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THE TRANSVAAL

NEWS SHEET



The World Wide Brotherhood of Scouts

NO. 24 - APRIL 1955

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"Look wider; look higher, look further ahead, and a way will be seen." - E.-P.

We are apt to get so absorbed in the practical business of Scouting - running our Packs or Troops or Crews - that we forget the larger issues and tend to get shut up in a small field fenced round by our own limited ideas and experiences. In other words we forget E.-P.'s injunction to "Look wider!"

Let each ask himself why he is a Scouter. Why does he give up his leisure time as well as his thinking time to training boys according to the Scout method and programme? Surely it is because he feels deep down that he is doing something - however inadequately - to train boys to be worthy and helpful members of the community; he is training them, in other words, to be good men; that is a simple expression that we may feel is priggish so we do not often use it, but when we get down to fundamentals the words "good men" express what we really have in mind.

The Scouter must have a vision; he must be a man with a vocation; that is to say, with a conviction that what he is doing is of the highest significance, and that by doing it he is fulfilling his nature. In the final analysis you cannot separate a sense of vocation from religion, and by religion here is meant "the knowledge of God, of His Will and of our duties towards him." And that is why "Duty to God" is part of the Promise every member of the movement makes on joining. This sense of being directed towards some special work in life is an essential qualification for being a Scouter. All kinds of practical skills are of no value if the Scouter is not compelled, as it were, to join the movement because in his innermost self he knows that this is work he should be doing.

Scouting therefore looks beyond the immediate business of practical training; this is not to underrate the importance of our methods and activities; they are interwoven with the aims; they help each other and they must both be there together. The methods and activities form the way or trail towards our ultimate objective - good men.

If we keep this important fact in mind we shall not allow ourselves to take a short-sighted view of our work. Nor shall we make of our Scouting a little, self-enclosed world of its own. We shall see it as part of a wider life. This is one of the reasons why Scouters should not shut themselves off from their fellow men, but share in our common life.

E.-P. said all this in words he wrote towards the end of his life:

"Let us, in training our Scouts, keep the higher aims in the forefront, and not let ourselves become too absorbed in the steps.

"Don't let the technical outweigh the moral. Field efficiency, backwoodsmanship, camping, hiking, good turns, Jamboree comradeships are all means, not the end.

"The end is CHARACTER - character with a purpose.

"And that purpose, that the next generation be sane in an insane world, and develop the higher realization of Service, the active service of Love and Duty to God and neighbour."

OLD WOLVES' MISCELLANY.
FROM THE TRANSVAAL SCOUTER - OCT. 1954.

The Star Tests provide us with quite a formidable basis, but what a lot of things which are useful to small boys are NOT included in the Star tests!

.....Hitting a nail on the head, for instance. Surely as good for co-ordination of eye and hand as ball-throwing, and often a great deal more useful. Why not try it as a relay race, with a block of wood and a quantity of tin-tacks or small nails per Six. The aim being to hammer in the tacks in the shape of a Union Jack, after having chalked the rectangle first.

Transvaal Scouter/.....

.....A few days ago a Cubmaster was telling me of a discussion which had recently taken place concerning dropping Semaphore from the Second Star Tests. One of his remarks interested me greatly: "I, myself have never liked Semaphore very much. I find it difficult, so we do a lot of it, and I have to think up ways of making it amusing for myself---and the Cubs" Here are a few games which are fun, and can be played by the whole Pack:-

(1) The Cubs are uplined across the the end of the Den. The Old Wolf, at the door end, signals a letter, the first Cub to call it out correctly, takes one step forward. This goes on until one Cub reaches the Old Wolf. His reward is to signal to the others.

(2) Cubs lined up in Sixes and numbered off. Old Wolf, stands at other end of Den, and a Circle is drawn on the floor in front of her. The Old signals a letter, and calls a number. Cubs of this number race to the circle, but only jump into it if they can give a word beginning with the letter signalled. Points awarded.

(3) Game number (2) can be rather fun if Cubs have to find an article, and race with it to the circle.

(4) As the Pack's knowledge of Semaphore progresses, they play this acting game, which is quite fun: Cubs in Sixes, around the Den, so that they can get a clear view of the signaller. Sing, Dance, Dig. The Six which goes into action correctly, wins.

.....Thinking of discussions, conferences, meetings and so on, reminds me that we all periodically need to be reminded that the most important part of our training is the instilling of a true appreciation and understanding of the LAW and PROMISE. All these other things, about which some of us are inclined to get a little hot under the collar, are merely "helps" or "aids" in the developing of the boy's character. Don't let us forget this vital fact.

.....Having "stuck my neck out" on one point, I might as well go a little further and offer another opinion on another controversial topic---
BADGE HUNTING'. B.P. gave us Cubbing, and as meat for the young wolves he gave us the Star Tests and the Badge System. The keenest of the Cubs will clamour for their meat, and we shall disappoint them if we deny it. Some months ago I heard a Cubmaster describe the Cubs of another Pack as "Horrid little boys who plaster themselves with badges." I was astonished and somewhat worried when a young Lady Cubmaster spoke apologetically of some of her Cubs who wanted to go in for the first Aider Badge, and asked meekly if it would matter! Later, I met a friend who had been in Scouting all his life. He was feeling disappointed because his son, after only six months in a Pack, had refused to attend any more, "Because", the boy explained, "They dont do anything but play games."-----I know some Senior Scouts. They are First Class and still keen. When they were in the Pack they covered themselves with badges, dreaming perhaps of the day when they would be Queen's Scouts"

....."I don't like nature - its sissy." I suppose that everyCubmaster has heard this before. Nevertheless, the recognition of birds and trees and an intelligent interest in the study of nature is part of the Cub's training, and where interest is lacking, it is the Cubmaster's job to create it. There is only one place to learn about nature and that is, of course, out of doors. Here is an idea for a day's outing. Every Cub is given a jam jar and later identified. Caterpillars might be worth bringing back to the den, where they could be watched as they change to chrysalides and eventually to butterflies. It is, of course, essential to feed them properly and it is best to use the type of plant on which they are found. In any event, even the toughest Sixer will find the study of nature interesting --- if he can do it through the walls of a jam jar!

.....An old coat hanger with a sheet of brown paper attached. This should be of considerable help to Packs who are unable to leave pictures etc, on the walls in their meeting places. Pictures and drawings are merely stuck on the brown paper, and we have an easily transportable notice board.

Terry McNally
Ak/Leader.

FROM HEAD QUARTERS' BULLETIN JANUARY 1955.

On 30th. September 1954 there should have been a great counting of heads and checking of records. It is sad indeed that we have to say "Should have been", and why is it so? True, we are frequently told that this is a voluntary Movement. Of course it is! No one forces us to join - we can leave when we feel like it. BUT WHILE WE ARE IN IT LET US REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE RULES FOR PLAYING THE GAME OF SCOUTING FOR BOYS".

Somewhere along the line there are weak links - these weak lines are people who do not keep records. Their excuse (or alibi) is that they are not clerks. How true! But they are not expected to be clerks - but it is a foolish man who expects his boys to PROGRESS if he keeps no record of what they have already done. In a very short time the Boy Scout Movement will be 50 years old - it will be a time of great rejoicing, and the spotlights of the world will be upon us. Let us tidy up our backyard NOW.

Some Divisions sent in very complete Census forms and S.A.H.Q. is very grateful to them. Although details cannot be worked out until the Census is complete, some very interesting, and indeed, disturbing facts stand out. One question sticks out a mile - where do all the recruits go to ?

J.D. FRASER.
GENERAL SECRETARY.

CAMP CHIEF'S DEPUTY FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

The Chief Scout, South Africa, has appointed Mr.G.E. Angus M.P.E. as Camp Chief's Deputy for South Africa.

The Camp Chief of the International Training Centre, Gilwell Park, has approved of the appointment, and soon Mr. Angus will receive his special Honourable Charge. Mr. Angus is known to all Sections of the Movement, as "White Fang". He has a long record of service to the Movement, and his experience in the field of Training is going to be of great value to the Movement in the years to come.

Our sincere congratulations go to "White Fang", and best wishes for a very happy and successful term of office.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY MESSAGE.

I am directed by the Chief Scout, South Africa to convey to you a message he has received from Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire for the occasion of St. George's Day (23rd April).

Please pass the message on to your Scouts.

J.D. FRASER
GENERAL SECRETARY.

"At this time we remember especially our Founder and his gift of Scouting to the world.

The world to-day is full of problems, many of which can only be solved through understanding of our fellow men, and a willingness to work for and with them. What can we as Scouts do to help? Firstly, by making every effort to live up to the spirit of the 4th. Scout Law -

"A Scout is a friend to all....." and secondly, actively seeking out opportunities of service to other people and to our towns and villages, rather than waiting to be asked."

(sgd.) ROWALLAN.
CHIEF SCOUT
BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND EMPIRE.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

"A pat on the back is a stronger stimulus than a prick with a pin".

B.P.

PHOTOGRAPHS. - 4 -

The Editor of the "World Scouting", the International Magazine, is anxious to have available a collection of photographs of Scouting of all the member countries of the International Conference.

The types of photographs are as follows:

A typical Scout in full uniform (three quarter length)
Sea Scouts, Handicapped Scouts, Patrols, etc.
Informal groups of Scouts, Patrols, etc.
Camp scenes showing types of tents, cooking places, gadgets, etc.
Outdoor Scout activities, e.g. games, pioneering, map work, woodmanship, Crafts, hobbies; Scouts at work and finished examples.
Hiking including tents and equipment.
Religious services and Scouts' owns.
Jamborallies.

The term "Scouts" above covers Cubs, Rovers, and others where appropriate

Any photographs you can send should be sent to S.A.H.Q. Please indicate where the event is taking place and what it is, but do not write on the back of the photograph. Please give as full a description of the activity, or whatever it is, as possible.

The above list is by no means complete. You may have photographs of items not listed above.

It is essential that South African Scouting should be publicised in the International magazine, and any assistance you can give in the way of photographs will be most gratefully received.

J.D. FRASER.
GENERAL SECRETARY.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES.

SHIRTS AND SHORTS

These are now available in all sizes.

SCOUT BELTS

These are also in stock.

COMING EVENTS

Training Camps

May: 6th. - 8th.: Patrol Leaders' Course for the whole of Pretoria District at Walmansthal near Pretoria.

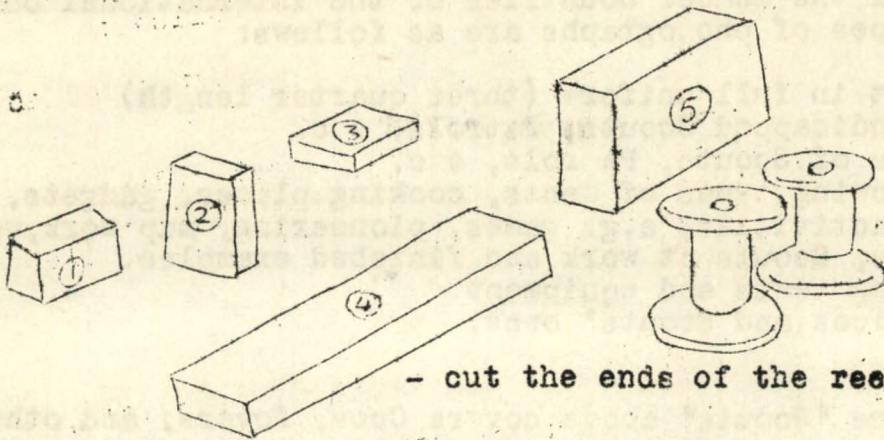
June: 19th. - 25th: Scout Woodbadge Course at Gilwell Grounds, Roodepoort.

July: 2nd. - 7th.: Cub Woodbadge Course at the Gilwell Grounds, Roodepoort.

Rallies

Pretoria District competitive Rally at Vlakfontein 10th. September, 1955
Cubs and Scouts.

A TOY VAN -



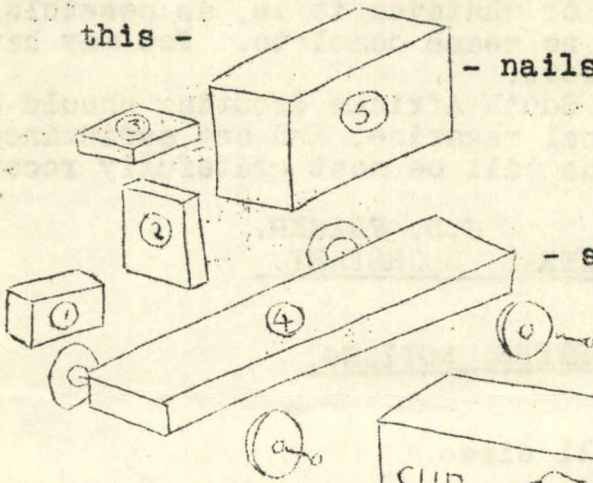
- cut the ends of the reels for wheels -

- these are the parts we need -

- then they go together like

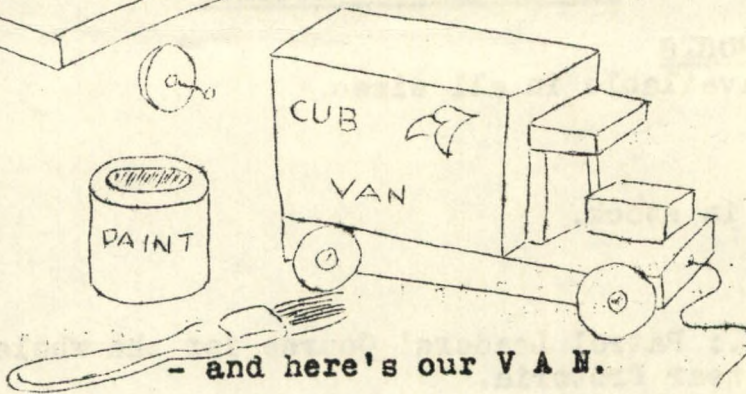
this -

- nails will do to hold it together -



- screws for the wheels -

- a bright coat of paint -



- and here's our V A N.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

CAMP CHIEFS.

Congratulations to Mr. D.C. Mogotsi, A.D.C. Pretoria.

Mr. G.A. Mphenyeke, D.C. West Rand.

On receiving from our Deputy Divisional their charges as
Assistant Divisional Camp Chiefs.

KAALFONTEIN.

A troop, the 1st. Witfontein, has been started at Kaalfontein by
Mr. G. Mobjane - Good Luck to this new troop.

BUSHEUCKRIDGE.

Congratulations to Scout Sibiya James and Timothy of the Troop, who
helped Frank Mashigo when he fell from the bicycle and broke his arm.

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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

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