



Newsletter of the BPSA in Canada April 2012

FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S DESK

Greetings one and all.

I was impressed by an article recently published in the Merritt Herald which talked about a person and it said, "Sometimes his interaction with youth is the result of his role as a volunteer with Citizens on Patrol which operates under the umbrella of our RCMP detachment. And I strongly suspect that kids, when intercepted by _____(Name withheld to protect privacy) doing things they shouldn't, experience much more shame than if they have been caught by parents/guardians. So what does that tell you about ____ (Name withheld for privacy reasons) as a person?"



Wow, can those words be applied to us as leaders in the BPSA movement? I certainly hope so. We have an obligation to be role models and living examples of how one should conduct oneself in society. Should we meet anyone of our youth members in public, would they be embarrassed by what they were doing if you saw them. Or, would they run up to you and tell you everything they have been up to and have done since last seeing you.

We have a lot of influence on the lives of those we come into contact with.

Recently on a trip to the Cariboo I had the pleasure of enjoying breakfast at A & W in Williams Lake and as I was leaving, an elderly couple remarked on how nice it was to know that some people were making a difference in the lives of youth. Yes, I was in uniform and during our 15 minute conversation discovered that the lady was a former Girl Guide Leader and her husband who is now afflicted with the onset of dementia was a Boy Scout and achieved a lot from his time spent in the movement.

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Just to hear how we are appreciated makes the time and effort spent worthwhile. On the trip home while fuelling my vehicle, three adults asked how my weekend camp went and the clerk expressed his dismay that there were no scouts in his village. He is a Sea Cadet and at the tender age of 18 is a certified Power Squadron Instructor, Has his first aid at an advanced level and enjoys working with youth.

My, what a legacy we have to pass on.

Do not be discouraged by minor setbacks with the youth during the commission of our programs, you never know just how much of an impact, which often is life lasting, you are having on the youth and other members of society.

I can hold my head up high and proclaim that I am a proud member of the Greatest Movement on Earth.

Keep up the great work!

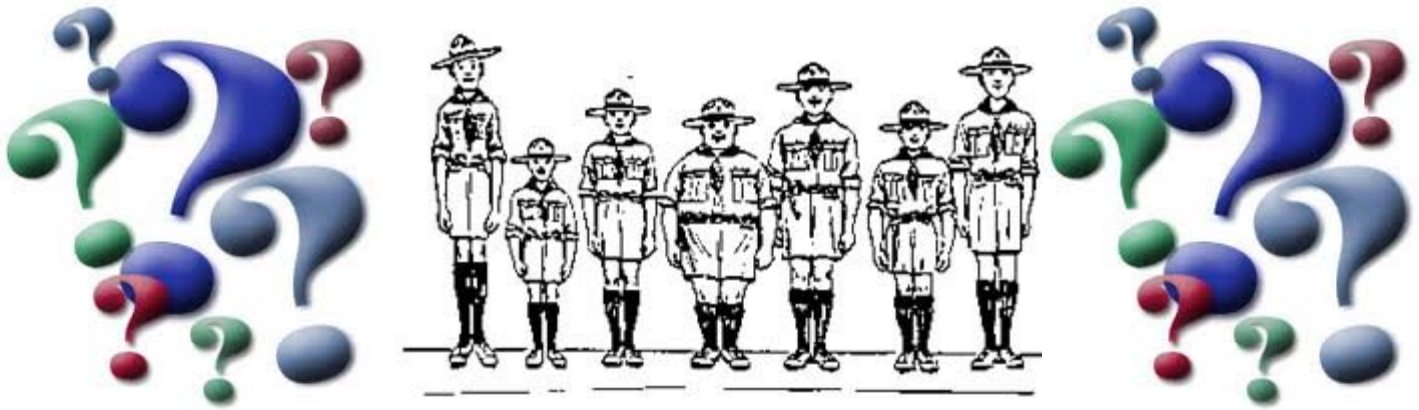
YiTS
Mike Maloney
Chief Commissioner



REMINDER!

ANYONE NEW REGISTERING AFTER APRIL 1 WILL BE REGISTERED UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST 2013! WHAT A GREAT INCENTIVE TO START RECRUITING, 17 MONTHS OF TRADITIONAL SCOUTING FOR THE PRICE OF 12 (AS IF OUR PRICES ARE NOT LOW ENOUGH ALREADY).





FLAGS

One of the things I think all Scouts should learn to do is to recognize the national flags of other countries.

Here are some questions on flags, a few of which I know are very difficult: –

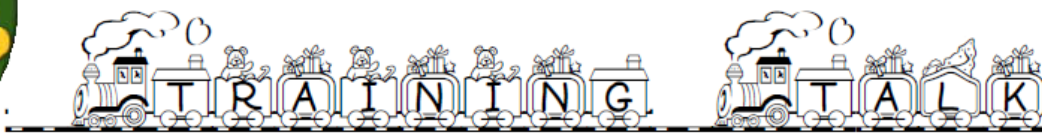
1. I am sure we agree that the most normal shape for a flag is rectangular. What country has a flag which is not rectangular?
2. A number of countries incorporate a vertical and horizontal cross into the design of their flag. Which countries incorporate a vertical and horizontal cross set well off centre?
3. Which countries have flags which, if flown upside down, is the flag of another country?
4. Which country has a design using one star and a crescent?
5. Which two countries have a flag which incorporates three other flags?
6. How many stars and stripes are there on the U.S.A. flag?
7. Name four countries of which the flags do not contain the colour red.
8. Name three countries of which the flags contain the colour green.
9. Name three countries of which the flags contain the colour black.

LANGUAGES

If you met a Scout from the following countries what language would you expect him to speak? (The chances are that he would speak English, but we would probably not do so well conversing in his language.)

1. Argentina
2. Brazil
3. Mexico
4. Sri Lanka
5. Cyprus
6. Luxembourg
7. Belgium
8. Uganda
9. Israel
10. Lebanon
11. Thailand
12. Malaysia
13. Aruba
14. Madagascar
15. Switzerland





by Terry Blaker

I recently came across a few interesting things. As you're reading, try to figure out what date the material might hail from, and I'll be a sport and give it away at the end.

MEMBERSHIP

- 1) (Our investigation) showed that many boys left the Movement because they lost interest or never became interested. This is often due to stale and repetitive programs. More emphasis should be placed on adventure and the unexpected, and activities should take place in the open air as much as possible. Scouting is a brotherhood of the out-of-doors, not an indoor (...) game. Camping is an essential activity."
- 2) "We lose about one in eight of our Scouters each year. About two-thirds of those lost resign owing to (job transfer), business duties or domestic ties including marriage. (...) Perhaps the saddest cases are those who resign because they feel isolated and lack encouragement. Regular visits by Commissioners, and perhaps an occasional letter or call (...) can frequently prevent such cases arising."
- 3) "Many people are deterred from volunteering to help by the poor appearance of Scouting they see locally - (badly dressed) Scouts and Scouters, odd or dirty uniforms."
- 4) "We know now that 80 percent of our leaders come from the ranks of Scouts, and we are very glad that this is the case. (...) But we could obtain many more Scouters from this source if we retained more boys in the Movement until they became old enough to (become leaders.) We need much better activities for these boys if we are to keep them after the age of 15. Groups or Districts which are able to run an active Rover Crew find it an excellent source for the recruitment of Scouters."
- 5) "One thing that is disturbing to me is the fact that we haven't yet got down to the Patrol System. Perhaps most of your Scouters would tell you that they are working the Patrol system, but my own experience in talking to the (members) is that very few really know the Patrol Leader's job and are doing it. (...) It cannot be too strongly emphasized that without the Patrol system there can be no Scouting. (...) The P.L. who only meets his Patrol on Troop nights is not a Patrol *Leader*, and is gaining no more benefit from Scouting than he would get from any (other) organization dealing with boys."
- 6) "...the leakage figures showed that over half of the Troops gave no special training to Patrol Leaders. As the Patrol system cannot work properly unless the PLs receive training for their jobs, this is an alarming figure, and urgent attention must be given to improving it. " "Three principal reasons for the loss of (youth) were suggested. They were:
 - (i) the poor standard of some of our Scouters,
 - (ii) the imperfect application of the Group system,
 - (iii) lack of progress in the particular Scout unit, which is primarily due either to unimaginative programs, or to undue delay in passing the basic tests."





by Terry Blaker

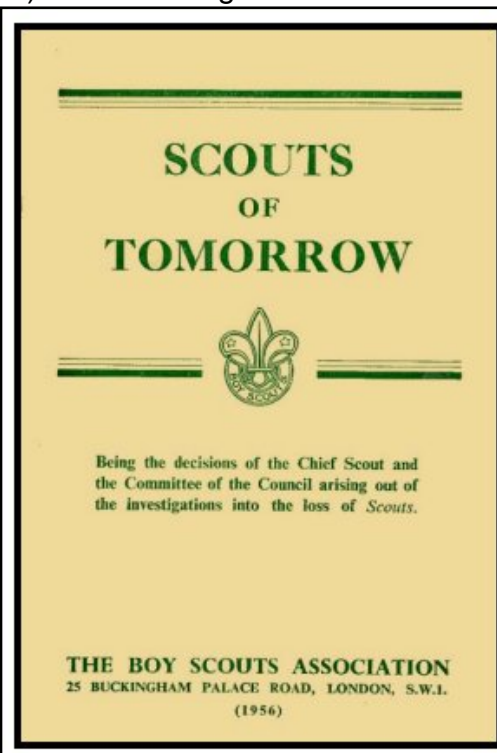
COMMUNICATION

7) "A very great weakness in our Movement has been emphasized - the failure of information to reach the Groups, and above all, the (members). (If we work on improving our communications)...then we shall cease to be what in too many cases we are -- a number of little individual units, each working by ourselves and for ourselves -- and become a Movement working for a common purpose, recognizing our interdependence one upon the other, and the strength and inspiration which comes from unity."

End of Quoted Stuff

So, what does everyone figure as to dates? Last week at the Scouter's Club? 1997? 1988's changes? How about 1968's? APR? Nope. Everything Old is New Again. It all comes out of a "Commissioner's Handbook" ('CH' from here forward) someone basically gave me, and the dates for the quotes are as follows:

- 1) "Leakage Investigation" done in 1953 and released as "Scouts of Tomorrow" in 1956. Summary quoted done in CH, 1960.
- 2) "Manpower", CH, 1960
- 3) "Manpower", CH, 1960
- 4) "Manpower", CH, 1960
- 5) 1950 message from Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, to all Commissioners
- 6) "Leakage Investigation" (1953) as quoted from "Scouts of Tomorrow" (1956)
- 7) 1954 message from Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, to all Commissioners



FOREWORD

Ever since the "leakage report", as it came to be known, was published we have had a committee of Scouters examining it. We knew that Scouting as practised in many Groups was very different something from B-P's ideas, in fact, it wasn't really Scouting at all, but did we realise just how many cases of this odd form of activity there were? Now we do know, and the question is "What are we going to do about it?"

The answer is simple and beyond any question if we are honest with ourselves and consider only the welfare of the boys and young men. Too many of us suffer from moral cowardice these days in every walk of life. Let sleeping dogs lie is so much pleasanter, isn't it? But too often the dog is dead and had been for years and how it stinks before we recognise it.

Every time we shirk what we know to be our duty we deprive Scouts of their opportunity for the true adventure of life. Is it really right to save one man's feelings at such a cost? If we follow the suggestions in this pamphlet Scouting will not perhaps become perfect over-night but what a wonderful change we shall see. Scruffy Groups disappearing; Troops as full as Packs; Queen's Scouts the normal, not the exception.

We must all do our own jobs without fear or favour, setting standards in our own personal lives nearer to the ideals of the Promise and the Law. In light of this report excuses stand condemned.

Rowallan.
Rowallan, Chief Scout,
June 1956

The booklet at left is available as a PDF file at: <http://www.thedump.scoutscan.com/STomorrow.pdf>

YiTS,





ROVERS



THE HIKE OF A LIFETIME

LIFE, like a hike of uncertain length through unknown country, stretches in front of each one of us. We cannot refuse this journey; we are compelled to take it by the mere fact of being alive, but we have a very wide choice how we may deal with it. We can, for example, make plans to meet likely events, or we can drift along blindly, bumping ourselves badly from time to time. We may pack our kits with useful knowledge, leaving out those things which will hinder rather than help our progress. We may go into training so as to develop new abilities, increasing our power to enjoy and make the best possible use of the opportunities which come our way. Or, on the other hand, we can let ourselves be so intensely engrossed by the pleasures, pains, or dullness of the passing moment that we slouch through day after day, and month after month, with no purpose, no method and no ideals.

According to the choice we make, and keep on making, will it become clear eventually whether we have hewn out for ourselves a strong and manly character, or have merely qualified for admission to the ancient but ignoble order of noodles. What, you ask, is a noodle? Something like those knots which come undone when you trust them, or, jamming tight, refuse to be untied when this is required of them, and, therefore, have to be cut, and thrown away. A noodle, one dictionary tells me tersely, is a simpleton or blockhead (which is just what I have said in terms of knot-tying), no good to himself or to anyone else. What a life to look back on!

This hike of our life, moreover, is not over flat country; there will be many ups and downs in it, and we have to turn both to good purpose. Taken as a whole, indeed, it would be more accurate to call it a climb. We want to rise in more ways than one, and to end higher than we started; we want to leave behind us a fine record, something good and lasting given to the world. When life's evening comes, and we turn in at what Chesterton calls "the decent inn of death" for our night's rest, we want it to be said of us, and to be able to say ourselves – "That was, indeed, the hike of a lifetime!"

Now you must not make the mistake of murmuring "The climbing of a Mount Everest comes to a Mallory but not to me; mine is such a dull and ordinary kind of life." You have your own Mount Everest to climb, and even if you do not seem to get on very fast, or to be likely to reach the top, well, let the story of Mallory remind you that the glory comes from the struggle itself, even though success is incomplete. It is the ordinary sort of fellow that the Divine Creator of the Universe must like the best, because, you see, He made so many of us. It must be our every-day struggles that interest Him most intensely, because He has arranged to have so many to watch. So, have a decent respect for your own hike through life; it deserves it. Learn to value the ordinary days better, and you will occasionally get an extraordinary day to help you on your way.

At the end of June, 1929, two Rovers clambered up to the top of the Jungfrau Mountain in Switzerland on one such extraordinary day in their lives; nothing much of a hike, of course, in the opinion of athletic highbrows, but quite stiff enough for them! It involved the obtaining of a skilled and trusty guide; the fixing of huge nails to their boots; being trussed up on a rope; crawling up vertical ice-walls, and what was even worse, scrambling up rocks which hung over a giddy precipice; fighting against spasms of mountain sickness, for they were sadly out of training; and trudging on in spite of almost unbearable weariness. Grand views opened up, first in one direction and then in another. Finally came the triumph – on the top at last, in spite of all the difficulties which had been conquered by just going on struggling.

Again and again the guide repeated two sentences; "Climb slowly" and "Eat snow." Slow but steady progress spells final victory; "Who travels gently, travels far," says an Italian motto. Spurting, while on a climb, steals away the breath, and brings the risk of failure. Mountain sickness yields to snow eating; feed on the very difficulties in your path (the snow was very soft and made progress tiring) – another way of expressing the great truth that difficulties are only opportunities in disguise. Which was best, you may ask, the view that was gained or the struggle by which it was won? I can tell you, for I was one of the two climbers. Both of us agree – the struggle. The end of that day found us different from what we had been at dawn, not only in appearance, with our bronzed faces and peeling skins, but also in what we had gained in character and experience. Yes, it was all worth while, even the worst moments; so will you find eventually that it has been with your hike through life.

When you are feeling weary and sick with yourself and your own slow progress, as we all feel at times, then remember the hint of the Chief, "The oak was once an acorn," (it applies to you as well as to the whole Scout Movement) and eat the snow of difficulty. A rock blocks your way when you are clambering up a mountain; you scramble over it, painfully perhaps, but you are now higher than you were before. This is the spirit – the Scout Spirit – to take into your bothers at work or your worries at home; eat your difficulties as I had to eat the snow, and you will feel all the stronger for it.

You are not alone on this hike; you are trussed on a rope, the rope of that mighty World Brotherhood – the Scout Movement. One of the main aims of its Rover section is to afford fellows an opportunity of gathering the strength to carry their Scout ideals into their actual lives by being roped together in comradeship. It exists to help its members to make the utmost of their hiking through life, that is, among other lesser matters, to do their best to fit themselves for their jobs. It fires them to make again and again the Scout Promise from the point of view of a man. It shows them how to apply the Scout Motto – Be Prepared, and to be ready for opportunities of helping others or themselves. It teaches how ordinary Scout Craft can be applied practically to each day's duties, enabling them to explore life successfully, and to make the most of their bodies and brains. It offers to all of any age between 18 and 118 ventures of noble service along the ten lines indicated by the Scout Law. It breathes into them ever more intensely that Scout Spirit which, speeding through the world like a Golden Arrow, may yet bring in a Golden Age, binding nations, classes and creeds in brotherhood before the throne of God.

Just as Scouting – for youth – is character training FOR citizenship, so Scouting – for adults – is character training IN citizenship. While you are living the ordinary life of a citizen, you go on training yourself on Scout lines, day by day, so as to become a still better citizen in the future. The rope of the Rover Brotherhood binds us together, and helps us along; a rope through which runs the red strand of our joint purpose – Service. This rope is strong enough to carry the weight of each and all of us: of the lonely fellow in a country village; of Deep Sea Scouts sailing to far distant ports; of our brothers in many countries; of miners, farmers and clerks; of students, professional men and world leaders. Make use of this rope of ours, then; lean on it at difficult times, and feel it pulling you upwards, while at other times, throwing all your available power into the task, you help other fellows along by means of it.

If the Scout's duty is to do at least one good turn EACH day, it is joyously true that the Rover Scout can fit himself to do one good turn ALL day! It is obvious that the Service done by a fellow who has taken into his own hands the training of his own character is going to be a much better thing than the feeble, occasional and unskillful good turns done by a fellow who is not bothering about his own training. The Rover Scout who is deliberately trying to improve his own character and ability puts into his Service not only Scout Spirit, but also Scout Craft. Moreover, he does not wait idly until opportunities for Service come knocking at his door; he goes out looking for them, prepares himself to be ready for them, and so helps to create a nobler idea of citizenship.

Charity is said to begin at home; so must Rover Scout Service, but it must also begin in the daily job. It is sometimes very hard indeed to carry the Scout Spirit obviously and purposively into the day's work, even though this is one of the chief duties of the man who is trying to be a true Rover Scout. Here is, indeed, another rock to scramble up, but the pull of the rope will help you over it. This does not mean, of course, that you will be dependent for your strength on this rope – the Rover Scout Brotherhood. You will stand as firmly as you can on your own feet, on the little spot of mountain-side that has come your way. You will add your own strength to the upward pull imparted to the rope by others, so gaining more strength for yourself. Rover Scouting only begins to come into full existence for you when you realize the joy of this.

In this hike up the mountain of your life you need to have strong nails on your boots, or, as the Chief calls it, "stick-at-it-iveness" in your character. Nails do not grow on boots, they have to be hammered in; so has "stickability." Wherefore, welcome difficulties as useful opportunities to practice hammering. For example, you will probably have a bit of a struggle to get to Crew meetings, and to make time for studying Adult-Scout Craft and Adult-Scout Law, but by your struggle you will be helping both yourself and others on the rope. Realize that if you stumble too badly, or fall out of the line, others also may be carried away. When you feel inclined to slip or to slacken effort, dig your nails well in and pull steadily, but not too jerkily, until you are back again, once more, in the upward swinging movement.

During the climb up the Jungfrau we had to cut at times step after step of our way out of ice walls; this had to be done very carefully, and then we had to place each foot exactly in the right spot so as not to damage the step, because the man behind would want to use it. Remember the man behind, and watch your step! The tracks you leave in life are going to be of vast importance to others whom you cannot see. Therefore, let the trail you are blazing in your life be the Scout trail, as near as you can make it. Perhaps you will even cut some new steps, inventing practices which, applied to life in the world, will add usefulness to the Scout Movement, and make its Rover section still more helpful to your country.

What a jolly thing this struggle is! The thrill of a hotly-contested football match in which your side is depending on you; the joy of the moment when a great discovery is made in a scientist's laboratory; the triumph of the second when you jerk back into safety a brother who was slipping; the gaining of a wider view as you scale some mountain ridge; all these and other joys, in a different form but just as intense, fall to the lot of him who carries Scouting into his everyday life. In moments of dullness and disappointment recall to your mind some past successes, and try to plan some new ones for the future; when you are balked in one direction launch out in another. Share your hiking with others as much as you can, and teach them to enjoy life more fully by introducing them to Rover Scouting.

by F. W. W. GRIFFIN, M.A., M.D.



SCOUT LAW No. 7

A Scout Obeys the Orders of his Parents, Patrol Leader, or Scoutmaster without question.

Another installment of Scouter Roland Philipps' Letters to a Patrol Leader on the meaning of the Scout Law.

My dear Jim,

I remember seeing a huge shed some years ago in the corner of a large flat field, and inside it there were carpenters and mechanics working for many days constructing a new kind of aeroplane. This machine was going to be a special kind that would fly far better and far longer and far higher than any that had ever flown before; and, when the day came for its trial flight, there was great excitement amongst all the people living in the neighbourhood.

Huge crowds were standing round in breathless anticipation. The inventor took his seat amidst loud applause.

The only thing about the aeroplane was that it did not start. Everything about it looked perfect. The one imperfection was that a certain part of it did not do what was expected, and therefore the whole thing failed to work.

I remember watching a tug-o'-war. Nobody took much interest in it because one side was so much heavier than the other. The spectators had been watching all the other sports, but when the tug-o'-war came on most of them went off to have their tea.

The curious thing about it was that the smaller side won quite easily. They were not nearly so powerful as their opponents, but they did the one thing which made their success certain—they pulled together, while the heavier team did not.

There were some sports in one of the London Districts not so very long ago. Thirty troops were taking part, and twenty-nine of them knew how to play the game.

The sports were a complete failure, and one of the worst things that I have had to look at since I took the Scout Promise. The reason was that twenty-nine of the troops knew how to play the game, but the thirtieth troop did not. The whole of the sports were wrecked by that one troop. Your seventh Scout Law tells you that *"A Scout Obeys the Orders of his Parents, Patrol Leader, or Scoutmaster without question."*

The Chief further says that *"even if a Scout gets an order he does not like, he must do as soldiers and sailors do, he must carry it out all the same because it is his duty; and after he has done it he can come and state any reasons against it, but he must carry out the order at once. That is discipline."*

No Scout ever does anything without reason, and you must be able to give the Kangaroos a reason for carrying out the seventh Scout Law.

The reason a Scout obeys the orders of his Scoutmaster is that if he did not do so his troop would not work. The reason that he obeys the orders of his Patrol Leader is that his patrol would fail to work in the same way.

The reason a Scout obeys his parents is that a Scout's home should work properly, like any other concern with which he is associated. If he disobeys the orders of his parents, his home will be like the aeroplane. It will never be in working order.

Scouting is like a tug-o'-war. The unscout-like spirits in the world, heavy, fat bullies most of them, are standing up in a row at the other end of the rope. The Kangaroos have got to pull them over, and they will never do it unless they pull together.

If you watch a house being built, you will find one man carving a facing on the outside, another

man building a wall at the back; and you will find forty or fifty men in different places doing what looks like an independent piece of work.

But when you make inquiries, you will find that they are all really working together, for they all get their orders from the same foreman, and the foreman could not carry out his job unless he obeyed all the measurements given on a complete plan made out by the architect.

Somebody must be at the head to give the orders, and everybody must be ready to obey him. Otherwise you could never build a house, or an aeroplane, or a Scout Movement, or a patrol of Kangaroos, or anything else.

Every piece of work in the work that is successful is carried out by one fellow being put in command and by others being ready to carry out his orders. That is the only way to play the game.

Obedying orders is the most important part of the rules. The thing is to learn the rules of the game as soon as you begin. Then, later on, you will be made captain, and you will be all the better as a captain of the team for having played the game properly when you were a junior.

It has been said that you cannot command unless you know how to obey. The reason is that, unless you have made a practice of obeying the orders of those who are over you, you will be no good at giving fair and straightforward orders to those who are put under you.

It is the same question of each fellow playing his part for the honour and success of the team.

All that I have told you is probably known to every Patrol Leader in the Movement, although different people may express it in different ways.

What many Patrol Leaders do not know is that the best way to make it certain that the seventh Scout Law will be kept is to get a fine spirit of smartness and alertness into all the members of their troops. All orders should be carried out at the double.

If a fellow is going to win the quarter-mile race at the sports, when the starter tells him to go he doesn't look round and wonder what to do. He is waiting to run, and the very second he gets the order he runs off as hard as he can.

A good Scout, however, is not only smart on his legs when he carries out an order, but he is also smart in other ways.

When he goes up to receive an order, he stands at the Alert and salutes, and when the order has been given he salutes again.

When a whistle is sounded for silence, he is silent at once, and quickly comes to the Alert. He has his ears and eyes open the whole time to get an order. To keep the seventh Scout Law a Scout must always Be Prepared. In one way the ten Scout Laws may be looked upon as orders from our Chief. We have to be ready to carry them out at all times.

When we take the Promise, we have to double off to make friends with our enemies in order to keep the fourth Scout Law, and we have to waste no time in getting instruction in first-aid if we are going to carry out the third.

So you see that a Scout has not only got his daily orders, but he has also got his standing orders. The standing orders are to keep the Scout Promise and to obey the ten Scout Laws.

As Patrol Leader, your most important job is to carry out the orders which you yourself receive, rather than to worry about whether other boys are carrying out the orders which you give them. Some Leaders spend a great deal of time wondering how they can make the Scouts in their patrol carry out their orders.

One of the best ways is always to set an example of immediate obedience themselves, and in that way they will probably give their patrol a sort of tradition of smart and unquestioning obedience to orders which no boy will break lightly.

That is the most important way of getting your patrol to obey you, namely, by always obeying orders yourself.

But there are other ways. One of them is to win the respect of the members of your patrol.

A patrol will always find it very much easier to obey a Leader whom they respect.

Let them see that you are a Scout and not a slacker. Let them see that you do not order another boy to do something that you would not like to do yourself. Let them know that you do not give an order quickly without thinking, and that all your orders are given with some purpose. A good

Patrol Leader will never give any unnecessary orders. Orders should be as few as possible.

I once heard a Scoutmaster tell one of his Leaders that he was a P.L. and not a P.C., that is to say, that he was a Patrol Leader and not a Police-constable. That is very true. You want to lead your boys into obedience rather than to drive them into it.

All orders should be clear and decisive. An order sloppily given will be sloppily carried out.

If an order is at all complicated, you should ask the Scout to whom it is given to repeat it. If he cannot repeat it properly, it is probably your own fault for having expressed yourself badly.

One of the difficulties which a Patrol Leader sometimes has, is that there is a cheeky boy in his patrol, who on getting an order usually tries to be funny (often with success), and answers back.

Dealing with a cheeky boy, the great thing is never to lose your temper. Say as little as possible.

Nothing would amuse him more than to see you angry, and he would also like you to argue, as, if you start, he is almost certain to beat you at it.

If you are quiet and calm, and not in the least annoyed, the cheeky boy will soon begin to respect you, and will no longer try to answer you back when he gets an order.

Another great thing is to study all your boys and to try to understand their difficulties.

It is no good getting angry with a boy because he fails to turn up on parade. The Patrol Leader's job is to find the reason why.

Perhaps there is some trouble at home, and if you go round there you will be able to put matters right.

Perhaps the boy has quarrelled with another Scout in his patrol. That is a grand chance for a Leader to show that he is a real Scout. If the two boys who have quarrelled trust their Leader, the quarrel will only last for a short time. Nearly every quarrel is due to some silly misunderstanding. Show the Kangaroos that your object above everything else is to bring honour to your patrol, to your troop, and to the Scout Movement, by being a loyal, sympathetic, and manly Leader, and by setting a high example of Scout honour and Scout efficiency.

The whole patrol will then take pride in their smart obedience to all the orders they receive, and they will bring honour to Scouting wherever they may go. One last thing before this letter ends.

If you get an order you do not like, you will obey it just the same. That you know.

If you get an order which you think silly and unnecessary, you will carry it out none-the-less.

That you also know.

But supposing one day—I hope that it will never happen—you get an order which you know to be wrong, What then? Then you must tell yourself that this may be one of the big moments in your life. You will remember that the first of all your Promises was to do your duty to God.

If ever in your life the two orders seem to clash, you will do your duty to God rather than obey the orders of man.

Your sincere brother Scout,

Roland B. Phillipps





The Otter is essentially an outdoor animal. Outside activities give fresh air, sunshine, exercise and the space to run 'wild'. This has another benefit – that of allowing the noise to go to the four winds and not to vibrate Ahmeek's eardrums.

A Raft meeting over at the local park does not take much organizing but organized it must be. Safety first and activity second is the order of the day. Parents place their offspring into our care and we must protect them at all times they are with us. Full use should be made of Otter instructors, Explorers, Rovers, and Parents. If we are going further afield we need to plan ahead. At the age of our Otters we need to know: what mode of transport we will be using, whether anyone has motion sickness, or suffers any other affects of travel. Toilet stops will be necessary. A full day's outing may be too much for some but alright for others; therefore provision must be made for rest periods so that all may benefit and no-one will feel he/she is being treated differently from the others. Dur-

Spring Has Sprung

Spring has sprung, the grass has ris',
I wonder where the birdie is?

There he is up in the sky,
He dropped some whitewash in my eye!

I'm alright, I won't cry,
I'm just glad that cows can't fly!



ing the travel it is possible to play "I SPY" games to retain their interest and prevent boredom setting in.

In the case of an overnight or weekend stay a list of necessary items should have been handed to the parents and all the medication the Otter has to take should be handed to the Scouter-in-charge, on departure for the camp, together with instructions as to dosage. Teddy Bears ARE allowed (and encour-

aged!). All allergies should be known to you so that you can be prepared as, when something crops up, it can be a frightening experience. Be aware of homesickness and how to deal with it. This is a normal occurrence and the Otters should be told it's okay to feel that way, it just means they love their parents, and they will see them soon.

For day outings there are numerous places to visit – Fire Station, Police Station, Museums, Zoo, the Beach, Airports, Parks, Steam trains, Adventure playground.

Can you remember when you did such things as sand castle building; collecting shells or coloured stones; looking for crabs in a rock pool? I'm sure you can, and Otters are no different to other children. Make it interesting and join in the fun.

Whether you take packed lunches or purchase the goodies wherever you are going, the fact of eating out is exciting to the youngster. The main objective is to have FUN.



1. Switzerland. (Nepal is another, but that is too hard)
2. All the Scandinavian countries: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland.
3. Poland; Indonesia
4. Pakistan
5. Great Britain
6. 50 stars and 13 stripes
7. Sweden, Finland, Greece, India, West Indies, Eire, Pakistan, Ceylon, Nicaragua, Egypt, Honduras, Nigeria, Guatemala, Israel, Brazil (and more).
8. Brazil, Bolivia, Libya, Ghana, Mexico, Ethiopia, Portugal, Iraq, Italy, Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Afghanistan (and more).
9. Belgium, Germany, Afghanistan, Uganda, United



1. Spanish
2. Portugese
3. Spanish
4. Sinhala or Tamil
5. Greek or Turkish
6. French, German, or Luxembourgish
7. Dutch, French or German
8. Swahili or English
9. Hebrew or Arabic
10. Arabic
11. Thai
12. Malaysian
13. Papiamento or Dutch
14. Malagasy or French
15. French, German, Swiss or Italian



THE JUNGLE BOOK AND THE PACK

Baden-Powell once said, "Play is the first great education." We teach Timberwolves small things through play, which eventually will fit them for doing things in the future.

He also realized that a boy of Timberwolf age has a most lively imagination and will readily identify himself with characters he admires. It was through this knowledge and understanding of boys that B.-P. turned to Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Books for the background of the Wolf Cub program.

The Jungle Stories tell of the adventures of a boy, a wolf pack and the jungle with all its animals, and with all its mystery, excitement and adventure. Also, with its realism and its adaptability to the real-life world of a boy.

The Jungle Stories tell of the boy, Mowgli, who as a baby is saved from Shere Kahn, the tiger, by the bravery of Raksha, the mother wolf. She rears him with her own cubs and he is accepted into the wolf pack on the word of Baloo, the brown bear, and at the price of a bull killed by Bagheera, the black panther. It tells of the pack councils, which were held once a month at the full moon, and at which time the wolves would give a grand howl of welcome to their leader, Akela.

But why the jungle, you might ask? Well, The Jungle Books offer plenty of excitement and action. There is development from one skill to another, physical fitness, love of nature, friendliness to animals, self-reliance, obedience, loyalty, courtesy — but there is always the strict moral code of the Jungle Law.

As a leader in a Timberwolf pack, you will find the Law and Promise have little meaning without the jungle to explain them. The Salute, the Grand Howl, the Council Rock and the leaders using such names as Bagheera, Baloo, Akela and Raksha, all lose their significance unless they are related to the jungle background.

The world of Kipling, the Jungle Stories and the excitement and adventure of running with the pack, all have a special meaning for Timberwolf-age boys and, for a leader in the pack, all provide many program areas to work with. More importantly, they give you background for the sharing of such real-life values as honour and obedience, loyalty, wisdom and truth.

While much has been said and will be again about the jungle and the importance it has in the Timberwolf program, you should be aware that it is only one part of Timberwolves and that other themes should be used to give balance and variety to your pack.

Baden-Powell recognized the Jungle Stories as a way of appealing quickly and strongly to boys and as a way of helping them develop their imagination so that they would want to progress to other things. So it is in the program. The jungle theme is a way of capturing the interest and imagination of boys and, while certain aspects of the jungle, such as the Promise and Law, the Grand Howl and the moral code of behaviour are always part of the pack life, other themes and other program ideas are introduced which will have even more appeal to boys as they grow a little older.

