet the needs of their own denomination.

- 1. *Sun*: Jesus, the source of light and life in Christianity.
- 2. *Tablets of the Law*: On Mt. Sinai, God gave Moses the tablets on which the 10 commandments were inscribed.
- 3. Key of David: Jesus was born into the powerful family of King David.
- 4. *Bethlehem*: The town where Jesus was born. Its name means "House of Bread".

- 5. *Root of Jesse*: Jesse is considered the root of the family tree that bore King David and Jesus, who is often shown as the flower which grew from that root.
- 6. *Star of David*: The six-pointed star is the emblem of the Royal House of David.
- 7. Jacob's Ladder: Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching between earth and heaven. For Christians, Jesus is like that ladder.
- 8. Jonah in the Whale: Jonah stayed in the belly of the whale for three days. Jesus, after his death, remained in the tomb for three days.
- 9. Temple: God's special dwelling place.
- 10. Crown and Sceptre: The kingly authority of Jesus in the Christian faith.
- 11. Sword of Judith: Judith saved the Israelites from being conquered by the Assyrians by killing the army's leader with a sword.
- 12. Burning Bush: Moses met God when a bush caught fire without burning up.
- Noah's Ark: Noah listened to God and saved the lives of all earth's creatures during the great flood.
- 14. Ark of the Covenant: The Israelites carried the Tablets of the Law in the ark.
- 15. *Altar of Sacrifice*: Where the Israelites offered gifts to God.
- 16. Apple: Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the apple, it has become a symbol of humanity's rejection of God's love.
- 17. *Paschal Lamb*: The lamb the Israelites sacrificed on God's command in preparation for fleeing Egypt to freedom.
- Pillar of Fire: By night, God's pillar of fire led the Israelites through the desert after their escape from slavery in Egypt.
- 19. *Manna*: In their 40 years of wandering in the desert, God sent the Israelites food (manna) from heaven.
- 20. Joseph's Coat: Joseph's father loved him very much and gave him a many-coloured coat, but his brothers envied him and sold him into slavery for 20 pieces of silver. The story of Joseph in the Old Testament is similar to the story of Jesus in the New Testament. God, the Father, loved Jesus very much. The followers of Jesus rejected him; one of them "sold" him out for 30 pieces of silver.





Tablets of the Law



Key of David



Bethlehem

THE COLONY PROGRAM

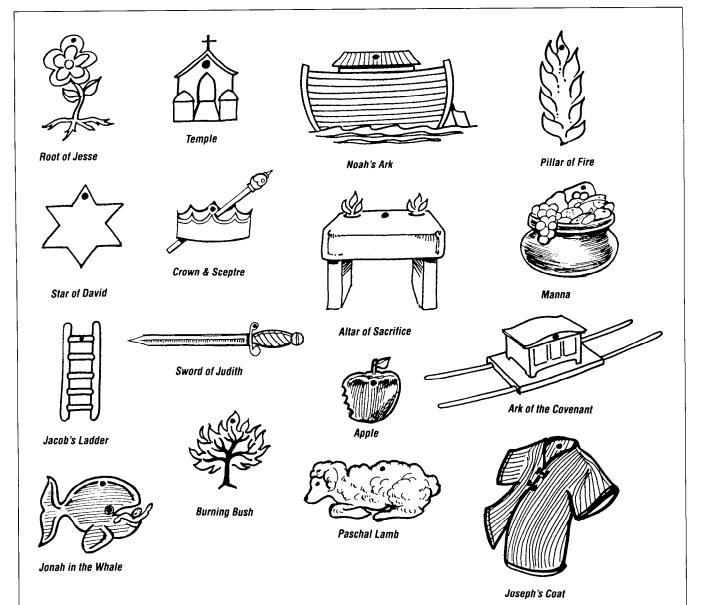
Materials

Pictures of Jesse Tree symbols Construction paper, all colours Glue and scissors Crayons, paints, or markers Glitter dust Bright ribbon Tree (about 1.2 m works well with Beavers) in a steady stand

The Beavers gathered around craft tables by lodges to choose a picture and colour it. The choice of symbol and colours is wide open. Finished first, the White Tails glued their pictures to coloured construction paper, again of their choice, then helped the others.

Because we discovered this program very close to Christmas, we were under some time constraints, so the leaders shared the fun. After the Beavers left, leaders reinforced the ornaments by glueing them to stiffer card, cut them out, dipped edges in glue, and sprinkled on glitter dust. If you have time, the

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youngsters will enjoy doing this part of the decorating.

At the next meeting, the leaders thanked the Beavers for letting them play with their pictures before we all worked on the finishing touches — punching a hole at the top of each picture and threading through a bright piece of ribbon.

Finally, we held a very simple rehearsal. Since simplicity is one of the most important elements in the whole presentation, we kept rehearsing to a minimum.

The Presentation

We set our plain little fir tree in the middle of the stage, and not even the Beavers could see the blue lights wound around its trunk. White Gifts for the needy were piled under the tree. The Beavers sat on Beaver-sized chairs in two rows on either side, with three leaders behind each row in case some prompting was needed.

A dozen Girl Guides, being tested for part of their Hostess Badge, seated the guests, far more of them than we expected. We had everything ready — mementos for the Beavers (candy cane reindeer), after-show snacks for the Guides to serve, home-made birthday cards for Jesus decorating the walls. Finally, the opening ceremony complete, we dimmed the lights.

Hawkeye led the singing of *O Canada* and *Little Town of Bethlehem*, welcomed the Guides, our minister, and guests, and began to explain the program. Then, the telephone rang. It seemed that Mr. Ho! Ho! himself had to work an hour overtime. We'd need a Plan B. Meanwhile, the show went on.

A narrator began the story and, as Beavers heard their pictures mentioned, they took them up and placed them on the tree. Soon, the tree looked like a story itself and, when the last decoration had been hung, Bubbles slipped quietly behind the tree and plugged in the blue lights. What a sight.

The Beavers encircled the tree and the whole gathering sang *Joy to the World*. Now what? We had to stall until our special guest arrived. Since we seemed to have a singing crowd, we decided on a singsong. A Guide sang a carol in French, and one thing led to another for a very successful 45 minutes. As if on cue, Mrs. Ho! Ho! arrived with a big grin and the signal. Mr. Ho! Ho! was ready.

First, though, we presented our beautiful tree and the White Gifts to the minister of our United Church sponsor. Rev. Lemmon asked the Beavers for permission to place the tree in the church for the Christmas season. Needless to say, the children were very pleased, especially those who were members of the congregation. And then, someone struck up *Here Comes Santa Claus*, and well, you can guess the rest.

I hope I've related how much pleasure this evening gave the Beavers, their leaders, the Girl Guides, and our guests. The Beavers experienced more than one meaning of Christmas as Scouting and Guiding worked hand-in-hand, and the public image of both movements received a big boost. λ

Donna Lee Bury is New Brunswick member of the Beaver Program Network.

SWAP SHOP

Wacky Waddler

by Blaine Unterschutz

This scrap craft from Scouter Blaine Unterschutz, Edmonton, Alta., makes a great holiday present for a child. Both Cubs and Scouts can tackle the craft. In fact, a troop might build a gaggle of waddlers to sell at a craft show or simply to donate to a Christmas toy drive. Scouters will be wise to make patterns and build a few waddlers themselves first to determine best placement of wheels, feet and wing slits, etc.

Materials & Supplies

3/4 inch (19 mm) plywood or solid wood for body and wheels (approximately 300 mm x 250 mm for body; wheels 60 mm diameter)

- 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) dowel for handle and axle
- large wooden bead for end of handle old tire tube

plastic wobbly eyes

paint, varathane or shellac, stain (optional) white glue or hot glue

- jig saws (scroll blades). Use a door hole drill saw to cut wheel.
- drill to drill 9.5 mm axle hole and handle hole as well as a slightly larger hole in the body for the axle.

optional hand blow torch (Burns-O-Matic) sharp scissors to cut rubber tube patience

Method

Set up five work stations.

1. Cut out body. Trace shape from a pattern on the wood. Drill an axle hole (X) slightly larger than the dowel so that the duck will waddle. Cut 20 mm slit in back for inserting wings.

2. Cut out two wheels with door hole drill saw and cut an axle from the dowel handle. Drill axle hole in centre of wheel and 20 mm slit for inserting feet.

3. Using patterns, cut out rubber wings and feet from an old tire tube.

4. Sand then stain or lightly woodburn body and wheels.

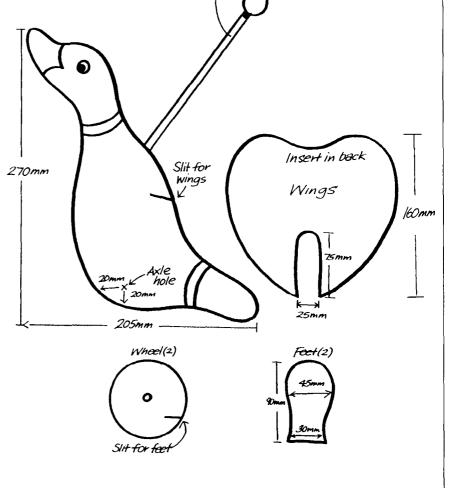
5. Paint waddler; orange beak, black head, white neckband, black tailband, and white tail. Apply a coat of varathane or shellac. Decorate wings if you wish by painting on dots or lines. Glue together waddler, Glue on eyes. Insert axle and glue on wheels; offset the feet so that the duck goes "pitter patter" when it walks, insert in slit and glue. Insert wing in back slit and glue to hold. Glue large wooden bead to end of handle. Before drilling the waddler's back for the handle, assemble the duck fully and put it on the floor so that you can judge the best angle to place the handle for pushing the waddler.

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CROSS-STITCH WOGGLE from M. Hird

We took the **Leader** idea of crossstitching section symbols (Dec.'90) to make wolf head woggles. Cross-stitch the design on plastic canvas (available from craft stores) and stitch a loop of braided floss on the back near the top of the head. With a glued-on magnet strip instead of the loop, it also makes a great fridge magnet.

Here's another idea that works well in our pack. Each Cub has a "star" necklace. Whenever a Cub completes a star



Handle

requirement, we give him a bead the colour of the star to string on the necklace. It's an instant form of personal recognition, and the Cubs love to see their necklaces grow.

Scouter Hird is Akela with the 2nd Sooke Cubs, B.C.



SCOUTS ON A HOUSEBOAT from John Nicholson

Looking for something a little different to wrap up the year? Last July, three leaders, two parents, and 11 Scouts from the 1st Drumheller Troop, Alta., took a seven day houseboat trip on the Shuswap Lakes in B.C.

To prepare for the trip, the Scouts drew up menus and shopping lists, lists of patrol and personal equipment, and a complete itinerary of each day's events. They also did a lot of fundraising to cover the \$3,151 trip costs (boat rental, \$1,495 plus fuel) and took swimming tests.

Travelling to and from B.C., the troop camped and hiked to Takakwa Falls. While with the houseboat, they camped, hiked, waterskied, swam, fished, and learned how to operate the ship. They examined Indian rock paintings in Anstey Arm and, at Salmon Arm, took in the waterslides, movies, go-carts, some horseback riding, and a cheese factory.

By the end of the camp, each Scout had earned his Bronze Anchor Badge, Bronze or Silver Campcraft Badge, and the Adventuring Challenge Badge. They'd also worked on the Cooking Challenge Badge, Swimming Badge, and Bronze Exploring.

It was a great experience for everyone, and we highly recommend such a trip as a grand finale to the Scouting year.

John Nicholson is Troop Scouter with the 1st Drumheller Scouts, Alta.

HAWAII NIGHT

from Susan Ushock

We were sick of winter, so the 57th Deer Lodge United Beavers, Winnipeg, Man., decided to have a Hawaii Night. We invited Cubs, parents, and friends (especially prospective new members), and it was a huge success.

We started by building "sandcastles" from giant boxes from fridges and stoves (check appliance stores), cutting out doors and windows. Next up was a hula contest with prizes awarded for best hula, best costume, and craziest hula. Even parents joined in. Then, with lots of energy left, we all did the limbo.

At luau time, we had fruit skewers, pig-shaped cookies, and tropical punch. Finally, we tried a tin-can stilt relay and our wind-up, a pineapple piñata and candy scramble.

It's a great way to warm up winter and we've decided to make a "southern" evening an annual event. This year, we plan a Mexican Fiesta.

Scouter Susan Ushock is Tic Tac with the 57th Deer Lodge United Beavers, Winnipeg, Man.









Let's hula!

BEAVER THANK-YOU CARD from Queenie Monk

The 1st North Hatley Beavers, Que., have a simple-to-make card we give to thank special guests and people at places we visit. Since I'm no artist, on the front I traced a picture of a beaver holding a banner from one of the Beaver activity books available in the Scout Shop. Inside is the outline of a Beaver hat and our colony name. Once you have a design, photocopy a stack of the cards to keep on hand.

When we need a card, I colour one with markers (it only takes five minutes) and print "Thank You" in the banner. Another idea is to let each Beaver colour a card after you have made your copies. At the end of an outing, all the Beavers and leaders sign in and around the hat inside and we present the card to our host.

The many kind people who show our Beavers around their farms, police and fire stations, and the like, really appreciate a quick thank you from them, and the Beavers love to sign their name in the hat. A

Program Links

Beavers: Multicultural themes Cubs: Carpenter and Handicraft badges; Tawny Star 9 Scouts: Bronze Anchor, Campcraft, Adventuring, Cooking, Swimming, Bronze Exploring badges.

Adopt-a-Park

from Gordon Fenwick

Scouts often help clean up their communities, but Gordon Fenwick, group committee chairperson of the 1st Odessa, Ont., felt "we don't give ourselves enough credit for the things we do". From that thought, he developed "Adopt-a-Park", a simple concept that grew to involve 100 young members of Scouting and Guiding who regularly serve the community of 2,500, earn recognition for that service, find the community more ready to help them in turn, and have a lot of fun to boot.

Scouter Fenwick presented his proposition to the Ernestown Township Parks and Recreation Committee in January 1991. Sections of various Scouting and Guiding groups would each "adopt" a township park and promise to do a general clean-up of the site four or five times every year, informing the parks department each time of their plans. Those who signed up would commit their group to a minimum period of four or five years in the project.

In turn, the township would offer financial support to

- post a sign on each park to identify who had adopted it;
- buy special crests for youth members who participated in at least four of the annual clean-ups, as well as "year badges" to mark subsequent years of participation.

The township gave the project enthusiastic support. "Your Adopt-a-Park idea as a means of community involvement for area Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Sparks, Brownies and Guides in protecting and

Clean It Up

Tune: If You're Happy & You Know It Words: Scouter Brian Fraser

Chorus

It's a good world and we like it, Clean it up! It's a good world and we like it, Clean it up! We're the Beavers (Wolf Cubs), so we care And the work we all must share, This is our world, so we all must clean it up.

It is better to re-use than throw away, Clean it up! Use it up or make it work another way, Clean it up! Make this world a better place By eliminating waste, Clean it up, perpetuate the human race, Clean it up. (*Chorus*)

Plastic and styrofoam do not break down, Clean it up! They stay the same forever underground, Clean it up! Toxic chemicals and waste, Acid rain, they have no place, If human beings wish to stay around, Clean it up! (*Chorus*)

Scouter Brian Fraser works with the 27th Northminister Beavers, Peterborough, Ont. His song was the theme song for the 1991 Peterborough Beaveree. We thank Al Hoard, ADC Beavers, for sharing.



Youth Power! The 1st Odessa Beavers and Cubs quickly fill their bags at their adopted park. Their service not only means less trash for the townsite to collect, but also gives these youngsters a sense of pride and awareness that makes them less likely to become litterers.

enhancing the environment is worthy of national recognition," wrote Reeve Ian Wilson, who pledged himself happy to correspond with other communities wishing to undertake similar projects.

Scouter Fenwick then approached First Brands Canada, who donated "Glad to Help" Glad garbage bags, blue recyclable bags for cans and bottles, and literature offering tips for their cleanup days.

Special ceremonies marked the launch of the project on April 20, and "This Park Adopted by...." signs began to bloom on local parks. The 1st Odessa Scouts adopted a historic mill site while the Cubs and Beavers took on a sports park. They held two clean-up sessions in May and one near the end of June, and planned others in early September and mid-October.

Because the June date marked the close of a Scouting season, they started with the whole group together for a hot dog roast at the Scout site, separated for the clean-up, and gathered afterwards at the Beaver and Cub site for a parent/son baseball game. Fitting their clean-ups into Saturday mornings or regular meeting nights, they use the parks for play as well as work.

Group committee members come out on clean-up days to cook hot dogs and serve drinks. There was a corn roast for the September clean-up, "a big welcome back to members and their families", Scouter Fenwick says. "The secret is to have fun. If you make a chore out of it, they won't want to do it."

PROGRAM BONUSES

The Adopt-a-Park program is not only a service to the community but also a way for Cubs and Scouts to fulfill some badge requirements. Scouter Fenwick put together a list to guide the Scouters in his group.

Scouts

 Citizen Achievement Award: Bronze 3a (meet with local government to introduce the program), 6 (community



Reeve Ian Wilson with the 1st Odessa Scouts at their adopted historical site. Built in 1856, Babcock Mill still makes wooden baskets.

service); Silver 6 (community service); Gold 4 (visit a historic site and explain its importance: the 1st Odessa Scouts adopted a historical site, for example), 7.

 Conservation Achievement Award: possible tie-ins with A2b,4a; B3a,4; C2,3,4a,5

 Safety Badge: Bronze 10 (playground safety); Silver 3a (recreation area safety hazards), 6

4. Troop Specialty Badge

Cubs

 Black Star 13 (if you adopt a nature park)

 Blue Star 14 (plan and carry out a project to help your community)

 Red Star 13 (clean up litter from a public area)

4. Law Awareness Badge 3a,g

5. World Conservation Badge 1d

"The members of the 1st Odessa have had some fun with this project and, as an



Not quite a Beaver, this youngster helps big brother pick up at Babcock Mill. They gathered several full bags of the usual garbage and a discarded portable TV. They hope their work to make a cleaner-looking site will encourage people to stop treating it as a dump.

extra bonus, we gave all of them the World Scout Environment Year emblem for their efforts," Scouter Fenwick says. "I hope other groups will see the value of this program, because it has put our group in the limelight in our town, and we have gained both in resources and financially from other service groups. They have seen that we are involved in our community and have come forward to help us in our other programs."^A



Fun Dond

by Lena Wong

November brings early thoughts of Christmas. Now is a good time to start making seasonal decorations and related crafts for December's holidays.

Hanukkah

December 2 marks the beginning of the eight-day Jewish "Festival of Light" this year. Make a Hanukkah card to send to a family member or special friend. Start with a card-sized piece of bristol board and draw a "hanukkiyah" on the front. A hanukkiyah is a candleholder for nine candles, the middle candle, used for lighting the others, sitting a little higher than the rest. Or you can draw a large Star of David on the card and colour it yellow on a dark background for a nice effect. Inside, wish the recipient a "Happy Hanukkah".



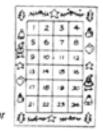
Star and candle mobiles are nice decorations for Hanukkah. Make it a two evening craft; cut out candles and stars at one meeting and complete the mobile at the next.

For each mobile, you need a smalldiameter dowel about 30 cm long, three candles cut from different colours of construction paper, three equal-sized Stars of David cut from yellow construction paper, one larger star made from foil, seven pieces coloured wool in varying lengths, and a piece of string about 15 cm long.

Suspend the large silver star from the centre of the dowel using the longest piece of wool. Tie on the candles and smaller stars, three on each side. Tie the string in the centre of the dowel to hang the mobile.

Christmas Calendar

In Scandinavia, children traditionally receive a Christmas calendar on December 1 to help them count the days until Christmas. These calendars can be elaborate embroidered affairs with a small gift for each day attached or quite simple



Christmas Calendar

cardboard cards with little "windows" to open each day. The latter have become popular in Canada in the last few years, too.

Help your Beavers make their own Christmas calendars this year. Prepare the basic calendar outlines before the meeting. Each Beaver needs a half sheet of bristol board with a 5 cm frame outlined in black marker. Divide the space inside the frame into 24 equally-sized spaces.

The Beavers decorate the frame with their own drawings or Christmas symbols cut from old cards, catalogues, or magazines. With a black marker, they print the numerals 1 to 24 in the spaces.

Now they can mark off each day by drawing a large X, star, or candle in the appropriate space each day. If your colony can afford it, make the calendar more intriguing by buying a selection of party favours, wrapped candies and other small goodies to make up 24 small "presents" for each Beaver. Wrap them in red or green tissue paper tied with a small length of red or green wool and tape one to each calendar space. Now your Beavers can remove and unwrap a present each day leading to Christmas.

Felt Danglers: Earl Smith of the 3rd Brantford Beavers, Ont., shared two crafts his colony have enjoyed.



Santa Bear: The 3rd Brantford made these decorations from felt pieces, but you can use bristol board and craft paper, too. Each Beaver needs a brown bear body about 125 mm high; a front and back for the red coat; front and back for the red hat; cotton wool for trim; a pair of wiggly eyes; a small brown pompom for a nose; and a belt made from a piece of gold or black gift ribbon.

The Beavers glue the coat to the bear's body and the hat on the head. Glue the brown pompom on the face and stick the wiggly eyes in place. Trim the hat and coat with pieces of cotton wool and glue on the belt. Punch a hole in the top of the hat for a loop of wool to hang the decoration in a window or on a Christmas tree.

Felt Snomwan

Frosty the Snowman: Your Beavers may prefer to make this dangler from felt or bristol board and craft paper. Cut a snowman shape about 125 mm high from one piece of white material. Glue on wiggly eyes, a red bead nose, and black bead, felt, or paper buttons. Tie a colourful scarf (felt, scrap material) around the neck. Cut arms and top hat from black material and glue on. Punch a hole through the top of the hat for a wool loop.



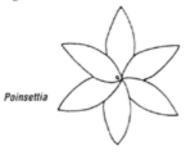
Popsicle Stick Star: Each Beaver needs four popsicle sticks; glue; coloured sparkles or gold or silver spray paint; and a small length of wool. Glue together the four popsicle sticks in a star pattern and let dry while you play a game. Spray paint the star or cover it in glue and coloured sparkles. Glue on a loop of wool for hanging.

Poinsettias: You can use this craft, from Globalchild by Maureen Cech, to decorate the frames of Christmas calendars. Or you can scatter a number of them on the table cloth at a Christmas party.

For each poinsettia you need six red construction paper leaf shapes; six red felt leaf shapes to match the paper ones; glue; a hole punch; and a paper fastener.

Glue the felt shapes to the construction paper shapes, stack the six leaves so the felt side is the same way up on all of them, and punch a hole through one end

of the stack. Push the paper fastener through the hole and fan out the leaves, felt side up, into a flower shape. Tighten the paper fastener to hold the flower together.



On Christmas Day: Teach the Beavers this English children's Christmas song, which we also found in *Globalchild*. The tune: I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In.

There was a pig went out to dig On Christmas day, on Christmas day, There was a pig went out to dig, On Christmas day in the morning.

There was a crow went out to mow On Christmas day, on Christmas day (etc.)

There was a cow went out to plow (etc.)

There was a sheep went out to reap (etc.)

Can your Beavers come up with more verses? What might a cat, dog, or pup do on Christmas day in the morning?

To familiarize Beavers with winter holiday traditions from other countries, take them to the library to do some holiday research and borrow some books for your next meeting.

Look for pictures of as many different Christmas "gift bringers" as you can find. Here, it's Santa Claus, but who brings presents in Russia, Italy, Holland? Maybe you can draw some of the different characters on a mural. Write the names of the countries they come from next to the drawings. Find out how you say "Merry Christmas" in the different languages and put these greetings on the mural, too. Use the mural as a backdrop in your meeting room through December.

Find some short Christmas stories and winter holiday stories from other religions and cultures to read to your Beavers during November and December. Look especially for translations of native Canadian legends. Storytelling is a very important part of these cultures and a popular winter tradition. Many of the stories feature animals and birds and lend themselves well to acting out.

Next month, we'll have ideas for making gifts from readily available materials and some fun activities for parties. To get ready, ask your Beavers to bring in lots of "raw materials" for crafts.



SHARING/PAKSAK

How Children See God

by Ben Kruser

The recent **Leader** survey told us that readers want more articles on Scouting's spiritual emphasis. While the magazine continues to provide many fine examples of suitable prayers, thoughts, and activities, I thought it might be useful to explore how the average Beaver and Cub perceive spiritual emphases and God.

We know that children under age 10 are called "morally dependent learners". That means their values are still forming and are dependent on what adults say and do. We also know that children develop intellectually in stages, and a Beaver understands God differently than a Cub.

How can we apply this information to help leaders more comfortably build and model spiritual emphasis in Beaver and Cub programs? Before taking a closer look, I encourage all Scout chaplains, religious sponsors, and lay spiritual advisers to follow up with your expertise and ideas. Leaders want to hear how others treat the spiritual side of Scouting with young children and are looking for regular activity and program suggestions.

BEAVERS

Beavers approach life from a very concrete viewpoint. They rely on information they get from touching, seeing, and hearing. Given this fact, talking about God, whom they can neither see nor hear, at first appears to be very tricky. But because Beavers need to deal in concrete terms, they ask questions in a similar format.

You can't exactly give God a hug and kiss, but one of the ways children demonstrate love is in positive actions towards others.

Children 5-7 years old generally believe that everything was created by someone for some purpose. Understanding how Beavers ask questions can help you provide the information they are looking for.

For example, when Beavers ask, "What is that tree?", they are most likely asking, "What is that tree used for?" Depending on the conversation that led up to the question, you can include spiritual emphasis in your answer in different ways.

You might say, "Well, God made that tree to keep the air fresh and clean, to provide homes for birds and, in some cases, food for people," for example.

Or, "That's a maple tree. God made many different kinds of trees that people have learned to use. We get baseball bats from ash trees, popsicle sticks from basswood and, best of all, we get maple syrup from maple trees."

This type of discussion might lead a Beaver to ask, "How did God make trees?" You have to admit, it's a pretty neat trick. A good response is, "I don't know how. That's probably why He is God. Maybe, as we learn more about God, we will understand how He works."

Beavers who make friends from other cultures or religions will grow into adults who understand that God created all people equal.

It is all right to tell Beavers that even adults don't know everything, and the answer addresses God in a concrete way; that is, He is a real power and He exists.

By balancing your own religious views with biological facts, you can say that, at some point in time, God made trees come into being along with the rest of life and the world. By creating the world, God actively demonstrated His love for life.

How, then, can Beavers show their love for God in return? You can't exactly give God a hug and kiss, but one of the ways children demonstrate love is in positive actions towards others.

Some religions refer to humans as made in "God's image". "Image" can refer to personal as well as physical qualities and, in this sense, we find major religions share views on God's qualities of love, mercy, helping others, and justice. When we are trying to live up to the expectations of our respective faiths, these are the qualities we are usually trying our hardest to attain. One analogy says God is like a mirror; when you stand before it, your own image, or personal qualities, are reflected back for you to see. In Beavers, we can love God by showing we can live up to God's image of how we should act towards others. Perhaps a simple way to fulfil the Beaver Promise "to love God and help take care of the world" is through loving God by helping take care of the world.

When you provide opportunities and guidance for Beavers to demonstrate and practise sharing, friendship, love, and caring for nature, you are helping solidify their spiritual values without getting into a deep religious lesson.

Beavers who make friends from other cultures or religions will grow into adults who understand that God created all people equal. By helping others through food drives or senior citizen visits, Beavers will grow to understand more fully their faith's tenets of helping and compassion.

If you are concerned that you don't have enough spiritual emphasis in your program, but you ensure that all your Beavers feel they belong and people care about them, you are helping them accept one of God's greatest qualities, love for all people.

If you want to put more visible spiritual emphasis into your program with opening or closing prayers or thoughtful words, remember that Beavers learn through and need consistent routines. Make your spiritual moments regular parts of each meeting and activity. If you throw in prayers only when it's convenient, you may demonstrate that respect for God is expendable and, therefore, has little real value.

CUBS

Cub-aged children are beginning to move intellectually from the concrete to the abstract. This means that 8-10 year olds are able to grasp the meaning of an idea without having to be physically close to it.

Because they are developing a higher ability to reason, Cubs can question more effectively and are not held in awe as easily as Beavers. Cubs can become cynical and distrustful of some people and of God. This may happen when adults inadvertently portray or misrepresent God's power. Let's explore some examples. 1. God the All Powerful: All major religions believe that God, or the spiritual values expressed through an universal force, is all-encompassing, omnipresent, and responsive to our needs. God is invisible but makes Himself (or Herself or both) known through His great power.

As adults, we have a difficult time conceptualizing what all this means, and views vary from strictly orthodox to very liberal definitions. But adults do have mature intellect and can think in many shades of the abstract, which is probably why we get into so much hot water over this topic.

"If God is everywhere, is He in my sock?"

Cubs, however, are just developing their abstract thinking. As a result, they are notorious for being the "wise guys" of Scouting. Their distrustful streak can make them want to take God down a notch or two on the authority scale. Some examples of Cub age questions are: "If God is so powerful, can He make a rock so heavy even He can't lift it?" (Remember when you asked that one?); or "If God is everywhere, is He in my sock?"

I don't know how Cub leaders keep their sanity sometimes.

We can make trying to explain God's powers, which we ourselves do not fully comprehend, less confusing by choosing the right words. For instance, we might better describe God as *intangible* (a presence we can't touch) rather than invisible. God, the all-knowing, all-seeing, invisible man who lurks in closets and under beds waiting to catch you doing something wrong is not a child-friendly concept.

Describing God as an intangible says He exists, but not in the same way we do. For instance, ideas are real and they exist, but you can't take one out of your head and hold it. We see the power of ideas in creations such as modern medicines and machines. How much greater then, is the power of the intangible force that conceived of and created the universe and the world we live in?

2. God as Santa Claus: As adults, we believe that God will somehow hear and answer our prayers for help in times of need. With the exception of some TV evangelists, however, most of us understand that prayer gives us emotional strength to endure and hope; requests for a new car or a paid-up credit card bill will not be filled. Most adults realize that God made us responsible for our actions; trying to foist our responsibility on God is not appropriate in prayer. There's a joke that puts it into perspective for me. This guy prays to God to win the lottery. Lotteries come and go and still he doesn't win. Finally, in a desperate plea, he asks what he must do to please God in order to win. An ominous voice booms down from the heavens: "Give me a break," the voice says, "Buy a ticket!"

In helping Cubs learn the importance of prayer, we need to be aware of putting too many or the wrong kind of expectations of God into the message. Praying for it not to rain on the weekend of the big camp is not appropriate, for example. God created the natural world to operate and sustain life but, if it does rain, the Cubs, with their distrust and limited abstract reasoning, will think either that they didn't pray or act right, or God doesn't care.

In another example, suppose the pack prays to God to heal a sick friend and the friend gets worse or dies. Cubs may be left with the impression that God seeks revenge or punishment. A prayer that asks God to give the friend strength and courage while doctors seek a cure might show our relationship with God in a better light.

God, the all-knowing, all-seeing, invisible man who lurks in closets and under beds waiting to catch you doing something wrong is not a child-friendly concept.

It's also important to be aware of impressions left by clumsy clichés in times of death and bereavement. Statements such as "God's will" or "God needed him in heaven more than we did on earth" leave a Cub thinking that God is a ruthless assassin, and nobody needs a God like that. Here's something to make us all think. It's a letter a Cub-age child wrote to God after hearing the adage, "The good always die young".

"Dear God," she wrote. "Do good people have to die young? I heard my Mommy say that. I'm not always good. Yours truly, Barbara."

The Question of "Rules"

Two other characteristics of the Cubage growth stage have spiritual implications: Cubs are obsessed by rules and by their relationships with others. Child development researcher Jean Piaget conducted a study of how children play marbles. He found that they first see rules as sacred and untouchable; every suggested change is a transgression. If children in other neighbourhoods played marbles with different rules, it was because they "were given different rules" or "don't know any better".

As children grow older, they come to understand that rules are achieved by mutual consent based on human wisdom and experience. In most packs, Cubs come from a mix of religious backgrounds and experiences. One of the beneficial experiences Scouting can offer them is a chance to develop a relationship with someone who lives by "different rules", whether cultural or religious.

Visits to other faiths' houses of worship can expose Cubs to the positive aspects of various religions. These trips can demonstrate that every faith is based on mutual consent between a person and God and has its own worship practices and rituals (rules). All major religions are alike, however, in teaching that we should treat others by living up to the faith we choose to follow (The Golden Rule). As they say in Zen Buddhism, "To know and not to do is not yet to know."

Spiritual emphasis will continue to be a difficult area of programming. To be comfortable with the subject, leaders first need to feel at ease in their faith through conscious understanding rather than habit. Your own religious adviser will be overjoyed to discuss some of the interesting aspects that make your faith unique. Then, a trip to the library will give you a choice of books on world religions to help you learn about the differences and similarities of various faiths.

In working with Beavers and Cubs, remember the stages of development and keep the message age-appropriate. Be respectful of all faiths represented in your group and try to build programs that everyone can enjoy and participate in fully and equally.

Although I recognize that not all the theological examples in this article may apply to your personal religious views, I do hope it will give you some insight on how children think and react to spiritual topics so that you can effectively program for their spiritual growth.

Resources

- When Children Ask About God, by Harold Kushner, Schocken Books, New York
- More Children's Letters to God, by Marshall and Hample, Simon and Schuster, New York
- The Moral Judgement of the Child, by Jean Piaget, Granada Publishing, Toronto \wedge

VENTURER LOG

Two Contests for Venturing's

from Robb Baker

Guess what? The Venturer section will be 25 years young in 1993! It's an important milepost — 25 years of history, exciting program events, Amory Award competitions, and just plain fun and friendship.

25th!

Occasions like these have prompted all sorts of celebrations in other countries. Are we going to be second best? Are we going to ignore our anniversary? Are we going to be typically staid Canadians?

NO! NO! NO!

Now is the time to start planning anniversary celebrations from coast to coast. Let's stand out and be counted. Venturers have lots to be proud of!

To help with the celebrations, we have designed two national contests for Venturers.

THE GREAT CANADIAN VENTURER OFF-THE-WALL CONTEST!!!

The rules for this one are simple.

A Venturer Company is to scheme, dream up, and otherwise ponder a wild and wacky activity in which they and, perhaps, others can participate. The sky is the limit, as long as you return to earth!

Conduct your activity and prepare a report, complete with photographs and, we hope, press coverage. Send it to our team of slightly off-the-wall judges.

The bounds of the activity are as wide as you want to make them. Well, almost. The activity must be planned and conducted by a Venturer Company, not an individual. It must follow the principles of Scouting and should not offend anyone. The personal safety of participants must be assured.

The activity must be conducted during 1993 and the report filed with the judges no later than **midnight**, Ottawa time, September 10, 1993.

Given the type of people who will judge the submissions, the contest winner will be announced at the November 1993 meeting of National Council.



Prizes

First Place:	\$300
Second Place:	\$200
Third Place:	\$100

Every Venturer Company who enters the contest will receive a certificate of participation.

Send your report to:

1993 Off-the-Wall Venturer Contest c/o Scouts Canada PO Box 5151, Station F Ottawa, Ont. K2C 3G7

25th ANNIVERSARY DESIGN CONTEST

On a more sober note, we invite you to submit an anniversary design that will provide viable recognition for all registered Venturers, Venturer Advisors, and Venturer service team members during the 25th Anniversary of Venturing in 1993.

The design will be used in a form to be worn on the uniform throughout the anniversary year (until January 1994). Supply Services will also consider using it on a number of sale items such as mugs, coasters, placemats, and the like.

Judges will look for a design that captures the essence and challenge of Venturing as it moves towards the next

THE LEADER, NOVEMBER 1991

century. The simpler and cleaner in detail, the better.

Submit your drawing on white mat board. Restrict number of colours to a maximum of six. Accompany each entry with an explanation of the design's meaning and symbolism.

Send submissions to:

The Judges Venturer 25th Anniversary Design Contest c/o Scouts Canada Box 5151, Station F Ottawa, Ont. K2C 3G7

Deadline for Receipt: midnight March 30, 1992.

All entries become the property of Scouts Canada; there will be no returns.

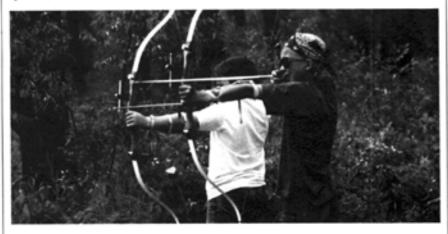
The winning designer, who will be announced during the National Council meeting in May 1992, will be presented a cheque for \$300. \land

If you have any questions about either of these contests, please write: *Robert Baker, National Director* (Venturers), Scouts Canada, Box 5151, Station F, Ottawa, Ont. K2C 3G7.

PATROL CORNER

Scouts Canada and the Federation of Canadian Archers

by Dennis Mrokwia



One of the largest and most active recreational groups for young people in our country is Scouting. Scouts Canada has an ongoing relationship with archery, and the Federation of Canadian Archers (FCA) would like to develop this relationship further.

What is the FCA? It's a not-for-profit national sport organization that supports the development and promotion of archery in Canada. The FCA coordinates national archery programs and services through a network encompassing nine provinces, 250 clubs, and more than 8,500 archers, coaches, and judges.

To service this network and its many different programs and activities, the FCA is organized into two technical divisions. Since archery is an Olympic sport and also included in the Pan American and Canada Summer Games, we have a High Performance Committee to service the needs of our elite competitive archers. This committee's responsibility is to develop these archers to achieve international excellence.

The larger division of the FCA is Archery Canada, which provides leadership and programs for archers at the beginner, recreational, and competitive levels. It is involved in adult development, club and events development, bowhunting services and education, and youth development. It is through our youth development group that the FCA is finding ways to promote archery as an activity in Scouts Canada programs.

One method is to make archery information available through local Scout offices. In search of activities for youth members, Scout leaders often contact

Scouts truly enjoy archery when they have an opportunity to participate.

archery clubs. These clubs provide qualified instructors who have taken their coaching certification training through the FCA. And this is where the relationship between archery and Scouts Canada has existed for many years.

Now, the FCA is making it easier for leaders to contact local archery clubs. We have provided copies of our archery directory, with brochures, to local Scout offices across the country. The directory contains names and phone numbers of individuals involved with archery in each province. Scouters can contact these individuals for assistance to set up an archery activity for their troops. The directory is also an ideal contact list for many archery programs and services in the country.

A second method is the addition of an Archery Badge in Scouts Canada's achievement award program, and the FCA is preparing to submit such a proposal for Scouting's consideration.

In my experience, Scouts truly enjoy archery when they have the opportunity to participate. The FCA, with Scouts Canada's guidance and support, is making it easier for them to have that opportunity. As a former Scout and a person who has provided many archery programs to Scouts in Alberta and B.C., I am looking forward to increasing archery opportunities in Scouts Canada programs.

Dennis Mrokwia is Youth Development Coordinator, Federation of Canadian Archers.

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THE LEADER, NOVEMBER 1991

Computer Program Library Update

by Pete Torunski

Another year has passed, and the Scouts Canada Computer Program Library has satisfied a hundred or so more requests for programs and received a few more donations.

The strong shift to IBM has continued. Rick Reid, Belleville, Ont., and Randy Creighton, Vickers Heights, Ont., responded to our request for IBM Scouting graphics. Randy drew many of the graphics for use with the NEW PRINT SHOP. Rick's contribution is a product of the collaboration of several leaders and trainers following a Part II Wood Badge course. The graphics are all in TIF format and can be used to enhance documents produced by WordPerfect, etc.

Paul Whitfield, Coquitlam, B.C., sent updates to his popular IBM index of Leader magazines. And Vicki Atkins, Vernon, B.C. (p.2, A/S'91), recently submitted her subject index of issues from A/S'70 to J/J'91.

Doug Smith, Stroud, Ont., donated an excellent IBM Kubkar program written to time Kub Kar races automatically. The program determines the race winner and individual times for each of the three

Program Library Catalogue

The Scouts Canada Program Library was established to collect and distribute public domain computer programs with Scouting applications. As of August 1991, these programs are available. They are all different except where file names show a number. For example, Kubkar #2 (Apple) is the same program as Kubkar #2 (C-64). Unless otherwise indicated, all programs are in BASIC and are available on 5 1/4" diskettes.

Apple II (DOS 3.2, 4 disk sides)

- Morse Code Programs (several)
 Planetarium #2
 PR Display #1
 Compass Game #1
 Fertilizer (*2)
 Kubkar #2
 Scout Symbol Graphics (*1)
- 2 Print Shop graphics (*1)
- 3 PR Display #2
- 4 Group & Leader Data Base

Apple II (PRODOS — 2 disk sides)

1 Leader Indexes (vols 16 & 17) 2 Templates for troop admin (both require Appleworks)

Atari (1 disk side) Kubkar #1 (Atari 400) Kubkar #1 (Atari 800) Morse

C-64 (3 disk sides)

- Sections Data Base #1
 PR Display #3 (*1)
 Scout Badges (graphics)
 Computer Badge
 First Aid
 Kubkar #2
 Kubkar Timer #1 (*1)
 Kubkar Timer #2
- 2 Kubkar Timer #2 2 Morse Code (several)
- 2 PR Display #2

- 2 Venturer Int. Questionnaire #1 3 Compass #1 3 Compass #2
- 3 Planetarium #3
- 3 Sections Data Base #2
- 3 Solarpix #1 3 Oracle Template

IBM (8 360K DS/DD disks)

1 Kubkar #3 (*1)
1 Kubkar #4 (*1)
1 Planetarium #4 (*1)
1 Planetarium #5 (*1)
1 Solarpix #1 (*1)
2 Cubchart (*1)
2 Cubchart (*1)
2 Venturer Int. Questionnaire #1
3 Leader Index
4 Documentation for disks 5&6
5 Sections Data Base #3 (*1)
6 Record (*1)
7 Print Shop & TIF format graphics
8 TIF format graphics

Leader Index #2 **IBM (Distribution Restricted to Service Scouters)** R1/R2 Skijamb (*1)

R3/R4 Triathlon (*1)

TRS Colour Computer (3 disks) 1 Letterhead 1 Scout Badge Inv. Data Base 1 Venturer Badge Data Base 2 Planetarium #1 (English) 2 Planetarium #1 (French) 2 Six Scouting Logos (graphics) 2 Winter Scouting Quiz 2 Morse Code (several) 3 Badge Master 3 Name Tag NOTES *1. Machine Language *2. Needs Work

cars racing. It has superb documentation for setting up an electric timer to function with your computer. Really neat stuff.

Stephen Duff, Edmonton, Alta., donated a CoCo program to keep track of individual Cub badges and the pack's badge stock, and also submitted a program that prints name tags for all sections.

Don Poaps wrote to propose setting up a Special Interest Group on a Bulletin Board System (BBS) to link interested Scouters who could pass on information and exchange Scouting ideas. If you are interested, drop him a line: 1416 Aspen Court, Burlington, Ont., L7M 1E5.

I am sorry to say that this is my last computer update article. It has been gratifying to see the library grow from nothing in 1984 to a system that handles 150 requests a year. Much credit is due to other people behind the scenes who helped by making diskette copies for the library. I wish to thank Larry Dale, Gerry Kroll, Robin Moore, Phil Newsome, Jack Robinson, Art Schwartz, Ash Waigh, and Brian Wollenschlager for their many hours of work over the years.

My replacement, Gerry Kroll, is no stranger to the library. He was one of the "silent partners" — a professional computer whiz who has been the custodian of the library's IBM master disks for several years.

We thank all contributors to the library. Your interest and enthusiasm have made it grow, and we continue to look for more. If you have a program to donate, send us the diskette. We'll make a copy and return the material to you. On the other hand, if you want a copy of a program, send the required number of 5 1/4" formatted diskettes to the address below.

For IBM program requests, we are now prepared to supply selections on the following types of disks: 5 1/4" DSDD (360 Kb); 5 1/4" DSHD (1.2 Mb); 3 1/2" DSDD (720 Kb); or 3 1/2" DSHD (1.4 Mb).

When you order, please remember that, since the library is still on 360 Kb disks, we have to give special treatment to requests for other formats. You can determine how many blank disks to send from these guidelines:

• a 5 1/4" 1.2 Mb disk can hold three and a half 360 Kb disks

• a 3 1/2" 720 Kb disk can hold two 360 Kb disks

• a 3 1/2" 1.4 Mb disk can hold four 360 Kb disks

Please mail your donations and requests to: Gerry Kroll, Box 1208, Stittsville, Ont. K2S 1B3. Å

In future, **the Leader** will provide a brief description of each program available from the library.



When Grey Squirrels Dine Out

by Ben Kruser

Grey squirrels are fascinating animals with unique feeding habits. Most of us have observed greys feeding or have found evidence of past feasts. Exploring their "dining style" preferences can give us insight into the understated role and relationship these common animals have in forest ecology.

The grey squirrel generally lives in hardwood and mixed coniferous hardwood forests from wilderness to urban parks. It is also known as the black squirrel or by the lesser used name "migratory squirrel". Black grey squirrels are a melanistic form. (Melanism is when an animal has excessive pigmentation that gives it the black fur. Lack of pigmentation is called albinism and results in white fur.)

Grey squirrels average a home range of only several acres and are therefore quite dependent on the amount of food the trees in their area provide. The grey squirrel's answer to having a steady supply of food all year round is "scatterhoarding", or what we call burying nuts all over the place.

Since greys may depend on stored food for up to nine months out of 12 and have limited time to collect nuts, we might wonder why they don't use a single collection spot to avoid having to hide every nut?

There are two answers. One is the distribution of quality nut-bearing trees on the squirrel's range. Greys prefer thinshelled, high calorie nuts to thicker shelled nuts with lower food value. Hickories, twice as high in calories as acorns, rank as a favourite food.

Greys actively search out the best trees in their area and quickly bury the nuts in the surrounding ground. Tagging studies show that, later in winter, a grey squirrel recognizes not only a favourite food tree, but also approximately where it buried the nuts. The ability to remember saves a lot of time because it means the animal doesn't have to run back and forth to a single hoard.

This leads to the second reason, competition. Because of the small home range, many squirrels can fit into a geographical location. Ranges overlap, which means many squirrels are looking for the best nut trees. If you are a grey squirrel, you face two problems with a single hoard method. While you are running home to the hoard with a load, your neighbours are stripping the best nuts from your tree. And when you get there, you find your neighbours helping themselves to your hoard. Some neighbourhood! The best solution is to bury your food right on the spot and go back for more.

This has definite benefits for the trees. A tough nut shell is designed to protect the meaty seed. Unfortunately, shell thickness can vary and not all nuts will sprout. Last year, I walked over to Agriculture Canada's Arboretum and collected about two dozen Buckeyes and Chestnut seeds. We planted them in a sheltered spot back at the house but, this spring, only one germinated. The rest had all spoiled, leaving only an empty shell behind.

Grey squirrels sniff out the best nuts a tree has to offer. What's more, observers speculate that they choose a burying site with great care. If a spot is too moist, the nut will rot. If it is too dry, the squirrel will have trouble sniffing out the nut again. Obviously, the best spot to bury the nut from the squirrel's point of view is also the best for improving the tree's chance that its seed will sprout before it rots, thanks to the helpful squirrel.

As mentioned, grey squirrels are sometimes called the "migrating squirrel". In more rural areas of Canada, Scouters may have witnessed many grey squirrels suddenly moving through an area in the fall. An unfortunate sign of this is an increase in road-kill squirrels along a particular stretch of highway.

Early records clearly show that grey squirrel migrations occurred in large numbers in response to changing food supplies. W.N. Blane, in *An Excursion through the United States and Canada during the Years 1822-1823*, wrote this account.

"I could scarcely believe my eyes when I saw the immense number of these animals... I found that this host of squirrels had in many places destroyed the whole crop and that the little fellows were sometimes seen, three or four upon a stalk, fighting for an ear. One party of hunters, in the course of a week, killed upwards of 19,000. In most places, however, there were such a multitude of them, that the inhabitants quite despaired of being able to rid themselves of this plague."



Although today's forests are not as plentiful and wide-spread as those in the past, there are still fluctuations in the number of nuts produced. On top of this, oaks and hickories produce crops at odd year intervals. In some falls, after a late spring frost has killed all the flower buds, there will be no seed crop at all.

Since grey squirrels do not hibernate, they stay alive most of the year on stored food. And they must replace their stores every year, since nuts they buried the year before will have germinated or decomposed. When nut-bearing trees fail to produce an adequate crop, the grey squirrel has little choice but to move quickly and find another area with better food supplies.

The next time you find a pile of leftover nut shells, take a careful look at the pieces. Grey squirrels use their teeth like a crow bar. First, they gnaw a small hole in the nut shell. Then they insert the lower front teeth into the hole and snap off chunks a bit at a time to expose the meat inside.

Smaller squirrels do not have the jaw strength to exert this pressure. Red squirrels make one hole on each side of the nut to get at the kernel, while chipmunks clean nuts like you do a pumpkin; they remove the top of the shell and scoop out the insides.

By observing one of our most common and perhaps most taken-for-granted species, children see an accessible example of how wildlife interacts with its environment.

Resources

- Natural History Magazine, October 1989: The Cache Economy of Grey Squirrels, by Lucia Jacobs
- The Mammals of Canada, by A.W.F. Banefield, University of Toronto Press λ

CROSS-COUNTRY PHOTOS



CHRISTMAS CHEER: The 3rd Dartmouth Cubs, N.S., get together with seniors at Eastwood Manor for a Christmas party in December. After doing their Grand Howl, the Cubs joined the residents to decorate a tree and sing carols. The pack also entertained with skits, which the seniors applauded with a special yell, says Akela Dewayne Charlton. Before leaving, each Cub gave his senior friend a Christmas decoration he'd made. The pack also left behind their special spelling of "Christmas": C is for the Christ child born upon this day; H for herald angels in the night; R means our Redeemer; I is for Israel; S is for the star that shone so bright: T is for Three Wisemen who travelled far; M is for the manger where He lay; A is for everything He stands for; S means Shepherds came, and that's why we have Christmas Day.





HURRY BACK: The Maple Creek Beavers, Sask., have a big card for their leader, Smokey, alias RCMP Cst. Terry Fehr, victim of a shooting in April. "Our boys were relieved to hear he would be okay," says Danica Smith, group secretary.

AS HIGH AS IT WILL GO: A group of the 15th Nechako Cub Pack, Prince George, B.C., admire their handiwork after tackling a meeting night challenge to build the tallest free-standing structure with a given number of popsicle sticks. "We had a lot of fun," says Raksha Sheila White.



LIKE A ROCK: The 9th Bendale Scouts, Scarborough, Ont., test the strength of one of three quinzhees in which half the troop spent the night during their annual winter camp. Those who built snow shelters slept much warmer than those in tents, says Scouter Scott Sinclair, and there's no doubt of their safety. When 10 Scouts and two Scouters tried to collapse this shelter, it took five group jumps to break through. "Next year's goal is to have everyone sleep in quinzhees," Scouter Sinclair adds. BUCKETS OF PENNIES: At their 1991 Beaveree, Beavers from Chateauguay District, Que., fulfill a promise they made during Scouts' Own at the June event the year before (Finding Big Brown Beaver, A/S'91) and donate their pennies to help others. "In 1990, I set them the 'one cent a meal' challenge suggested by Rev. Crooks in a Leader article on the importance of little things (Oct.'88)," says Deputy PC Geoff Greer, invited back to accept the offering. "Beavers brought them in plastic bags, jars, boxes --- some were even rolled," he says, "The grand total was 19,944 pennies, and it took two Rovers to get them into my car." They quickly rounded up another 56 pennies so that they could send a cheque for \$200 to the Brotherhood Fund. "The Chateauguay District Beavers really do love, care, and want to help," Scouter Greer says.



THREE ORIGINALS: Members of the original 1st St. Margaret's Cub Pack, N.S. (est. 1937), former Cubs Reg Tupper and Bill Christie give their Akela, Peggy Anderson, an appreciation certificate. It was a great way to celebrate Cubbing's 75th at the group's annual banquet, says Janet Champniss, group committee chairman.



DOUBLE TAKE: It's a Canadian look, but the pocket crests of these happy Beavers say they are "Castores" of the Asociación de Scouts de Guatemala. Scouter Barbara Stover, West Vancouver, B.C., says her 23 year old son, a former Beaver, spotted the colony on an outing while he was visiting Guatamala City and couldn't resist asking their leader if he could take a photo. Established in 1928, Guatamala Scouting has 9,194 members in four coeducational groups: Castores (5-7); Lobatos (7-11); Scouts (11-16); and Rovers (16-21). The program's emphasis on community service and health and educational projects is reflected in the motto: Siempro listo para servir (Be prepared to serve). These Beavers may have been on their way to a camp school near the city to discover nature. Like Beavers everywhere, they are obviously raring to go and ready for fun.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Last Dec. 22, six Scouts from the 186th Knottwood Monday Ekota Troop, Edmonton, Alta., gave holiday time to help serve dinners to 150 inner city people at the downtown Bissell Centre. Their dedication and spirit made their leaders proud, says Scouter Dale Haines.



THE LEADER, NOVEMBER 1991

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SUPPLY NEWS

Size Additions to New Uniform

by Jim Mackie

Supply Services is especially pleased with the positive reaction to the new uniform and grateful for the input many have given to enable us to meet the needs of youth and adult members more thoroughly.

In answer to requests from across the country, we have added to the size ranges of a number of uniform items. Now available are larger sizes in the men's shirt and size small in the ladies' blouse. For taller leaders, we have added 25 mm and 50 mm to sleeve lengths. Trousers, shorts, belts, neckerchiefs, and sashes also will be available in larger sizes.

NEW FOR BEAVERS: As suggested by our Calgary Scout Shop, we've added a new Canadian-made item for Beavers. The Beaver Finger Puppet (#60-230, \$3.55) is a realistic furry critter 12.5 cm long that the smallest youngster can operate easily. It makes an inexpensive gift or prize and, with Christmas drawing near, a great stocking-stuffer both for members and non-members.

The design for the newest Beaver crest first appeared on the Beaver sharing sweatshirt (#41-114/115, \$17.95), shown on p. 17 of the 1991/92 catalogue. Reproduced in the same colours (blue, brown, black and yellow), it has a white background and a low-melt backing that means you can iron or sew it on. If you choose the iron, just be sure to cover the crest with a cloth first. This is the first in a new series of die-cut crests; designer Mary Moore is working on others for Beavers as well as crests for Cubs and Scouts.

NEW SCOUT PUBLICATIONS: The new Scout publications, now in stock in Scout Shops and some dealers, are receiving high marks for design and content. The *Canadian Scout Handbook* (#20-467, \$6.25) has 220 exciting pages filled with photographs and illustrations that complement a complete outline of the Scout program. Included are chapters on becoming a Scout; Scout badges and awards; Achievement Badge requirements; Challenge Badge requirements; as well as exciting things to do, patrol challenges, and a uniform diagram. A must for every Scout!

The new Scout Leaders' Handbook (#20-469, \$11.95) is a 210 page pre-punched 8 1/2 x 11 volume that offers practical suggestions for your work with Scouts. As well as detailed program information, the well-illustrated handbook covers ceremonies, games, camping, the outdoors, developmental characteristics of Scout-age youngsters, spiritual development, social influences, and troop, patrol, family, and service activities.

MORE NEW BOOKS: If you are looking for campfire program material, look no further than p. 37 of the 1991/92 catalogue, where the books of Jack Pearce and his staff from Camp Tawingo are featured. They have written 10 books on all aspects of camping and camp programs.

Two of his latest publications, Spread A Little Sunshine (#20-625, \$15.20) and Lead On ... Counsellor! (#20-624, \$10) were introduced this fall and sales have taken off beyond expectations. The next time you visit your Scout Shop, be sure to take a look at these excellent publications, λ

THE LEADER, NOVEMBER 1991

FOR VOLUNTEERS

A Letter Home

QOW HAT

by Warren McMeekin

Dear Mom,

The idea of spending a whole week on a training course in some secluded place was not my idea of vacation. Let's face it, there's no beach here, the shopping centre is only one level, and the five star restaurant makes you line up to grab a tray. Sounds great, doesn't it?

It may surprise you to know that many of the Scouters here do it every summer at camps, colleges, or other institutions around the country. They gather to take a variety of courses ranging from Wood Badge and camping skills to provincial or national trainer development courses like this one.

What's behind the phenomenon? Why do people give up a week's vacation to learn more about their child's section or how to train trainers? Why do they give up a week's pay to learn how to deal with some of the problems of today's young people?

Part of it is their commitment to the development of young people. And sometimes Scouters manage to spread that commitment around.

For example, a friend of mine once said he would never give up that much vacation time for a volunteer organization unless



he had at least six weeks vacation a year (most people don't). I suggested he ask his boss to give him the time off as sort of a community donation. Besides, I said, the skills you pick up at these courses can be of use on the job. Explain what these courses are all about and maybe the company will allow the time off for personal development.

Well, his boss didn't give my friend the time off, but he did donate equipment to the Scout Troop. So, my friend still hasn't taken a week-long course, but he and his boss have developed an understanding about his Scouting commitment and, sometime down the road, he hopes to get the time to attend one of these courses.

Besides the fact that Scouters want to know more about Scouting, young people, and themselves, one other thing draws them to these courses — the Scouting Spirit.

What is it? Well, it's the camaraderie and the singing off key. It's tying everyone's socks in knots (make sure it is the right knot) and the jokes told over a dinner of beans and wieners. It's the stories of the wild Cubs on the long weekend camp and, yes Mom, it even includes attitude checks. The Scouting Spirit is these things and a lot more — a feeling deep down inside that won't let you let go of your youth and all that fun and excitement.

Well, now the course draws to a close, and we need to reflect on what has happened this week. We've learned some new skills and polished some old ones. We've had a chance to meet old friends and make some new ones. We even had a professional chef teach us the finer points of creating a masterpiece.

The participants are beginning to feel the effects of information overload! They are overwhelmed, excited, tense, happy and exhausted! Still, I'm sure they'll take their kids for a walk or drive when they get home, just to give their spouses a break. Think of it — those at home have had to carry the whole load themselves for a week. It's important for the family to understand what a Scouting career is all about, but it's equally important that Scouters who have been away for awhile pay attention to their families when they return.

Well, Mom, the truth is that we really need to get home to digest all of the week's material very slowly. If we just all of a sudden dump it on our fellow Scouters, there may be some confusion. Some of it may not even be appropriate for our particular situation. We all need to judge it accordingly. But, what we really need to do is relax a bit.

There's no question that we need to share the information with our councils, too. They will be eager to learn about our experiences at NTE'91. Here, again, though, we have to do it slowly.

It really has been a great experience. And that's it for now. Can't wait to get home.

Love. Robbie

P.S. I know what I want for my birthday — a karaoke machine! $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$

NFTWORK

Whose Job is It?

by Lynn Johnson

At the top of a parish list I was reading the other day, it said, "Ministers: the Congregation". I liked the idea. You can't fulfil your responsibilities by hiring clergy. You can't pay someone to be good, to be kind, to be religious for you.

It tied in with a planning conference about the same time. At the top of the agenda was our ongoing battle with recruitment and retention. One of the Scouters murmured that he had attended many similar discussions over 40 years, with rather depressing results.

Most of us there expressed our belief that, if we have experienced trained leaders running a good program, we'll have no need to search out youth members; the young people already in Scouting will do the sales job for us.

We also agreed that we need to emphasize retention. Why expend our energies drafting youngsters and leaders if we then turn them off Scouting for life? We discussed realistic job descriptions, recognition, concern for families, good servicing, good training, and all the other aspects of this vital problem.

The inevitable dissension came over the question of who is responsible for doing all of this. The top favourites were "service team" and "group committee". In one sense, I agree. Both have a major responsibility in finding, training, and nurturing our leadership. On the other hand, I do not believe that Service Scouters or group committee members can influence a new Scouter even a tenth as much as the leaders with whom that new Scouter works every week.

Every single one of us services others.

A new recruit may have joined for any number of reasons, most often the desire to keep the section going so that his or her child can participate. A new recruit who doesn't feel needed, doesn't feel liked, and doesn't have fun will not be around long. I do not believe for a moment that having the ADC Beavers or Troop Service Scouter turn up a few times a year will be the crucial factor.

What counts is you; your friendliness, your helpfulness, your tact. I have seen leaders who were overwhelmed by personal problems helped and saved as leaders by the support of their Scouting family. I have also seen potentially good leaders lost because they were unable to break into a clique.

Every single one of us trains others.

Scouting's truly essential training happens in the section. A Scouter can be hung with wood beads and take every specialty course going, but this formal training only builds on a foundation of the person's first experiences in Scouting.

Many years ago, for example, I saw a pack with an odd Grand Howl. Leaders and Cubs formed a horseshoe at one side of the totem and did a somewhat modified Grand Howl to the totem. Apparently, a new leader who had not read his book well created this version. He remained with the pack and taught his assistants. They taught their successors.

Ten years later, it had become this group's special ceremony. All its leaders were well-trained. They had seen other groups perform the ceremony as described in the book. But, this is how they were taught when they arrived, and the only thing likely to change it might be a total change of the leadership team.

Performing ceremonies correctly in every detail is not that important. Attitudes to discipline, program, organization, and the principles of Scouting are. They are absorbed unconsciously every week and form the leadership style probably permanently.

A group I know is going through a rough time. Serious difficulties have disrupted the lives of several key people. The effect on the group could have been disastrous but, by the time I heard about the problem, both section and group committee members had stepped in to deal with it.

They had supported the remaining members, patched the holes in the fabric of the group, and made plans for the fall. The job wasn't done by someone with a specific responsibility to do it. It was done by rank and file members genuinely concerned that their group survive and prosper.

Who is responsible for service and training? Who is responsible for recruitment and retention? I am. You are. Every one of us is. λ

Lynn Johnson scouts in Greater Toronto Region, Ont.





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LETTERS

Applause for Unit Scouters

Like many Scouters, I attended a provincial jamboree this summer. The amount of time and energy involved in planning one of these events is mind-boggling. The dedication of volunteers who give up holidays to work at a jamboree expresses the true spirit of Scouting. As a member on staff, I worked hard but, when my shift was over, I had an opportunity to relax.

The unit Scouters, men and women who are the main adult contact with the Scouts, deserve extra mention. They were "on" 24 hours a day, having fun but also dealing with many stresses and strains. They were almost solely responsible for their Scouts' positive experience at the jamboree.

Twenty years from now, the Scouts will remember the jamboree. They may recall some of the program highlights; they may vaguely recall if they were comfortable; and they will never forget their Scouter, the role model who made the jamboree for them. To the unit Scouters, a giant round of applause and a very sincere thanks.

- Kathy Costello, Burnaby, B.C.

CANADIAN IDENTITY

This year's Beaveree in Etobicoke was a delight. The theme, Wanderers Across Canada, represented the different provinces and territories of our nation.

For the past few years, I've asked Beavers and Cubs the name of their province and country. Their replies of Toronto, Edmonton, Montreal, Asia, Florida, or "the USA" astound and disappoint me. The lack of Canadian identity is very evident in our youth. Seeing Beavers from countless ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds joining together to discover Canada's greatness and diversity gives me hope.

- Andrew Mustard, 3rd Lakeshore Beavers, Toronto, Ont.

In western Canada, the concept of universal brotherhood has great significance. A Beaver leader relates this story. When leaders found that only a few of their 25 Beavers knew their grandparents, they planned a Heritage Appreciation Night and invited parents. They asked each Beaver to bring an article relating to one of his grandparents.

The Beaver with the Scottish surname brought an Ukrainian Easter egg; the one with an Irish surname showed pictures of Norwegian churches; the boy with an English surname had miniature Dutch shoes. One Beaver put up a map and identified four countries from which his ancestors had come.

It's doubtful if any child there owed his heritage to fewer than two countries. Is universal brotherhood the true spirit of Canada? - W.L. Miskolzie, Ft. Saskatchewan, Alta.

BERET CAN BE SMART

The centrefold in the May Leader showing the new uniforms was very interesting, but too many of the berets looked like toadstool caps.

The beret can be a smart headdress if worn correctly. It should be large enough. If in doubt, err on the large side. Place the beret squarely on the head with the badge over the left eye. Grasp the right edge with the hand and pull it down towards the ear, rolling up the side with the thumb,

Too many leaders walk around looking improperly dressed. If they do not look smart, we cannot expect young members to do so.

John Wright, Thunder Bay, Ont. A THE LEADER, NOVEMBER 1991

SCOUTER'S 5

Where We Find God

by Rob Brown

A friend of ours recently spoke of feeling God's serenity in the peace and calm of her summer cottage. She said that her cottage experience sometimes seemed better than church.

I've known Scouters to express the same feeling in relation to camping, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

Truly, God is present in the calm of the outdoors. God is equally present in the busy office, school, and home. We also meet God in our personal devotions and the public worship of a faith community.

Think for a minute about our human relations. We meet our friends at home, at work, in social settings. These people are the same in every case, but we experience them differently in varying places. We relate differently to them in a work situation than we do in a social setting. Through these various experiences, we learn different sides of our friends' personalities.

So it is with God. In the natural world, we may experience God's beauty, or power, or calm. In community worship, we learn to name and praise God as creator and to see ourselves as part of the creation.

Our experiences of God change from time to time and place to place but, together, they shape our total understanding of God. And, as our understanding of God grows, so does our ability to love and serve God, in keeping with our Scouting promises.

Scouter Rob Brown is regional chaplain, North Saskatchewan Region.

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.673

Nov.'91

HINTS

Be Prepared for the Weather

Drink before you get thirsty. Eat before you get hungry. Rest before you get tired. Add clothing layers before you get cold. Don rain gear before you get wet. Apply sunscreen before you burn.

Winter Camp Tips

Carry candle stubs as firestarters for wet wood. A candle will burn a long time in the tinder to dry the wood.

When you dry clothing or gear by the fire, put it no closer than you can comfortably hold your hand.

Eat a high calorie snack before going to bed. Your body will burn the energy and warm you as you sleep.

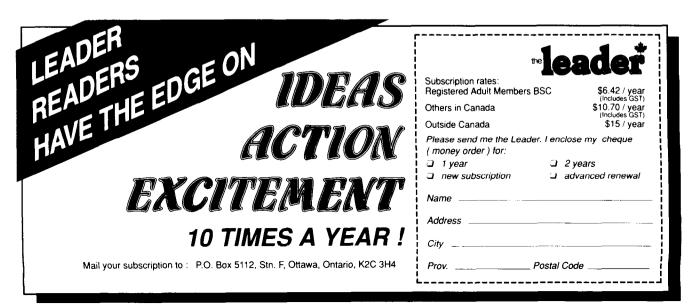
Bring water bottle and boots into the tent to avoid freezing. If it's very cold, place them into a stuff sack turned inside out to keep your sleeping bag clean, and sleep with them either in or under your bag.

Fluff up the sleeping bag before getting in to add more insulating air within the fibres.

A few muscular tension exercises will warm you if you wake up cold in your bag. Push palms together tightly and hold, for example.

Hints, p.645

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Finally, a couple of camping and animal hints whatever the weather. Keep a flashlight nearby when you sleep in case you hear animals in camp. And, at night, leave open backpack pockets where you've carried food. Mice can scurry in, look around, and leave. Otherwise, enticed by lingering food odours, they will gnaw through the pack.

Natural Signs

If you've lost your bearings and your compass,

it's good to know a few natural direction indicators. The snow on southern slopes is usually more granular.

Vegetation on southern slopes usually is smaller and denser; on northern slopes, it is generally larger and more open.

Evergreens usually are bushier on the eastern side.

The tops of pines and hemlocks point east.

A Green Christmas

Instead of tinsel and foil garlands, string chains of popcorn and cranberries for tree and room decorations.

Pack presents in reusable boxes, tins, and bags.

Make wrapping paper from coloured magazine pages, coloured comics, old posters, wall paper scraps, and the like.

Cut gift tags and other decorations from old greeting cards. Avoid throw-away ribbon and bows.

Buy a potted living tree (available at most nurseries) that you can plant outdoors after the holidays. You can safely bring evergreens under 1.5 m tall indoors for up to two weeks without harming them.

Hints, p.646

Hugs, the Wonder Drug

Have you ever wondered how effective hugs are? You rarely give a hug that is not appreciated or receive one that does not make your day a little brighter. Can you think of any medication with such pleasant side effects?

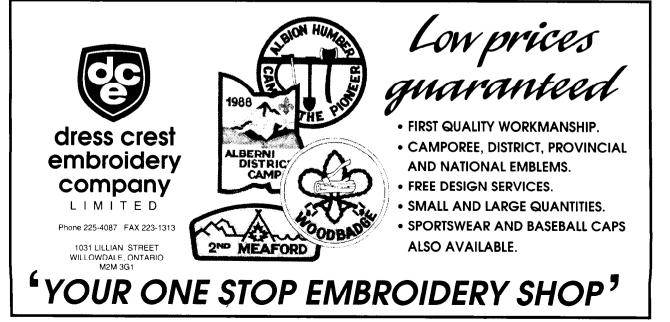
Hugs are good for you. They're not fattening and they don't cause cancer or give you cavities. They're all-natural — no preservatives, artifical sweeteners or other chemical additives. Hugs are cholesterol-free and contain 100% of the recommended daily allowance of hope and happiness. They're a completely renewable source of energy available without prescription.

Hugs don't require any special instructions. They don't need batteries, tune-ups or x-rays. They're non-taxable, fully returnable, and energy efficient. You can use them safely in all kinds of weather (in fact, they work especially well on cold or rainy days). They are particularly effective in treating everyday problems like stress, worry, anger, frustration, sadness or sorrow and, even, the occasional nightmare.

The best thing about hugs is you can use them without special training or experience. But a word of caution if you are trying them for the first time: never wait until tomorrow to hug someone who needs it today. Once you realize how good it feels, you'll want to do it again tomorrow. Hugs, you see, are extremely addictive.

- from Alberta Scoutlook, Northern Region

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.674





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For Service to Scouting

compiled by Cheryl Dinelle

In this issue, we are pleased to announce the names of people in Scouting who have been recognized for gallantry and service between February 1 and August 31, 1991. Awards made after August 31, 1991 will be announced in a spring issue of **the Leader**.

CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

(for meritorious conduct worthy of recorded commendation)

9th Bendale Venturers, Scarborough, Ont. Jeffery A. Amos, Moncton, N.B. George Balser, Moncton, N.B. Jeffrey J. Bond, Red Deer, Alta. Evelyn Clarke, Verona, Ont. Travis Flaman, Ft. Sask., Alta. Joshua Hambrook, Fredericton, N.B. David J. Hodge, Pierrefonds, P.Q. Ryan Monro, Ft. Sask., Alta. F. Jim Nichols, St. Albert, Alta. Scott Raaschou, Ft. Sask., Alta. Gary Walker, Ailsa Craig, Ont.

BAR TO SILVER ACORN

(for further especially distinguished service to Scouting)

Ted Adamson, Ottawa, Ont. Dennis J. Carlsen, Markham, Ont. E. Priscilla Copeland, Ottawa, Ont. James W. Hill, Saskatoon, Sask.

SILVER ACORN

(for especially distinguished service to Scouting)

Elizabeth A. Abrahamsen, Vernon, B.C. Dorothy Bailey, Ft. McMurray, Alta. Ross T. Bennett, Hamilton, Ont. Wayne Mendell Born, Hants Co., N.S. Malcolm H. Bradshaw, Yarmouth, N.S. L. Roy Brain, Calgary, Alta. Elizabeth A. Butcher, Langley, B.C. Robert Chattey, Vancouver, B.C. Patrick Connell, Burnaby, B.C. Philip A. Frost, Port Credit, Ont. Eric W.D. Goodwin, Cornwall, P.E.I. Larry R. Goslin, Kingsville, Ont. Robert P. Haycock, Calgary, Alta. Paul (Rev) Jackson, Oakville, Ont. Anthony J. Lovell, Edmonton, Alta. James Mason, Regina, Sask. L. Milton Miree, Ingersoll, Ont. Errol (Mitch) Mitchell, Halifax, N.S. Phil Neis, Ft. Sask., Alta. G. Allen Peabody, Fredericton, N.B. William Baden Powell, Montreal N., P.Q. Montgomery Starks, Saskatoon, Sask. Edwin Tessman, Ft. Sask., Alta.

Cameron Wallman, Lethbridge, Alta. Douglas G.M. Wilkie, Bringe Albert, Sack

Prince Albert, Sask.

BAR TO MEDAL OF MERIT

(for further especially good service to Scouting)

William R. Bedford, Brockville, Ont.
John A. Carl, Vancouver, B.C.
Ronald G. Cartwright, London, Ont.
George C. Fernie, Newcastle, Ont.
Charles Lang, Nanaimo, B.C.
Ethel E. Ogilvie, Guelph, Ont.
Ralph E. Russell, Burnaby, B.C.
William A.D. Smalley, Scarborough, Ont.
Elizabeth Smith, Toronto, Ont.

MEDAL OF MERIT

(for especially good service to Scouting)

Jim Adams, Pte. Claire, P.Q. Laurie Alders, Kings Co., N.S. Frank J. Amendt, Drumheller, Alta. Johanna M.L. Amendt, Drumheller, Alta. Jim Anderson, Forestburg, Alta.

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