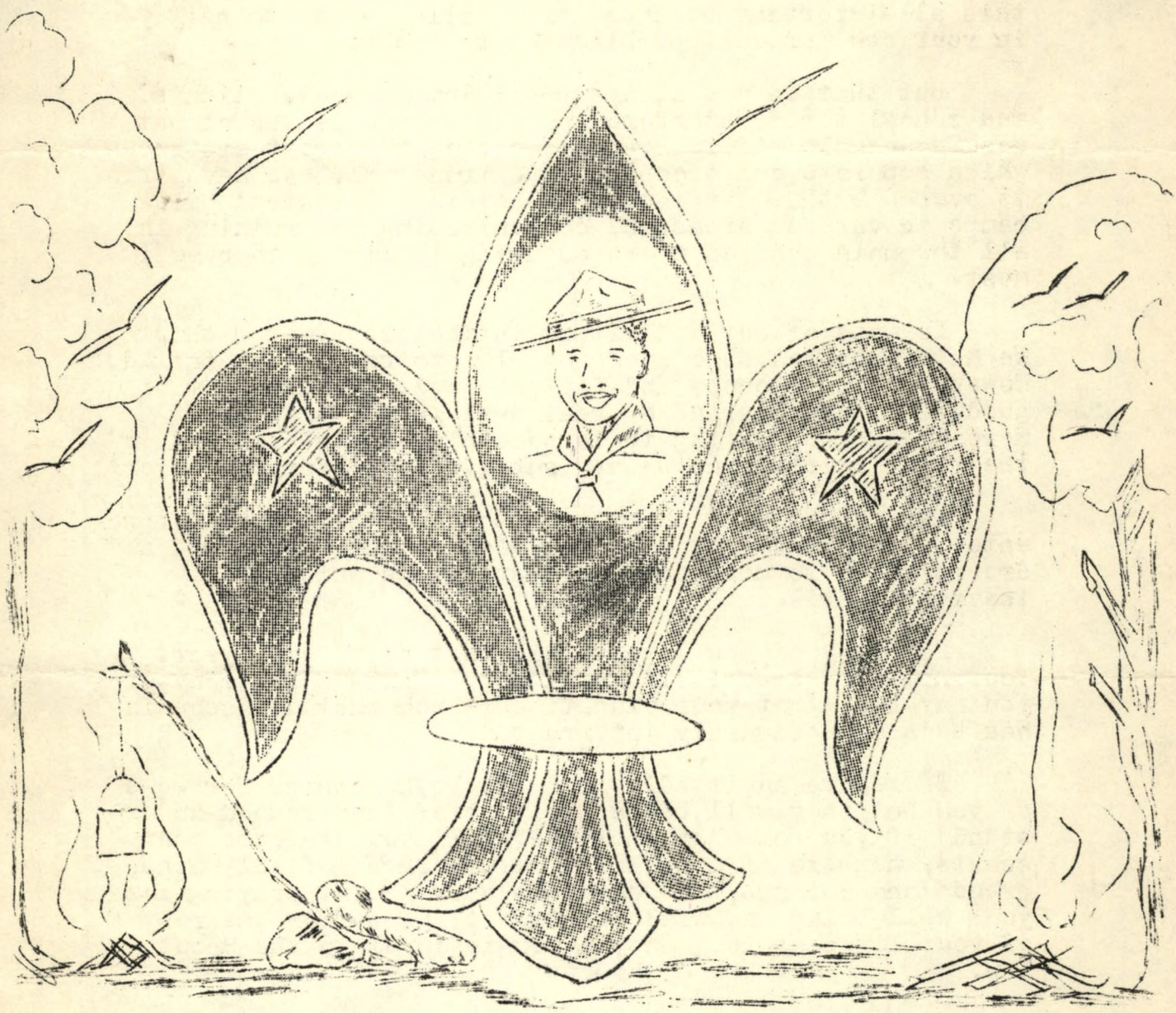


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TRANSVAAL NEWS SHEET



NO. 22

FEBRUARY, 1955

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISIONAL

It is not often that I address you through the medium of our News Sheet. I prefer to see you at your work and to chat to you on the spot and to exchange ideas about this all-important business of scouting - and to help you in your own personal problems where I can.

But that is not always possible. School holidays and school terms interfere and then there is the almost unsurmountable difficulty of covering the great distances which separate our troops in the Transvaal. We have tried to overcome this difficulty by holding periodical pilot camps in various areas and concentrating on training in all the main centres where scouting is likely to benefit most.

In many of our activities in the past year I think we have achieved some success. In others we have failed. However, both success and failure have done us a lot of good. We have learned a great deal in the process of merely doing or trying to do something worthwhile and in the right spirit, and we are surely better for the effort.

And now we have once again to face the future for we enter into a new year with all its resolutions, hopes and dreams - not to mention the frustrations which will inevitably arise.

For many of you boys it will not be an easy year. Your home and school life will have changed, and many of you may feel that your education (which includes scouting) has been unnecessarily interrupted.

There are admittedly going to be hardships for some of you but they will be easier to bear (and indeed understand) if you remember that above all you are cubs and scouts, members of a worldwide brotherhood of all races, creeds and colours, who are this very moment praying for your well-being and will continue to do so for the rest of your lives as long as you remain loyal to the Scout Law.

As members of the Boy Scout movement you are greatly privileged and have much to be thankful for, especially in times of hardship when one's friends count for so much - and I can assure you you have millions of friends in the movement all over the world.

So be of good cheer, and especially those of you who may feel that because you have temporarily lost your scoutmaster or some of your old troop friends you have also lost some essential part of your scouting; remember that while you remain true to your Promise you can never fail any more than your friends and officers will ever fail you.

No, indeed, this is the time for renewed effort - we here in the Transvaal are faced with difficulties which we possibly did not anticipate but I believe they are only of a temporary nature and that those troops affected will remain intact even under junior leadership if necessary.

And I am sure we shall not be lacking in leadership for it is one of our main objects to concentrate on this aspect of scouting in the future and to this end a permanent camp will be erected this year at Gilwell, Roodepoort.

Without going into any great detail (for the final plans have still to be approved) the camp will consist of a main hall, indoor accommodation for 100 boys, kitchens, ablutions, caretaker's house, storeroom and playing fields.

Eventually trees will be planted bordering the property and provided sufficient water is available a swimming bath or dam will be built.

Borehole operations have already started and we hope to start the erection of the main building before the end of this month.

From time to time you boys will be asked to help in one way and another, either over the week-ends or in your holidays (and I hope your fathers will help too).

This is your camp and you should all play a part in building it. The camp will also be shared by your sister movement, girls and boy's clubs, etc., to whom special days of the month will be allocated.

One of the main objects of the camp will be to establish a permanent training centre for Africans, and I hope sufficient use will be made of it to justify the employment of a full-time teacher.

For all this we are indebted to the Bantu Sports Trusts for a donation of £5,000 towards the erection and equipment of the buildings and the Anglo American Corporation for the buildings themselves and also for many services in connection with the sinking of the borehole and planning of the site, etc.

This is indeed a magnificent tribute on the part of our friends to you boys and girls who are going to benefit by it and who I hope by your example will instil in others the benefit of your training.

You are surely not without friends or opportunities - make the most of them - and may this new year be a very happy and progressive one for you all.

OUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mr. Jacob Namo has left us to study at St. Peter's Theological College, Rosettenville.

He joined the Transvaal Headquarters staff in December, 1952, as Assistant Secretary. From 1942 to 1946 he was a scout, first in the 3rd Evaton Troop and then in the 1st Pietersburg. From 1947 to 1949 he was A.S.M., 1st Pietersburg, and in 1950 S.M., 3rd Evaton, and A.S.M., 1st Springs.

He will be greatly missed in the "shop" where his efficiency and helpfulness have been appreciated by everyone. He is taking a three year course at St. Peter's and intends to become a mission priest and hopes to take up scouting again when he has completed his studies.

We all wish him well in his new work.

Mr. S.J. Sereme has taken his place in the shop as Assistant Secretary. He was a scout in the 3rd Evaton from 1942 to 1943 and in the 1st Pietersburg from 1942 to 1946. He became a 1st Class scout and obtained the following proficiency badges: Artist, Handyman, Farmer, Pathfinder, Trekker, Public Health, Healthy man and Gardener.

We are pleased to have helping us such an experienced scout.

FOR OLD WOLVES

From the "Transvaal Scouter", August, 1954

We can now consider some of the elements, as they may be called, of the cub programme.

GAMES

Cubs of the youngest age are not yet team players; they have to learn to play together in a good spirit of friendliness - ready to lose with a smile as well as to win with delight. They have much to learn, and it is the Cubmaster's job to help them learn. This cannot be done by harsh reproof (reproof without the harshness is sometimes needed) or by any sign of impatience; still less by ridicule or sarcasm. Once the Pack is established there should be a Pack tradition of fair play that will sweep along the newcomers by its influence without much talk or exhortation.

Two rules are to be kept in mind as aids in this form of training:--

(1) Lists of games and the gear for playing each should be ready beforehand. Any fumbling round for equipment is bound to lead to disorder. This collecting of gear can sometimes be done by one of the more experienced Cubs (but check it!) or by a Scout who has a flair for Cub work.

(2) Rules of any game should be (a) few and simple, (b) carefully explained in easy language; and (c) strictly insisted upon. It is a help with a new game to explain it first to the Sixers.

A third rule might be added: If a game doesn't succeed don't go on forcing it on the Cubs; think out afterwards the reasons for failure and if these cannot be remedied then scrap the game.

Cubs will take a liking to certain games and clamour to play them again and again; there is no harm in this if kept within reason but repetition should not be at the cost of new or different games which are needed for some purpose, such as practice in some Cub activity. Even a small variation in an old game can be refreshing to all players.

YARNS

The telling of yarns is not a difficult job provided the Cubmaster takes a little care in selection of the yarn and in preparing himself. Cubs are not literary critics; they want movement and action. Animal stories are always popular but these should not humanize animals too much. There is much good material in folk tales which can be adapted. Tales of legendary and historic heroes are popular if not overloaded with information. Avoid the babyish, the mawkish and the horrific. Try making up yarns; this is not as difficult as it seems once you take the plunge. Be careful in repeating a yarn that you stick to the original version in every detail, otherwise you will soon be told about it! Perhaps the safest thing is not to repeat but to use fresh material of which the world is full. The length of a yarn depends on how interesting it is; watch your audience.

DRAMATICS

The wrong word perhaps as it suggests something more elaborate than is meant. "Dressing up and pretending" is a better expression. Yarns told can be the material; or a few characters can be suggested and the Cubs left to make up a scene or several scenes about them. Collect all kinds of bits of cloth, old hats and other odds and ends for a dressing-up chest-of-drawers.

MAKING THINGS

Young boys delight in making things out of odd materials. They will not be too concerned with craftsmanship (this is a later stage) but they like to get a fairly quick result. As the Cub gets older he can be encouraged to aim at more solid achievements and spend more time on a job. Drawing should be included under

this head -- with use of colours. The Cubmaster will need a quick imagination sometimes to see what is meant -- he should not adopt the attitude of "now I'll show you how to draw so and so". Elaborate equipment and ready-made pieces that only need to be put together are not needed; a Cub will do wonders with a cotton reel and a few bits of stick.

All the above elements can be brought into the Pack meeting and an attractive mixture be provided in which each Cub will find something to thrill him and make him keen to go on with his Cubbing. There should be no set pattern of a meeting; the same old round or routine can quickly tire a boy; we must have the element of surprise in our programmes -- the unexpected is more attractive than the expected and it keeps the boy on his toes.

The nature of the meeting and its place should be changed whenever possible and as much as weather, daylight, and our own resources allow. Expeditions should be part of the life of a Pack; these need not be distant or long affairs; even a few streets away is a new land of adventure to a small boy. Then there are places to visit -- a park or a garden, the railway station or the docks, and many other places it is fun to go to with the Pack. Take them and have fun with them.

GUY ROPES

From an Old Scout

Our tent has four main guy ropes. They are:-

1. Unity
2. Unselfishness
3. Fairplay (to others)
4. Responsibility

We find that when any of these guy ropes are slack the tent won't stay up.

WOOD BADGE

The following papers are now available:-

- S.A.H.Q. Form No. 39: Cub Wood Badge, Part I, Theory
- S.A.H.Q. Form No. 40: Scout Wood Badge, Part I
- S.A.H.Q. Form No. 41: Rover Wood Badge, Part I
- S.A.H.Q. Form No. 38: Instructions to Candidates
- S.A.H.Q. Form No. 42: Cub Wood Badge, Part III
- S.A.H.Q. Form No. 43: Scout Wood Badge, Part III

You are strongly recommended to use books with hard covers for your answers.

Please apply to Transvaal Headquarters for these forms.

It is not often that an announcement is made that the Wood Badge has been awarded to a CHIEF SCOUT.

For the first time in the history of South Africa a South African Chief Scout has completed his Wood Badge course.

Our Chief Scout is a busy man but never too busy for Scouting. Somehow he found time to complete Part I and then attended the 34th Transvaal Cub Wood Badge Course at Gilwell, Florida. This was a very happy and successful Course.

There is no such thing as an honorary Wood Badge - everybody wishing to earn it has to do it by attending a course.

The Chief Scout became a humble member of his "Six" for the duration of the Course and took his turn with the others in cleaning the porridge pot!

There is a lot of truth in the saying that the busiest man always finds more time for more work! Our sincere congratulations to the Chief Scout.

The splendid example of the Chief Scout should do much to encourage Scouters throughout South Africa to find the time required to complete their Wood Badge Course. There are still eleven Courses arranged for this year. Surely one of them suits you. If not this year then there are 16 courses for next year.

CAMP CHIEF'S DEPUTY FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Chief Scout, South Africa, has appointed Mr. G.E. Angus, M.B.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.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Any ass can see the bad points in a man."

B.P.

PRE-WARRANT COURSE

Dear Officer,

This is a message of greeting to you all at the beginning of this year, 1955. We are starting this new year with great hopes for better scouting all over the Transvaal. Boys are ready and waiting for someone who will give them adventure, outdoor activity, good fun, a feeling of achievement and comrades.

Your efforts as Scoutmasters all over the division are known and appreciated. The H.Q. of the Transvaal Division wishes to acknowledge all your good deeds. You are doing well to give the boys the adventure they want. Still, allow us to point out that many Troops are being led by Scoutmasters who know practically nothing about Scouting. However keen such Scouters may be, the boys gain very little or nothing from them. The reason is that these Scouters have never gone through any form of training.

The purpose of this letter is to invite all those Scouters who have never been trained to make some effort to try and train themselves through reading the following books:

Scouting for Boys
P.O. & R.
How to Start a Troop.

The last-mentioned pamphlet is supplied free of charge on application to the African Boy Scouts Association, P.O. Box 8356, Johannesburg.

The questions which follow this letter will help you to know what is expected of you before you are admitted as one of the Warranted Scouters of this Division.

Answer these questions in any order but FIVE at a time. Send your answers to the Secretary, African Boy Scouts Association, P.O. Box 8356, Johannesburg, where your answers will be read, noted and returned to you.

You will be expected to carry on until you finish writing all the fifteen questions. You will then be told whether you have passed your written work or not.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY THE END OF MAY, 1955, ALL SCOUTMASTERS WHO HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO TRAIN THEMSELVES IN THIS WAY SHALL HAVE SENT IN THEIR FIFTEEN ANSWERS.

In June, 1955, no Troop that is run by an untrained Scoutmaster will be recognized by our Office. This means that we shall not count that Troop as anything as far as we are concerned.

A Pre-Warrant Certificate will be issued to all Scouters who have completed all the fifteen questions and who will later on have undergone a one-day practical training arranged by their District Commissioner.

KINDLY APPLY FOR THE QUESTIONS NOW IF YOU HAVE NOT GOT THEM YET. TIME IS TOO SHORT. MAY MONTH IS VERY NEAR. YOU MAY BE CUT OFF LIKE ROBINSON CRUSOE ON THE ISLAND OF JOAN FERNANDEZ.

D.C. Marivate D/C/C

PRE-WARRANT COURSE

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Quote in detail the qualifications laid down for a Scouter in the section to which you propose to belong.
 2. Quote in detail the aim of the Boy Scouts Association as laid down in P.O.R.
 3. In Part III of "Scouting for Boys" - "Principles and Methods" - B.P., in describing the deficiencies of present-day youth, asks three questions:
 - (a) How is it possible to apply a remedy for this?
 - (b) What form can the remedy take?
 - (c) How can a private individual help?Reply to these questions in your own words.
 4. Describe an imaginary Court of Honour meeting. State how it is constituted and give an agenda.
 5. In "Scouting for Boys", Part III, under "Patrol System":
 - (a) What number of boys does B.P. suggest as a nucleus of a new Troop? For what reason?
 - (b) What maximum number does B.P. suggest for a Troop?
 - (c) What does the Founder say about placing responsibility on the individual?
 6. Under the heading "How to Start a Scout Group", B.P. gives us a reminder about what the boy wants and what he does not want when he joins. Repeat this in your own words.
 7. When and how is the Scout sign (as opposed to the salute) given? Why is it so important on this occasion?
 8. Why should Scouts and Cubs be smart when parading with other organizations?
 9. Design a Progress Chart for a Troop (or Pack).
 10. Why should games play an important part in the Troop programme?
 11. Describe an outdoor wide game.
 12. Quote the passage in "Scouting for Boys" in which B.P. gives his views on the standard for tests.
 13. Read Camp Fire Yarn No. 3 in "Scouting for Boys" and describe the investiture ceremony in your own words.
 14. You have been asked to read Rules 10, 11 and 12 of P.O.R. Write out briefly what obligation is placed on you by these rules.
 15. What is the Wood Badge?
-

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

SOME OF THE BOOKS YOU MUST HAVE

What They are About

"Maps - How to read and make them"	Training of observation and general intelligence
"Prayers for Use in the Brotherhood of Scouts"	That God should always be remembered
"Rovering to Success"	How to be happy though rich or poor
"Camping Standards"	Gives the essentials only of a good Scout camp
"First Steps in Scouting"	How to pass Tenderfoot and Second Class tests

SHIRTS AND SHORTS

These are now available in all sizes.

SCOUT BELTS

These are also in stock.

THANKS

The Editorial Committee wishes to thank the European section of the Transvaal for their help during the past year in getting out the News Sheet.

Collection Number: AD1715

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

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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