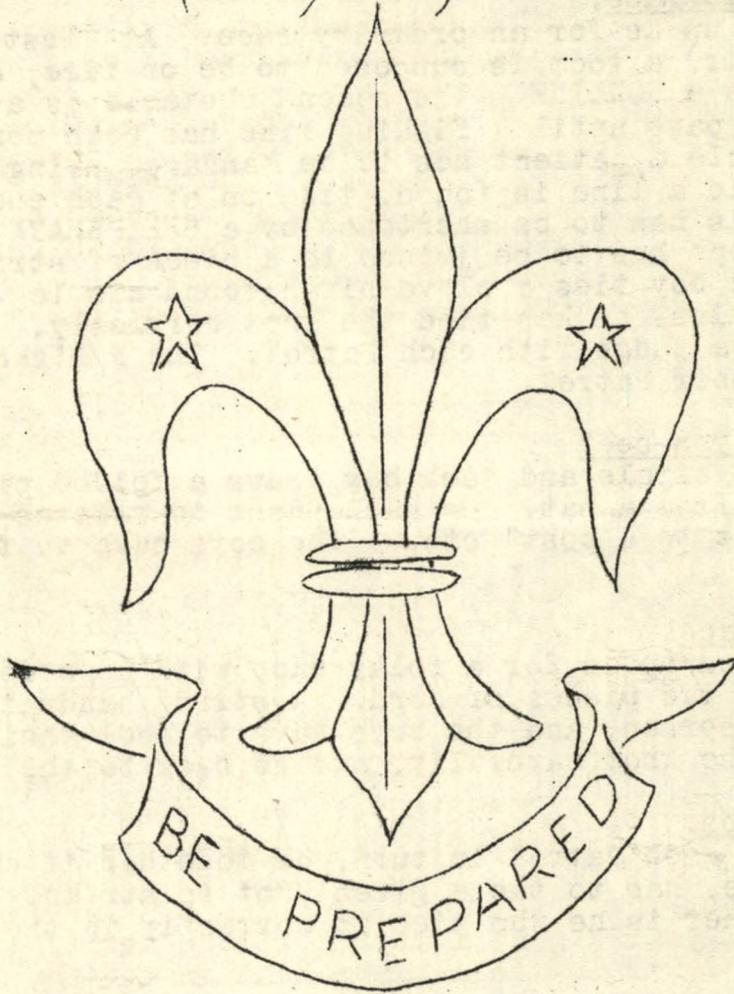


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# T R A N S V A A L N E W S S H E E T



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No. 27

July 1955.

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LOVE FOR NEIGHBOUR  
FROM THE "TRANSVAAL SCOUTER"

In promoting the second commandment, love for one's neighbour, we urge our Scouts and Guides to express this in active form by doing, even in an elementary way, good service for others.

The daily good turn, without desire for reward, which grows by progressive stages till it becomes a habit of conduct, goes on till it involves sacrifices in time or money or pleasures, even to the extent of involving danger to the life of the performer.

We teach the boy that a gift is not his till he has expressed his gratitude for it. His attitude to God is, therefore, thankfulness for benefits received, and his method for expressing this is through service, on behalf of God, to his fellow-men.

B.P.'s Outlook.

FOR YOUR GAMES BOOK

1. Knotting Obstacle Race.

Patrols form up as for an ordinary race. At first obstacle (a line chalked on the floor) a room is supposed to be on fire, and a boy has to be dragged out with a BOWLINE. The second obstacle is a river, and they are not allowed to pass until a fishing line has been mended as a good turn. Third obstacle a patient has to be bandaged using a REEF KNOT. At a fourth obstacle a line is found, ties up at each end, but trailing on the ground; this has to be shortened by a SHEEPSHANK until tight. Fifth obstacle a rope has to be joined to a piece of string with a SHEET-BEND. Finally each boy ties a clove hitch round his leg. No one may pass an obstacle unless he has tied the knot correctly. N.B. There must be a judge with each Patrol. The P/L's could do this, each examining another Patrol.

2. What knot would you see?

All sit in a circle and each boy draws a folded piece of paper and two pieces of cord from a hat. On each paper is written sentences such as "He tied the boat to a post" etc. The boys have to tie the appropriate knots.

3. Blindfold knot race.

Patrols formed up as for a relay race with a person in front of each Patrol holding two pieces of cord. A string handrail is led from the Patrol to that person, and the boys have to feel their way along (blindfolded) tie the knot carefully, and go back to the rear of the Patrol.

4. Fingers and Thumbs.

One boy from each Patrol in turn, or together if enough boxing gloves are available, has to tie a given knot in string, with boxing gloves on. The winner is he who ties it correctly in the shortest time.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"The best progress is made in those troops where power and responsibility are really put into the hands of the Patrol Leaders."

B.P.

DODGES WITH OLD MOTOR CAR TYRES AND TUBES  
BY McCYRIL

FROM "JAMBOREE"

INNER TUBES

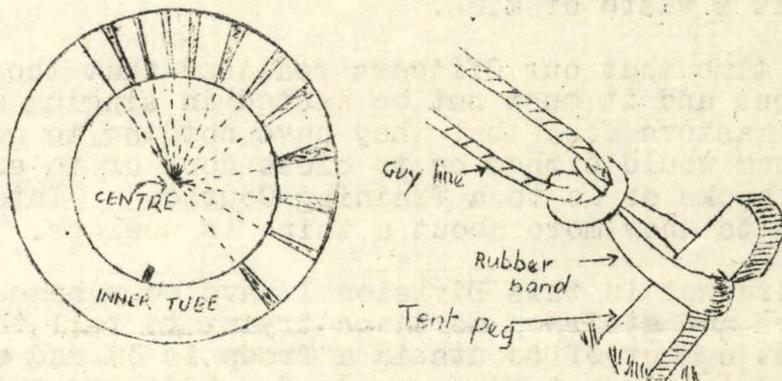
How to cut them: The width will vary according to the use to which the bands will be put. You should cut the bands as shown in the illustration: the tyre is circular and therefore larger on its outside diameter; if you cut towards the centre the bands will not be parallel. The shaded portions show the pieces of tube which will be wasted when cutting the bands. The dotted lines show how one edge of the bands meets the central point of the tube: the other edge is parallel to it.

SOME USES FOR THE BANDS

Use: Packing of tent poles - bands 3 inches wide.

Method: Use one rubber band at each end of a bundle of poles, laying the poles through the band. Then push in a few extra poles so that the bands expand and grip the poles.

Comments: The poles are rigidly held together and are easy to handle - they will not slip out of place and will not get lost whilst being transported from one place to another.



Use: Self-adjusters for guy lines - bands  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide.

Method: Do not loop the guy line round the tent peg, but loop the rubber band on to the loop at the bottom of the guy line and then slip the band over the tent peg.

Comments: You can forget all about windy and wet weather if you fit rubber bands to all the guy lines of your tent. The rubber bands will take up any slackness caused by the guy lines drying out after rain. When it begins to rain the guy lines will shorten and the rubber bands will stretch. In fact your guy lines have become self-adjusting and will have much longer lives in consequence.

OUTER COVERS

How to cut them: Any sharp knife with a thin blade will do this job, such as a lino or cobbler's knife; a hacksaw blade will also do this job. Use the walls or sides of the tyres rather than the tread.

Use: Runners for guy lines.

Method: Cut the tyre to the shape of a runner and then bore a hole in each end not much larger than the diameter of the guy line otherwise it will not grip it. If you can borrow a suitable leather punch it will cut nice clean holes; otherwise a carpenter's brace and bit will do.

Comments: The rubber runner will grip the guy line better than one made from wood, and staying put in one position will reduce wear on the line.

Use: Sandles for wearing in camp.

Method: Use a section of the tread for this job. Draw an outline of the soles of your pair of shoes on the tread and cut to the line. Split the sole in its edge where you wish to put the straps. Cut the straps from inner tube, slip into the slits and drive a short nail or brad through each

end of the straps to hold them in the slits. Take care to cut the rubber straps slightly shorter than your foot measurements so that they grip the foot when the sandals are worn.

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LIMITATION TO THE SIZE OF THE TROOP AND PACK.

The Editor,  
"Transvaal News Sheet".

I know many Officers will think I am discouraging their Scouting when they read this letter, but I am not, I am trying to show them what they do not see and that, is that Scouting is not for the Group but for the individual. We train the mass through the boy. We want that one boy to start well in life i.e. to develop the spirit of unselfishness, honesty, usefulness, reliability, and self-reliance.

We do not preach to the boy but we practise with him. We give our attention to him. We try to know something about his life, his parents, and his inclination.

Singing, yelling, drum-beating, drilling and marching may be exciting but they all do not contain the pith of scouting, they are just the rind. The above-mentioned activities require a large group of boys if a great deal of warmth is to be obtained; added to this, spectators are wanted to increase the tempo of the entertainers. As a result many people go away with the impression that Scouting is just a mere play. Others call it a waste of time.

It is time that our Officers realised that the boy's time is also very precious and it must not be wasted in singing and jumping about. If Scout-masters find that they have nothing to give to the boys the best for them would either be to close down or to seek knowledge by reading scout books or go to a Training Course. Interest only without any effort to know more about a thing is useless.

As a trainer in this Division I have been hammering again and again at Courses and at Troop meetings trying to tell the Officers that the largest number of Scouts in a Troop is 32 and not more, but it seems this advice is not taken heed of. Officers think that we want large numbers - E-e, No, Nie, Haikhona, a si funi loku, ha re batli dinomoro tse ling makitikititi, a hi lavi madzanadzana ya mintlunya ya vafana. We do not die for large numbers.

The same applies to Cubbing - the largest number of Cubs in the Pack should be 12 if the Cub-master is alone, 24 if they are TWO, and 36 if they are THREE. - Too drastic you will say!! Yes, I am afraid I am too strict but we should work for quality and not quantity.

Boys want to see and to feel that they are progressing. They want badges. They will go to any length if at all they see a badge dangling before their eyes. If the boys are too many how on earth can an Officer help them all to progress as they should?

It is really heart-breaking to visit a Troop and to find that someone has forced all the boys of the School to join Scouting. He thinks it is good for them and yet when we go deep into that Troop we find that boys are kept at a Tenderfoot stage year in year out. Some of those that have persevered for 8 or even 9 years have not even a rag of a badge on their shirts and when tested will struggle hard even to repeat a law.

If the boys are too many, create more Troops and try and get Scout-masters for them, and, this is important, a School that has more than one Troop should see to it that each Troop holds its own meetings independent of the others.

Here is summary of my article: Largest size of a Troop ... 32 boys.  
Largest Cub Pack... 12 Cubs per Officer.

Signed D.C. Marivate  
Trainer, African Boy Scouts.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES.

CUB CAPS.

The Cub Caps have at last arrived and remember that the price is still the same 5s. 9d. each. So first come first served is our motto.

HATS.

These too have arrived but "SCOUTER'S TYPE" only with the same old price £1. 2s. 6d. excluding postage.

S T A T I O N E R Y.

Some of the books you must have:-

What They are About.

"First Steps in Scouting".....

How to pass Tenderfoot and Second Class Tests.

"First Class Tests".....

How to pass these tests.

"Patrol System".....

The means and plans by which this can be introduced to a Troop.

"Aids to Scoutmastership".....

A guide book for Scoutmasters on the Theory of Scout Training.

K H A K I U N I F O R M.

SHIRTS:

12 up to 14 Inches neck..... 17/6d.

14½ Inches upwards..... 24/6d.

SHORTS:

25 Inches waist ..... 9/-.

26 Inches " ..... 9/6d.

28 Inches " ..... 16/3d.

30 Inches " Upwards..... 21/3d.

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